

1542, to the first Colorado Constitutional Convention, in 1875. It was played by some eight hundred persons, most of them descendents of Spanish families who settled in Colorado since the middle of the eighteenth century. Musical numbers and dances completed this big festival, sponsored by the Cultural Institute of Spain in America, of Denver.

THE city of Pensacola has commemorated the fourth centenary of its founding in 1559 by the Spaniards, when the expedition of Don Tristán de Luna landed there. An historical exposition was organized with authentic objects lent by several institutions in Spain. Using as a guide an English engraving of the eighteenth century, a permanent reconstruction of the primitive settlement was built under the name "Aldea Española" (Spanish village) which drew large crowds of visitors.

The celebration culminated on August 13, 14, and 15. A Spanish delegation, headed by the Ambassador of Spain in Washington, attended by special invitation.

#### RECENT DEATHS

##### RAFAEL HELIODORO VALLE

In Mexico City, July 29, 1959, Rafael Heliodoro Valle, former professor at the National University of Mexico, journalist and prolific writer on Spanish American literature and history. He was born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, July 3, 1891, but in 1908 went to Mexico, where he obtained his university education and where he found his "second country." In Mexico City he spent the last years of his life, after resigning in 1955 as Ambassador of Honduras in Washington, a post where he was able to develop for many years an extraordinary activity in the field of Inter-American cultural relations.

His bibliographical production is simple immense, both in books and in articles in principal newspapers and reviews all over America. Readers can see a summary list of his books in the volume *Recuerdo a Rafael Heliodoro Valle en los cincuenta años de su vida literaria* (México, 1957) pp. 406-408. In the contributions of friends included in this *volume d'hommage*, it is possible to gather information on the many-sided activities of Rafael Heliodoro Valle, a real man of the Americas. One of his latest books was the *Historia de las ideas contemporáneas en America Central*, now being published by the Committee on the History of Ideas of the Commission on History, Pan American Institute of Geography and History.

He was a corresponding member of the Academy of American Franciscan History.

## WAYNE E. STEVENS

In Hanover, New Hampshire, July 20, 1959, sixty-six year old Wayne E. Stevens, professor of History at the Dartmouth College since 1921. He is the author of an important book, *The Northwest Fur Trade, 1763-1800* and many articles on the history of the Northwest. Both the *Dictionary of American Biography* and the *Dictionary of American History* have him among their contributors.

## JOSÉ VASCONCELOS

In Mexico City, June 30, 1959, José Vasconcelos, at the age of seventy-seven. One of the leading philosophers and intellectuals of Spanish America, he was also an important writer in the field of history. The autobiographical *Ulises criollo*, and several other of his books are full of information on the modern history of Mexico, where he played an important role as rector of the National University (1920-1924) and Secretary of Education (1920-1925) under President Obregón, and as an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency in 1929. His controversial *Breve Historia de México* has had many editions, and considerable ideological influence, since its first appearance in 1937. It is an original interpretation of Mexican history.

## SAMUEL RAMOS

Also in Mexico City, June 20, 1959, Samuel Ramos, philosopher and historian of philosophy in Spanish America. *Historia de la filosofía en México*, published in 1943, is the most important work in its field.

## AGOSTINO GEMELLI, O. F. M.

In Milan, Italy, July 15, at the age of 81, Fr. Agostino Gemelli, O. F. M., founder and rector of the Catholic University of Sacred Heart, and president of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. While a medical student, he had been a socialist and a freethinker, but he returned to the Church and, after receiving his medical degree, he entered the Franciscan Order. Ordained a priest in 1908, he did post-graduate studies in several European universities, specializing in psychology, where he was a leading pioneer. But as founder and president of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, he became interested in many fields, even in historical studies. His interpretation of the history of the Franciscan Order, under the title of *Il Francescanesimo*, was a huge success, and has been translated into all the principal modern languages.