

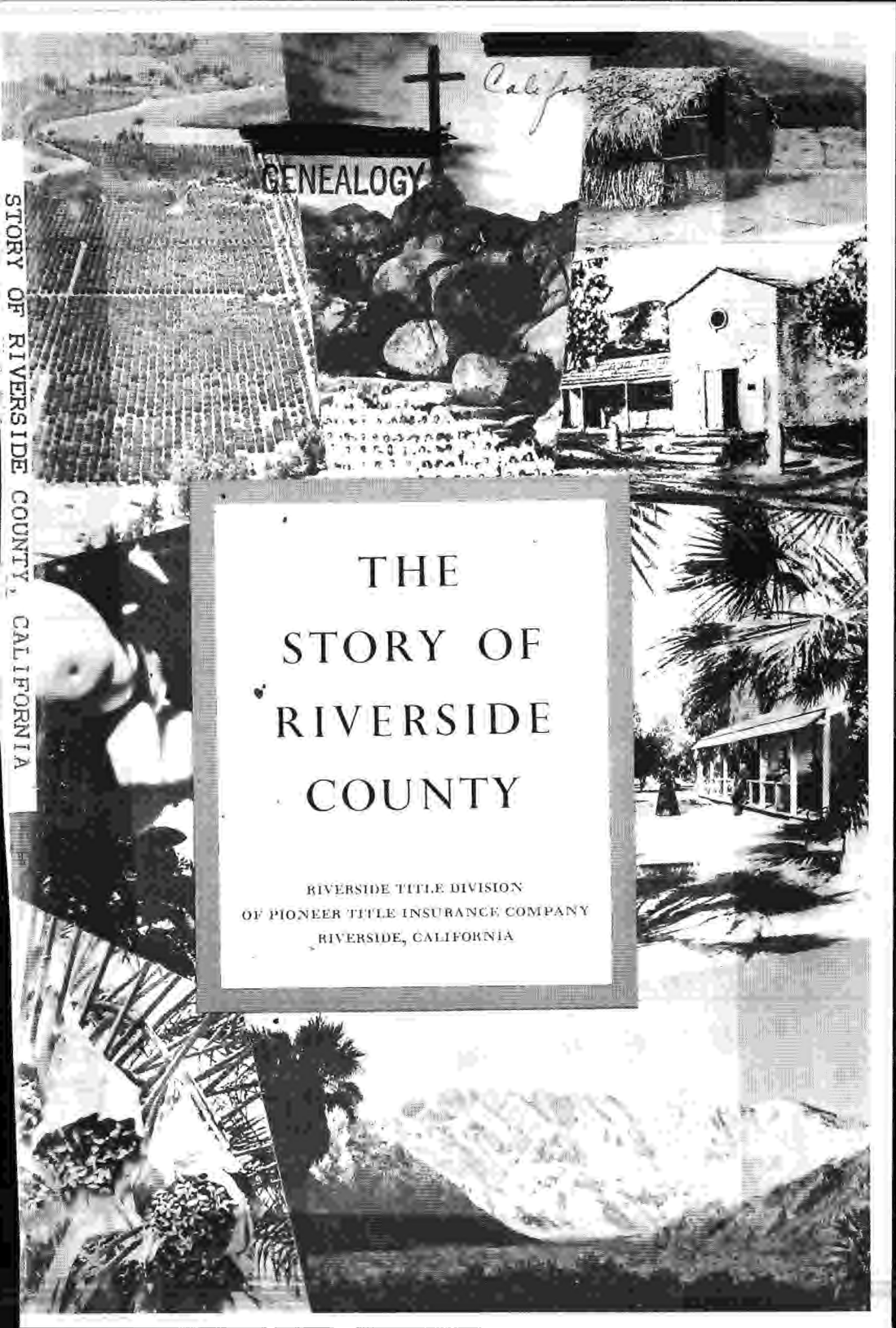
STORY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

GENEALOGY

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# THE STORY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

RIVERSIDE TITLE DIVISION  
OF PIONEER TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA



THE STORY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY, *past and present, has adventure and excitement. It can be told in the terms of its land and of the procession of men and women who have used this land. Before recorded history came the Indians. Then followed Spanish pathfinders, missionary priests, rancheros, miners, stagecoach drivers, colonists, subdividers, orange growers, experts in subtropical agriculture, industrialists, teachers and tourists. Today is a time of fast expansion throughout the county, when the good earth, the wealth of resources, and the diversity of attractions bring ever more people. It seems an appropriate period in which to bring out, in brief form, the story of the county, especially for the benefit of newcomers. Therefore, Riverside Title Division, which has complete ownership records of every parcel of land in the county, takes pleasure in presenting this history of Riverside County.*

ARMAND R. BRUNO  
*Vice President*

RIVERSIDE TITLE DIVISION  
PIONEER TITLE INSURANCE COMPANY

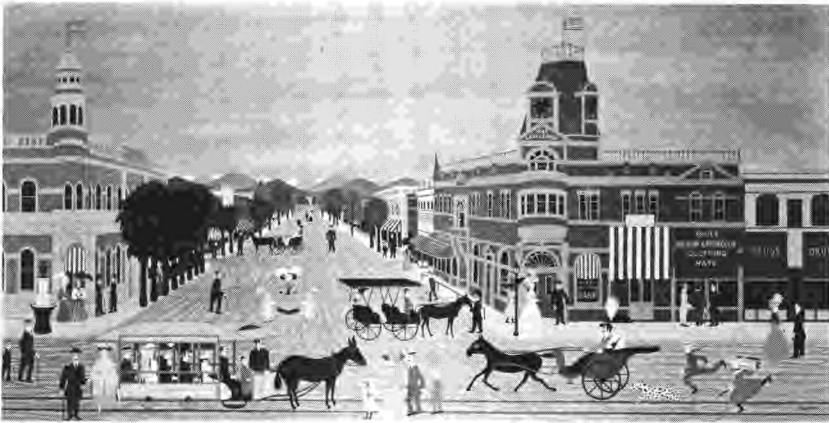
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*Early day Riverside, a decorative conception. Reproduced through the courtesy of the artist, Albert J. Kramer of Los Angeles, and of Citizens National Trust & Savings Bank of Riverside, owner of the painting*

THE STORY OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

BY W. W. ROBINSON

1769

*Spain occupies California, with the title to the land becoming vested—under the provisions of the Laws of the Indies—in the King of Spain*

Spanish occupation of California was begun in 1769 at San Diego by Gaspar de Portolá six years before the start of the American Revolution. Portolá, of the Spanish Army, was commander of the first land expedition to Alta California and was the first governor.

[1]

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Headed by scouts and leaders and made up of mounted soldiers, Indian muleteers, a pack train of a hundred loaded mules, and spare animals, the Portolá party followed a coastal route, with Monterey as the objective. What is now Riverside County was not crossed by the procession, though adjoining Orange County was.

1772

*Captain Pedro Fages crosses Riverside County*

The first white man known to have set foot on the Riverside County area was a colorful Spanish soldier, Pedro Fages, who had been second in command to Portolá on the famous journey three years before.

In 1772 Fages, military commander in California, left San Diego in pursuit of deserting soldiers. The chase took him through the mountains into the Imperial Valley country. Lack of water forced him into the mountains and apparently on into the San Jacinto Valley, following the route that in 1774 would be taken by Anza, and on to the vicinity of the present city boundaries of Riverside. Then he turned north into the San Bernardino Valley and crossed the mountains in the neighborhood of Cajon Pass. Continuing northwest, he finally entered the San Joaquin Valley and, through a mountain pass, went on to the coast. So ended an astounding adventure in exploration, in description of which Captain Fages wrote only a brief note as an addendum to his diary of 1772—reproduced and analyzed by Herbert Eugene Bolton in his *In The South San Joaquin Ahead of Garcés*.

Captain Fages, Riverside's distinguished first visitor, is famous for the account he wrote of his trip with Portolá—especially valuable for the observations on California Indians. He was California's governor between 1782 and 1791, during which he made the first grants of ranchos. He organized the grizzly bear hunt in the San Luis Obispo area which supplied the starving Monterey garrison with meat. He was a hardboiled military commander, but he was the henpecked husband of Doña Eulalia, to whom life in primitive California was a bitter pill. He quarreled with Junípero Serra, California's missionary head.

1774-1776

*The Anza Party, opening a land route from  
Sonora (Mexico) to Monterey (California),  
crosses Riverside County*

In January of 1774 Spanish Army Captain Juan Bautista de Anza left the frontier presidio of Tubac in northern Mexico as leader of a party of 34 persons, including 20 soldiers. He crossed unknown deserts, wide rivers, and mountains, and opened the overland route to Alta California.



*The Anza Party crossed the Santa Ana River near this spot in 1774 and again in 1776. Photo by Joe Kennedy of the Riverside Daily Press. Note that boulder in foreground has Indian metate holes*

Anza repeated the march in 1775-76, bringing this time a colonization party of 240 persons and reaching San Francisco Bay.

The results of this frontiersman's outstanding achievements—which had been authorized by Viceroy Bucareli of Mexico City and endorsed by Junípero Serra—were: Alta California survived as a colony; it became reasonably self-sustaining; San Francisco was founded as Spain's most northerly outpost.

Both of the Anza expeditions in moving northwesterly toward Mission San Gabriel crossed what is now Riverside County—by way of the San Jacinto Valley and the site of the city of Riverside itself.

Father Pedro Font kept a diary of Anza's second expedition. He tells of entering Riverside County from San Diego County by way of San Carlos Pass and Caluilla Valley, of reaching and marching down the "very large and beautiful" San Jacinto River valley. "Its lands are very good and moist," he wrote... "grass sprouting almost everywhere... In all the valley there are no trees other than the cottonwoods of the river bottoms."

The party passed the former Lake San Jacinto, since drained, with Font commenting that on its other side "there might be an excellent site for a large settlement, with good opportunities for large grain fields, and for the raising of horses, cattle, sheep and goats... A few Indians permitted themselves to be seen at a distance... On the road we saw some ten who, although armed, were fleeing... their bows were very large and their arrows of medium length..."

Leaving the river and swinging west, the party passed through the site of Lakeview, over Berasconi Pass and across Allesandro Valley through March Field, down Sycamore Canyon to the Santa Ana River.

It took an hour to cross the Santa Ana, "a stream with plentiful water and a very deep channel," the party losing one bull and one horse in the crossing. "Most of the people crossed over on a bridge formed by a large cottonwood which had fallen and lay athwart the river... This place is like all the rest, a fertile and beautiful country, with rose bushes, grapevines, blackberry bushes, and other plants which by their verdure are pleasing to the sight."

