ALMADÉN VINEYARDS

1530 BLOSSOM HILL ROAD, SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95118 (408) 269-1312

February 19, 1982

Mr. Richard Mascolo
Chief of Research and Regulations Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT: Petition for Establishment of SAN LUCAS as a Viticultural Area

In conjunction with the provisions of 27 CFR §§4.25a(e)(2), Almadén Vineyards hereby petitions for the establishment of SAN LUCAS as a viticultural area as detailed in the following paragraphs:

I. Evidence that the area is known

The area sought to be designated includes approximately 1,293 acres of vineyards planted in approximately 15 varieties of grapes. Like Almadén's King City plantings, it is located at the southern end of the Salinas Valley, otherwise known as the "Salad Bowl of the World." This area is bisected by Old Highway 101, better known as the El Camino Real, a pathway used by early California travelers, and by the Salinas River. At the time of the early travelers, this area was used as a cattle range and consisted of sage brush and grass. In later years this area was planted in grain, then acquired by Almadén in 1969. Pipelines were installed for irrigation utilizing Nacimiento Dam built in 1956, and the area was planted in grapes in 1970. The first grapes were picked, crushed, and made into wine in 1973 and yielded 270 tons. South of San Lucas, about 20 minutes driving time, is Camp Roberts military training station and Hunter Liggett military reservation training area.

II. Boundaries

The San Lucas Vineyards are located in Monterey County approximately 35 miles from the Pacific Ocean, 100 miles south of San Jose, 30 miles north of the Nacimiento Dam, 1.5 miles west of San Lucas and about 12 miles south of the King City vineyards. The San Lucas vineyards are bordered on the west by the Coastal Range, and on the east by a ridge of hills dividing it from the San Joaquin Valley.

The proposed viticultural area of San Lucas, Monterey County, has been traced in yellow on the U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic maps attached as Exhibit 1 and comprised of San Ardo Quadrangle, Espinosa Canyon Quadrangle, San Lucas Quadrangle, and Nattrass Valley Quadrangle.

Specific boundries of the requested appellation are as follows:

POINT OF BEGINNING AT:-
The 600-foot elevation on the northeast boundary of Township 20 South/21 South, Range 9 East, Section 4 and following the 600-foot elevation in a southerly direction thereby crossing Coyote Canyon, Pine Valley, Redhead Canyon, and Jim Lawson Gulch to the 647-foot mountain peak located in the southeast quadrant of Township 22 South, Range 10 East, Section 9, thence in a straight line west to Old Highway 101, thence south along Old Highway 101 approximately 3.5 miles, through the town of San Ardo, crossing the Salinas River, to the intersection of Paris Valley Road and Old Highway 101; thence west along Paris Valley Road to Dudley Road; thence south along Dudley Road to the second unimproved dirt road, to the 800-foot elevation; thence south along the 800-foot elevation, crossing Garrissere Canyon; thence north on the 800-foot elevation and crossing Hog Canyon and Barrell Canyon, remaining at the 800-foot elevation to where it intersects with the San Lucas Land Grant Boundary at the south-east corner of Township 22 South, Range 9 East, Section 4; thence continuing in a straight diagonal line following the San Lucas Land Grant Boundary bisecting Township 22 South, Range 9 East, Section 4 in a northwest direction; thence following the San Lucas Land Grant Boundary line as it continues in a west-northwest direction, becoming northwest at the east boundary of Township 21 South, Range 9 East, Section 31; thence continuing along the San Lucas Land Grant Boundary in a northwest direction; thence following the boundary to where it jogs northeast to the unimproved road; thence north along the unimproved road to the "Y"; thence continuing northeast along the unimproved road to the "Y" at the San Lucas Road junction; thence east along the San Lucas Road to the Salinas River; thence following the Salinas River north for approximately 4 miles to the unimproved road just north of the Mile 76 marker; thence following the unimproved road north and then east; leaving the unimproved road and traveling in a straight line east, crossing the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks and Long Valley to the 600-foot elevation herein called POINT OF BEGINNING.

III. Geographic Features

This growing region has provided Almadén with grapes that are quite distinctive from those found in other grape growing regions of the county. Elevations in this area range from 390 to over 800 feet above sea level, rising out of the Salinas River Valley which helps prevent the incidence of frost, yet taking advantage of the cooling Salinas Valley breezes. San Lucas has superior drainage and the

soil is much warmer than King City, thus permitting grapes to mature earlier than at King City. Rainfall is approximately 12 inches yearly and runoff is into the Salinas River. Late evening and early morning fog ranging from April through November brings the cool evenings, mellowing the warm days, that permit the grapes to ripen to perfection.

The soil is mostly Lockwood shaly loam, otherwise known as "Chalk Rock" with ideal micro-climate. Degree days are 3363, which is slightly higher than the northern climatic regions.

The resulting wines made from these grapes are quite characteristic of this growing region, as evidenced by awards received at the Los Angeles County Fair, Orange County Fair and the International Wine & Spirit competition in Great Britian, therefore, we feel we should honor this region by readily identifying it.

It is, therefore, requested that the Bureau institute proceedings to designate the area "San Lucas" in Monterey County as a viticultural area as proscribed within the meaning of 27 CFR §§4.25a(e)(2).

Respectfully submitted.

Beverly J. Oaks

Beverly J. Oaks

Attachment

KLAUS P. MATHES
VICE-PRESIDENT
WINEMASTER

ALMADÉN
VINEYARDS

August 10, 1984

Mr. Jim Fickaretta
FAA, Wine and Beer Branch
Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Mr. Fickaretta:

This is in response to Mr. Thomas George's memo of June 6, 1984 (C:R:F:CNB 5120) and Mr. Richard Mascolo's memo dated March 17, 1982 (R:R:R:CNB 5120) pertaining to more information regarding Almaden Vineyards petition for KING CITY and SAN LUCAS appellations.

Your Inquiries:

1. Evidence that the proposed name is locally or nationally known as identifying the area.

2. Historical or current evidence that the boundaries of the proposed viticultural areas are as specified in the petition.

3. Additional information showing how the geographical features of the viticultural areas distinguish them from surrounding areas.

4. Information regarding winegrowing within the viticultural areas.

Our Response:

The upper reaches of the Salinas Valley where KING CITY and SAN LUCAS are located were not in the main path of the development of California agricultural history during the mission period before the 1840's. Following mission secularization, these lands were granted to California families and, unlike many other coastal valley areas during the years after the American Conquest in 1846, these large grants tended to remain as very large holdings for many years given over to stock raising on a very large scale.

As pertains to KING CITY, this area south of Greenfield and north of San Lucas today,was mostly part of the old San Lorenzo grant that went through many hands prior to the 1880s. Much of the district was acquired by Charles King in 1884. This man went against the received doctrine that the district was too dry for wheat and barley and within a few years he and others had transformed the district into a mixed agricultural land with stock-raising gradually giving way, to a certain extent, to extensive field crops. When the railroad arrived in 1886, King's Place became King City and was soon subdivided. King built a large flour mill which was managed for some time by Ernest Steinbeck, father of the novelist. King also experimented with sugar beets, a crop that became very important to the district in the 1890s when Claus Spreckles acquired about 12,000 acres of the San Lorenzo grant to raise this crop. This pattern of extensive/intensive agriculture continued for many years. In the 1920s the area opened even more with the coming of the state highway, but field agriculture was hurt seriously in the early 1920s by a series of very dry years. It was eventually understood that irrigation was the ultimate answer to this problem, as it is today.

Approximately 50,000 acres are located within the proposed boundaries of KING CITY with approximately 12,500 acres planted to wine grapes and an additional 7,000 acres proposed by California Land and Cattle Company. Major vineyard owners at this time are Southdown McCarthy, Almaden Vineyards, International Vineyards, Monterey Farming, and DMJ Vineyards. Major grape varieties are: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Ruby Cabernet, Zinfandel, Napa Gamay, Chardonnay, Johannisberg Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Chenin Blanc, Folle Blanche, and Pinot St. George.

The north boundary of the proposed KING CITY appellation stops at the "bench" rising approximately 300 feet above the Arroyo Seco appellation south boundary. The general climate of the KING CITY growing region is rather unique in that it features a long period from bloom to harvest, with mild daily high temperatures during most of the fruit development period. The heat summation in this area ranges from about a low 2 to a low 3 (Reference: General Viticulture by Winkler, Cook, Kliewer, and Lider. Second Edition 1974. Page 62, Figure 12). KING CITY especially shows the influence of the northwesterly growing region. Specifically, the high degree of similarity in termperatures and the combination of morning fog and afternoon winds produce a unique temperature and relative humidity pattern. KING CITY, having more wind and being slightly cooler than the San Lucas region, produces rather distinct fine quality wines. The wines are more fruity and show different in an organoleptic evaluation than the wines from San Lucas, which are fuller in body, yet possess excellent varietal characteristics.

The SAN LUCAS District lies directly to the south of King City, and is made up of large portions of the San Lucas and San Bernardo grants. Its early history parallels the area to the north in the mid years of the 19th century. Much of the land went through several hands and remained in large tracts. The chief developer was an Italian Tinsmith, Alberto Trescony, who acquired much of the two grants in the 1860s and committed the land to extensive sheepraising. He brought in large numbers of Basque sheepherders whose

descendents still own portions of this land. There was also much wheat and barley raise. Trescony died in 1892 but his family continued to control much of the SAN LUCAS District. Eventually the land was sold off to smaller farmers and the site of Trescony's sons' huge grain warehouse became the center of today's town of SAN LUCAS. When the railroad came in the 1800s the place gradually developed into a supply station and shipping point to southern parts of the valley. SAN LUCAS became the center of an important grain and cattle raising area, but was probably best known for the fine horses raised there. The District's "San Lucas" horse was probably the area's chief claim to fame prior to World War II.

There are approximately 25,000 acres within the proposed boundary with approximately 5,000 acres of vineyards. Major owners are Almaden Vineyards, Paul Masson Vineyards, Monterey Farming, San Lucas, J. & L. Ranch. Major grape varieties are Cabernet Sauvignon, Ruby Cabernet, Zinfandel, Napa Gamay, Chardonnay, Johannisberg Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon, Chenin Blanc, Folle Blanche, Merlot, Pinot St. George, Petite Sirah, Tinta Madeira, and Veltliner.

The SAN LUCAS region climatically is located at the southern portion of the grape growing region in Monterey County. It is more sheltered from the wind and is influenced by slightly warmer climate generated by the migration of heat traveling north between the two mountain ranges from Atascadero up to San Ardo. The warmer air traveling north combining with the cooler air from the mountains produces a unique climate for this region. The heat summation in this area ranges from about a mid two to a high three. The wines produced from the grapes grown in the SAN LUCAS area are more rounded, fuller in body, and distinct in varietal character.

References for the history of KING CITY and SAN LUCAS are:

1. History of Monterey County, California (San Francisco, 1881) 188 pp.
Elliott and Moore (publishers)

2. Monterey, The Presence of the Past (San Fransicso, 1972) 254 pp.
Fink, August

3. The Salinas--Upside Down River (New York, 1945) 188 pp.
Fisher, Anne B.

4. History of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties, California
(Chicago, 1925) 2 vols. Watkins, Rolin, C.

We trust this information will be of some assistance in establishing the viticultural areas of KING CITY and SAN LUCAS.

Yours very truly,

Klaus P. Mathes

KPM:bjo
P.S. SAN LUCAS and KING CITY topographic maps attached

Monterey

The Presence of the Past

by Augusta Fink

Chronicle Books
SAN FRANCISCO

The County of Monterey now comprises 3,324 square miles, or more than two million acres of land. Stretching along the coastline for about 125 miles, its contours consist of a long narrow valley cradled between two rugged mountain ranges. On the seaward side, this lowland—the Salinas Valley—is bound by the bold escarpment of the Santa Lucias, rising abruptly from the shore and threaded by a thin marine terrace hundreds of feet above the surf. Approximately eighteen miles in width, the multi-layered coastal mountains soar to peaks almost 6,000 feet in height. The Gabilans form the eastern boundary of the county. Heavily wooded to the north, the range becomes rough and barren in its center portion, then softens to low rolling hills at the southern end. Through the rich soil of the central valley, the Salinas River winds and twists, third longest in the state, tumbling at last into the deep blue waters of oval-shaped Monterey Bay.

For centuries the long stretch of coastline that is now Monterey County, with its soaring mountains, sheltered valleys, lovely wooded slopes, and stunning shoreline, lured men with the beckoning promise of a better life. They came for a variety of reasons; some for adventure, others in search of souls, many for security, most in the hope of material gain, a few just to partake of its blazing beauty.

First in the procession were the Indians, making their way from colder regions to the mild hospitable climate of central California. Their claim rested most lightly upon the earth. No real ownership was involved. How can a man possess something to which he believes that he himself belongs? Their title was confined to the rights of hunting, fishing, and food gathering.

Then the Spanish explorers came, hungry for gold and eager to claim more land for the crown, thus reaping the rewards of royal favor. Accompanying them were the missionaries, led by Father Junípero Serra. In his heart burned an incandescent zeal for converting the heathen to Christianity, and he saw the docile, brown-skinned natives as priceless jewels to be collected for the Church. The Spanish also brought the Laws of the Indies, rigidly prescribed rules under which the land might be occupied. During their regime, missions, presidios, and pueblos came into being and the rancho period began.

Next in line were soldiers and settlers from Mexico, simple folk and for the most part desperately poor. They yearned for a piece of land on which they could herd cattle and live in peace and security. With the advent of Mexican independence from Spain, these simple, accepting *Californios* invited exploitation by enterprising foreigners who perceived a way to capitalize on the isolation of the young settlement.

Monterey became the headquarters of these entrepreneurs as they created a market for foreign commodities and established the trade in hides and tallow that sustained the economy for forty years. These ambitious men were the vanguard of the American occupiers, who brought even more startling changes to the land.

The Americans had a different philosophy of life. They saw another kind of promise in the green and golden hills and meadows. Before long, the great herds of wild cattle were replaced by dairy herds and agriculture, and the steel ribbons of railroad tracks had cut through the land, following the long valley that lay in the heart of the newly created County of Monterey. In the wake of the railroad, typical small American towns sprang up and people came to settle in them, seeking a part in the burgeoning real estate bonanza of this fertile and beautiful land.

Next in the long procession were those dazzled by the potentiality for resort development along the unique seacoast. They bought huge tracts of land, surveying them into "paper towns" and building hotels designed to attract others to the beautiful country. They launched the promotional campaigns that made Monterey County a mecca for millions of people to whom it still represents an attraction as compelling as the cities of silver and gold the Spaniards sought.

Always, the contour of the land influenced the character of its development. Out of the configuration of mountains, valleys, and shoreline emerged the economic and social patterns that made Monterey County evolve, ultimately, into six principal regional units. Three of these—the cities of Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Carmel—are on the Monterey Peninsula. With beneficent climate and spectacular natural attractions, they grew into tourist centers. The Salinas Valley blossomed as an agricultural district; and, until very recently, the Carmel Valley was also mainly devoted to fruit orchards and dairy farms. The south coast, isolated by its precipitous terrain, has remained a sparsely populated region, with its spine-tingling beauty unspoiled.

