



Self-portrait by Picasso was painted in 1912. It's reproduced from "Picasso," biography by Antonina Vallentin. Doubleday & Co. is publisher.

## California Saga Echoes Faulkner

BY GUY E. THOMPSON

**RUN RIVER** by Joan Didion (Obolensky: \$4.50).

• That the nation is mobile westward is a phenomenon already observed.

One manifestation of this movement not previously diagnosed is the appearance in California of a novel genre formerly considered indigenous to the decaying South.

"Run River" is such an account. Roundabout by flashback the life of Lily Knight McClellan leads to the moment when her husband shoots her lover.

As California wines are designated by the European type they most resemble, so might California novels be named for the established novelists they simulate. In which case this is Faulkner type. Many consider the California product less robust than the original — so will readers.