The place of crossing was a few miles southwest of Mt. Rubidoux, near the present location of the Union Pacific Bridge, as established by Bolton, who retraced every step of the Anza journey and whose

authoritative five-volume *Anza's California Expeditions*, published in 1930 by the University of California Press, containing Font's complete diary, is the source of the quotations used here as well as for details of the journey itself. But for the presence of the Union Pacific Railroad bridge and the much reduced stream of water, the site of the crossing, with its heavy growth of willows and cottonwoods, looks today about as it must have looked to Anza's men.

Leaving the Santa Ana, the Anza party crossed the Jurupa hills, near present day Pedley, and soon was at San Antonio Creek, near the Ontario area in what is now San Bernardino County.

## 1818-1819

### *Settlement of Riverside County's area by Spanish-Californians begins, their neighbors being Indians who had preceded them at least by centuries*

Leandro Serrano is credited with being the first white settler in what is now Riverside County. The son of a soldier who had come to California in 1769 with Portolá, he was born at San Diego. In the employ of Mission San Luis Rey he became *majordomo* at the Indian *asistencia* of Pala. Because of his success in dealing with Indians he was asked by his Mission superior to settle in the Temescal Valley, now within Riverside County, extending from Lake Elsinore to Corona. Here the Indians were numerous.

The time of this move was as early as 1818 or 1819. With Indian help, Don Leandro conducted a drive against bears and mountain lions, then brought in his own sheep and cattle. Later he built his home in this valley of cienegas, of liveoaks and sycamores, of streams lined with willows and cottonwoods, of land overrun by wild grapes, Matilija poppies, primroses and wild grasses. The site of his home was by a large cienega, perhaps two miles northwest of today's Glen Ivy Hot Springs.

In the Temescal Valley Serrano set out orchards and vineyards, and about him grew up a family of sons, daughters, and sons-in-law who built other homes. Their valley became one of the highways for

travelers between San Diego (or San Juan Capistrano or Warner's Ranch) and the Pueblo of Los Angeles. Don Leandro died in 1852.

While Serrano was getting settled, a rancho adjoining the Temescal Valley on the west—La Sierra—was being used as a cattle ranch by his brother-in-law, Bernardo Yorba, son of another soldier of the Portolá party, and by Yorba's employees. Don Bernardo, owner of Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana (in what is now Orange County, granted his father in 1810), extended his interests up the Santa Ana River. When, in 1843, he petitioned Governor Pío Pico for a grant of La Sierra he claimed he had been in possession "for more than twenty years." This did not mean, of course, that La Sierra was ever his home—for it was not—but, according to later testimony before the United States District Court, Yorba was there "during the marking and branding of cattle," while "at other times his sons and persons in his employ were on the ranch," where were houses, corrals, and fenced lands under cultivation.

Actually the first builders of homes in Riverside County were not white men. They were Indians. Linguistically the Indians were all of the Shoshonean group, a people who entered and took over a large segment of Southern California in prehistoric, though not remote, times. Probably they came from Nevada by way of Owens Valley and partly dispossessed, partly merged with, earlier Indian inhabitants. There were several divisions of Shoshoneans, the Riverside County area being occupied, generally speaking, by the Gabrielino and Luiseño (in the westerly portion), by the Serrano and Cahuilla (in the easterly part).

These broad-faced people lived in houses of thatch, the framework usually being of willow. They ate acorn mush as a staple, supplemented by a variety of fish and meat (including deer, desert tortoise, jackrabbits, lizards, and grasshoppers), seeds of many kinds, edible roots, nuts of walnut and piñon, and wild berries, especially manzanita and toyon. The women wore short skirts or aprons. The men sometimes wore loincloths. In winter rabbitskin blankets served as robes and as bedding. Strings of beads were favorite ornaments, with body paint and tattooing in vogue. They used the bow and arrow in hunting large animals, snares for small animals. They loved games, especially guessing and gambling ones. Their accomplishments included a great adaptability to environment, skillful basketmaking,



the digging of deep wells in desert areas, the use of shell money, the making of ornaments and well proportioned articles of stone, like mortars and pestles, tiny arrowpoints, and long ceremonial knives, the possession of an extensive vocabulary, and a fascinating mythology. They were not an inferior people, but their peaceful ways and their primitive living inspired contempt on the part of aggressive white newcomers. They were doomed to be pushed aside, to lose most of their good locations, and to meet the sad fate that inspired Helen Hunt Jackson in the 1880's to write *A Century of Dishonor* and *Ramona*.

Shoshonean villages, when the whites first came, dotted the Riverside County landscape. Valley lands near rivers and springs were favorite sites, as were water holes in the desert. The many hot springs that come up along earthquake fault lines (following an oval-shaped pattern in the county) were Indian centers. Community metates and painted rocks well distributed throughout Riverside County are reminders of the people of the past. Such early day villages as Hurumpa, Pahav, Temeku, Takvi, Sovovo, and Moronga are among those shown on A. L. Kroeber's map of native sites and contained in his monumental *Handbook of the California Indians*, some of them suggesting present Riverside County place names. Brown-skinned descendants of the former inhabitants who survived eviction, persecution, exploitation, even massacre, are still with us. Some of them live on reservations. The establishment of each of these represented a hard-won victory for the Indians and their friends, but today reservations seem increasingly anachronistic. The young people as farmers, mechanics, fruit workers, teachers, or otherwise, are completely "current," make useful contributions to society and are gradually being swallowed up in the broader stream of the county's life.



*Cahuilla Indian houses at or near Palm Springs, 1890*

1822

*California becomes Mexican territory*

Early in 1822 California was notified of Mexico's successful revolt against Spain. California accepted the situation and at Monterey, the capital city, allegiance was sworn to the new government on April 11, 1822. The banner of Spain gave way to the Mexican imperial flag. The Mexican Empire, however, was short-lived. In the following year, Emperor Iturbide abdicated and a federal republic was established.

California land that had been vested in the King of Spain was now owned by the Mexican Nation.

1824

*With the establishment by priests from  
Mission San Gabriel of an outpost in San Geronimo Pass,  
the extension of missionary influence in the  
Riverside County area is climaxed*

Through the establishment of mission ranchos and *asistencias* (branch missions), the missionary centers of San Luis Rey, San Juan Capistrano, San Diego, and San Gabriel—outside of but encircling Riverside County—exerted a strong influence on Riverside County itself and the Indians of the county.

San Luis Rey had started a rancho at Pala (in San Diego County), and it became an *asistencia* in 1815 or 1816. It sent Leandro Serrano, as we have seen, into the Temescal Valley (in Riverside County) to exert his influence over the Indian population. Also it maintained a stock rancho—the original San Jacinto Rancho—established as early as 1821. Mission San Diego's rancho at Santa Ysabel became an *asistencia* in 1818. San Juan Capistrano used mountain pasture lands in the southwest part of Riverside County. Mission San Gabriel, which began to expand when Father Zalvidea became its head, had several mission ranchos, most of them in the San Bernardino Valley, but including the Jurupa on the Santa Ana River, and one *asistencia* at Guachama where missionary work began in 1819.

San Gabriel climaxed its efforts by establishing, probably in 1824, its most easterly rancho—the San Gorgonio—at the foot of the hills just north of present day Beaumont in Riverside County. Like other mission ranchos, the San Gorgonio presumably was run by trusted neophytes and was visited occasionally by priests for spiritual or inspection purposes. From this outpost, too, San Gabriel could become acquainted with the vast and deadly desert beyond, including the Palm Springs and Coachella Valley regions.

Even before the establishment of San Gorgonio, Indian runners carried mail between Sonora and San Gabriel by way of the San Gorgonio Pass. In 1821 José, head chief of the Cocomaricopas, was hired by Tucson's military commander to get through to San Gabriel, not by the abandoned Anza trail, but by crossing the Colorado River near present day Blythe and going through the mountains to the Salton Sea basin and up the Coachella Valley and through the San Gorgonio Pass. Fifteen to twenty days were required for the one-way trip.

Secularization of the California missions in 1834 to 1836—with mission properties passing from the friars to civil authorities—largely ended the missionary influence, caused the abandonment of mission ranchos and *asistencias*, and made possible the granting, to individuals, of former mission-controlled lands.

## 1838

### *Juan Bandini receives a grant of Rancho Jurupa and with it Riverside County's rancho period begins*

The first grant of a rancho in the county, the title to which was later confirmed by the United States, was that of the Jurupa Rancho. Governor Alvarado granted this seven-square-league area on the Santa Ana River to Juan Bandini on September 28, 1838. It was later surveyed as containing over 32,000 acres.

There were earlier claims to ranchos, such as Leandro Serrano's to the Temescal (with possession begun in 1818 or 1819), and José A. Estudillo's to the Temecula (with an actual grant in 1835), but these did not result in titles that were upheld by the United States.

Bandini was a public figure, a member of the California legislature, a deputy to the Mexican Congress, landowner and social leader, the best dancer in California, and the father of daughters famous for their beauty. While owner of the Jurupa and of the adjoining El Rincon (granted him in 1839), he also held down the job of civil administrator of the secularized San Gabriel Mission.

While Bandini was developing Rancho Jurupa, a friend, Don Agustín Janssens, paid the Bandini establishment a visit. It was in 1839 or 1840, and the household then included Bandini's father, Don José, on a visit from San Diego. He wanted to be with his young granddaughters, including Arcadia who would become the wife of a later owner of Jurupa, Abel Stearns. The home built by Don Juan was on a high bluff on the northwest side of the Santa Ana River. The rancho, wrote Janssens, was "level, valuable, and prosperous . . . There was a *rancheria* of Caluillas, who worked on the ranch and who were always having dances. One could see across the plain all the way to Cucamonga." One day a great cloud of dust was seen in the distant northwest. It was caused, the family soon learned, by New Mexicans and Indians on a horse-stealing raid. Everyone hurried to hide things of value and the family went down into the river bed, though it was a cold day, to hide in the brush. Their own horses had been driven farther down the river. By sundown the guess was that the raiders were coming from Rancho La Puente and heading for Jurupa. But by ten o'clock that night vaqueros brought in the good news that the raiders had turned away and would skip Jurupa. This story is from The Huntington Library's 1953 publication of *The Life and Adventures in California of Don Agustín Janssens*.

On the adjoining 4400-acre El Rincon Don Juan built a new and better home, a two-story adobe that stood on a high bluff with a magnificent view. Later it became known as the Cota house, for Bernardo Yorba bought El Rincon for his daughter who married Leonardo Cota. Both of these Bandini structures are gone today.

The Jurupa Rancho became two ranchos: The Louis Rubidoux portion of 6700 acres (and more) and the Abel Stearns portion of 25,000 acres (and more).