In the final six chapters of this book, the story of each of Monterey County's six geographical sections will be told, beginning at a point in time when the first significant change in the evolution of each took place. The preceding chapters deal with the land and its peoples as a whole, beginning with the gentle Indian tribes and ending with the tumult of the constitutional convention in Monterey and statehood for California.

The whole Monterey area represents a unique segment of the California heritage. During its first 80 years, Monterey was the focal point

their families. Some 51 new settlers, including women and children, arrived in Monterey in October 1774. Among the soldiers was Ignacio Vicente Ferrer Vallejo, then 26 years old and a bachelor. Born of a prominent Spanish family in Jalisco, Mexico, Vallejo was educated for the priesthood but chose to enlist in the military, where he acquired a reputation as a fiercely independent, unmanageable, and remarkably able soldier.

Spurred mainly by Serra's enthusiasm, the government in Mexico City showed a continuing interest in keeping Alta California's embryo settlements alive. Since one of the ways to insure this was permanent colonization the viceroy, Antonio de Bucareli, authorized Rivera to assign plots of land to worthy soldiers. Thus, in November 1775, Manuel Butrón requested a 130-foot parcel near the Carmel Mission; and with Father Serra's permission, it was granted, making Butrón the first landowner in California.

Bucareli also pushed ahead plans for recruiting more families into the province. Anza, who had been rewarded with the rank of lieutenant colonel for blazing the desert trail to Monterey, was empowered to assemble and conduct a second expedition of settlers, this time at government expense, along his new land route. Thirty soldier-colonists and four civilian settlers, with their wives and children, were to be led by Anza from the Nogales area to Monterey, and from there, to the new presidio and mission to be founded near San Francisco Bay. The colonists came from poverty-stricken families in Sinaloa. It is probable that only their impoverished circumstances, along with the government's promise to outfit them and pay all their expenses, could have persuaded them to take the dangerous, 1,000-mile journey into that unknown land. On October 23, 1775, the caravan of 240 men, women, and children left Mexico. Among them were the Bernals, the Berryessas, and the Castros—families that were to play important roles in the history of Monterey.

The Anza caravan arrived at Monterey on the evening of March 10th in a driving rainstorm. For the cold, wet, and exhausted settlers, the presidio must have been a dismal sight. Only the church and the quarters for officers and friars were of adobe. The rest of the buildings were of pole and mud construction with sod roofs and black ribbons of earth oozing down their sides. The plaza was a filthy quagmire, and in it they were told to set up their tents and stay!

Even Anza spent the first night in a water-logged storeroom. After that he was housed at the Carmel Mission, where he suffered an attack of appendicitis so severe that he was confined to bed for a week. Impatient with physician Don José Dávila's inability to help him, Anza resorted to an ancient herb remedy and recovered sufficiently to proceed with a small party to San Francisco Bay for the selection of the mission and presidio sites. When he returned to Monterey prepared to lead his group on northward, Rivera, burdened with supply problems after an Indian uprising in San Diego, and apparently resentful of Anza's promotion to a higher rank than his, refused to authorize the new settlement.

Deeply discouraged, Anza decided to return to Sonora, leaving his lieutenant, José Joaquín Moraga, in charge of the Anza colonists. The group was disconsolate on April 14th, the day of his departure; all hope of finding a haven in this strange land seemed to be fading. But once Anza was out of the way, the mercurial Rivera surprised everyone by ordering Moraga to proceed with the settlement of San Francisco. Thus, on a bright sunny day in June, the caravan marched northward in a huge cloud of dust, and the San Francisco presidio came into being.

A third of Anza's colonists chose to remain in Monterey. Among them was Ana Joséfa Castro, the seventeen-year-old daughter of Joaquín Ysidro Castro and his wife María Martina who, having seen better days in their youth, were seeking a more promising life for their eight children. In May, Ana Joséfa had married the handsome young soldier José María Soberanes, and they had moved to the Carmel Mission, where José was a member of the guard. Life held few hardships that summer for the newlyweds and their compatriots. There were good crops of grain and vegetables, the spring run of salmon in the Carmel River had been plentiful, and Ana Joséfa, now pregnant, developed a great fondness for the wild strawberries that grew along the trail to Monterey.

The following February, Monterey was named the capital of both Baja and Alta California. The new governor, Felipe de Neve, took up residence at the Monterey presidio, and the 66-year-old Rivera was demoted to lieutenant governor and sent back to Loreto. Though Rivera had continually infuriated Serra, the friar was sorry to see the irascible old veteran go. Rivera had participated with Serra in the founding of four new missions in Alta California, so that there were now a total of eight, with Santa Clara de Asís the newest.

Governor Neve had been instructed to initiate a new kind of settlement in the northern territory, which would serve as an agricultural base for the presidios. The first of these pueblos was San José, on the Guadalupe River, near the Santa Clara mission. Fourteen soldiers and their families were transferred from Monterey and San Francisco to start the experiment. Joaquín Ysidro Castro, from San Francisco, was one of the men who toiled to erect rude huts and plant some seed at San

Fages returned six months later, for the following May, Doña Eulalia gave birth to a daughter. Still, unbeknown to her husband, she was writing letters to government officials in Guadalajara requesting that Fages be recalled because of ill health. Only after her baby died, eight days after it was born, did *la Gobernadora* come to her senses. She made a humble public confession of her conspiracies, and, henceforth, peace reigned in the house of the governor.

Life was very dull for the first lady after that. Amusements were limited to singing and dancing, watching the soldiers drill in the presidio plaza, and attending *novilladas*, a kind of amateur bullfight. She enjoyed a bright interlude of excitement when the French nobleman Comte de La Pérouse visited Monterey in 1786 on a global voyage of scientific exploration. His two ships were the first alien vessels allowed to anchor in Monterey Bay. For ten days, the settlement was in a happy furore and Doña Eulalia put on entertainments as elaborate as the meager resources of the province would permit.

In 1790, the lady's long exile was at last over. Her husband asked to be relieved of his office, and she and their son returned to Mexico City. Fages, for whom the fires of love were now less urgent, lingered on another year, awaiting his successor.

During this period, Spain initiated a highly advantageous fur trade between Monterey and Canton. The Orientals greatly prized the rich glossy fur of the otter, which flourished in seemingly inexhaustible numbers along the California coast. In exchange, the Chinese offered quicksilver, which was needed by the Mexican mining industry. At first, the mission Indians were trained to hunt the sea otter and paid with a few glass beads or a piece of brightly colored cloth. Price of the pelts soared, however, as the demand increased, and, by 1790, a skin brought the equivalent of $120.

Four times between 1791 and 1794, the even tenor of days at the Monterey presidio was again enlivened by visitations from official expeditions. The first was that of Alejandro Malaspina, sent by Spain to explore the northwest coast. The other visits were made by Captain George Vancouver, who was in charge of a British scientific and diplomatic mission. Artists with the expeditions made numerous sketches of the presidio and mission, which were to prove invaluable to historians of the future. But for the *pobladores*, the new settlers, the sojourns were made memorable by the festivities that attended them.

The Vallejos, the Soberanes, the Berryessas, Bernals, and Alvarados joined with the other residents of the Monterey area to enjoy contests of horsemanship, bear and bull fights, the *meriendas*, and the brilliant

displays of fireworks brought from China. Sixty-year-old Joaquín Ysidro Castro and his wife and children journeyed from San José for the festivities, but they also had more personal reasons for the long trip. The elder Castros were eager to see more of their new daughter-in-law María Gabriela Berryessa, whom their son Francisco had just married. And they always looked forward to visiting again with Ana Joséfa, her husband José María Soberanes, and their five young children. The Soberanes were now stationed in Salinas Valley at the isolated new Mission Nuestra Señora de la Soledad along with Marcario Castro and his family and Ignacio Vallejo and his fifteen-year-old bride María Antonia Isabela. Vallejo had waited a long time for the happy communal life that he found with his wife at Soledad mission, for he had contracted for María Antonia Lugo's hand in marriage when he assisted at her birth in 1776.

In 1795, when for the first time land grants of some size were made available to deserving settlers, Soberanes and his father-in-law Joaquín Castro both retired from the military service and jointly requested a land concession. They were given the 7,726-acre Rancho Buena Vista, located on the west side of the Salinas River, not far from present-day Spreckels. The two families worked together, building an adobe house, planting crops, and raising a small herd of cattle. Then, without warning, the mission padres demanded that the land be returned to them. Actually, the land still belonged to the Church, at least in theory; for the early rancheros like Soberanes were given only provisional concessions, which amounted to little more than permits to occupy and run cattle on the land. Soberanes appealed to the governor; Joaquín Castro was an old man and gravely ill with pneumonia. Where could they move him?

The governor gave them a reprieve but when old Castro died in 1802, and when the following year Soberanes succumbed to the plague, the widowed Ana Joséfa realized that it would be impossible to keep their land. The eldest of her three sons, Feliciano, was still only fifteen. Sorrowfully, she told her mother, María Martina Castro, that it would be best now for her to live with Francisco Castro in Monterey.

Then, Ana Joséfa stayed a few more months at Rancho Buena Vista until her daughter María Joséfa had been securely married to the master of a frigate. The girl had given birth to a child in October 1802, much to the chagrin of her parents, and had refused to name its father. The wedding was held in the new stone church at the Carmel Mission; then, with that business taken care of, Señora Soberanes and the rest of her family moved to Monterey, where Feliciano enlisted as a presidio soldier. The beautiful Rancho Buena Vista was abandoned, and with it, for the time being, the Soberanes/Castro dream of becoming landowners.

Ignacio Vallejo was also finding life in the colony difficult. Throughout his military career he had been shifted from one location and assignment to another, with slight recognition for his accomplishments. Now, he was very embittered that despite his bravery in the Indian campaigns, the highest rank he had been given was that of sergeant. In 1809, he was living at the Monterey presidio with a family of eight children, the youngest the two-year-old Mariano de Guadalupe.

Life was hard for all inhabitants of Monterey at the turn of the century. For years, Spain had been embroiled in wars with France, followed by revolutionary upheaval in Latin America. She had neither time nor money for California. Supply ships and salaries for soldiers, always sporadic, soon ceased to come at all, and the land route, pioneered by Anza, had been cut off by an Indian uprising at Yuma. Only the missions were economically self-sustaining and able to supply provisions to the presidios in return for worthless drafts on the royal treasury.

Conditions in the Monterey presidio itself were primitive. Over 50 buildings were crowded inside the quadrangle that comprised an area only 300 yards long and 250 yards wide, and the damp, crowded, and unsanitary living conditions took a frightening toll both in lives and in morale. Timorously, a few families asked permission of the governor to build outside the presidio walls. It was considered to be a dangerous move, since with the wars of independence in the Spanish colonies, Argentinean revolutionaries had been harassing the Spanish ports of South America. Monterey, with Mexico still loyal to the crown, was expected to be a likely target, and houses on the mesa would be extremely vulnerable.

Corporal Manuel Boronda, who had retired from San Francisco to Monterey, was among the first to take the risk. The adobe he constructed, within shouting shouting distance of the presidio chapel, still stands on Boronda Lane, off present-day Fremont Street. It was a long, low three-room house, with thatched roof and dirt floor. But what luxury after the presidio houses!

The feared attack on the port by privateers occurred less than a year after the Boronda adobe was completed. On the evening of November 20, 1818, two vessels, commanded by a Frenchman, Hippolyte de Bouchard, but sailing under the flag of Buenos Aires, appeared in Monterey Bay. Their combined crews totaled 360 men.

To oppose this force, 24 cavalrymen, under *alférez* (ensign) José Mariano Estrada, were stationed at the fort, located across the mesa to the west of the presidio. Below them on the landing beach, near what eventually became the Custom House, Corporal José de Jesús Vallejo, the son of Ignacio, had eleven artillerymen to serve three guns. The small company put up a spirited defense but were soon outnumbered and were forced to retreat to the Salinas Valley, where the townspeople had been evacuated at first sight of the ships.

Bouchard's vandals remained in Monterey for almost a week, looting and burning. The colony's slender supplies were pillaged and most of the buildings were severely damaged. Governor Pablo Vicente de Solá ordered that reconstruction begin at once, but it was many months before the families of the presidio had their simple homes restored.

In 1816, Ana Joséfa Castro de Soberanes had remarried. One of the three sons with whom she had been left was dead, and Feliciano and Mariano de Jesús had families of their own. The latter had wed the Vallejos' eldest daughter, María Isidora, and her sister, the widowed Joséfa María Vallejo de Alvarado was now married to José Raimundo Estrada, brother of the alférez. Joséfa María had left her son from the previous marriage, the young Juan Bautista Alvarado, to be raised by the elder Vallejos. The tyrannical old Don Ignacio was a harsh disciplinarian. Frequently, as punishment for small transgressions, Juan Bautista was forced to eat his meals kneeling before a stool in a corner.

On the morning of April 11, 1822, a great crowd gathered in the presidio plaza to hear the governor's proclamation. Mexico had declared itself independent of Spain! The pioneers who had toiled to build a colony for the glory of God and the king of Spain undoubtedly listened with mixed feelings. For the last time the familiar crimson and gold colors were lowered, and the new red, white, and green banner of Mexico, bearing an eagle and a snake, was raised in its place. The presidio guns thundered a salute, and the townspeople recited the oath of allegiance. Half a century of Spanish rule in Alta California had come to an end.

to visit the missions and obtain signatures from the padres in charge. But before leaving Monterey, they made a point of becoming well-acquainted with some of the important residents and landholders.

Most were present at the regular Sunday evening gatherings in the governor's *sala*. The Spanish trader Estéban Munrás had been a resident of Monterey for only two years, but he had already acquired considerable status and owned one of the few adobe houses outside the presidio walls. The Soberanes family was usually represented in the governor's *sala* by the brothers, Feliciano and Mariano de Jesús, sons of Ana Joséfa Castro and the late José María Soberanes. Both soldiers at the presidio, the Soberanes brothers were trying to get the governor to look with favor upon their request for a land concession. The brothers, now married and with growing families to support, keenly resented their loss of the beautiful Buena Vista, which now belonged to José Mariano Estrada.

Estrada was another of Monterey's leading citizens. He had come to Monterey in 1806 as a cadet and had led the fight against Bouchard. With his son, Santiago, he had just acquired the 7,726 acres of fertile land near the Salinas River and was pleading with the governor to let him have several thousand additional acres adjoining the Buena Vista. Another grantee with whom Hartnell became acquainted was José Joaquín de la Torre, who had been given the 6,916-acre Rancho Bolsa del Potrero y Moro Cojo, north of the Salinas River and south of the Tembladera. After 21 years of service in the presidio company and a severe paralytic stroke which left him unable to carry out his duties, Torre had humbly petitioned the governor for a piece of land on which he could support his wife and seven sons.

Such petitions were the routine procedure under Mexican law for obtaining title to land. Authority to grant land was vested in the governor, and the individual who wished to acquire a particular piece of property would direct the petition to him. The petition included information about the person's religion, citizenship, and occupation, as well as a careful description and a map of the land he wished. The graphic delineations, or *diseños*, of the land were primitive works of art. Carried out in pencil, pen and ink, and watercolor, these quaintly charming maps reflected a wonderful variety of cartographic technique.

