Names make news—"an old editor on a paper on which I was learning the news-game once told me. "Get names, lots of them, and you'll always come out on top."

And, I've always needed that bit of information—"Names make news." Names have always fascinated me, especially place names. Why was a place called what it was? What was the origin of the name? Who gave it that name? And, possibly, if you had the time to dig deep enough you could uncover endless reams of copy.

I have always hoped that someone, someday would produce a tabulation or index of California names, and their meanings—and early this year, there was an answer to that hope.

Erwin G. Guidde's book, "California Place Names," came into being, produced one of the finest publications of its kind. The book is not only accurate, informative, educational and historical—it is entertaining.

Printed by the University of California Press, the publication overs a wide scope, Guidde lists it as a "Contribution of the University of California to the Centennial Celebration of the State of California, 1849, 1949, 1950." And a wonderful contribution it is.

"Local names," says a quotation in the early pages of the book from Isaac Taylor,—"whether they belong to provinces, cities, or villages, and are the designations of rivers and mountains—are never arbitrary sounds, devoid of meaning. They may always be regarded as records of the past, informing and rewarding a careful historical interpretation."

I was particularly interested in Humboldt county names, and some time ago compiled a partial list of county names, but never continued the project. I find that Guidde has many of those names in his book, their sources and their meanings, as well as their pronunciations.

**BOOK RECOMMENDED**

For anyone interested in Californians—or Humboldtians (possibly bad usage in the latter), I would like to recommend this book as a definite "must" for their bookshelves. It may be obtained through local bookshops or from the University of California Press.

It has been a task in itself to pick out many of the following names which Mr. Guidde has compiled in his book, to give an indication of what has been done, along with the fact that he has compiled, I have also cited many from my own historical references, from the United States Coast Pilot, county histories, and other sources.

As a key, those names defined as key. Guidde are listed with a number, example: Arcata (12).

**HUdMBOLT PLACE NAMES**

**ARCATA**

Arcata (12): The town, an offshoot of the Humboldt boom of 1850, was founded July 18, 1850. The town's name was changed to Arcata in 1850. Indian village on the site of the Arcata site was named "Kori." Arcata Flat: Old redwood tree located 2½ miles from Trinidad Highway, 1½ miles from Arcata.

**ALPENFELD**

Settlement in Southern Humboldt's mountain country. Probably named for older growth.

**ARACATAY (38):** A natural stream about 3 miles in diameter, with low, marshy shores, cut by many sloughs. One channel leads to old deserted Arcata channel and railroad wharf.

**ALLIANCE**

Small Rural settlement located near Aracata. Origin of name not determined.

**BAYSIDE**

Bayside (25): A convenient name for a locality near a bay. Humboldt has a Bayside and a bay.

**Bald Mountain**

Pioneer in early Humboldt with apparent appearance of boldness. Bald Mountain takes name from some. Indian fort was located at Bald Mountain, and a war of two days' duration was fought there.

**Bear (23):** Of the many hundreds of locations, the name "Bear," Humboldt has an ample share. Bear River, so named because Lewis K. Wood of the Gudde party was mauled by a wounded grizzly in January, 1850.

**Bear Point Flat:** Mountainous location in Northern Humboldt.

Bear Rock: Rocky area located in Humboldt.

**BEBRICE (26):** The original name, Salmon Creek, was changed to the present name to honor Mrs. Erectice White, the first postmistress when the post office was established in 1850.

**BELLA VISTA**

Located north of Arcata on the Redwood Highway, the name formerly pertained only to the land located there. Now used in reference to the present residential area built up there in recent years.

**BENBOW (28):** Named in 1926 for the Benbow family, who established a summer resort there.

**BERDY'S SUMMIT**

Elevation 2871.

**HIGH GROUND**

High area located on Trinity highway west of Willow Creek.

**BIG FLAT (29):** A narrow strip about two miles in length, located seven miles northwest of Pt. Delgada on the coast.

**BIG BEND**

Located on the North Fork of the Eel River, and in early days was site of an Indian war.

**BIG LAGOON**

Body of fresh water impounded by sand dunes, located north of Patrick's Point. Name derived from size of lagoon.

**BLOCKBUSH (23):** Named for Benjamin Blockburger, an immigrant of 1853 and participant in Indian fights, who established a store at this place in 1872. Post office listed as Blockbush in 1880.

**BLUE LAKE (34):** California maps show a number of "blues," among them Blue Lake, probably so named because of body of water of same color.

**BLUFF CREEK (34):** Named for the bluffs in that area. Used as an old-time compete.

**Bluff's Reef (33):** The reef off Cape Mendocino was discovered by ascension from the Pacific ocean. Are covered with rocks which the boat passed.

**Canell Creek (53):** Name is de Capo Mendocino was discovered by ascension from the Pacific ocean, men.

**CARLITA (54):** When Northwest Porpoise. Place was placed on map era Pacific built in 1903, John M. by Coast Survey in 1850.