Largest owners of Riverside County land during rancho days were members or connections of the influential Estudillo family. José María Estudillo, founder of the family in California, had come to

San Diego from Monterey, where since 1806 he had been a lieutenant of the Monterey company. His son, José Antonio, "man of excellent character, of good education for his time and country, and of wide influence"—quoting Hubert Howe Bancroft—became a landowner in San Diego. Then, in 1842, the governor granted him the 35,000-acre Rancho San Jacinto Viejo in what is now Riverside County. His daughter, María del Rosario, who married José Antonio Aguirre, was granted the 48,000-acre Sobrante de San Jacinto. Another 48,000-acre Riverside County rancho, the San Jacinto Nuevo y Potrero, went to Miguel Pedorena of San Diego—"an intelligent, scholarly man, of excellent character, who by his courteous affability made friends of all who knew him"—and whose wife was María Antonio Estudillo.

The sixteen Riverside County ranchos, all listed with the names of original owners elsewhere in this booklet, are in the westerly half of the county. Sufficiently extensive to stamp Riverside as a rancho county, they serve to recall pastoral days. *Rancheros*, largely Spanish Californian, devoted themselves and their land to cattle raising and cattle interests. The women occupied themselves with household duties and the education of the children. This period of simple living was enlivened by rodeos and dances—with the pueblos of Los Angeles and San Diego far, far away.

## 1842

*Three horsemen make an inspection tour of Jurupa, resulting in the purchase by one of them of the portion later known as the "Rubidoux Rancho" and in the establishment by another one of the Agua Mansa colony*

One day in 1842 three men on horseback made an inspection tour of Rancho Jurupa. One of them was Juan Bandini the owner. Another was Benjamin D. Wilson who wanted to buy part of Jurupa. Wilson had come to California the year before with the Workman-Rowland party, would later become known affectionately as "Don Benito" and would become one of Southern California's most influential citizens. The third inspector was Lorenzo Trujillo, a New Mexican Indian

from the Taos Pueblo who represented fellow colonists seeking a permanent location. Trujillo had come to California first in 1841 with Wilson.

The results of the inspection and meeting, as described by George William Beattie and Helen Pruitt Beattie in their invaluable *Heritage of the Valley*, was that Wilson bought one and a half leagues of land, the part that later would be called the "Rubidoux Rancho," for which a deed was issued him in 1843. His condition had been met. He would be given protection against horse-stealing raiders who swept in with monotonous regularity from the desert and over Southern California ranchos. Trujillo promised the protection—and kept his promise, for from time to time he and his people were called forth to battle Indian raiders. On behalf of the colonists, Trujillo was given good farming land on the Santa Ana River—the 2200-acre "Bandini Donation"—adjoining Wilson's property. It was mostly in what is now San Bernardino County, but partly in Riverside County.

Lorenzo Trujillo and his New Mexican colonists, many of them Pueblo Indians, did not settle immediately on the Bandini Donation, although their protection was felt. They lived two or three years at Politana (in the present area of Colton), upon the urging of the owner of Rancho San Bernardino. In 1845 these fighting farmers moved onto their Donation and established the happy community of Agua Mansa, which means "Gentle Water."



*Chief Cabazon and his captains—a Cahuilla Indian group. This Cabazon is the son of the Cabazon who met Don Benito Wilson at Agua Caliente (Palm Springs) in 1845 (Photo 1891)*

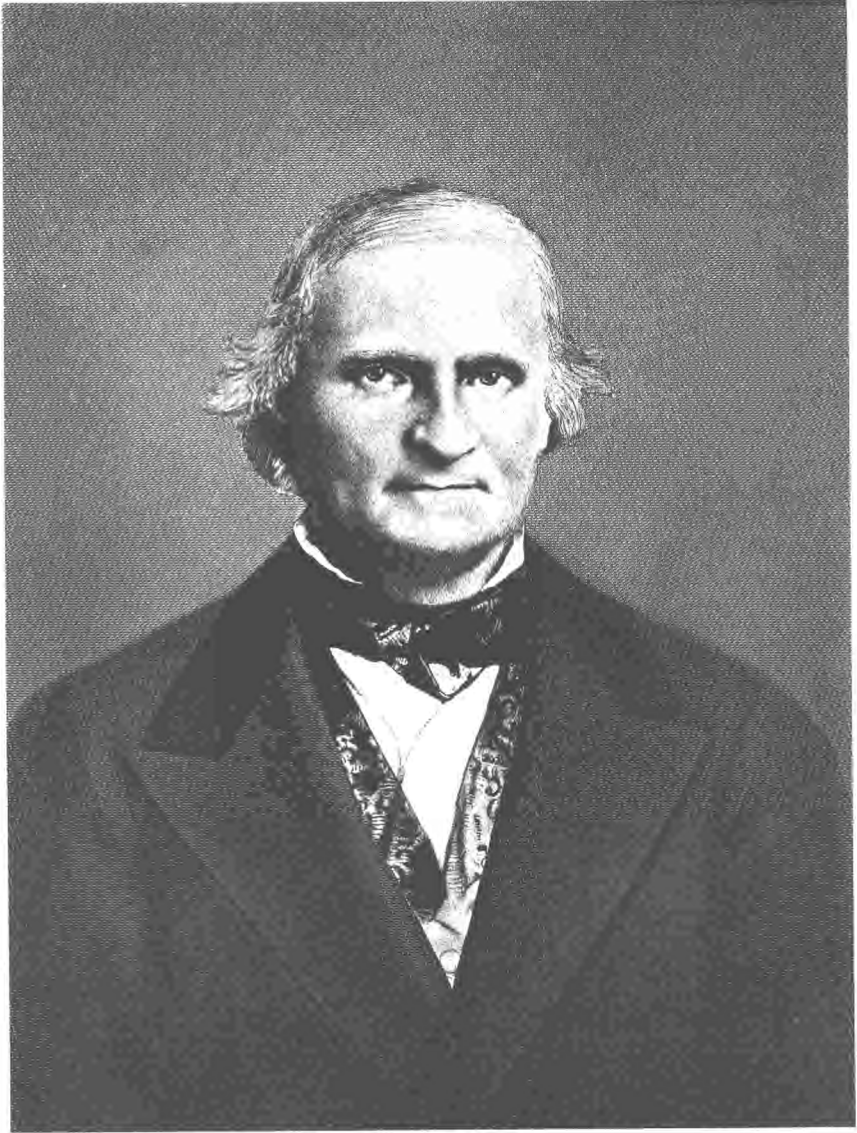
Wilson settled down as a ranchero and in 1844 married Ramona Yorba, daughter of Don Bernardo, his neighbor. Their home was the handsome adobe house that formerly stood in the West Riverside or Rubidoux area, the "Rubidoux Adobe." Wilson acted as agent for Bandini in apportioning lots to Agua Mansa colonists. As justice of peace of the Jurupa district he was three times called upon to lead expeditions against ex-mission neophytes who made raids from the desert. One of them took him to Agua Caliente (Palm Springs) where he met the Cahuilla chief Cabazon (Big Head). Cabazon promised him help in capturing the San Gabriel neophytes who had been raid leaders. He sent out a band of his own men and the next night they came galloping in, singing and carrying two heads, the raiders' heads, with them. These they tossed proudly at Wilson's feet.

1844

*Louis Rubidoux, Riverside County's best known pioneer,  
enters the picture*

Louis Rubidoux's first visit to California was in 1842 but he came to stay in 1844, bringing with him his wife whom he had married in New Mexico and his children. He settled in Agua Mansa on the Santa Ana River. It was between that time and 1850 that he bought out the various interests that gave him full title to the 6700-acre portion of Rancho Jurupa which then became known as the Rubidoux Rancho. Don Benito Wilson disposed of his holdings to Rubidoux in 1847. With his vaqueros Wilson drove his herd of 2000 longhorned cattle up the San Joaquin Valley to Sutter's Fort, an amazing feat. He returned to Los Angeles to engage in merchandising.

Louis Rubidoux was of the famous French-Canadian trapper-trader-merchant family which came originally from Quebec but later moved to the frontier outpost of St. Louis, Missouri. His father was a pioneer St. Louis merchant, a brother, Joseph, was the founder of St. Joseph, Missouri, and another brother, Antoine, was a mountain man and western fur-trader. The family name was spelled "Robidoux" but in California, under the Spanish influence, it came to be spelled, usually, "Rubidoux."



*Louis Rubidoux*





*Home of Louis Rubidoux on the rancho that was carved out of the Jurupa Rancho*

Louis Rubidoux moved into the home that the Wilsons had occupied, bought the best cattle and horses he could find, which he grazed over the whole of the present site of Riverside, put in a large acreage in grain, built a grist mill, planted a vineyard, became justice of the peace (as successor to Wilson), and took an active part in the life of the district. He had brought books with him and, for his children, he engaged an English tutor. During the Mexican War he provided the troops of Frémont and also the Mormon Battalion with flour and beans and was himself taken prisoner at Chino. When San Bernardino County was organized in 1853 he became a supervisor, a job which involved many tense situations, because of the pressure of Mormons, dissenting Mormons, and anti-Mormons.

The danger from Indian depredations was still present. Don Louis—"the King of Jurupa," he was sometimes called—was instrumental in having a military fort established at Jurupa in 1852 where a small body of troops was stationed until 1854.

Fortunately Rubidoux spoke several languages, including the language of the Cahuillas. This was helpful when he dealt with the

local Indians as employer or as justice of the peace. On one occasion Judge Rubidoux had as prisoner a Cahuilla Indian who had killed a fellow tribesman on the Jurupa. A grave was dug and in it was placed the murdered man's body. Just then Chief Juan Antonio of the Cahuillas came galloping up with a force of his own men. He demanded and got the prisoner, took him to the grave, threw him in alive and instantly filled the excavation with earth—the chief preferring to mete out Indian justice to an Indian criminal.

Rubidoux, a generous man who spent money freely, was fond of people and of being host, and had always leaned to the colony idea. He sold small farms out of his rancho—subdividing, it would be called today—with the result that the area west of the Santa Ana River gradually became filled with settlers who planted fields and vineyards. Among these settlers were Arthur Parks, Heber C. Parks, Cornelius Jensen, and Benjamin Ables.

Of his grandfather, Louis Rubidoux, Attorney Miguel Estudillo said (in 1949): "He enjoyed good health until he broke his hip. He was bedridden the last eleven years of his life and then he died in 1868." The grave of Rubidoux is said to be in the Agua Mansa cemetery, but is unmarked.

## 1848

### *California is ceded to the United States*

When the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed, ratified, and proclaimed, at the end of the war between the United States and Mexico—a war largely fought and won south of the Rio Grande—California became United States territory and the land formerly owned by the Mexican Nation was then part of the public lands of the United States.

On September 9, 1850 California became a state, and, under the Act of March 3, 1851, a Board of Land Commissioners was created by Congress to segregate privately owned land from public domain. Following government approval of title and after official survey of the land, individual patents were issued by the United States to each owner of a rancho.