If the governor was inclined to grant the petition, it was referred to a local magistrate for processing. This involved checking its accuracy, preparing an official title paper, and performing the act of juridical possession. The latter was a ceremony for which the prospective owner and all his neighbors gathered on the land. Then they established a corner of the rancho and marked it with a pile of stones. Next, two mounted

men, or *cordeleros*, measured off the boundaries of the property by means of a length of rawhide cord tied between two poles. The magistrate kept count of the number of *cordeles* and adjudicated any disputes between the owner and his neighbors on the spot.

When the place of beginning had been reached, the magistrate formally indicated to the grantee his possession of the land. The ranchero could then act out the fact of his ownership. By pulling up clumps of grass, breaking off branches of trees, and throwing rocks in the four cardinal directions, he demonstrated that he could do things to the land that would not be permitted to another. On this amazing procedure was based the validity of all private land claims at the time of American occupation. Often, of course, steps were omitted, papers were mislaid by carefree *Californios*, or the same piece of property was granted several times to different individuals by casually indifferent governors. These claims became easy prey for the more practical *Americanos* who descended on the land a few decades later.

By late June, Hartnell and McCulloch were ready to start their journeys on the mission trail. McCulloch traveled south and Hartnell took the northern territory. On the basis of what they had seen, the partners on their return agreed that they would need stations along the coast to collect and take hides aboard ship but that it would be best to make Monterey their headquarters. More cosmopolitan than San Diego, Monterey offered the advantages of social intercourse and contact with the outside world.

The fledgling firm had just established itself when, without warning, it received a harsh blow. One morning, a Boston ship dropped anchor in the bay of Monterey, and a new trader came ashore. William Gale was a tough, aggressive New Englander who, twelve years before, had whetted his appetite for California trade while sailing under contract to Russia for sea-otter and seal skins. Determined to return and pluck the golden goose for himself, he had induced Bryant and Sturgis of Boston to participate in a business venture, the far-reaching results of which they could not have anticipated. An assorted cargo of notions and foodstuffs had been assembled on the *Sachem* and, with Gale as supercargo and part owner, the vessel had set sail around the Horn.

The Yankee trader lacked the finesse of Hartnell, but he was possessed of enormous energy and knew how to drive a bargain. His first step in undercutting "Macala y Arnel" was to offer twice their price for hides. Inevitably there were some, even among the padres, who went for the better deal. Then Gale managed to ingratiate himself with the Californians. His appearance and mannerisms were a source of great

CHAPTER

7

A Period of Political Turbulence

On the night of November 13, 1829, Mariano Vallejo was entertaining his childhood friends Juan Bautista Alvarado and José Castro, in his quarters at the presidio. Vallejo, now 21, was the most impressive of the three. Tall, with curly dark hair, a determined chin, and intelligent and penetrating eyes, he had been appointed *alférez* (ensign) of the San Francisco company but was still stationed in Monterey. Shorter and somewhat stocky, with a fair complexion and light hair, Alvarado, a year younger than Vallejo, was now secretary to the *diputación*, or legislative assembly. Castro, at nineteen, was obviously the youngest and, lean and uneasy-eyed, the least attractive. He held a position with the *ayuntamiento* (town council).

Their card game had ended about two o'clock, and the young men were retired for the night. Suddenly, the silence was broken by a clamor at the door. Vallejo demanded to know the cause of the disturbance.

A low urgent voice replied that a message from the governor must be delivered at once. Drowsy and annoyed, young Vallejo growled that it could wait until morning. Instantly, there was a crashing assault at the door and a crowd of soldiers burst into the room. Their leader announced that the garrison was in revolt and, without giving the astonished youths time to dress, hustled them off to the *calabozo*.

As other government officials were brought into the rude prison, it was learned that Joaquín Solís, an ex-convict banished from Mexico, had incited the ragged and half-starved soldiers to rebel. He had the support of Commissioner Herrera, who for months had not had funds with which to pay the troops. This was the start of the series of revolutions and counterrevolutions that were to continue until the American occupation.

Herrera had high hopes of enlisting financial aid for the revolution from the foreign businessmen of Monterey, who resented Governor Echeandía's rigid trade restrictions. A meeting was held in Herrera's

home at which Hartnell, Spence, and Cooper were present, as well as a newcomer, Abel Stearns, who was in Cooper's employ. Herrera read a list of the soldiers' grievances to which his guests responded sympathetically. They then fixed their signatures to an official statement to be circulated to all presidios and pueblos, and several hundred pesos were collected for the cause.

Governor Echeandía, who had established his gubernatorial headquarters in San Diego because of a hypochondriacal fear that the damp climate of Monterey would be injurious to his health, sent out a circular letter from the southern presidio, calling on all citizens to lay down their arms. Then, he marched north with troops to meet Solís's ragamuffin army. The forces converged in Santa Barbara where, after two days of bloodless confrontation, the rebels were dispersed.

Echeandía was unduly vindictive in his punishment of the instigators of the revolt, and since the reasons for the rebellion had been valid, many people were estranged by his actions. Thus when the governor arrived in Monterey, he found the capital seething with unrest. The businessmen of the community were especially outraged at the ever-increasing instances of violence and vandalism by Solís's defeated men. They felt their property endangered by the lawlessness let loose in the region. There were mutterings among the younger *hijos del país*, like Juan Bautista Alvarado, that the only solution to an impossible situation was the appointment of a new governor.

The wily incumbent governor then hit upon a scheme that held promise of giving him a popularity he had never enjoyed. Aided and abetted by the fiery radical José María Padrés, he developed a plan for transferring control of mission lands from the Church to civil administrators. The newly created positions of power could then be parceled out to *paisanos* willing to support him. The program was mantled in a cloak of idealism and philanthropy—at last, the Indians were to be freed from bondage and given some of the land that was rightfully theirs.

The bill for secularization of the missions was presented to the summer session of the *diputación*, and amidst ringing oratory about the tyranny of the missionaries and the crimes committed against defenseless Christian Indians, it passed by a substantial majority. Undoubtedly, the motives of those who voted for the measure were mixed. Without question there was justification for some of the accusations against the mission system, but there was also real resentment of the prosperity the missions possessed.

The original design for the missions in California had provided that after ten years they would be converted to civilian towns and the mis-

sionaries would then be transferred to new frontier outposts. This did not happen. Instead, the missions soon became the economic mainstay of the whole province. Soldiers, ill paid and practically without the necessities of life, envied the relative riches of the padres, and second generation colonists, with little opportunity for financial security, hungrily eyed the mission lands. Land grants were scarce; in 1830, only 50 private ranches were held in all of Alta California, of which seven were in the Monterey area. On the other hand, vast stretches of coast and a goodly portion of the inland country belonged to the Church.

Echeandía's legislation was sent to Mexico City for approval, but he issued a proclamation putting the plan into effect without waiting for sanction from the central government. José Castro and Juan Bautista Alvarado were among those who benefited at once, being appointed administrators respectively of the Missions San Luis Obispo and San Miguel. It wasn't long, however, before word came that a replacement for Echeandía had been appointed and was en route from Mexico.

The replacement, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel Victoria, was a poor choice for governor at this sensitive moment in the politics of California. Harsh and overbearing, his convictions contrasted sharply with those of the *hijos del país*. There was much in his manner to indicate that he considered native Californians to be an inferior group of country bumpkins. His first official act was to issue a decree declaring secularization illegal, and his opening speech in Monterey was a call for the restoration of law and order—"The government must be obeyed and our institutions respected." Summary exile was the punishment meted out to those who persisted in carrying out the secularization program. But Victoria's worst offense was a refusal to convene the *diputacion*. When repeated appeals to call the legislative assembly into session resulted in a manifesto suspending that body, several members, including Vallejo and Alvarado, petitioned the central government in Mexico for protection against the tyranny of the new governor.

There were other law-abiding citizens, however, who championed his cause. Conspicuous among them were the businessmen, who felt he provided the security necessary for the orderly conduct of affairs. Men like Hartnell, Cooper, Spence, and Alfred Robinson, who had replaced the tempestuous William Gale as resident agent for the Boston firm of Bryant and Sturgis, favored Victoria's authoritarian approach. Their sentiments were echoed by old-line conservatives like Hartnell's father-in-law, José de la Guerra of Santa Barbara.

Gradually, the liberal element in California drifted south to gather in San Diego. Soon Echeandía, who was now popular among the radicals,

slipped back from Baja California to join them. Together they plotted revolution, while Monterey remained the stronghold of Victoria.

Finally, late in November 1831, Governor Victoria marched southward with 30 veteran soldiers and engaged the rebels in battle on the outskirts of Los Angeles. When victory was seemingly assured, Victoria was severely wounded and his men deserted to the insurgents. The wounded officer was then forcibly transported to San Diego and put aboard a Yankee frigate bound for Mexico.

Great was the lamentation in the missions at the loss of their great good friend, but the fiery young *paisanos* rejoiced. The long delayed meeting of the *diputacion* was immediately called in Los Angeles. Monterey, still dominated by the group of merchants staunchly opposed to revolution (it was bad for business), had chosen Captain Agustín Zamorano, ranking officer of the presidio and close friend of Hartnell, to carry on the legitimate chain of governmental administration.

Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, where the *diputacion* was in session, young Vallejo was instrumental in drawing up a document to the Mexican government, indicting Governor Victoria for his actions and defending the Californians. The legislative assembly then elected one of the radical leaders, Pío Pico, as temporary governor. Echeandía, who expected the honor himself, refused to administer the oath of office, whereupon Vallejo and Alvarado took matters into their own hands—the former climbing through a skylight to obtain the articles necessary for the ceremony and the latter presuming to perform the ceremony.

Before long, the political scene became even more chaotic. Pico was deposed by Echeandía, and Zamorano sent troops south to assert his authority. There was threat of civil war, followed by a compromise that split California into two sections, with Zamorano in control from Sonoma to Los Angeles and Echeandía in power south to San Diego. The bickering and bluster had something of the quality of comic opera, but responsible citizens were not amused.

A type of vigilante group developed in Monterey when Zamorano realized that he had little strength should there be a sudden uprising. As a last resort, Zamorano appealed to Hartnell to organize a voluntary police force, which could assist in protecting the lives and property of residents in and around the capital. Hartnell agreed, and the group, comprising about 50 men, became known as *La Compañia Extranjera*, because it included all the merchants in the community, who for the most part were foreigners.

In January 1833, another political change came in the person of Brevet Brigadier General José Figueroa, who replaced Zamorano in

Californians, Larkin soon decided, were a naive, childlike people, whose philosophy was summed up in the oft repeated phrase, "*No se apure*—don't be in a hurry." They bought bad wine, made in Boston, when their country abounded in grapes. They cheerfully bartered hides valued at $2 for articles worth seventy-five cents. They also purchased boots at $4 made of these same hides, carried twice around the Horn. Indolence and ease hung in the air, like the ubiquitous coastal fog.

The men of Monterey seemed scarcely to move from one house to another without mounting a horse. The animals were exceedingly abundant and ran loose, dragging long leather ropes by which they were easily caught. Inside the crude adobe houses, with their hard-packed dirt floors, the women wore silk gowns and spangled satin shoes.

Larkin found that a dozen or more Englishmen and Americans, married to Californians, had all the trade of the province in their hands. And of these, representatives of Bryant and Sturgis, the Boston firm, led the field. Supersalesman that he was, Larkin knew that he could cut in on the lucrative game, so with $500 borrowed from his half-brother, he set up shop as trader and importer. Since business was slow at first, he went after it by recognizing the native love of color and sparkling trinkets and creating new markets with gaudy merchandise from Mazatlan and the Sandwich Islands. He also made himself popular with the *doñas* by ordering special dresses for them and promising delivery in twelve months.

Competition was rough but Larkin held his own, partly by virtue of his wits and personality and partly through the political influence he enjoyed as the half-brother of Cooper, who had married into the Vallejos. Then, he hit upon another lucrative financial scheme. The Sandwich Islands were the trade center for the Pacific, and traffic was brisk between there and the California coast. Several American firms, with headquarters at Honolulu, carried large stocks of merchandise from Boston and the Far East, which they wholesaled to Monterey merchants. The merchants in turn had to extend credit to the leading families of the Monterey area. The word of a *caballero* was his bond, and no questions were ever asked nor pressure applied. An open account might run for years. Gradually, Larkin acquired these delinquent accounts, so that his store became a clearing house for the notes and drafts of the other traders in the area. Since he then made a substantial service charge when he collected hides from the rancheros for these notes and drafts, he soon had improvised his own version of Wall Street in the dusty lanes of Monterey.

Possessed of a strong independence and Yankee pragmatism, Larkin

did not hold California customs or even laws to be sacred. A case in point was his easy contempt for import duties, which sometimes ran as high as 100% of the cost of the cargo. Revenue officials often connived with traders to circumvent the outrageous tariffs imposed by the Mexican government, and Larkin quickly became an old hand at the practice. The bulk of one cargo from Honolulu, valued at $20,000, was unloaded during the night, and the following morning duty was paid on the remnant at a valuation of $1,100.

Most of Larkin's flauntings of convention were financial maneuvers, but in one case at least, romance was his motive. He alone, among all the entrepreneurs, held out against the attractions of California's lovely *señoritas*. En route from Boston, he had found a congenial companion in Rachel Holmes, an attractive young woman on her way to Hawaii to join her husband. When the ship anchored in Hilo harbor, it was learned that Mrs. Holmes had been widowed a few weeks before her arrival. Larkin resumed his voyage alone, but he did not forget the slender fair-haired Rachel, and in the autumn of 1833, she came to be his bride. They were married aboard ship, off the coast of Santa Barbara, by the United States Consul of Honolulu. There followed a brilliant fiesta on shore, attended by members of most of California's first families. Then, a few days later, "*la señora Yanqui*" was at home in Monterey.

Soon, a fine new house was constructed by the Larkins on a hillside overlooking the bay. The building, which reflected the colonial influence of the eastern seaboard, was the talk of the town. Two stories high, with glass windows, a center staircase, an upstairs fireplace, and redwood shingles for the roof, the Larkin home resembled its neighbors only in the adobe brick that was used for its construction.

Now the period of grace, brought by the capable Governor Figueroa, was drawing to a close. In the spring of 1834, Figueroa received two communications from the government in Mexico. The first ordered him to secularize all missions at once; the second informed him that his request for retirement had been honored. A relationship between the two dispatches was obvious. The new governor, José María Híjar, was to be accompanied by the radical Padrés, who had been exiled by Victoria. With them were to come 250 colonists, subsidized by the government in accord with a plan developed by Padrés. These people would have to have land.

Figueroa felt that immediate and total secularization would have disastrous effects, and for the brief time he had left in office, he decided to temporize with the problem of secularization. The decree that he

the old soldier, two of the young Borondas, and Rafael Estrada, son of José Mariano. José Manuel Boronda's grant was the 6,625-acre Rancho Los Laureles in the Carmel Valley. In the Salinas Valley, Malarín received the 8,890-acre Rancho Chualar, for which the present-day town is named. Estrada was granted the 8,875-acre Rancho San Lucas, slightly to the southwest of the city of that name. And Joaquín de la Torre was given the 16,523-acre Rancho Arroyo Seco, adjoining Los Coches on the south.

