

AUTHOR'S NOTE

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THE AUTHOR

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jack Steffan is the penname of a writer born on a reservation of the Nez Percés tribe in Idaho, where her Scotch-Irish father bought a homestead and leased Indian land. Educated in public schools, she graduated as a music major from the University of Idaho. She has lived most of her life in the Far West—Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Arizona, and California. However, she has spent the last seven years in Washington, D. C., where she resides with her husband, an attorney, and is able, now that her three children are grown, to devote time to research and writing. An earlier book, *Mountain on Fire*, was published in 1959.

A convert to Catholicism, Jack Steffan has long been interested in the early history of the West and especially in the lives of the Jesuit and Franciscan missionary-explorers. A visit to the mission of San Xavier del Bac, near Tucson, Arizona, led to her search for information about its founder, Padre Kino.