1853

*A railroad survey is made through the San Gorgonio Pass  
and the desert beyond*

A party of United States topographical engineers went through the San Gorgonio Pass in 1853, surveying a possible railroad route. Headed by Lieutenant J. G. Parke, the wagon train left San Bernardino, went eastward about 25 miles, and stopped at the site of the old mission rancho of San Gorgonio north of present day Beaumont. Here they found Powell Weaver (usually called "Pauline" Weaver), famous mountain man, trapper and scout, in comfortable possession. He had rebuilt one of the mission structures of adobe. Its site, in what became known as the Edgar Ranch, is just above today's Cherry Valley Fire Control Station. Near "Pauline's" place were Indian huts of tule and grass.

Weaver, Beaumont area's first white settler, had probably come to San Gorgonio in 1844. He and his trapper friend Isaac Williams, of Rancho Santa Ana del Chino, tried but failed to get title to the San Gorgonio, which remained public land.

The government surveyors stopped long enough for one of the party to make a sketch of the place. This sketch was reproduced in their official report. They went on into the desert, directed to springs by Cahuilla Indians, observed the water mark of ancient Lake Cahuilla, heard the legend of the "great water" which once covered the whole valley, and made important notes and sketches. The prehistoric lake was especially interesting to the party's young geologist, William B. Blake, and he it was who gave it its name. Building roads where necessary, they continued to Carrizo Creek and then into the San Felipe Valley.

In the same year of 1853 Dr. Isaac William Smith, hunting for stock that had strayed, came upon Weaver, found him ill, and is reported to have saved his life. In gratitude the mountain man invited Smith and his family to stay at the ranch. In October of 1853 Powell Weaver quitclaimed to Smith, took up his rifle and set out for the Colorado River. Smith picked a spot for his home at the mouth of a wooded canyon two miles from Weaver's adobe, planted fruit trees and a vineyard, and brought in horses and sheep. Today Smith's ranch is the Highland Springs resort.

*Butterfield stages begin operations*

The first westbound stage sent out by John Butterfield, president of the Overland Mail Company, whirled, clattered, rolled, and jolted through what is now Riverside County in the early days of October, 1858. From Tucson to San Francisco, with constant relays, the stage averaged five miles an hour. Leaving Warner's Ranch in San Diego County, the road lay "through delightful oak groves," with station stops at Aguanga, Temecula, and Laguna (Lake Elsinore)—all "at convenient distances . . . the accommodations excellent . . . the road . . . lined with prosperous ranches." It continued through the Temescal Valley—where the tin deposits already were exciting interest—and on by way of Rancho Santa Ana del Chino and El Monte to Los Angeles. The quotations are from a passenger's comment reprinted in *The Butterfield Overland Mail* (The Huntington Library, 1942), edited by Lyle H. Wright and Josephine M. Bynum.

The Butterfield stages had a short life, 1858 to 1861, but helped popularize the Temescal approach to Los Angeles during a period when the San Geronimo Pass was beginning to be traveled and settled.

Speaking of the Temescal's tin deposits, Daniel Sexton, who had come to California in 1841 with Benjamin D. Wilson and others, is said to have discovered the first tin mine in the Temescal mountains in 1856. An Indian told him of its existence. The deposits ultimately attracted widespread interest. They were commented upon in 1861 by William H. Brewer (of *Up and Down California* fame), who had come to California on J. D. Whitney's geological survey. Bars of Temescal tin were exhibited in San Francisco in 1869 at the Mechanics' Fair. Litigation prevented much development work until 1888. English companies, backed by prominent London financiers including men interested in Welsh tin mines, spent huge sums of money on Temescal. Up to July, 1892, bars of metallic tin were being produced, according to the Valley's historian, Rose L. Ellerbe, but in that year the Temescal tin mines were closed down.

1862

*A destructive flood sweeps down the Santa Ana River*

Not only were the fertile lowlands of the Jurupa washed away by the flooded Santa Ana—with barren sand left in their place—and the Rubidoux homestead made an island, but destruction came to the Bandini Donation and its pastoral community of Agua Mansa.

Agua Mansa was a continuous farm divided into a hundred or more separately owned fields, each with live willow fence. It received the full impact of the flood. Fortunately Father James Anthony Borgatta heard the roar of waters and rang the Agua Mansa church bell to warn the people. No lives were lost, but in place of beautiful orchards, vineyards, and gardens, and a community of simple, hospitable, and fun-loving farmers, there was left a waste of sand, torn up trees, here and there a chimney, a few stakes, the church, and the house and store of Cornelius Jensen. The cemetery survived, for it was on a knoll.

The people of Agua Mansa found refuge and new homes on higher ground on the south and east bank of the river at a place called San Salvador, later known as "Spanish Town," a remnant of which remains today beneath the shade of great cottonwoods. Several decades were to pass, however—thirty years of heartbreaking controversy—before Bandini Donation titles were perfected. Father P. J. Stockman, representing the colonists and their successors, fought a victorious fight through the courts.

Agua Mansa comes back in memory today when one visits the surviving cemetery. Surrounded by scattered eucalyptus and pepper trees, its area of small white stone and blackened wood crosses stretches up a mild green slope. Below and beyond is the same peaceful scene the Agua Mansans must have known: green fields outlined by fences and extending into the distance, cottonwoods bursting into bud, cattle grazing, and far away the hills and then the mountains rising in haze.

Some of the Agua Mansa townsmen come to mind. First of all Lorenzo Trujillo, original leader, wise patriarch, man of exceptional ability and character, who once saved the life of Benito Wilson by sucking the wound caused by a poisoned arrow. Then there was



*Agua Mansa and West Riverside pioneer couple: Cornelius Jensen and his wife, Mercedes Alvarado de Jensen (Courtesy Mary Ann Schroeder)*

Isaac "Viejo" Slover, for whom Slover Mountain was named, a former Kentuckian and, in California, a great hunter of grizzly bears, whose wife Barbara made the lightest of tortillas—according to visiting Judge Benjamin Hayes—and who, by 1851, was much concerned over the influx of Mormons, magistrates, and squatters. A third was Cornelius Jensen, who opened a store in Agua Mansa in 1854. A native of Denmark, he had come to San Francisco soon after the discovery of gold, as master of a trading vessel. When his crew rushed off to the mines, Jensen became a storekeeper in Sacramento. There he met some Southern Californians who urged him to go south with them. He did so, in San Gabriel married Mercedes Alvarado, a Spanish Californian, and became an Agua Mansan. Some time after the flood he bought 1400 acres of uncleared land from Rubidoux, where he built a sturdy, red brick home (modeled after his ancestral home in Denmark), planted vineyards, and orchards. The Jensen house, completed in 1870, still stands and is lived in by the fifth generation of the family. When he died in 1886 Cornelius Jensen was honored by having his body carried on the shoulders of mourners from his West Riverside home to the old Agua Mansa cemetery five miles north. In the possession of his resident granddaughter, Mary Ann Schroeder, is the Agua Mansa census of 1856 and in it are the names of the "pobladores," most of whom lie in this cemetery: Trujillo, Jensen, Espinosa, Molla, Alvarado, Bustamente, Salazar, Jaramillo, Belarde, Quintana, and a host of others.



*Agua Mansa cemetery*



*The little church of Agua Mansa survived the flood of 1862 but not the ravages of time*

1870

*A Southern California colony is planned, a portion of Rancho Jurupa is bought, the Town of Riverside is laid out—and the modern period of Riverside County's history begins*

A call to "intelligent, industrious and enterprising people" to join in forming a colony for settlement in Southern California was issued on May 17, 1870 by John W. North of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Judge North, founder of Riverside, was a native of the state of New York and before getting the colony fever had a distinguished career as an anti-slavery lecturer, a practicing attorney, an appointee of President Lincoln as judge of a territorial district and judge of the Supreme Court of Nevada, and as an industrialist in Tennessee.

Plans went ahead smoothly and by summer of 1870 Judge North was in Los Angeles trying to find a colony site. A committee representing the proposed colony, composed of Dr. James P. Greves, Judge E. G. Brown and Dr. K. D. Shugart, inspected the Riverside area. These three men were escorted by T. W. Cover representing the California Silk Center Association which held an agreement of purchase dated April 22, 1870 and which had found it necessary to abandon silk producing plans, to sell and disband. The colony people saw a "bare, dry, sun-kissed, and wind-swept mesa . . . having not a tree or a shrub in sight." But they tested the soil, found it good, and were convinced that sufficient water was available. They are reported to have shouted "Eureka!" At least they said "yes" to Mr. Cover, for on September 15, 1870 a deed was issued to the Southern California Colony Association by the California Silk Center Association. Later another deed, dated February 18, 1874, was obtained from Alfred Robinson, Trustee, successor to Abel Stearns as owner of the Jurupa, Stearns having bought out Juan Bandini in 1859. Part of the Rubidoux interests were also later acquired.

Judge North and his first colonists arrived and pitched their tents. Some settled on Association lands, others on government land to the south. These settlers and colonists yet to come were encouraged by circulars issued from time to time by Association President North. The one issued October 10 contained these helpful words:





*John W. North, founder of Riverside  
(Courtesy J. S. and Anna R. Bordwell)*

"This colony, of which some notice was given by circulars, in March last, is finally located and organized. After some months of examination, in company with gentlemen from New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa and Tennessee, a selection has been made about fifty miles from Los Angeles, which combines the following advantages, viz: A plenty of good land, an abundance of pure, running water, a delightfully genial and healthful climate, a soil adapted to the production of all grains and vegetables, as well as the common and semi-tropical fruits . . . Oranges ripen during the winter season, and yield their most abundant harvest in the spring. The summer heat is not so oppressive as that of New York; sun stroke is only heard of through the Eastern papers. For those suffering from lung or bronchial diseases, or asthma, this climate is all that could be desired. It is far enough from the coast to be free from the severe ocean winds and fogs, and near enough to feel an invigorating and refreshing sea breeze every day. The scenery is varied, picturesque, and some parts grand . . ."

To provide water for the colony the Santa Ana River was tapped and the construction of an irrigation canal was begun in October of 1870, to be completed in July of the following year.

By April of 1871 a few houses had been built and the town had been named "Riverside"—even though the river was a distance away—a choice that won out over "Joppa," "New Colony," and "Jurupa." By 1872 Riverside had homes, stores, churches, a schoolhouse, planted fields, stagecoach connections with San Bernardino and Los Angeles, and a corps of pioneers who were helping to build a now famous community.