Altogether Alvarado bestowed 28 land grants during his term of office, totaling over a quarter of a million acres of land. Most of the Salinas Valley and all of the Carmel Valley were occupied by private land concessions. Then, on August 25, 1842, the last of the governors to be sent by Mexico, Brigadier General Manuel Micheltorena, arrived in California. Willingly, Alvarado turned over the last vestiges of responsibility. He had been cloistered and inactive at El Alisal for almost a year. Some say the government treasury held the equivalent of 25 cents at the time Micheltorena assumed office.

Micheltorena did not provide the strong administration which Vallejo had hoped for when he petitioned Mexico to send a governor. Courteous and friendly, he was well-liked personally; but his army of 300 *cholos* made his regime unacceptable from the start. More brigands than soldiers, they had been recruited from the prisons of Mexico with the promise of pardon if they would enlist for service in California. As the government had no funds with which to pay them, they foraged for food and stole from the residents.

Two months after the official change in governors, while Micheltorena was still lingering in Los Angeles, Larkin glanced out of an upstairs window of his house and saw two American warships anchored in the bay. Soon a small boat came ashore with a message demanding surrender of the capital. In the absence of the governor, the demand was accepted by the *comandante*, Captain Mariano Silva. Arrangements were made for the formal surrender to take place the following morning at nine o'clock.

On October 20, 1842, the townspeople were horrified to see a large force landing below the fort. Resistance was impossible, as the garrison numbered only 29 regular soldiers and 25 untrained recruits, while the American contingent comprised 150 men. With the Stars and Stripes flying and a band playing the national air, the Americans marched through the streets of Monterey to *El Cuartel*, where a proclamation was read to the populace. Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones, commander of the United States Squadron in the Pacific, informed them

that the United States and Mexico were at war and he had been ordered to take possession of the department of California. The Mexican flag was lowered and that of the United States raised, as the guns of the warships fired a salute.

The town was in an uproar. Late that afternoon, Commodore Jones met with Larkin and Hartnell, who inquired about the basis for the action he had taken. He explained that while at Callao, Peru, he had received a report that a state of war existed, and he was under instructions in such an eventuality to seize California before the British could do so. With a wry smile, Larkin showed him the latest communications from Mexico and the United States, which clearly showed that as of the moment no war existed between the two countries. The embarrassed commodore hastened to undo his mistake.

Twenty-four hours after capitulation of the capital, Monterey was restored to Mexico with appropriate ceremonies. The commodore and his officers called upon the Mexican officials to pay their respects, and the latter went aboard the American flagship where they were warmly welcomed and entertained. A letter of apology was dispatched to Micheltorena, still sojourning in Los Angeles, and the governor invited Jones to visit him there and held a fiesta in his honor. But all *Californios* did not so easily forget the humiliation of the American occupation, and the resultant outrage in Mexico City seriously affected future negotiations for peaceful cession of territory to the United States.

As American warships continued to patrol Pacific waters and the depredations of Micheltorena's army increased, tension tightened in Monterey. Pessimism spread among the rancheros. Men like the Estradas, the Castros, and the Soberanes knew that they might well lose the security they had so carefully built. Even Mariano Vallejo, the powerful lord of the North, was deeply concerned.

Still, business was booming and merchants prospered as never before. The arrival of a warship meant heavy purchases of supplies. Cash also flowed freely from the pockets of sailors on shore leave. The clever Larkin had cornered a considerable share of this very profitable trade, and out of his gains he contributed to civic improvements, building Monterey's first wharf and reconstructing the dilapidated Custom House. The government reimbursed him for neither project, but he recouped in other ways.

The refurbished Custom House became a center for gala social events. When a foreign warship anchored in the harbor, Larkin gave a *baile grande* for the officers, and they reciprocated with dances and parties on board. On the Fourth of July, the Larkins always celebrated

CHAPTER

12

The Salinas Valley

Between the bright bare hills of the Gabilan Range to the east and the dark brooding wall of the Santa Lucias to the west lies the narrow swale of the Salinas Valley. Stretching southward from Monterey Bay for more than one hundred miles, the valley contains 640,000 acres of the richest soil in the state. Through it flows the Salinas River, fed by five tributaries originating in the surrounding mountains.

It was through the Salinas Valley that the Portolá expedition first came to the shores of what was to be the capital of California. And it was in the wilderness of the valley's waving grasses that the prominent families of Monterey held the great land grants that provided support for their adobe townhouses and carefree life style in Monterey. As late as 1850, the Salinas Valley was still a stock-raising district for the few families whose forebears had come with the first Spanish settlers. They owned most of the land, and the huge herds of black cattle, descendants of those brought by Rivera and Anza, roamed the virgin fields unhindered by fence or corral.

The days for such pastoral peace and security were numbered. In the aftermath of the gold rush and the American occupation, a flood of immigrants swept into California. Many headed for the mines, only to find that prospecting was hard and often unrewarding. They demanded that the vast tracts of fertile farm land in California be made available for settlement. In Monterey County, as in the rest of California, rancho land took in most of the finest agricultural areas, including the Salinas and Carmel Valleys. A harried Congress, thousands of miles away acted without complete or accurate information about the situation. In 1851, legislation was passed creating the United States Land Commission. It was set up to review the validity of land claims based on Spanish and Mexican grants.

Despite the provisions of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, ending the Mexican-American War, in which the American government specifically promised to safeguard private property rights, the Land Act in effect challenged every title in California. Persons who claimed land were required to appear before the Land Commission and provide documentary evidence, along with the testimony of witnesses, to prove their claim. This proof had to be provided within two years of the date of the 1851 act. The legislation included a provision for interminable appeal, by the claimant or the government, to the United States District and Supreme Courts. All lands for which claims were finally rejected would be considered to be part of the public domain; for those approved, a patent would be issued.

The Commission carried out its assignment carefully and conscientiously, but once he had filed a petition with the commission, the native California landowner had to wait an average of seventeen years for his patent. In the interim, he struggled with a legal system and language he did not understand and used up any capital he had or could obtain. Unable even to sell his land until clear title was obtained, the ranchero had to mortgage his property to pay attorney's fees and then watch helplessly as squatters and speculators took over the land that was his only means of livelihood. The Americans were a practical people. They did not waste time on fiestas and games, give a horse or a steer for only the asking, or loan money with no security other than a handshake and a promise. But they were adept with mortgage foreclosures and sheriff's sales.

It was a time of trouble for all California rancheros, and those in the Salinas Valley had more than their share. Feliciano Soberanes lost the 21,884-acre San Lorenzo to a San Francisco land lawyer, and former Governor Alvarado's El Alisal was auctioned off in a sheriff's sale for $6,000. Mariano Malarín was struggling to keep the ranchos that had been left in his care after the death of his father. His education as an attorney, for which old Juan Malarín had sent him to Peru, was of little help. Finally, Malarín had to borrow $3,000 on his Rancho Chualar at 24 percent a year. The money came from David Jacks.

Among the earliest of the great ranchos to pass out of the possession of an old Spanish family was the Rancho Sauzal. The 10,242-acre tract, which had been granted to José Tiburcio Castro, was purchased by Jacob Leese in 1852 for $600. In that same year, James Bryant Hill bought the adjoining 6,633-acre Rancho Nacional. The present-day city of Salinas stands on portions of both ranchos.

The city had its start when Leese sold 80 acres of the Sauzal lands to Elias Howe, a Bostonian who was said to be the son of the sewing machine inventor. Howe built a tavern called the Halfway House at

the intersection of the stage routes between Monterey and San Juan Bautista and between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Located in the midst of fields of mustard fifteen feet tall, the establishment seemed unlikely to succeed, especially since a well-established stage stop already existed at Natividad.

But clever Deacon Howe, so named because he had once presided at a funeral in the absence of a clergyman, devised a scheme for attracting customers. He began placing bets on which stage would arrive first at the tavern. Drivers on the two routes were soon whipping their horses into a white lather in their attempts to reach the Halfway House. Everybody gathered to drink Howe's good whiskey and to gamble money and even parcels of land on the stage arrivals. Business boomed and the rival establishment at Natividad eventually folded.

On the Rancho Nacional, James Bryant had another kind of success experience. Transforming the brush-covered acreage into fields of grain, he produced up to 85 bushels of wheat and 149 bushels of barley per acre, proving the potential of cattle-grazing land for agriculture. It was a significant development that foreshadowed the beginning of a new era for the Salinas Valley.

Meanwhile, the embryonic city of Salinas was growing. Deacon Howe's Halfway House now belonged to Alberto Trescony, who was also founder of the Washington Hotel in Monterey. Trescony was an enterprising man in his forties, who had landed at Monterey in 1842 after an incredibly varied career. Born and orphaned in Italy, he ran away from an unkind stepmother at the age of twelve and arrived in Paris alone and destitute. There, he learned to be a tinsmith; then worked his way to the United States as a cabin boy. He found employment in America on construction jobs and saved his pennies until he was able to buy a small herd of sheep, which he drove to Mexico. He then sold his sheep for a good price and walked from Mexico City to Mazatlan to preserve his capital. From Mazatlan, the tall, soft-spoken Italian took a steamer bound for San Francisco and landed at Monterey in 1842. The red-roofed adobes and rugged shoreline reminded him of his native Italy, and he stayed.

Living in a shack, the serious and reserved Trescony resumed his trade as a tinsmith, and the gold rush caused his business to flourish. At that time, tin pans were selling to prospectors at $35 each. Within a few years, Trescony accumulated a modest fortune and some properties.

His tavern in Salinas prospered, developing first into a hotel and then into stores and a stable, but he was not a happy man. He was not predisposed to be a hotelkeeper. Deep down in his heart he longed

to work under the wide blue skies, and the memory of his experience as a shepherd was strongest within him. He was also very lonely, a problem that was soon resolved when a wonderful woman came into his life. There was but one difficulty—the woman was married.

Catherine Cotton Rainey had arrived in Monterey from New Zealand in 1850, with her husband and their infant son. Her husband Alexander Rainey, a shipwright by trade, was a rough and disorderly person who spent a good part of his time in court and grossly mistreated his gentle wife. Unable to bear the abuse showered upon the woman he adored, Trescony made a financial arrangement with Rainey to release her. Then he provided a home for her and her son, Alexander Jr. By 1862, Trescony had three children of his own. That same year, he got an opportunity to achieve his most cherished desire.

The Rancho San Lucas in the southern part of the Salinas Valley was for sale. The 8,875 acres of rolling hills and meadows, carpeted with deep natural grasses, had once belonged to Rafael Papías Estrada, stepbrother of Juan Bautista Alvarado. The easy-going Estradas had quickly lost their lands. James McKinley, the Monterey merchant, had picked up the San Lucas but the dry year of 1861 discouraged him, and he was willing to sell for $3,000. Though the isolated area showed little promise for development, it was ideal for raising sheep. On the day after Christmas in 1862, Trescony acquired the property.

During the Civil War years 1861 to 1865, great changes were taking place in the Salinas Valley. At what was then the mouth of the Salinas River, a small settlement was developing. It began around 1860, when Paul Lezer bought 300 acres at the river mouth from the State of California for one dollar an acre. Lezer installed a ferry across Elkhorn Slough and planned to establish a town called City of St. Paul. But another man's name was to be given to the locality. Charles Moss, a New England sea captain, saw the potential for a port that could handle the large quantities of wheat and barley being grown in the Salinas Valley. With Cato Vierra, an early settler from the Azore Islands, he built a wharf. Then, the Pacific Steamship Company organized steamer service to San Francisco, and warehouses sprang up near the landing, which came to be called Moss Landing. Charlie Moss ran barges down the Salinas River, carrying loads of grain, and wagons piled high with produce backed up five miles from the wharf waiting to unload.

Inland, a cycle of alternating droughts and floods brought an end to the pastoral economy of the rancheros. Their herds of small sturdy cattle, able to forage for themselves in normal seasons, could not survive the series of natural disasters. In 1860, there were 100,000 cattle in

Monterey County. Five years later, after the dreadful parched days of 1863–64, the number had dropped to 13,000! Helplessly, the rancheros listened to the pitiful bawling of starving cattle and smelled the stench of carcasses decaying under a blazing sun. Some mortgaged all they owned to buy feed, but the situation was beyond their control.

Francisco Soberanes lost 2,000 head of cattle, and most of the lands of the Mission Soledad, over which his father Feliciano had once proudly held sway, were in the hands of receivers. David Jacks foreclosed on Malarín's Rancho Chualar and was also eyeing Rancho Los Coches, the home of Joséfa Soberanes de Richardson and her husband.

Los Coches had long been a favorite stagecoach stop, and for a time the Richardsons had fared better than Joséfa's brothers. The Bixby Overland Stage, en route from San Francisco to Los Angeles, brought a lively trade, and the old adobe, with the cool shade of its long line of locust trees, was a popular inn. But by September 1862, Joséfa and her husband were heavily in debt to a merchant in Monterey and she was forced to mortgage the property her father had obtained for her. The $1,800 she borrowed came at two percent per month, with interest to be compounded four times a year.

At the Rancho San Lucas, Trescony suffered desperate hardships but held on. During the floods of 1862, he drove his sheep into the hills to keep them safe. But when the drought came and the sun turned his rich pasture land into burnt clay, he saw his flocks shrivel before his eyes. He sheared his animals and killed them, as many as a hundred a day, until 3,000 were put out of their misery. The tragedy of this loss for Trescony was made nearly unbearable by the recent death of his beloved Catherine, shortly after the birth of their third child. Sorrowfully, he closed up the little house he had built for her in Salinas and then placed the children with the kindly Señora Bonifacio in Monterey. "One thing he knew; he would never marry again."

While Trescony stayed on alone at San Lucas and slowly built up new herds of sheep, other rancheros were giving up the struggle. Even David Spence, who had been so proud to be a landowner, sold 7,500 acres of his Rancho Encinal y Buena Esperanza to Giles Kellogg and leased the Llano de Buena Vista to Carlisle Abbott. Men with new ideas and a different philosophy of life were taking over the Salinas Valley. They fenced off their property and built square, box-like houses. They planted acres of barley and wheat to replace the wild waving grasses. They introduced improved breeds of cattle which, for the protection of crops, fed in enclosed pastures.

Carlisle Abbott was typical of this new breed of men. Born into a farming family in Quebec, he came to the United States at the age

of eighteen, crossing the plains for California. After a stint in the gold mines and a couple of years of farming in Sacramento and then Nevada, he migrated to Point Reyes in Marin County, where he built a prosperous dairy and stock-raising enterprise. In 1865, he moved to Monterey County bringing 600 head of cattle, and, before long, he purchased half of David Spence's property as well as 12,000 acres of the Rancho San Lorenzo. Bankrupted by the financial debacle of the Monterey and Salinas Valley narrow-gauge Railroad, Abbott subsequently lost his property in Monterey County and moved to Arizona.

