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# Trails West Gallery

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To Whom It May Concern:

The following information pertains to the saddle, once owned by my father, Howard Hawks, known as Pancho Villa's saddle. It is of red oak leather embroidered in silver piteada done in the pattern of snakes and florals. The conchas are of coiled snakes and the saddle horn is done in two entwined snakes. The cantle displays a rose floral design. The most distinctive characteristics are in the stirrups which are laid with two roses and Old English style initials F V ( for Francisco Villa). These initials also appear in front of the saddle horn.

According to my father, the saddle was given to him by Pancho Villa's wife, when he was in Mexico filming the movie "Viva Villa" in 1933. My earliest memories of the saddle involve playing "Cowboy" on it when I was 5 or 6 years old in the mid-1930's. It sat on a wooden mock-up of a horse in the family room of our home in Benedict Canyon until approximately 1940, and later in the tack room of our home on Moraga Drive until the early 1950's. In 1954, my father went to Europe and Africa to film "Land Of The Pharaohs", the house was sold, and I did not see the saddle again until about 1982. The saddle had apparently "disappeared" at the time of the sale of my father's property and the storage of his furnishings. When he returned about three years later, he lived in a home in Palm Springs, and the saddle was not among his things there. Years later he was watching a television auction or commercial and recognized the saddle being advertized for sale.

(July 13, 1976 Howard Hawks filed a theft report with the Palm Springs Police Dept. The saddle was seized under a search warrant issued by the Fresno District Attorney's office).

The saddle had gone through several hands, and had last been purchased by a Mr. Les Perry. In a court settlement in 1982, the estate of Howard Hawks received the Pancho Villa saddle and it is now back in the possession of the Hawks family.

David Hawks