*Here is Riverside in 1876, a picture taken at the corner of Eighth and Main streets, looking south. House in foreground at corner is on site now occupied by Citizens National Trust & Savings Bank. Lyon and Rosenthal block in foreground, right (Courtesy J. S. and Anna R. Bordwell)*

## 1873-1875

### *The Washington Navel Orange gets its start in Riverside*

To an early day Riverside couple, Luther C. and Mrs. (Eliza) Tibbets, goes the credit for introducing the navel orange to Riverside and the nation. Luther was one of the original colonists. He arrived on the scene in 1870 from Washington, D. C., when Riverside was a cluster of white tents. Eliza came later, exactly when no one seems to know.

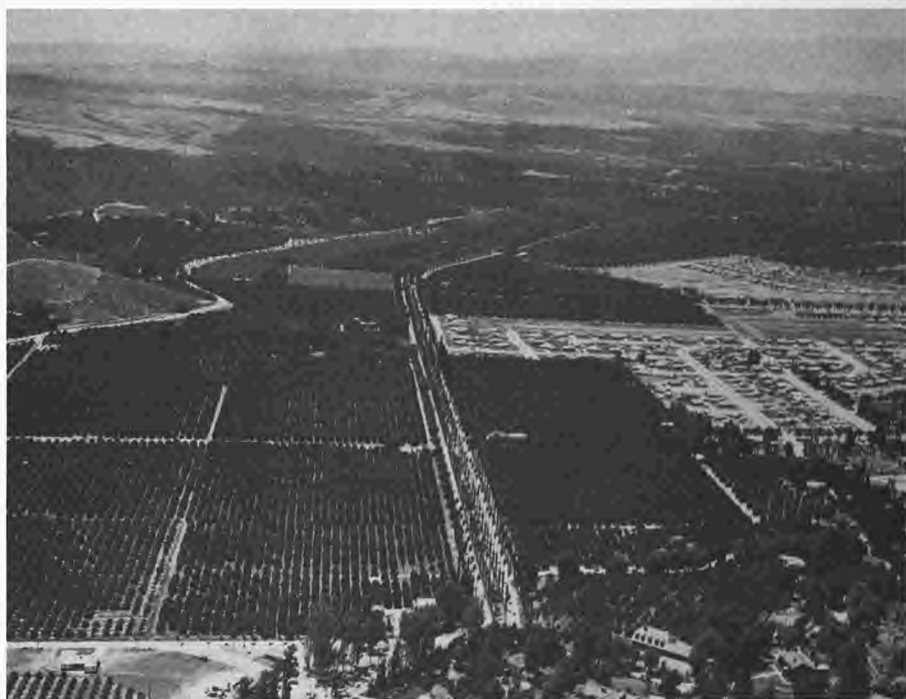
There are several versions of how the parent orange trees were obtained from William Saunders of the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C., how they got to Riverside, who (*Mr.* or *Mrs.* Tibbets) planted them in Riverside, and when the planting took place—whether in 1873 or 1875. Part of the uncertainties have arisen from the fact that no one was interested in writing up the story until the first of the new oranges had ripened—and that was in 1878. Riverside historians usually accord Eliza Tibbets most of the honors. Others, notably Harris Newmark in his *Sixty Years in Southern California* and Minnie Tibbets Mills in her account appearing in the December 1943 issue of the *Quarterly* of the Historical Society of Southern California, present Luther Tibbets as the hero of the affair.

All are agreed, however, that the young trees which came from Washington had been budded from the seedless orange of Bahia,

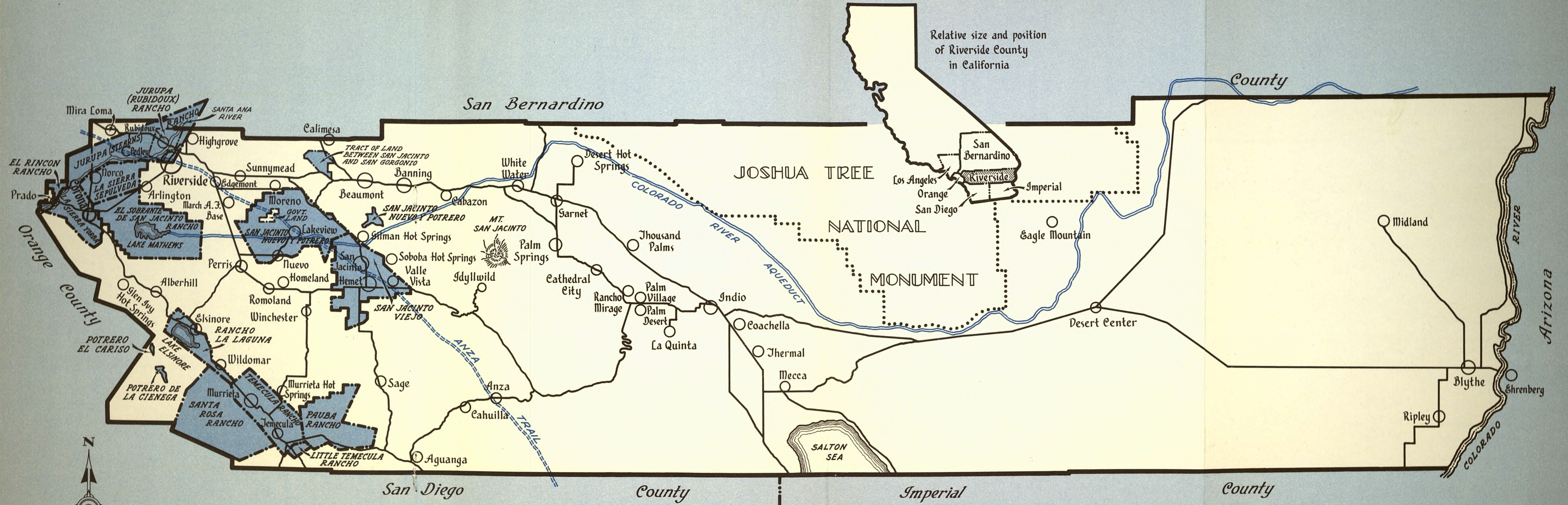
Brazil. They were planted in the Tibbets garden in Riverside and were given sufficient care so that first fruit ripened in the winter of 1878.

Neighbors and friends of the Tibbets family had watched golden globes develop from little green bullets. When the first oranges were fully ripe a housewarming was held, with Mr. and Mrs. Tibbets the hosts. A platter with sections of the first fruit was passed. "It required but one taste," writes Minnie Tibbets Mills, "to reveal that a star of first magnitude had arisen in their midst." The combination of Bahia strain and Riverside soil and climate had produced a superior orange.

From then on, so great was the demand for buds from the Tibbets trees that they were kept for propagation rather than for fruit-bearing. The fame of the seedless orange—the Washington Navel orange, it came to be called—swept through California.



*Riverside in its lush aspects: Victoria Avenue in center and extending south. Note that subdivisions encroach on citrus lands (Courtesy Riverside Daily Press)*



Relative size and position  
of Riverside County  
in California

A MAP OF **RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**  
-- Areas of Mexican Ranchos shown in color --

Prepared for Riverside Title Division by Cliff Wrigley

A great new industry, the Washington Navel orange industry, was in the making. With a better orange available, Riverside became dedicated to the orange business. Its life has focused on this principal activity, and in Riverside the problems of handling and marketing were worked out and solved. The fame of the Riverside orange spread and Riverside became Southern California's center for citrus experimentation.

Today one of the parent trees still grows, puts out buds, and produces oranges. Moved from its original site, it stands in a small park where Magnolia and Arlington avenues intersect. Behind a wire fence, overgrown with roses, it is protected by every means known to citrus experts. If automobile traffic permits, it is worth a visitor's while to slow down, park, and ponder upon this somewhat frail but world famous tree.

## 1870's-1880's

### *Railroad trains supplant stagecoaches and mule freighters*

The adventurous stagecoach and mule-freighting era in the San Geronio Pass and the Coachella Valley drew toward a close in the middle 1870's with the coming of the railroad. The Bradshaw Stage Road yielded to the Southern Pacific trains' right of way. Alexander & Company of Los Angeles, Wyatt Earp, stage-driver, and General Phineas Banning, whose stages ran between Wilmington and Fort Yuma—these became only historic names.

Passenger train service reached Indio May 29, 1876 and the west bank of the Colorado River, opposite Yuma, on May 23, 1877. Along with steel rails came new settlers, new business ventures and new towns. Indio sprang into life as the main division point and is today a very important community in the Coachella Valley. Banning, named for the General, and Beaumont, beginning as "San Geronio," each got a depot, by 1884 had been laid out as townsites, and were booming in 1887-88.

Elsewhere in Riverside County areas the stagecoach had a stay of execution. Not until 1882 did the California Southern—close relative of the Santa Fe—offer train service between San Diego and San

Bernardino by way of Temecula and Riverside. With the building of this railroad (formal control of which was acquired by the Santa Fe in 1885) a whole new group of settlements and townsites became possible in the valleys of Elsinore-Murrieta-Temecula and Perris-San Jacinto-Hemet. By 1888 railroads were providing train service to the principal towns and areas of what is now Riverside County. But not till then did the stage-driver successors of John Butterfield give up their reins forever.

Following the railroads came the good roads, then the paved highways, a network of them, that make travel easy and pleasant and the full development of the county possible.



*Frank Miller, founder of the Mission Inn.  
Photo taken in 1900*

1877

*The Glenwood Tavern, predecessor of the Mission Inn,  
serves its first guests*

In lieu of \$375 back salary owed by the Southern California Colony Association to its engineer, Captain Christopher Columbus Miller, a block of land in the town of Riverside was deeded him in 1874.



*Predecessor of the Mission Inn, Riverside*



Printed by G. W. Bennett, San Francisco, 1877.

Copyright, 1877, by E. S. Glover, Los Angeles, Cal.

*Riverside, 1877, from a lithographic drawing, typical of the period, by E. S. Glover of Los Angeles, printed by A. L. Bancroft & Co., San Francisco*

The block was bounded by Main and Orange, Sixth and Seventh streets. Here Captain Miller built his adobe home. His son Frank, a barefoot boy, helped make the adobe brick. When finished in 1876 it was the largest residence in town.

Next year, 1877, when an adjoining hotel burned down, the Miller family began taking in boarders. They called their place the Glenwood Tavern. When enlarged, the Tavern became the Glenwood Cottages, later the Glenwood Hotel. In 1881 Frank A. Miller bought out his father and by 1901 had replaced the original buildings with a "mission style" structure that occupied the whole of the block that had been deeded Captain Miller.