Eugene Sherwood, who had acquired Rancho San Lorenzo before Abbott, was another representative of the new class of entrepreneurs moving into the Salinas Valley. He came from England to set up a chain of sheep ranches that stretched from Monterey County to San Francisco. He began in 1859, by buying San Lorenzo, the rancho that had once belonged to Feliciano Soberanes, for $1.50 an acre. At about the same time, he purchased the Castro grant, Rancho Sauzal, from Jacob Leese. His sheep business was successful, but the difficult years of flood and drought, which Trescony had patiently weathered, made Sherwood lose interest. There were other ways to make money in this burgeoning land of opportunity.

The Southern Pacific Railroad was creeping southward. In 1864, it reached San Jose, and there were rumors that it planned to cut across the Pacheco Pass and build its line to Southern California through the San Joaquin Valley. If it could be persuaded to lay the track through the Salinas Valley instead, the small settlement surrounding Trescony's Halfway House could become a rail stop and develop into a thriving town. Sherwood unloaded Rancho San Lorenzo to Abbott and concentrated on the Sauzal land, which emcompassed the site of the profitable little town he foresaw.

Sherwood got down to business in 1867, when Alberto Trescony sold his Salinas property, comprising the Halfway House and 160 acres, to a couple of developers named Riker and Jackson. Sherwood formed a partnership with them and, pooling their land, the three men laid out a city half a mile square. Then Sherwood offered the Southern Pacific free acreage for a right-of-way and a depot. A building boom promptly exploded in Salinas City. In 1868 alone, 50 buildings were erected in four months. Progress had come to the rancho that once belonged to José Tiburcio Castro.

At the same time, a rival town was developing on the 30,000-acre Rancho Bolsa Nueva y Moro Cojo, which had been granted to José Tiburcio's brother, Simeon Castro. Juan Bautista Castro, with his sister, had inherited the rancho when he was only six years old. As soon as

division began and the town was laid out. It became the important freight station for ranchers from the surrounding valleys of the Santa Lucia and Gabilan Mountains.

King built a race track, rivaling the one Sherwood had laid out in Salinas City, and constructed a flour mill that offered competition to the Salinas Milling Company. Manager of the mill was Ernest Steinbeck, father of the famous writer whose novel *East of Eden* is in part based on the experiences of his grandparents in the Salinas Valley. The innovative Mr. King next brought a man named Winterhalter from Germany to experiment with growing sugar beets. The crop failed because of wind and rust, but it foreshadowed the next farming development for the valley.

Meanwhile, the railroad moved on southward through the property of Alberto Trescony, which included in addition to the San Lucas, the adjoining Rancho San Benito and a portion of the Rancho San Bernardo, which once had belonged to the Soberanes family. Trescony even had huge acreage across the mountains in the Carmel Valley. Although sheep raising had made him a very rich man, he continued to live in a quiet and unassuming manner.

He was especially loved by the large number of Basque shepherds he had helped to come to the Salinas Valley. Some he brought from Europe, but he met many others at a Basque hotel which he frequented in San Francisco. The hotel provided another kind of matchmaking when Trescony's son Julius fell in love with Kate Aguirre, the daughter of the hotel's owners. They were married and lived on the San Lucas, managing the ranchos and 20,000 sheep while the elder Trescony retired to the Abbott Hotel in Salinas.

In 1892, death came to Alberto Trescony. He was eighty years old. October sunshine warmed the golden hills of the Salinas Valley as a special train, its engine draped in black, took his body to be buried on land at a point that overlooked his three ranchos. The shepherds he had befriended filed sorrowfully past the coffin of the Italian tinsmith, lying in state at the Pleasant View Hotel in San Lucas. In the funeral party, Indians and *paisanos* in faded blue jeans mingled with finely attired folk from San Francisco. All were anxious to pay tribute to the generous and kindly man.

By renting land that had been used for grazing to tenant farmers, Julius Trescony transformed his father's vast acreage into fields of wheat and barley. Then he built the largest grain warehouse south of Salinas City, which helped to establish another new town in the valley, San Lucas. As the shining rails of the railroad advanced, San Lucas, situated

in the midst of Trescony's three ranchos, became the supply station and shipping point for the southern portion of the Salinas Valley, eventually eclipsing King City. By 1890, lots 50 by 120 feet in the developing business district of San Lucas were selling for $175.

Before the railroad moved beyond the boundaries of Monterey County, it resulted in two more towns. San Ardo stood on the Rancho San Bernardo, of which a part was owned by Brandenstein and Godchaux, a San Francisco firm of wholesale butchers. Nearer the county line was Bradley, located on Bradley Sargent's 12,000-acre La Pestilencia ranch. Sargent had been a resident of Monterey for over 30 years and had large holdings in the central coast counties and San Joaquin Valley.

Industry came to Salinas Valley in 1897. For five years, prominent businessmen of the Salinas City board of trade had tried to interest Claus Spreckels in building a sugar refinery near Salinas. The emigrant from Hanover, Germany, who already had sugar beet factories in San Francisco and Watsonville, had been working to develop sugar beet seed that would resist rust and wind, and he had bought thousands of acres of the Rancho San Lorenzo from Charles King, presumably for growing the beets. But he was a shrewd man; before he consented to build a plant in the Salinas Valley, farmers had to contract to grow beets on at least 25,000 acres for five years. When this had been accomplished, a five-story factory rose on the Rancho Llano de Buena Vista.

The Spreckels factory provided a tremendous impetus to the valley's economy. Erected at a cost of $2,700,000, it was the largest beet-sugar refinery in the world, providing employment for 500 people and consuming over 3,500 tons of beets per day. Some beet farmers made as much as $40,000 a year on 7,000 acres.

In 1898, another innovation came to Salinas Valley, when an agricultural commune was formed by the Salvation Army. The commune was on property situated near the Soledad Mission that had once belonged to Francisco Soberanes. His son Benito had lost the 600-acre tract in a mortgage foreclosure, and it had been picked up by the brother-in-law of David Jacks, Charles Romie, who then sold it to the Salvation Army. The Army divided it into ten-acre pieces and recruited impoverished city dwellers to colonize Fort Romie. Everything was furnished the settlers free of charge, from seeds to two-room shacks. In return, they contracted to make yearly payments of $100 for ten years, after which they would own the land.

Unfortunately, most of the people who came knew nothing about farming. To add to their misery, it was the year of a terrible drought.

The sun blazed, the wind howled, and crops would not grow. Some of the hardier souls managed to hang on and eventually bought the land on which they toiled. The majority moved away, and the land was sold to Swiss farmers who fed their dairy cattle on beet tops and sugar pulp from the Spreckels factory. The barracks that had been built for prayer meetings was made into a general store, and an evaporated milk processing plant went up just a few miles from the ruins of the mission.

Soon after the turn of the century, a second development was started by a firm of Los Angeles real estate promoters. It was on 4,000 acres of the Rancho Arroyo Seco, part of the 16,523-acre tract that had been granted to Joaquín de la Torre. The developers organized the California Homeseekers Association and advertised for buyers of twenty-acre sections, at $20 an acre. Named Clark Colony after one of the promoters, the subdivision was located at the mouth of the Arroyo Seco Canyon in an arid, wind-swept area referred to as "Three Mile Flat."

Settlers arrived to draw lots for the site of their twenty acres. A tent village sprang up, then small houses were erected. Using scrapers pulled by two horses, the men began clearing off the sand which buried the soil. But after they spent a year at the task, the drifting sand was carried back by strong summer winds. They also dug wells and planted rows of eucalyptus trees—hard unrelenting work which was seemingly hopeless.

Then the developers took action to save the community. They obtained the water rights to 218 square miles of watershed and built a canal from the Arroyo Seco River. The irrigation experiment was a great success. Water became available at one dollar a year per acre, and soon thriving farms developed. The town of Greenfield came into being, and other irrigation projects were instituted in the Salinas Valley. The Spreckels Sugar Company constructed steam-powered plants to pump water from the Salinas River to ranchos near King City and Soledad. Huge tracts of land were planted in hardy, blight-resistant sugar beets. With the advent of irrigation, the threat of disastrous droughts was over.

In 1909, the man who had played a pioneer role in the development of the Salinas Valley was dead. A special train carried mourners from Salinas to Monterey for the funeral of David Jacks. There were many on that train who had feared and even hated the man. There were also many who remembered him with deep affection. Among them were the people he had helped in time of trouble, dispensing baskets laden with food, and the children who recalled him as a kindly bearded man who told stories of the "old days" and distributed fruit and candy. Life had disappointed David Jacks in many ways; he had no grandchildren and the career accomplishments of his sons did not meet his expectations. But the most difficult cross he had borne was the animosity which had been heaped upon him and which he never really understood. His driving ambition and huge fortune had brought him little happiness.

The next great agricultural development to come to the Salinas Valley began in 1921 near the mouth of the Salinas River. Lettuce was introduced on a few plots of ground. The heads were huge and the crop yielded 400 crates to the acre. Before long the crop was expanded and began to take over land previously planted in beets, and within ten years, the first lettuce shipment of 68 freight cars had swelled to 20,000 cars a year. Vast stretches of the long valley were devoted to the new bonanza.

Today, the Salinas Valley is one of the most productive agricultural valleys in the world. Crops are diversified and organized into three climatic zones. The coastal zone yields year-round crops of vegetables, such as artichokes, which flourish in relatively high humidity and a narrow temperature span. The next adjoining area produces lettuce, carrots, celery, and other truck vegetables on a year-round basis. Farther up in the valley, tomatoes and other crops that thrive in hot weather are grown during the summer.

Many serious problems haunt the agricultural industry of the Salinas Valley today. The hard-pressed growers, plagued by problems of inflation, mechanization, urban sprawl, and labor unrest, have recently been offered tax incentives by the government in order to help them continue in production. It can only be hoped that this measure and others will allow the long valley, where once roamed the cattle herds of the first families of Monterey, to remain a multi-patterned tapestry of lush green harvests.

The genial Alvarado was now 27, fair-haired and good-looking, and the recently elected president of the *diputacion*. Possessed of much practical ability in addition to being a smooth politician, Alvarado was a favorite with all classes of *paisanos* and he also enjoyed the support of the foreign merchants. His single evident weakness was a strong fondness for drink. But being the nephew and close friend of Mariano Vallejo protected him from scandalmongers (although Vallejo was only a year older than Alvarado, he was also Alvarado's uncle, since old Ignacio Vallejo's daughter was the mother of Juan Bautista).

The talk about rebellion turned into action as a result of two foolish moves made by Gutiérrez. The first was a threat to dissolve the *diputacion*. The second was the issuance of an order for Alvarado's arrest, following a quarrel about enforcement of tariff regulations. When Alvarado's arrest was ordered, the assembly, composed of freedom-loving *hijos del país*, fled from Monterey to San Juan Bautista, where their revolutionary headquarters was established.

It was decided that Alvarado must travel at once to Sonoma, where Mariano Vallejo was stationed as *comandante* of the northern frontier. En route, Alvarado stopped to see a Tennessee backwoodsman named Isaac Graham, a resident of Natividad, who had established a distillery there. A wild and reckless fellow, with a reputation as a crack-shot and hater of Mexican soldiers, Graham readily agreed to round up a band of his cronies to fight with the rebels.

Alvarado was not as successful with Vallejo. To his astonishment, his best friend counseled caution. Vallejo was now a man of property and position. He enjoyed a free hand on the frontier. He had a family for whom to provide. No longer was he the adventurous youth with everything to gain and nothing to lose. He would be unable to cooperate with the revolutionists.

Despite the stand Vallejo had taken, Alvarado used his uncle's name anyway as the leader of the movement. With José Castro's assistance, he assembled a force of about seventy-five men, armed with lances and a few old muskets. Mainstay of the insurrection was the contingent provided by Graham, made up mostly of deserters from Yankee ships and a sprinkling of fur trappers.

On the evening of November 3, 1836, the rebels advanced on Monterey. Castro devised several clever ruses to convince the presidio garrison that he had a strong army at his command. Small groups were deployed on the hills, fires were kindled, and trumpets and drums were sounded from the widely separated spots. The fort fell without resistance.

Residents of Monterey were terrified at the sight of Graham's bearded roughnecks, but the foreign merchants were, to a man, in sympathy with the rebellion, expecting that Alvarado would favor their commercial interests. Foreign ships anchored in the harbor went so far as to provide ammunition to the insurgents. Soon soldiers from the presidio began deserting to the enemy, and a demand was sent to the besieged governor for surrender within two hours.

Contemptuous of Graham, the *gringo* in the fantastic fur cap, Gutiérrez did not deign to answer. At the precise time that the specified period of grace was up, a shot was sent from the cannon monted on the fort. It crashed through the roof of the governor's house. The presidio quickly capitulated and the governor, mustering what dignity he could, departed for Mexico.

The very next day the *diputacion*, chaired by José Castro, declared California a free and sovereign state. Alvarado was elected governor and Vallejo was appointed *comandante general*, despite the fact that he had not participated in the revolution. At last, the *hijos del país* had their own man in the gubernatorial seat. Great was the rejoicing in Monterey

But even as the crowds in Monterey acclaimed Alvarado and the new government, the forces of counterrevolution were gathering in the south. The ensuing five years of rule, over an increasingly fragmented California, were destined to be stormy. They would transform the ebullient and idealistic young man into a prematurely middle-aged alcoholic.

the "bandit gang" also began to openly toast the new Republic of Texas, with cheers of "California next!" And it did not contribute to Alvarado's peace of mind to find a human skull hanging from the halyard of the flagstaff outside his door. Both the governor and his friend, José Castro, became alarmed for their personal safety as well as that of the province.

Matters came to a head when the governor received a message from Padre Suarez del Real, warning him that Graham and his followers planned to seize Monterey and cast off Mexican sovereignty. The plot had been revealed to him in the confessional by a foreigner on the point of death. Instantly, Alvarado went into action, since he had grounds for getting at the nest of troublemakers, who had been buzzing around his head like horseflies.

In the middle of the night, on April 7th, Castro and a *cuadrilla* of men descended upon the Graham saloon at Natividad, arresting the ringleaders of the projected insurrection. Following those arrests, there ensued a wholesale roundup of all foreigners not married to *hijas del país* or engaged in approved occupations. On April 23rd, 46 aliens, including Isaac Graham, were shipped to Mexico to stand trial, and Alvarado was temporarily free of his tormentors.

Still he had ample reason for continuing concern. The chaotic condition of the government, combined with an ever increasing number of *extranjeros* in positions of influence, could lead to acquisition of the province by a foreign power. Men like Larkin were working subtly to practice the "Texas game" by publicizing the attractions of California in eastern newspapers. And in 1841, the first organized American group penetrated California for the purpose of settlement, when the Bidwell Bartleson party crossed the Sierra. They were the vanguard of a different breed of men who were ready to take aggressive action to bring about American conquest. Vallejo, who had supported Alvarado in the Graham affair, now felt the need for more drastic measures. He petitioned the Mexican government to send a new governor, accompanied by a strong force of well-trained troops and a contingent of colonists, to counteract foreign immigration.

