



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE HEINER

ROBERT CHRISTMAS

Looking West From Cedar City, Utah

When Jed Smith passed us by, in 1826,
The junipers made a rush down from the hills.
They were cut back
Before they got to the freeway.

At Mountain Meadows, after the massacre,
The soldiers built a rock cairn, and at the top
They placed a sign: "Vengeance is mine,
Saith the Lord."

A year later, Brigham Young drove out
In a buggy and looked at the sign.
"Vengeance is mine," he repeated,
"And I have taken a little."

Forty miles west, in 1776,
Father Escalante pitched his furthest camp.
He was ten ranges short of Monterey,
500 miles from Donner Pass.

This is still a fairly good place to pitch camp,
To turn back.