The New Glenwood became the Glenwood Mission Inn and finally the Mission Inn—center of Riverside's community life and Riverside's direct point of contact with the nationally and internationally known men and women who have been its guests and who have carried the fame of a fabulous hotel throughout the world. The Mission Inn displayed inside and out the elements of California's missions and the paintings, furniture, and curios of the Spanish-speaking nations. It evolved under Frank Miller's direction and zeal for adding corridors, courts, cloisters, chapels, gardens, and galleries not only into a luxurious hotel and a museum of treasures and antiquities, but into a great Riverside institution. Succeeding administrations, that of DeWitt V. Hutchings and of later ones, carry on the tradition of friendliness that Frank Miller emphasized and add whatever is required to keep the hotel charming and current. The present owner, Fairmont Hotel Co., widens the usefulness of the Mission Inn as a convention center and otherwise, and concentrates the more important treasures in one museum.

## 1880's

### *Riverside incorporates, existing water problems are settled, and the Gage Canal is built*

In 1874 Samuel Cary Evans, Indiana business man, came to Riverside. The same year, with Captain W. T. Sayward, he bought approxi-



mately 10,000 acres adjoining the Colony lands on the south, in the present Arlington and Arlington Heights areas, organized the Riverside Land and Irrigation Company (which finally succeeded to the interests of the Southern California Colony Association), and started the construction of a new canal.

This expansion of the Riverside Colony limits gave emphasis to the fact that Riverside's future was dependent on water and that the water situation then was uncertain. For years conflict continued between subdividers, users of water, and water companies. Incorporation of Riverside in 1883 helped pave the way to end dispute and lawsuits and to a peaceful settlement—one largely worked out in 1884 by S. C. Evans. As a part of the settlement The Riverside Water Company and The Riverside Land Company were organized for the management and equitable control of the sale of lands for which water was available. Bonds were issued and sold, the proceeds used partly to improve the water system so that an extension of irrigated lands became possible. Riversiders got the best water system in Southern California, they felt, and more water per acre.

Meanwhile Matthew Gage, a man who had come to Riverside in 1881 from Kingston, Canada, was at work on a project that made possible a vast tract development and an extension of the orange industry. The canal he built—called the Gage Canal—became the main artery of the irrigation system and brought water into the Riverside area from the eastern part of the San Bernardino Valley. It was begun originally to bring water to a section of government land the title to which Gage was trying to perfect under the Desert Land Act. It developed, through Matthew Gage's vision and enthusiasm, into an undertaking that brought under cultivation not only 3000 acres in the East Riverside (Highgrove) area but later the 6000 acres of what became Arlington Heights. When Gage got an option to purchase the 6000 acres from S. C. Evans he enlarged his canal plans. Needing more money, he went to England, with the result that the Riverside Trust Company, Ltd., a corporation composed of English capitalists, was incorporated there in 1889. In 1890 this corporation bought from Matthew Gage the 6000 acres and also all the stock of the Gage Canal Company. Gage reserved for himself a block of stock in the trust company and became its managing director. He laid out the huge Arlington Heights subdivision which,

because of the Gage Canal, was developed into a magnificent citrus property. Through its center ran the two-lane, palm-lined eight-mile-long Victoria Avenue.

The Riverside Trust Company and the opportunities in the orange business brought many Englishmen and Canadians to Riverside. Members of "the English colony" built large two- or three-story homes with wide verandas, usually set in the center of orange groves. They exerted a strong influence on the social life of the community (felt even to this day), with activities centering around tennis, golf, polo, country clubs, the Glenwood Hotel and the Anchorage Inn.



*Victoria Avenue, Riverside*

1893

*Riverside County is born*

The day after the California Legislature created the new county of Riverside, five roosters adorned the first page of the *Riverside Enterprise*, crowing over the good news.

Riverside, the county seat, celebrated by exploding fire crackers, suspending business, and decorating the town with flags and bunting.

It was on March 11, 1893 that Governor Markham signed the bill under which a small slice of San Bernardino County (590 square miles) and a large slice of San Diego County (6044 square miles) were taken to form Riverside County.

1907

*A citrus experimentation station is established  
at Riverside, destined to have great significance for  
the citrus business of California*

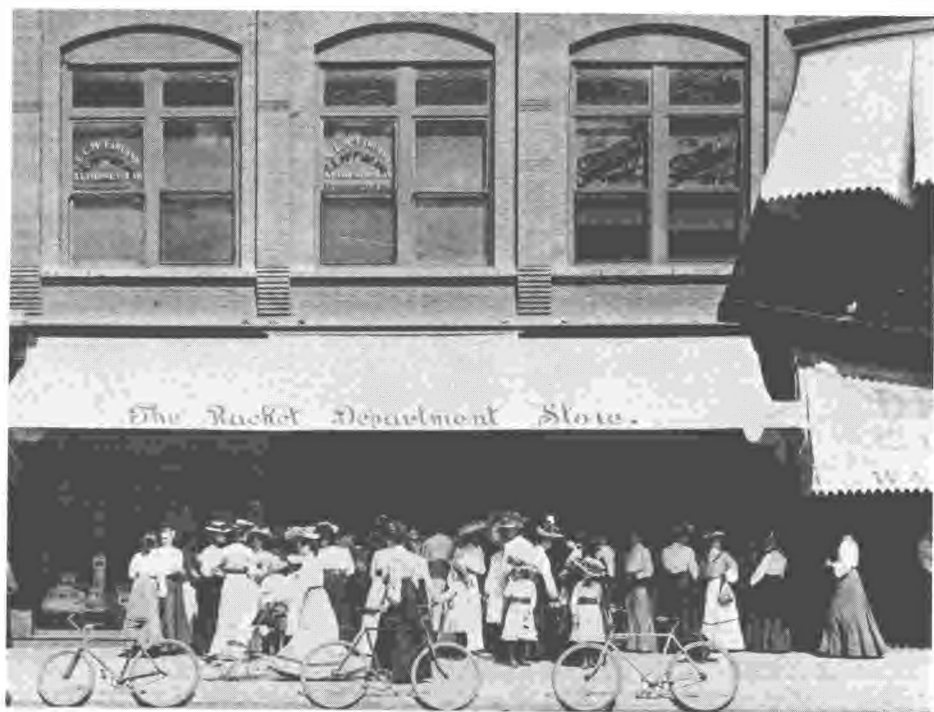
In 1907 the Regents of the University of California authorized the leasing of lands in Riverside—about 30 acres near the south end of Mt. Rubidoux—for what became known as the Citrus Experiment Station. The purpose was to carry out “experimental and investigational work” and, in general, to promote the horticultural interests of the district. Dr. Ralph E. Smith was the director.

The work of the station expanded. In 1913—the year of the “big freeze” which dealt the citrus people a blow they still talk about—Dr. Herbert John Webber of Cornell University was appointed director. The next year he came to Riverside and began an investigation of 200 parcels of land, all over Southern California, which had been offered as sites for a new station. He finally recommended the present Riverside (Box Springs) site—originally about 475 acres—and in 1915 the Regents acquired the land. By 1917 the new buildings were occupied and experimental plantings had been made. In 1929 Dr. Webber retired and Dr. L. D. Batchelor was appointed director.

Today the Citrus Experiment Station is one of the world’s largest research institutions devoted to subtropical agriculture. It has a

research staff of 250 specialists working on problems that range from the habits of microscopic insects to the effect of air pollution on plant life. Two thirds of the station's program is devoted to citrus, but increasing attention is being paid to the problems of raising avocados, walnuts, olives, figs, deciduous fruits, grapes, vegetables, and field crops. Much of the work, such as the testing and development of new insecticides, is of value to agriculture generally. The station is often called upon to work on emergency problems and has stopped several major threats to the citrus industry alone. It is always devoted to the basic projects of developing better varieties, more economical fertilization, to irrigation problems, orchard rejuvenation, to more effective control of diseases and pests. Its director since 1952 has been Dr. A. M. Boyce.

Even before the establishment of the Citrus Experiment Station



*Bargain day at a popular Main Street department store in Riverside.  
Photo taken July 31, 1905*

the United States Department of Agriculture was lending its assistance to the citrus industry in Riverside. As pomologist in charge of fruit storage and transportation investigation, G. Harold Powell, later general manager of the California Fruit Growers Exchange, spent about six months a year during 1904 to 1910 in Riverside supervising work in a Victoria Avenue packing house. His specific recommendations for careful handling, and for precooling, became standard practice and were effective in reducing decay of fruit during shipment.

1941

*The Colorado River Aqueduct is completed,  
to take care of the water necessities of the cities and  
districts which since 1928 have become members  
of the Metropolitan Water District*

The full story of water in Riverside County would include the efforts of every settler and of every community to get what was needed for personal and agricultural use. It would tell of all the canals built and of all the wells dug. It would cover the extensive development and use of Santa Ana River Basin water. The first appropriation of Colorado River water in 1877 for use in the Palo Verde Valley would be a part of the story, as would the construction of the All-American Canal which, completed in 1940, brought life-giving water to the Coachella Valley. The story would also include the drawing upon the abundant sub-surface water in the Palm Springs area, water which originated in high mountain streams.

The story would come to a climax with the completion in 1941 of the Colorado River aqueduct which passes under the San Jacinto mountains and ends at Lake Mathews in Riverside County, the principal storage reservoir. From Lake Mathews, feeder lines carry water to the areas within the Metropolitan Water District.

With the Eastern Municipal Water District of Riverside County (San Jacinto, Hemet, Lakeview, etc.) coming into the Metropolitan in 1951 and with the Western Municipal Water District (Riverside,

Arlington, Corona, Elsinore, etc.) joining in 1954, the water picture for the county took on bright hues.

Today Colorado River water is being delivered to some of these district areas and in the future should be available in other areas if local shortages develop.

1948

*The University of California establishes  
a Riverside campus*

When Governor Warren signed the bill on April 21, 1948 that insured the establishment at Riverside of a College of Letters and Sciences—the University of California at Riverside—a vital impulse was given Riverside and Southern California.

With money appropriated, 120 acres of sloping land were purchased adjoining the (Box Springs) Citrus Experiment Station. Attractive development of the campus was pushed, Provost Gordon Watkins assembled a notable faculty, and on February 15, 1954 the first classes were held. On that day 126 students crossed muddy fields on hastily-placed planks to report for instruction.

Riverside is now identified as a university town. Physically and spiritually Riverside offers a delightful setting. UCR and Riverside each complement the other.

1957

*Looking at Riverside County*

Riverside County has at least 29 chambers of commerce but they despair when trying to describe the 4,500,000 acres of land that extend in a 40-mile belt from Orange County on the west 200 miles to the Colorado River on the east. Fertile valleys, sunburned deserts, great mountain areas—all have individual attractions in climate, in product, in community and recreational activity, and in dramatic history.

With no attempt to summarize this rich variety or even to mention all of the pleasant towns and cities, there are ways of sampling Riverside County today, especially if an awareness of the past is allowed to enhance the scenes of the present.