During the last two years of his governorship, a disillusioned and disheartened Alvarado did what he could for his countrymen. He had an elaborate, two-story government building erected in the center of Monterey to house the officers of the garrison. *El Cuartel,* as it was called, cost $4,000, a staggering sum for an impoverished treasury. With an equally lavish hand, Alvarado stepped up the giving away of land, with the Soberanes family, close relatives of his wife, receiving a lion's share.

In 1840, for example, Mariano de Jesús Soberanes asked Alvarado for a grant of land in the name of his two eldest sons, José Mariano and Juan José Antonio. The following year title was issued to the 13,346-acre Rancho San Bernardo, southernmost of the ranchos along the Salinas River in Monterey County. Today's San Ardo stands on the long narrow tract. For himself, Mariano de Jesús requested a large tract along the San Antonio River. Since he had been administrator of the San Antonio Mission since 1835 and had "commenced works of much importance and placed 947 head of cattle on the land," he petitioned for a just portion of the mission lands.

Alvarado gave him the 8,900-acre Rancho Los Ojitos, "little springs," adjoining the southern tip of Rancho Milpitas ("little gardens") on which the mission stood. Rancho Milpitas itself had been granted, in 1838, to Ignacio Pastor, a San Antonio Mission Indian. It was said to comprise three leagues, but the boundaries were indefinite.

Soberanes occupied the larger of two adobes already standing on the Los Ojitos. It was a substantial two-story building that remained in good repair for more than a century. Two years later, the 50-year-old Mariano de Jesús married Raimunda Castillo, once the mistress of Alvarado. She bore him five children, and they lived out their days together in the beautiful wind-swept valley of the oaks.

The governor's generosity also extended to Feliciano Soberanes. In January 1841, Alvarado purchased the El Alisal and took up permanent residence in Feliciano's adobe, where he and Martina were already living most of the time. That same year, he appointed Feliciano administrator of the Soledad Mission and awarded him the 21,884 acre Rancho San Lorenzo on the east side of the Salinas River. It adjoined the Rancho San Bernabe at the point where today's King City is located. Then, Feliciano petitioned for a land grant for his eldest daughter, María Joséfa.

The young woman was married to William Brenner Richardson, an emigrant from Maryland, nicknamed "William the Red" because of his bright-colored hair. She was granted the 8,794-acre Rancho Los Coches, to the east of the Mission Soledad, and on it she pastured the 300 head of cattle given her by her father. The next year, Richardson built a two-room adobe on the property and planted a row of black locust trees from seeds sent him from Boston. Later, as their family increased, he added more rooms and an upper story. Both the trees and house are still standing, and the building is a State Historical Monument.

Other *hijos del país* who benefited from Alvarado's largess were Juan Malarín, the Espinosas, Gabriel and Joaquín de la Torre, sons of

Ranchos of Monterey County

The following information is taken from Robert Grannis Cowan, *Ranchos of California*, Academy Library Guild, Fresno, 1956.

Name of Rancho	Date of Grant	To Whom Granted	To Whom Patented	No. of Acres*
.guajito	*1835*	Gregorio Tapia	*Gregorio Tapia*	3,323
ılisal	*1823 & '34*	Feliciano Soberanes	*Basilio Bernal*	5,941
ılisal or Patrocíno	*1834*	William E. Hartnell	*María Teresa de la Guerra de Hartnell*	2,971
ırroyo Seco	*1840*	Joaquín de la Torre	*Joaquín de la Torre*	16,523
Buena Vista	*1822–3*	Santiago and José Mariano Estrada	*Mariano Malarín, atty. for S. Estrada*	7,726
Buena Vista, Llano de	*1822–3*	Santiago and José Mariano Estrada	*David Spence*	8,446
Carneros (e. of Prunedale)	*1842*	María Antonia Linares	*F. A. McDougal et al.*	1,629
Carneros (n. of Prunedale)	*1834*	David Littlejohn	*Heirs of David Littlejohn*	4,482
Carpenteria, Cañada de	*1845*	Joaquín Soto	*Heirs of Joaquín Soto*	2,236
Chamisal, El	*1835*	Felipe Vasquez	*Heirs of Felipe Vasquez*	2,737
Chualar. Santa Rosa de	*1839*	Juan Malarín	*Mariano Malarín, executor*	8,890
Coches	*1841*	Joséfa Soberanes	*Joséfa Soberanes*	8,794
Cook's Tract	*1840*	Estéban Espinosa	*Henry Cocks*	1,106
Encinal y Buena Esperanza	*1834 & '39*	David Spence	*David Spence*	13,391
Escarpines. Bolsa de or San Miguel	*before 1828 & again in 1837*	Salvador Espinosa	*Salvador Espinosa*	6,416

(*) The original land grants were given in leagues and frequently were vaguely defined. For purposes of simplification the number of acres patented is used in the text as the number of acres granted, although the two figures sometimes differed.

Name of Rancho	Date of Grant	To Whom Granted	To Whom Patented	No. of Acres*
Familia Sagrada or Bolsa del Potrero Moro Cojo	*1822*	José Joaquín de la Torre (sold to John B. R. Cooper in 1829)	*John B. R. Cooper*	6,916
Gatos or Santa Rita	*1820 & '37*	Trinidad Espinosa	*Domingo Perez*	4,424
Gavilan or Gabilan	*1843*	José Yvez Limantour	*J. D. Carr*	48,781
Guadalupe y Llanitos de los Correos	*1833*	Juan Malarín	*Mariano Malarín, executor*	8,859
Huerta de la Nacion or Noche Buena	*1835*	Juan Antonio Muñoz	*J. and J. Monomany*	4,412
Laguna Seca or Cañadita	*1833 & '34*	Catalina Manzanelli de Munrás	*Catalina Manzanelli de Munrás*	2,179
Laureles or Cañada de los	*1835 & '39*	José Antonio Romero José Boronda et al.	*José Boronda et al.*	6,625
Laureles, or Cañada de los	*1844*	José Agricia	*L. Ransom*	718
Meadows Tract	*1840*	Antonio Romero	*James Meadows*	4,592
Milpitas	*1838*	Ignacio Pastor	*Ignacio Pastor*	43,281
Monte, Rincon de la Punta del	*1836*	Teodoro Gonzales	*Teodoro Gonzales*	15,219
Moro Cojo, Bolsa del (Bolsa Nueva was added to this by Castro)	*1825, '36-7 & '44*	Simeon Castro	*M. Antonia Pico de Castro et al.*	30,901
Nacional	*1839*	Vicente Cantua	*Vicente Cantua*	6,633
Natividad	*ca. 1830 & '37*	Manuel Butrón & Nicolás Alviso	*Ramón Butrón et al.*	8,642
Nueva Bolsa (combined with Moro Cojo by Castro)	*1829 & '36*	Francisco Soto	-------	----

Name of Rancho	Date of Grant	To Whom Granted	To Whom Patented	No. of Acres*
)jitos	*1842*	Mariano de Jesús Soberanes	*Mariano Soberanes*	8,900
ajaro, Bolsa del	*1837*	Sebastián Rodríguez	*Sebastián Rodríguez*	5,497
ajaro, Vega del Rio de	*1820*	Antonio María Castro	*F. A. McDougal et al.*	4,310
araje de Sanchez	*1839*	Francisco Lugo	*Juana Briones de Lugo et al.*	6,584
escadero	*1836*	Fabian Barreto	*David Jacks*	4,426
iños, Punta de	*1833 & '34*	José M. Armenta and José Ábrego	*H. De Graw et al.*	2,667
iojo	*1842*	Joaquín Soto	*Heirs of Joaquín Soto*	13,329
leyto	*1845*	José Antonio Chavez	*W. S. Johnson et al.*	13,299
oza de los Ositos	*1839*	Carlos Espinosa	*Carlos Espinosa*	16,939
incon del Zanjon	*1840*	José Eusebio Boronda	*José Eusebio Boronda*	2,230
ılinas	*1836*	Gabriel Espinosa	*Heirs of Gabriel Espinosa*	4,414
ılinas, Rincon de las	*1833*	Cristina Delgado	*Rafael Estrada*	2,220
ın Benito	*1842*	Francisco Garcia	*James Watson*	6,671
ın Bernabe	*1841 & '42*	Petronilo Rios	*Henry Cocks*	13,297
ın Bernardo	*1841*	José Mariano Soberanes	*Mariano Soberanes*	13,346
.n Carlos, Potrero de	*1837*	Fructuoso del Real	*Joaquin Gutiérrez et al.*	4,307
.n Cayetano, Bolsa de	*1824*	Ignacio Vicente Ferrer Vallejo	*José de Jesus Vallejo*	8,866
.n Francisquito	*1835*	Catalina Manzanelli de Munrás	*José Ábrego et al.*	8,814
.n José y Sur Chiquita	*1835* *1839 re-granted*	Teodoro Gonzales Marcelino Escobar	*Joseph S. Emery and Nathan W. Spaulding, administrators*	8,876

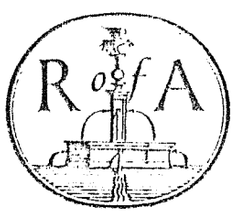
Name of Rancho	Date of Grant	To Whom Granted	To Whom Patented	No. of Acres*
ın Lorenzo or Peachtree	*1842*	Francisco Rico	*Heirs of Andrew Randall*	22,264
ın Lorenzo	*1841*	Feliciano Soberanes	*Feliciano Soberanes*	21,884
ın Lorenzo or Topo	*1846*	Rafael Sanchez	*Rafael Sanchez*	48,286
ın Lucas	*1842*	Rafael Estrada	*James McKinley*	8,875
ın Miguelito de Trinidad	*1841*	Rafael Gonzales	*Mariano Gonzales*	22,136
ın Vicente	*1835*	Francisco Estéban Munrás	*Concepcion Munrás et al.*	19,979
ıucito	*1833*	Graciano Manjares	*John Wilson et al.*	2,212
ıuzal	*1823*	Agustín Soberanes	*Jacob P. Leese*	10,242
	1834–5 re-granted	José Tiburcio Castro		
ɛgunda, Cañada de la	*1839*	Lazaro Soto	*Lazaro Soto*	4,367
ɔledad Mission Lands	*1846*	Feliciano Soberanes	*Feliciano Soberanes*	8,900
ır	*1834*	Juan Bautista Alvarado	*John B. R. Cooper*	8,949
ierra, Corral de	*1836*	Guadalupe Figueroa	*H. D. McCobb*	4,435
oro	*1835*	José Ramón Estrada	*Charles Wolters*	5,668
ucho	*1795*	José Manuel Boronda		
	1835 re-granted	Boronda and Blas Martinez	*David Jacks*	400
	1841	Simeon Castro	*Heirs of Simeon Castro*	113
ılarcitos	*1834*	Rafael Gomez	*Heirs of Rafael Gomez*	26,581
ɛrgeles	*1835*	José Joaquín Gomez	*James C. Stokes*	8,760
ınjones	*1839*	Gabriel de la Torre	*Mariano Malarin, executor*	6,714

THE
RIVERS OF AMERICA

Edited by
HERVEY ALLEN

As Planned and Started by
CONSTANCE LINDSAY SKINNER

Art Editor
RUTH E. ANDERSON



THE SALINAS

Upside-down River

by
ANNE B. FISHER

Illustrated by
WALTER K. FISHER

VALLEY PUBLISHERS
Fresno, California

"The Japs! Pearl Harbor bombed!"

There was a sudden hush as men gasped with horror; then came activity such as the valley had never known before.

Streets were suddenly emptied. Soldiers headed for camps, and farmers and businessmen rushed with guns to stand guard over electric plants and telephone exchanges and water supplies, lest the little slant-eyed men who had worked in their fields destroy them. Frightened Okies turned tail on bean field and lettuce patch, packed jallopies with children and possessions, and headed east.

By sunset, officers had found guns and a Japanese lieutenant's uniform in the house of a Jap who had been "so kind and thoughtful and always remembered birthdays of American children."

Dusk came, but no lights twinkled in the Salinas that night of December 7th.

Then in the dark, army trucks began to roll along the valley past the great silent sugar factory, the beet fields, and lettuce and beans. All night they passed, shaking the very earth as they rumbled by San Miguel where Franciscans prayed at the altar just under Esteban Munras's All-Seeing Eye.

On they traveled, past the healing mud of Paso Robles and the scraggly orchards of Atascadero, past Santa Margarita where once padres had stored grain in case of famine.

Up the mountain from a darkened silent Salinas Valley they went, these trucks loaded with grandsons and great-grandsons of those the valley had prospered: Spaniards, Mexicans, Peruvians, Basques, English, Scotch, Danes, Swiss and Portuguese—Americans all—riding through the night with other boys from other valleys all over America, on almost the very trail once trod by padres; out of the valley, to fight for their right to till the soil of the Salinas.

Rains came and washed away their footprints.

"The river's up!"

Acknowledgments

WITHOUT the hands and hearts and heads of a great many people, this book could not have been written. Special gratitude is due to members of old Spanish California and early American families along the Salinas who gave freely of their time, and the opportunity to examine old documents and manuscripts. To them the writer owes the loan of old family portraits which were copied in pen and ink.

Without the patience and hard work of Miss Thorne in the Monterey County Clerk's office, and her great help in copying legal documents and records there would be sad lapses in the continuity. Special thanks, too, should be given Miss Ellen Frink of the Monterey County Free Library for her help in tracking down old books and newspaper files; to Mrs. Bertha Hellum and her library staff in Monterey, and the staff of the Pacific Grove Public Library, as well as Miss Mabel Gillis of the California State Library. There is deep appreciation in the heart of this writer to Miss Alice Griffin of San Lucas who helped to clear up many difficulties and who so generously allowed the reproduction of her famous collection of old cattle brands, and to Lady Maria Antonia Field for the quaint old map of San Vicente Rancho.

Mr. Vivian of the King City *Rustler* and his staff were most helpful as was the Franciscan, Father Thaddeus of Mission San Miguel, and Mrs. Mary Green, custodian of Monterey Customs House Museum.

No effort was made to include all the people of the Salinas Valley who helped to make its history. In such a

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8

Granted to Soldiers, Colonists, and Traders—The Carcass

THE MISSIONS were no longer functioning, but the land was left. Governor Alvarado, whose wife Martina Castro was first cousin to Feliciano Soberanes, asked Soberanes in 1841 to take charge of Mission Soledad lands and the twenty Indians that were scattered around the vicinity of the mission, and to give them absolute freedom. He was to be in charge; a mayordomo and juez auxiliar (auxiliary judge), his jurisdiction extended to the Mission San Antonio which was in charge of his brother Mariano.

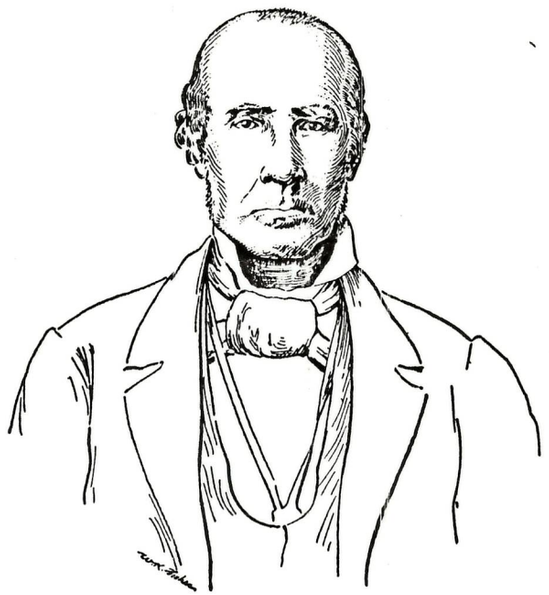
Perhaps because of this relationship with the Soberanes family, or because he felt that more land in the hands of established settlers would ensure plenty of defenders against invasion of either English or Americanos, Alvarado went on a granting spree in the valley of the Salinas.

Feliciano Soberanes, because he had helped Alvarado get rid of Isaac Graham and his gang, received Rancho San Lorenzo to the south, a grant of 21,884.38 acres. This was in addition to the Sausal 1,024 acres and Alisal 2,971 acres which Feliciano already owned. The ranchero could use all the land he could get with fourteen children to look out for.

Feliciano's eldest daughter Josefa, twenty-eight years old, received in the same year Rancho Los Coches, a grant of

8,794.02 acres, which was not far from Mission Soledad where her father was in charge.

Feliciano's son Francisco was claimant of the great Rancho Zanjón de Santa Rita (zanjón means deep ditch or



FELICIANO SOBERANES

drain). This rancho contained 48,823.84 acres and was granted in the same bountiful year of 1841 by Alvarado.

Nor was Mariano Soberanes, brother to Feliciano, neglected by the governor he had helped. He received two grants: the first was San Bernado Rancho granted June 16, 1841, and shared with a brother, Juan. This grant of 13,345.65 acres of rich bottom land was far to the south end

of the Valley of Salinas; then perhaps because he was in charge of scattered Indians around San Antonio, Mariano was granted Rancho Los Ojitos, a piece of 8,900 acres along the San Antonio River, where first the padres had settled, and where the herds of Mission San Antonio had once roamed.

It had paid the Soberanes family well to help Governor Alvarado with his fight againts the gringos. Altogether they now held 114,959.89 acres of land. The children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of the young soldier José Maria Soberanes, who had first come with Portola and married colonist Castro's Ana Josefa, were doing well by themselves, but they were to do still better in the land grab.

That other soldier, Estrada, and his descendants were not far behind. Rancho Santa Margarita of 17,000 acres, which had once been a part of Mission San Luis Obispo over the grade, was granted to Joaquin Estrada. This fine bottom land was where padres had first grown corn and vegetables. Then there was Asuncion, the place where padres had kept a storehouse for all missions in the Salinas, and had met to confess. That went to Pedro Estrada and consisted of 17,000 acres.

To Rafael Estrada the governor gave Rancho San Lucas, 8,874 acres. All this land in less than two years in addition to the ranchos Buena Vista and Llano Buena Vista, granted in 1823 to the Estrada family, making a grand total of well over a hundred thousand acres in this one family.

Don David Spence, the Scotch trader married to Adelaida Estrada, came in for his share from Alvarado. He was given another square league of land.

Juan Malarin, the Peruvian trader who married Adelaida's sister, was not faring badly in the take. He and his children had been granted Rancho Chualar (pigweed) and Rancho Zanjones and Rancho Guadalupe, three of the best pieces in the district, making up 24,469 acres. The Salinas

was doing well by soldiers and traders who had first settled along her banks.

Then friction between home-rule minded Governor Alvarado and the military Governor Vallejo became so violent that Mexico resolved to unite civil and military power in one person. Both Vallejo and Alvarado were removed, and from Mexico came General Manuel Micheltorena. He arrived early in 1842 with his cholos (convict army), gathered from the streets of Mexico. They were practically naked, and dirty, and like savage Indians, and promptly went to work to "subdue" California.

A revolution broke out along the Salinas, when it was discovered that Governor Micheltorena and his convicts had joined forces with the sharpshooters of Isaac Graham, recently released from Tepic prison and now more active than ever. Micheltorena was also in with the Americanos that Captain John Sutter had mustered to the north. Micheltorena made it worth-while for Sutter and his band to help fight the Californians. He gave grants to Sutter in his New Helvetia, that made the land Alvarado had given along the Salinas seem mere token grants! Soon Sutter would own California.

The crafty two-faced General Micheltorena with his ragtag bobtail foreigners rode boldly through the Salinas, stopped at what was left of Our Lady of Solitude and demanded of administrator Feliciano Soberanes forty head of horses, fifty cattle, four yoke of oxen, and some sheep.

Soberanes complied, but demanded a receipt from the general, a slip of paper.

Micheltorena rode on south to enter into battle against Alvarado and Castro, who were the leaders of the loyal Californians. There were Americanos and English on both sides, and they promptly refused to fight when they met, leaving the Californians and Mexicans to fight it out.

Micheltorena and Alvarado clashed. The engagement

James Capen Adams. He must come and rid them of *their* grizzlies! Where was he now? Send a rider!

But the ranchero shook his head. Adams had shot a few mustangs to eat in Pine Canyon, had put bear grease on Ben's feet to heal them where they had cracked as he walked over the dry sand, and then he had gone north to get ready for showing his pets in San Francisco.

James Capen Adams, who preferred bears to women, had come into the Salinas, done his brave deed, and wandered away again, but gratitude and the story of his bravery were to live on for generations.

4

Doings of an Italian Tinsmith

EXCITING news traveled through the valley by stage and by hoof right along with the late spring rains. Alberto Trescony, the once tattered Italian tinsmith of Monterey, had for years been quietly buying up thousands of acres in the Salinas just north of Mission San Miguel. In fact his land still had adobe corrals where Mission San Antonio sheep had once been penned at shearing time. Now, Trescony had built an adobe house and was to live on his great rancho. The very Estradas (cousins of Rafael at the river's mouth) who had once owned the 8,874 acres of San Lucas grant that Trescony had bought from a Britisher, could remember when the Italian had arrived a few years before in Monterey, ragged, with not even shoes to his feet. Why, Trescony the tinsmith could neither read nor write, and now he had twenty thousand acres of fine land in the valley! Not only did he own San Lucas, Garcia's San Benito grant, but part of the Soberanes' San Bernardo as well.

Garcias and others were open-mouthed over the doings of the tinsmith, but soon wine flowed freely in an effort to make them all forget the changing times along the river. Then, because Spanish and Mexican Californians loved that low form of biography called gossip even more than christenings or fiestas, tongues warmed by wine began to clack. Trescony was soft-voiced and he never smiled, but it was

well-known that the tall stoop-shouldered Italian had made love to another man's wife in Monterey and married her before the sod had settled on her husband's grave!

Trescony was an orphan who had run away at twelve from his stepmother in northern Italy and gone to Paris to learn French and tinsmithing. He had told that much himself in Monterey to one of the Soberanes just after he arrived in 1842, when he begged for the old tin cans that were thrown out, and then made a little fire in the street to melt out and save the solder that held them together. And the clever tin cups he had made from those old cans and the solder that had been melted from them. The niños and niñas were wild for them; every ranchero's child living in Monterey must have one of the new cups made in the street by Trescony the tinsmith. He charged plenty, too, for what didn't cost him anything but a bit of time and some begging.

Estradas and Rodriquez, listening to the rain beat against the windows, remembered well the little shack Trescony had, all covered with bits of tin to make it proof from winter rains, and how on foggy nights when his house was cold the tinsmith sat alone at the end of a bar playing solitaire and soaking up the good warmth of the saloon. They had sent him plates of hot food, poor man, after guests had gone from wedding fiestas and christenings. He had always been so polite and grateful. Yes, and now he owned the fertile acres they had long ago lost to lawyers for land titles, or to gringos for fiesta money, or to tide them over hard years.

Trescony had knitted his own queer shoes. He said they were alpargatas like those worn in Italy; coarse wool tops, with braided straw soles sewed onto them. He knitted often as he walked in the streets, with long needles made from slender willow switches that he cut in the river bottom.

A Malarin remembered now how Trescony, usually a silent man, had once told that he came steerage from the

Old World to the New and then was shipped out to Texas in a car as animals were sent, to work on construction. He had learned that Mexico was paying a high bounty in order to get sheep into the country, and had saved his money penny by penny until he could buy three thousand sheep which took him a year to deliver on foot in Mexico City. That must have been when the Italian learned to speak Spanish like a native, for there was no book learning to him. He often admitted that he must carry everything in his memory since he could not figure or even read. And he had practiced for hours the signing of his name with fancy rubric tails to it.

More wine was passed, to wash down Spanish Californian throats the thoughts of Trescony's figuring! The gold rush up north, and Trescony in his little shack in Monterey making gold-washing cradles to be used in the mines. He sold them for thirty-five dollars each! Thousands of cradles he shipped out of Monterey by boat! That would take some headwork for a tinsmith who couldn't figure; a tinsmith who had walked from Mexico City to Mazatlán on the west coast to catch the American steamer for San Francisco.

The *Julia Liedsdorf* was the boat, named after the wife of the vice-consul under Thomas Larkin, and when she put into Monterey, the red-tiled roofs and white walls of the old Spanish capital had made Trescony homesick for Italy. He had stayed.

Yes, he had stayed to buy with his tin-cup and gold-cradle money the old Washington Hotel and remodel it in 1849, just seven years after he had landed. Trescony invited the whole town to fiesta that day and then rented the place for twelve hundred dollars a month to delegates who came to draw up the first constitution for California.

In his little tin shack, the tinsmith who couldn't figure was doing well, with fifty thousand dollars he had salted

waste by lack of rain. They had left a green country to come and push back the mustard of Salinas Valley and replace it with grain. He, James Iverson, had led his relatives and his friends into a land of drought. Now he would have to borrow, himself, for seed to plant next year.

On the few remaining big ranchos cattle were being sold off for a dollar and a half a head to save feed. Sheep bleated pitifully for food. There were plenty of bleats to fill the air that year of the great drought, for the fifteen hundred square miles of Salinas Plain contained more sheep than any other county in the United States—plus one hundred thousand cattle.

Frantic rancheros sold off great chunks of land, and put mortgages on everything they possessed in an effort to get hay enough to carry them through until rain came again. There were plenty of fights and much bloodshed between gringos and native Californians over pasture, for the valleys in the interior had dried first and cattlemen from San Joaquin drove weakened animals over the range in the hope that nearer the coast, where the fog was, pasturage would be better.

Kit Carson and his partner Joe Walker, Indian fighters and scouts, who had once traveled with Captain Frémont, but were now peaceable ranchers, drove their cattle over the hills from the San Joaquin into a fertile little valley that drained into the Salinas. Here they found feed nearly gone and the Indian priest Doroteo Ambris kneeling in prayer with his faithful Indians. They named the place Priest Valley, a name that never was changed. But Padre Doroteo and his Indians in prayer failed to bring rain. Not even the pitiful little celebration at San Antonio on St. Anthony's day helped.

People on their way to the celebration tried not to see the buzzards ranging overhead or smell the stench of carcasses or hear the pathetic bawling of cattle. It was said

that one gringo rancher at Jolon could stand the frightful din no longer and had driven his animals over the ridge and down a chute into the sea.

Magpies sat in dried oaks with bills open. Only rattlesnakes thrived. Coyotes had no trouble of nights to eat, for cattle were too weak to run and grizzlies were numerous.

Mariano Soberanes let part of Los Ojitos go for feed, held high by a rancher who had a bit of flat land over near the coast where fog had kept the ground damp long enough to bring a crop of hay.

Trescony the tinsmith had no feed for his sheep, the same sheep he had fought to bring into the world in wet and rain while his Kate was sick; the sheep he had saved during the flood by driving them into hills where they were safe. When month after month of sun burned into the very clay of Rancho San Lucas, Trescony could stand the strain no longer. He sheared his animals and began to kill from sixty to a hundred a day, until three thousand were saved from the slow death of hunger and thirst. But the shrewd Italian tinsmith didn't leave his sheep where they fell, as many did that year in the Salinas. He skinned his sheep and rented the ruins of Soledad Mission in which to store the hides, and he hired an Indian to keep them turned so that worms would not injure them.

Hides would be scarce later when everybody had killed off sheep because of the drought. People all over "the States" would not stop wearing shoes because there had been no rain in California.

Garcia on the San Bernabe Rancho was crazed. He had fine cattle, bred for years to make a good herd, and now they were dying. Was he to just stand by and see the creatures go from under his very eyes? They were only bags of bones, his fine herd. A dozen times a day he raised a brown weather-beaten face to the sky. If only a cloud the size of a hand would come into that hard blue to encourage

PART XI

A Teaspoonful of Brains Isn't Worth Much. 1889

I

Changes

Old Alberto Trescony enjoyed living at Salinas City. There was so much doing now at the county seat, and with young Alberto and Julius and his family at San Lucas, the great rancho was in good hands. He had given land for right-of-way to the railroad that was being extended from King's City to San Lucas and already Julius was building the largest grain warehouse south of Salinas City. Lots in the newly surveyed San Lucas town were selling for $150 to $175 for 50 by 120 feet, and the church had bells blessed by the Jesuit priest of San Miguel. There was a store and a school for children of the sixteen tenant farmers who prospered on the land of an orphaned Italian tinsmith. His own grandchildren and their children's children would go to school in the town their own grandfather had founded near the three corners of his grants on the Salinas.

Civilization was marching fast up the valley now. Someday the railroad might even push on through the grazing land to Santa Margarita and maybe even over the great pass to San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara. San Lucas town sixty miles south of Salinas City was bound to be a center.

To most of these new folks on the streets of Salinas City, the tall stoop-shouldered old man who lived at the Abbott House and played solitaire hour after hour in the bar, was an eccentric, a tipo! True, he did not eat eggs in winter when

between Jacks and the settlers. It is apparent. Vineyards, beans, peaches. Does anyone need to prove that large land holders are a curse to the community?

"If Mr. Jacks or any other land-grabber does not care to pay just tax on the vast possessions which they are occupying to the exclusion of others, let them cut up and sell it at a reasonable figure and there will be plenty to buy them who will pay taxes without a kick."

David Jacks the canny Scotchman did not give up because of the free press and public opinion. He claimed to be "land poor" and asked that a special commission be appointed to investigate his lands. But many of the officials in the county seat were old-timers, who had suffered at the hands of the moneylender, and they knew well that he intended to use pressure, so they deemed a special committee unnecessary, because, "Any private citizen making a decision *against* Jacks would suffer—hence we see the reason for private citizens being asked to serve on this 'special' commission, when there is in existence a land commission Board of Equalization perfectly able to do the same work, but who *cannot* be influenced."

The sharp practices of David Jacks from Crieff had at last caught up with him. For the first time since his arrival defeat was his porridge to eat.

A little band of dispossessed Mexicans and Indians who huddled together in a tumbled-down adobe, smiled when they were told, for now Jacks had five children, and they had put a curse on him that never would his seed of greed spread to another generation. He would have no grandchildren. So far the curse was holding! Perhaps the Christian God was working as well as the pagan god in the case of this Jacks, who gave money for colleges and great lenses to see the stars—Jacks had been giving away money that he gained from land he had taken from Mexicans and Indians along the Salinas.