Start in the county seat of Riverside—with its 85,000 people—and admit at the outset that Riverside is one of America's loveliest small cities. Here, where trees, roses, and attractive homes seem perpetually on display, the recent growth of the town for the most part has taken on satisfactory patterns. One phase of the growth is the increasing number of residences built in the Arlington Heights section where are still some of the finest citrus areas and where a ride down Victoria Avenue or on adjoining streets offers rewarding vistas. Always Mt. Rubidoux towers over the original townsite, a reminder of a pioneer



*Easter sunrise service on Mt. Rubidoux*

ranchero as well as of the annual pilgrimage to its top, started in 1909 by Frank Miller, at Jacob Riis' suggestion, which set a style in Easter observance for all of Southern California. Plan to drive down Magnolia Avenue, a magnificent creation of the 1870's which now yields to Riverside's southerly business expansion. See first the robust Anza monument by sculptor Sherry Patricolas as a reminder of Riverside's most celebrated transient immigrant. On Magnolia, travel south, pausing at the busy Arlington Avenue crossing for a look at the famous parent navel orange tree that continues to put out blossoms. Drive past the Sherman Indian School, its lawn crowded with Indian boys and girls who have come from far away homes in Arizona and New Mexico, continue through rapidly expanding Arlington (which first drew settlers in 1875)—then on into Corona.

In the "Circle City," as Corona calls itself, take the Grand Avenue trip. Dominated by the pepper trees of the first subdividers, it encircles the original town—which was born in the boom of the Eighties when Bernardo Yorba heirs sold 12,000 acres of Rancho La Sierra to the planners of South Riverside, as Corona was first called. For three years, until the final tragic race of 1916, when three men were killed and several more injured, Grand Avenue was an automobile race track. All Southern California swarmed into Corona to watch Barney Oldfield, Ralph De Palma, and Eddie Rickenbacker fight for records.

There are streets of new homes in this important citrus area. The fragrance of blossoms is in the air. Corona has become the lemon capital of the county.

Leaving Corona, follow the Temescal Canyon road—the old Butterfield Stage road—and drive to the southeast. On the right rise the hazy blue Santa Ana mountains and on the left the Temescal hills. Evidences of early day tin-mining; a stage station in a handsome orange grove; cottonwoods and sycamores marking the big cienega where first settler, Leandro Serrano, built his home; oaks, chapparal and Matilija poppies; smokestacks and slashed, red-clay hills labeling Alberhill, tilemaking center—all these and more can be seen, until the valley opens up into the Elsinore area.

To follow the old stage road, turn right and keep to the west side of Lake Elsinore, the "Laguna Grande" of early day maps. Usually the lake bed is water-filled, but, when empty, it is a great blind eye,



grey-white, turned upward to the blue skies. It is no trick at all to find the old Machado ranch house, remodeled adobe standing behind three tall palms, a former stage-stop. Here, in rancho days, Don Agustín Machado and his family entertained travelers, offering corals, camp grounds, and water, serving meals at a long table. This was in the 1850's, 1860's, and 1870's, long before William Collier of Keokuk, Iowa, D. M. Graham of Los Angeles, and F. H. Heald of Elsinore launched the Elsinore Colony in 1883 and 1884. Their first promotional pamphlet, issued in 1884, explained that the name of Elsinore was "adopted not from the small city so named in Denmark but rather from the immortality given it by Shakespeare... and because it has a pleasant sound."

Drive on through the delightful countryside of Wildomar, Murrieta, and Temecula, the latter calling to mind "Temeku," the Luiseño Indian village that once occupied the valley. Keep to quiet old roads (like the one to and from Aguanga, close to the San Diego County line) for the pleasure of the scenery but switch to Highway 395 for the fast trip back to Riverside...

...Make a new start for another look at Riverside County. This time head for the desert country of Palm Springs and Coachella Valley. The approach is by a smooth ribbon of road through the spectacular San Gorgonio Pass. Beaumont and Banning, growing into pleasant, modern communities, with their backdrop of towering Mt. San Gorgonio, snow-covered, and their superb views of Mt. San Jacinto, are memorable. So, too, their flowering fruit trees—cherries, peaches, and almonds. Cherry Valley, in Beaumont's backyard, has orchards in enchanting shades of deep pink, as well as memories of a *ranchería* of Cahuilla Indians, of a mission-rancho, of mountain-man "Pauline" Weaver—excavators today find interesting mementos of his time—and of the Bradshaw stages rolling in from San Bernardino, stopping at Smith's Station and continuing to Gilman's Place (in the Banning area). A left turn on Hathaway Street in Banning, toward the mountains and a look at the Morongo Indian Reservation—the Potrero of early days—a place of small farms, of fields and canyons and hillsides for the grazing of cattle, and of magnificent views. Back to the main highway, with Cabazon a little farther on, a community preserving the name of a great Indian chieftain. The desert approaches, creosote bushes, desert yuccas and



*The Beaumont, a hotel built in the boom of the 1880's in Beaumont*

## **MURRIETA COLONY!**

### **— The New Land of Promise! —**

**On Line of the California Southern Railroad, San Diego County, California,**

*Which for Richness of Soil, Salubrity of Climate, Excellence of WATER and HEALTHFULNESS cannot be Excelled.*

To get there, you should, if East, take the cars at Kansas City for San Diego, via the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Route, through Colton and past Riverside, Stopping off at the Station at Murrieta, where you will find parties ready to show you the Land.

#### **THE AGENTS:**

CHAS. CHARNOCK and ASA ADAMS, can be consulted at No. 12 Court Street, Los Angeles, about these or other lands, as they have a good list of city and country property for sale.

*When the California Southern Railroad was built in 1882 towns and colonies along its right of way boomed*

cactus take over, and the air gets warmer. The Pass widens into a valley with an enormous sand mountain on the left. Suddenly, out of desert emptiness, Palm Springs, low-lying and many-colored, makes its appearance. It is snug against the base of iron-gray mountains.

Driving through this fabulous desert spa via Indian Avenue, stop at the inconspicuous hot springs themselves. Here on a main street of the town is the old Agua Caliente, still Indian-owned, where Benito Wilson met Chief Cabazon in 1845. Here the railroad surveyors paused in 1853, and here the Bradshaw stages made a stop. Palm Springs, with its countless hotels and motels, its 1001 swimming pools (actually 1137 by a recent count), and its glamorous golf courses, grew up around this spot where mineral water, now as in the past, boils up from the earth, 30 gallons per minute. Close by was Dr. Welwood Murray's Palm Springs Hotel, the first lodging house, put up in 1886. Farther away was the adobe house built by John Guthrie McCallum, first white settler, who arrived in 1884. Judge McCallum laid out the first irrigation system, planted fig and citrus orchards, vineyards and alfalfa. His daughter, Pearl (Mrs. Austin G. McManus), today owns the Tennis Club and lives in a home overlooking the whole area developed by her father. Nellie Coffman, who settled in Palm Springs in 1909, built the Desert Inn of enduring fame and became "Mother" Coffman to the villagers. Out of the desert's transformation the surviving Indians have emerged as wealthy property owners. One of them, Lee Andreas, a man nearly 100 years old, has lived in Palm Springs since the 1850's.

Palm Springs and its satellite subdivisions spread ever eastward. Passing Smoke Tree Ranch the historian is reminded of the premature attempt made in the real estate boom of 1888 to create here a townsite, "Palmdale," and, out Palm Canyon-way, a "Garden of Eden," as well as a five-mile-long narrow gauge railway with a diminutive engine, "Cabazon," connecting the momentary town with Garnet—an attempt ended by heat, sandstorms, and collapsing values.

Of Palm Springs and the communities that string to the southeast (Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, Palm Village, Palm Desert, La Quinta) there seem no end—shining, slick, entrancing, their pools gleaming in the sun. If one were to wander away from the highway there is still the waste of sand and the fascinating world of small desert creatures described by Edmund Jaeger. The finest views of



*Dr. Welwood Murray's Palm Springs Hotel, 1901*



*Typical Palm Springs home*



*Near Palm Springs*

the close-up desert and of the background of mountains are to be had in this off-the-highway region that is midway between main highways. A side excursion, carried out logically, takes one to Thousand Palms and to booming Desert Hot Springs.

Leaving La Quinta, drive into the heart of the Coachella Valley, its hub in Indio, railroad and agricultural center. The valley is fertile and procreative of the finest of date gardens, lush grapefruit groves, vineyards, and superlatives—though it has not yet solved all its problems in the housing of its migrant workers. The valley's patron is the All-American Canal bringing water from the Colorado River 126 miles away. Ancient history is here, too, for at the base of the hills, reached by a short, sandy road, is the dark marking of the shore line of old Lake Cahuilla. This freshwater sea, which once covered the whole valley, has been gone a thousand or twelve hundred years. The lake dwellers have left us petroglyphs, a lizard drawing, a humanoid figure, intersecting lines with dots—also puzzling "fish traps." These arrangements of stone made by prehistoric fishermen on the sloping edge of the sea were either the sites of brush shelters or, more likely, actual devices for entrapping fish so that men wading into the shallow waters could pick up their catch. Born of the sea that is no more is the travertine deposit seen on the marginal rocks. Also, shining in the sun on the sea-bottom are the shells that have survived a thousand years of exposure. Part of this trip, too, are the communities of Coachella, Thermal, and Mecca, green areas born of desert waste land. Coachella was apparently coined from *conchilla* ("little shells" in Spanish), because of these shells with which the valley floor is covered. Not far from Mecca is the upper end of the Salton Sea, created in 1905 and 1906 by an overflow from the Colorado River on the site of part of old Lake Cahuilla, placid today but reminding one of the great battles fought at the time by the Southern Pacific to get the river back in its banks . . .

... Another trip stemming out of Riverside, to catch the county feeling, is through the agriculturally busy Perris, San Jacinto, and Hemet valleys. Drive east on Eighth Street, past the University campus shrouded in eucalyptus trees, past the compact groves of the Citrus Experiment Station. Presently, beyond the young community of Edgemont, March Air Field Base is seen, laid out in a green expanse. Its rows of closely arranged planes, tails up, look like stranded whales.

Perris, named for Chief Engineer Fred T. Perris of the California Southern and dating from the 1880's, has a substantial business area and freshly built homes. Potatoes bring Perris agricultural fame. Travel toward Hemet, in this geologically old valley, passing a number of "cross-roads" that have grown into real towns set in cultivated fields. Take a side run for a look at the charming setting of Winchester, dating from 1886. Dominant are the mountains as Hemet approaches. Hemet, started in 1893 by W. F. Whittier, is active and sharply modern, its streets lined with pepper, olive, and palm trees. Hemet's "Royal" apricots win distinction. Worthwhile is a ride up to the Bowl, an amphitheater with a view of Mt. San Jacinto, where each year the Ramona Pageant is staged by Hemet and San Jacinto. San Jacinto is Riverside County's second oldest *city*, for it was incorporated in 1888. It is reached by a street double-lined with silky olive trees, has nice homes and fruit orchards, a business section where the old is mixed with the new, and a famous hotel, the white Vosburg. The city is at the base of Mt. San Jacinto. Not too far away are several of the popular hot springs that dot the map of Riverside County. In at least one of them, with permission, a visitor can go through an immaculate bath house and see customers taking mud baths. Rather amusing it is to look upon the head of a ruddy-faced man atop a black pool, his body hidden in mud, his eyes solemnly peering upward . . . The valley of the San Jacinto River and its forest of cottonwoods, and the site of the now non-existent Lake San Jacinto, partly overgrown with grass giving way to alfalfa fields—pathways of the Anza party—remind one of the apt descriptions of Father Font. Return to Riverside through the area of old Moreno and new Sunnymead, through citrus and walnut plantings . . .

. . . Still other trips out from Riverside would include the Joshua Tree National Monument, shared by the two counties of Riverside and San Bernardino, and reached through the San Gorgonio Pass—an area of botanical excitement and far-reaching views. Good traveling, too, is the Palm-to-Pines Highway. This loop of paved road rising into the heights, 130 miles the roundtrip, gives all the contrasts, satisfying mountain and desert scenery, together with a look at the 5500-foot-high, resort community of Idyllwild with its School of Music and Arts and its School of Conservation and Natural Science . . . Sometime, too, when in Corona or when in Rubidoux (West

Riverside), take the drives—largely through old Jurupa and La Sierra ranchos—that will acquaint you with Riverside County's amazing build-up. Purely agricultural areas yield to small farms and to communities where whole streets of homes seem to have sprung up overnight. There is community-conscious Norco, where one used to think only of the luxurious country club built by Rex Clark and taken over in 1941 for a Navy hospital. There is La Sierra and Seventh-Day Adventist La Sierra College. Across the Santa Ana River there are the Jurupa District communities of Pedley, where one thinks of the Anza Party, of Glen Avon, of Sunnyslope, of Crestmore, of Rubidoux itself, where history began in the Riverside area, and of Mira Loma (formerly Wineville), set in the midst of some of the finest vineyards, where one of Southern California's greatest homebuilding projects is under way...

... Remember that Riverside County is 200 miles wide and that a trip through the eastern half—through desert unlimited—is a scenic adventure. The most easterly town in the county is Blythe, located in the Palo Verde Valley on the Colorado River. It is reached from Indio and Desert Center by a road through a region that inspires philosophical musing about its future development as well as pleasure in its grim beauty. Present day uses of the area include operations at the huge Kaiser iron mine at Eagle Mountain northwest of Desert Center and gypsum-mining by the U.S. Gypsum Company at company-owned Midland northwest of Blythe. To the traveler approaching Blythe on a hot day, the place is a Garden of Eden. Set in green alfalfa fields, the town provides air-conditioned restaurants and luxurious air-conditioned motels. To the historian Blythe is a reminder of C. P. Calloway, an engineer who understood irrigation, and Thomas H. Blythe, a San Francisco real estate man who had money and imagination. They got together in the 1870's, acquired 40,000 acres of land in the Palo Verde Valley, and appropriated water from the Colorado River, using a gravity canal. It was after Calloway had been killed by an Indian, in 1880, and after Blythe had died three years later in San Francisco, following a paralytic stroke, that their successors carried out what these two men planned. The name of Blythe was appropriately given to the town which was started across the river from the old (Arizona) river-boat stop of Ehrenberg. Today 100,000 acres have been developed in the valley, the Blythe

Alfalfa Growers' Association is the largest marketing cooperative of its type in the county, and, say Blythe's citizens, "There's no stopping us now."

Riverside County, past and present, sums up the exciting and the gratifying aspects of the whole of California. In the variety of its experience and in the wealth of its activities the county is a favored region. It is in the pathway of Southern California's expansion. Its future seems assured, not only in the physical development of its resources but in the development of a satisfying way of life.



*Close-up of ripening date clusters protected from birds and dampness by paper sacks. Courtesy: California Date Advisory Board, Indio, California*



## MEXICAN RANCHOS OF RIVERSIDE COUNTY

EL RINCON, partly in San Bernardino County:

*Granted* April 8, 1839 by Governor Juan B. Alvarado to Juan Bandini

*Patented* November 14, 1879 to Bernardo Yorba

*Area:* 4,431.47 acres

JURUPA (Rubidoux):

*Granted* September 28, 1838 by Governor Juan B. Alvarado to Juan Bandini

*Patented* December 8, 1876 to Louis Rubideau

*Area:* 6,749.99 acres (the smaller part of the 7-square-league grant to Bandini)

JURUPA (Stearns), partly in San Bernardino County:

*Granted* September 28, 1838 by Governor Juan B. Alvarado to Juan Bandini

*Patented* May 23, 1879 to Abel Stearns

*Area:* 25,509.17 acres (the larger part of the 7-square-league grant to Bandini which totaled 32,259.16 acres)

LA LAGUNA (Stearns):

*Granted* June 7, 1844 by Governor Manuel Micheltoarena to Julian Manriquez

*Patented* September 3, 1872 to Abel Stearns

*Area:* 13,338.80 acres

LA SIERRA (Sepúlveda):

*Granted* June 15, 1846 by Governor Pío Pico to Vicenta Sepúlveda

*Patented* April 28, 1877 to Vicenta Sepúlveda

*Area:* 17,774.19 acres

LA SIERRA (Yorba):

*Granted* June 15, 1846 by Governor Pío Pico to Bernardo Yorba

*Patented* February 4, 1875 to Bernardo Yorba

*Area:* 17,786.89 acres

PAUBA:

*Granted* first on November 9, 1844 by Governor Manuel Michelorena to Vicente Moraga, and second on February 4, 1846 by Governor Pío Pico to Vicente Moraga and Luis Aranes

*Patented* January 19, 1860 to Luis Vignes

*Area:* 26,597.96 acres

POTRERO DE LA CIENEGA:

*Granted* April 5, 1845 by Governor Pío Pico to Juan Forster, as one of three mountain "Potreros of San Juan Capistrano" (two being in Riverside County, the third in Orange County)

*Patented* June 30, 1866 to Juan Forster

*Acreage:* 477.25 acres

POTRERO EL CARISO (or CARIZO):

*Granted* April 5, 1845 by Governor Pío Pico to Juan Forster, as one of three mountain "Potreros of San Juan Capistrano" (two being in Riverside County, the third in Orange County)

*Patented* June 30, 1866 to Juan Forster

*Acreage:* 167.51 acres

SAN JACINTO NUEVO Y POTRERO:

*Granted* January 14, 1846 by Governor Pío Pico to Miguel Pedrorena

*Patented* January 9, 1883 to Thomas W. Sutherland, guardian of Victoria, Isabel, Miguel and Helen Pedrorena, minor children of Miguel Pedrorena and of María Antonia Estudillo de Pedrorena, his wife

*Area:* 48,861.10 acres

SAN JACINTO VIEJO:

*Granted* December 21, 1842 by Governor Pro Tem Manuel Jimeno (Casarin) to José Antonio Estudillo

*Patented* January 17, 1888 to the heirs of José Antonio Estudillo

*Area:* 35,503.03 acres

SANTA ROSA (Moreno):

*Granted* January 30, 1846 by Governor Pío Pico to Juan Moreno

*Patented* October 10, 1872 to Juan Moreno

*Acreage:* 47,815.10 acres

SOBRANTE DE SAN JACINTO:

*Granted* May 9, 1846 by Governor Pío Pico to María del Rosario Estudillo de Aguirre

*Patented* October 26, 1867 to María del Rosario de Aguirre

*Acreage:* 48,847.28 acres

TEMECULA:

*Granted* December 14, 1844 by Governor Manuel Micheltoarena to Felix Valdez

*Patented* January 18, 1860 to Luis Vignes

*Acreage:* 26,608.94 acres

TRACT BETWEEN SAN JACINTO AND SAN GORGONIO:

*Granted* March 22, 1843 by Governor Manuel Micheltoarena to Santiago Johnson

*Patented* August 13, 1872 to Louis Rubideau

*Area:* 4,439.57 acres

VALLEY OF TEMECULA, LANDS IN THE  
(or, LITTLE TEMECULA):

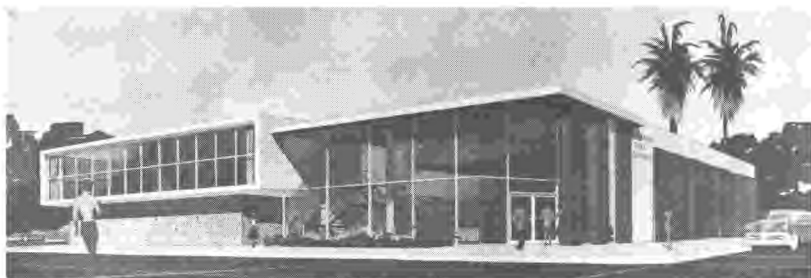
*Granted* May 7, 1845 by Governor Pío Pico to Pablo Apis

*Patented* January 8, 1873 to María A. Apis, et al.

*Area:* 2,233.42 acres

## *The Story of Riverside Title Division*

RIVERSIDE TITLE DIVISION of Pioneer Title Insurance Company is the oldest title company in Riverside County. It is the successor to Riverside Title Company (incorporated in 1901) which in turn had succeeded to Abstract and Guaranty Company. The last named company issued its first certificates of title in 1893, the year in which Riverside County was formed out of San Bernardino and San Diego counties. While the county dates only from 1893, the records in the title plant are complete since the organization of the American government in California in 1850. Beginning in 1925 title insurance policies issued by Riverside Title Company had the added protection of being underwritten by Title Insurance and Trust Company of Los Angeles, America's largest title company, usually referred to as "T.I." In January of 1954, through an exchange of stock, the ownership of Riverside Title Company passed to "T.I." The completion in 1957, in downtown Riverside, of a modern building provided much needed space for expanding title activities, invaluable records, and a staff of experienced men and women. The merger, at the end of that year, of Riverside Title Company and Pioneer Title Insurance Company, the latter a "T.I." subsidiary, was a further logical step since both companies were functioning in a single metropolitan area having an identity of economic opportunities and problems. The Riverside company became the Riverside Title Division of Pioneer Title Insurance Company—as it is known today. Today, because of "T.I."s subsidiaries in Nevada, Oregon and Washington and its subsidiaries, affiliates, and branch offices throughout California, the Riverside Title Division can offer to its customers title service from the Canadian border to the Mexican. Officers of Riverside Title Division are Armand R. Bruno, vice president and manager, and Paul G. Stewart, assistant secretary and assistant manager.



*Riverside Title Division*

SPENCER F. WELLS ARCHIVES

## GENEALOGY

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