The next day in court, Atacio Campos, a bronze native son of the Salinas, was acquitted for stealing a cow, even though a piece of Campos's lasso stayed on the animal's neck when her owner found her! *Intent* of the crime had failed to be established. Yes, the court was a thrilling place in Salinas City that year.

Just before Thanksgiving, a great sensation struck. A big blond "city" lawyer came and took a seat at the hearing of the report from trustees of the estate of Alberto Trescony, in regard to the minor children of Dr. Cristal.

When the report ended, this large, blond Mr. Mitchell got to his feet. Instead of one-third of Alberto Trescony's estate, the Cristal children should get the whole of it!

The demand of this man shocked everybody in the courtroom to silence, and then Mr. Mitchell told all present that the *Supreme Court* of the United States had decided in the Wakerly case *against* perpetuities, and, as all bequests in the Trescony estate *were* perpetuities *except* those of the Cristal children, the children should inherit the whole of Alberto Trescony's twenty thousand acres of land. In the will he left Alexander Rainey, stepson, and wife one thousand acres for life, the absolute ownership to fall to their children. The remainder of the estate was divided into three parts: 1. Julius Trescony and wife for life and then to their children. 2. Teresa H. Johnson in like manner, and the residue to go *directly* to the children of Dr. Cristal. Hence it was plain to see that the Cristal children were the only direct inheritors!

Hard-working Julius was startled as if a thunderclap had struck. Was this man Cristal, who had gone away from Rose to Ireland for years and then returned when he was ready, and produced a third child, to get all the land because of this legal technicality? SUPREME COURT! Final court of the land!

Another mortgage went onto San Lucas Rancho, and

the long and costly lawsuit to protect Alberto's other children and grandchildren was started in the courthouse at Salinas City.

The old tinsmith's carefully worded lawyer-proof will was torn to pieces by greed, and his land mortgaged to pay for the tearing. This on top of the dry year of 1894!

Madre de Dios, but the court was a busy place! On December 15th a novel suit was filed by lawyers on behalf of a minister of the gospel against David Jacks the Scotchman, who, in one of his religious moods agreed with the people of Palo Alto in the Santa Clara Valley, to donate one thousand dollars for a Presbyterian church there. The people, believing in his honesty, went ahead and built, then Jacks gave only five hundred dollars and now the minister of the poor little church was bringing suit for the remainder of the money.

There was money trouble for Benito Soberanes. Lawyers' fees to fight his brother, Abel, and the dry year had put a great debt on Benito's rancho that he could not hope to pay, and the bank held the mortgage.

Benito was frantic. To think he must lose the land now when everything was set to make real money on the rancho. Claus Spreckels, the German, had succeeded in improving the sugar-beet seed so it was drought-resistant and could stand the strong Salinas Valley winds. Spreckels, the rich immigrant who had factories in the East as well as the West, promised to build the largest sugar refinery in the world on Buena Vista Rancho that had once belonged to old Juan Malarin. But this clever German refused to lay so much as a brick for the factory until farmers owning at least twenty-five thousand acres of land had contracted to plant their land in beets and to continue that contract over a period of five years! Money would pour in with beets at five dollars a ton. Beets were heavy. The factory would consume thirty-six hundred tons of beets a day, and in a season's run, turn

out forty-five to sixty thousand tons of sugar. Spreckels and his sons had formed a company, and already had bought from the capitalist King thousands of acres of the old San Lorenzo that had once belonged to Benito's grandfather. They were even experimenting with an irrigation dam on the San Lorenzo where once the cattle of Feliciano Soberanes had roamed.

Spreckels were bringing in cheap labor too. Now, when the Chinese exclusion act cut off that source, the Japs were pouring into the valley to work in fields. Spreckels had a factory over the hill in the Pajaro Valley, so that on Jack's El Tucho land near Blanco the Chinese no longer needed for labor on the railroad were trying to head off the Japs and get work on beet contracts for the coming season in an effort to exist. The Japs had been paid a dollar seventy-five per ton for labor last year, but Chinese were so hard-hit they had brought down the price to from ninety cents to a dollar per ton. The editor of the *Owl*, that year of 1895, was writing editorials against the Japs and claimed they were like locusts swarming across the land and "God knows what will happen." But Japs were good workers and with the Chinese bidding against them for work a ranchero had a chance to make money. If only he, Benito Soberanes, could hold on to his inheritance of six hundred acres. Damn the bank where they made money so easy to borrow at twenty-four cents on the dollar and then took your land!

There *was* one way in which Benito could keep the land. Benito's wife was beautiful; the banker came to her and offered to wipe off the debt if she would be his mistress!

Doña Ada was proud and a descendant of the de la Guerras and W. E. P. Hartnell the trader. She refused.

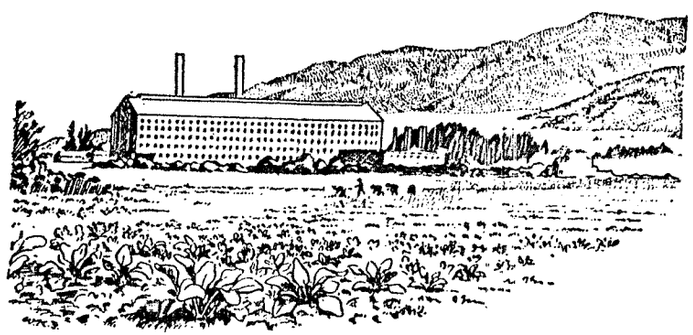
"Then I hope someday you'll see your husband, Benito Soberanes, carrying his blankets on his back!" the angered banker told her.

The proud Spanish head went up and flashing eyes

I

For God

A STRANGE procession of green and brown marched acre by acre up the Valley of the Salinas after Claus Spreckels built his $2,700,000 sugar factory on Buena Vista Rancho in 1897. He kept his promise to farmers. It *was* the largest refinery in the world, with all the latest equipment and acres of floor space that shot six stories up into the air.



SPRECKELS SUGAR MILL

Squat brown Japs with slant eyes labored to turn barley fields into rows of green beets, where once cattle of Estradas, Malarins, and Soberances had cropped pasture. Few families

of the original grantees were left now, and tenant farmers often made as high as forty thousand dollars a year on shares on seven thousand acres! The old was gone forever, and these new people were beginning even to conquer the semi-arid land to the south of Salinas City, with dams and irrigation ditches.

There was little chance of watering the rolling hills of old Alberto Trescony's San Lucas Ranch far to the south, but in spite of drought and lawsuits over the old tinsmith's will irrigation prospered Julius Trescony and his brothers and sisters.

The cutting down of barley acreage made less competition for barley in the market, and Julius had learned through hard knocks how to manage dry farming by plowing at the right time to keep the moisture near the surface. And then Fortune smiled on this man who struggled valiantly against drought and lawyers' fees. San Lucas land was different! Barley raised there was a special type of hard barley that brewers in England clamored for. Trescony's barley from the Salinas was soon listed specially on the National Grain Market. It brought a premium and was shipped by the carload to London!

There was other news in the Trescony clan too, bad news from New York, where Rose's son, Leo Cristal, was a matinee idol on Broadway, charming the hearts of women in *The Parish Priest*. And there was the trouble. Leo was as generous as a child, a free spender of money that came from the San Lucas. He had married Margo, an artist's model, and had a child by her. Margo grew tired of Leo after a few months and went to court, which wrecked things at San Lucas, for Leo had to settle twenty thousand dollars on his daughter. It would take a good many carloads of Trescony barley to pay that off. The old tinsmith had erred in his will by one word, that precious twelve-letter word that meant success or hardship—"unencumbered"! Any of the legatees could borrow on his interest in the land, and *all* must suffer.

Charlie Romie, brother-in-law to David Jacks the moneylender, had started as a vaquero, but now he had taken over from the bank land of Mission Soledad lost by Benito Soberanes. There was great excitement in Salinas City. Charlie Romie had sold his six hundred acres to the Salvation Army!

"God's poor" were to be sent down from city slums to labor in the mission fields of Our Lady of Solitude where padres and Indians had sweated. These new folk were to use even the irrigation ditches surveyed and built by the missionary padres on the good rich land.

The "city people" were asked nothing but to work on the land for themselves until they had paid it off and could own it. Seed sheds and tools and equipment were provided by the Salvation Army Colony for all to use, and the "Army" built two-room shacks on the land before they arrived. Each plot was ten acres and sold for a hundred dollars an acre complete with shack.

At "Fort Romie" the stage was all set for the perfect proof of brotherly love and mutual prosperity, as one helped the other to gather God's bounty from the land.

In a big tent all could refresh their souls in prayer and song after the day's work was done.

But some Fort Romie people ran more to song and prayers than to work. "They planted things and set there expectin' God to do the rest! Some didn't even know what a cow was like or how to manage a hog that the 'Army' had presented to them. Besides, there wasn't no streets with shop windows to look at, and the 'Army' folks in charge kept tellin' you about thinkin' of the morrow and not usin' everythin' up as you went along. Why, that was all the excitement poor folks got out of life, a-wonderin' what was comin' in to eat the next day when you'd et everythin' up."

The majority of colonists were grateful and worked

6

Fame

WHILE THE Salinas was bringing disappointment and disillusionment to the strugglers at Atascadero, just a few miles to the north downriver at Paso Robles (pass of oaks) Ignace Paderewski, up to his neck in the warm comfort of mud, was bringing fame to the Salinas.

A few days before, the Polish pianist had arrived in San Francisco suffering frightfully at the hands of his old enemy neuritis. Concerts were canceled. The Steinway man went for a doctor, but before the doctor arrived an old friend of Paderewski's came to see him, Sir Henry Heymann, the musician.

"There is no use calling a doctor," Sir Henry told the pianist, "because a doctor cannot cure you immediately and that's what you want. But there *is* something else for you to do. You must go to Paso Robles and take the mud baths there, for your arm. They are magical—so many of my friends have been cured, and I am also enjoying the treatment myself because I, too, have neuritis badly. It is almost infallible, that treatment at Paso Robles."

And so it was that a mudhole on the Salinas, which long ago padres had discovered when they saw a bear wallowing, drew the suffering Pole into its warm brown comfort and cured him as no European spa had been able to do!

"The cure was miraculous," Paderewski says in his

memoirs. "After three weeks of treatment I continued my tour and finished it in comfort."

The Salinas had wooed and won the eternal gratitude of the famous musician-statesman with her mud. Before he left he had purchased a great rancho of his own, not far away. He sent to his estate in Switzerland for one of his countrymen to come and run the new rancho. He developed his lands and planted hundreds of acres of almonds and prunes, and a vineyard which was a great success, because the Swiss-Italian colonists near-by bought the grapes to make their own wine. San Ignacio, the dream ranch of Ignace Paderewski the Pole, was a reality in the Salinas.

There were great doings, too, in the county seat, where folks were making ready to welcome a home-town boy. Frank Bacon, the photographer turned actor years before, was returning famous at seventy. The play Frank had written long ago in his little studio between "sitters" was called *Lightin'* and had been running for years in the east. "Play-acting" paid!

Frank hadn't changed with fame or the passing of years. He was a bit upset that now the place was called only Salinas, instead of Salinas City, but he enjoyed seeing old friends who once shrugged shoulders and tapped foreheads when they talked about him. He liked the good meal they got up for him, and he made a speech.

"When you find out what you want to do, go do it. I pretty nearly didn't, and I wouldn't be getting a good feed and all this 'home town boy makes good' stuff now. If *you* go early enough you can have more chicken dinners with canned peas and mashed potatoes given for *you*."

Leo Cristal, that other matinee idol, was back in the valley too, but fame had forgotten him, a "down and outer," still delightful and generous. He had borrowed on his interest of the land at San Lucas until there was no more, no granddad now to fall back on.

In his frayed and ragged rodeo shirt with the Tularcitos Rancho brand embroidered on it, he came to see the new baby born to his cousin Julius Trescony II, who now lived in old Alberto's adobe. He brought the young mother a box of candy purchased with borrowed money. He was gay and made her laugh, this gentle, generous don. He was waiting for a new part. A *grand* new part that would bring him fame.

But the grandson of old Alberto Trescony, the tinsmith, was never again to hear the shouts and clapping of an audience. Just as the fine new part materialized, Leo heard of another actor down and out, and ill, in a boardinghouse in San Francisco, and went to see him. The day was wet, and Leo, rain-soaked, took pneumonia. When he breathed his last, the man who ran the little Basque hotel in San Francisco was sad, not because Leo owed him two hundred dollars, but because he had lost a friend. "If he had owed me twice as much, I would still love him!"

Future fame for the fertile valley was walking around the streets of Salinas in the form of a gangling high-school boy who dreamed dreams of being a writer; a boy with the soul of a perfectionist in the matter of words, and an insatiable curiosity about his fellow men and the workings of their minds, hands, and hearts.

There were plenty of hard struggles ahead for this Salinas-born son of the county treasurer, this apostle of the "blood, guts, and bastard" school of novelists, but eventually young John Steinbeck was to shake the whole of America with his crusading *Grapes of Wrath.*

Far away in New York fame smiled on a boy from the mouth of the Salinas. Carlos Vierra, the hard-working nephew of the Portuguese Polsena and Roleno de la Vierra, was hailed by art critics of the effete East, as "a master painter of his time."

While Salinas folk swelled with pride over their own

who had gained recognition, a man famed in another way was dreaming of his empire to come, and quietly buying up land in San Antonio Valley near Jolon, which was to be the nucleus of that empire. This man had great power and influence. He could do much to bring on war or to affect the peace of nations, through his daily columns in black and white. One day he would control whole communities in the Salinas and her tributaries, and build a castle. William Randolph Hearst now owned land where padres and Indians had built ditches and labored in the fields and chanted their Canticle to the Dawn.

At Los Coches, the deeds of that famous land baron David Jacks were living after him. The Jacks Corporation had a buyer for Los Coches, that Jacks had bought at a sheriff's sale fifty years before, but the title was not clear.

The Jacks Corporation informed the heirs of Josefa Richardson that they still had an interest in the land, and that the Jacks Corporation was willing and ready to enter into negotiations with them to acquire deeds from them.

The offer of ten thousand dollars was made and grabbed up eagerly by the heirs of old Josefa. Each received twenty-five hundred dollars from the Jacks Corporation on a compromise pending the negotiation for the delivery of the deeds by the Richardsons to the Jacks.

Then it developed that there were minor children involved! Negotiations were suspended, and steps taken to have a guardian appointed to represent the minors' interest. But the guardianship was made in San Francisco at the suggestion of the Jacks Corporation and *paid for by them.* As far as it is known, no appraisers were appointed by any court to appraise the minors' interest, but nothing was done by the Richardsons who took their money and were thankful, for even if things were wrong they had no money to fight a great and powerful corporation. They didn't even look into the matter of *why* the Jacks Corporation was will-

and their sons, who owned it now, fight new people who had come to harvest crops!

The newspaper *American Citizen* of San Francisco on September 26, 1936, was full of the lettuce strike that had gone on now for four weeks while lettuce rotted or went to seed in the fields. It talked of the terrible riots and bloodshed over the "closed shop" which was just used as an excuse to put growers on the spot. The skeleton of "preferential hiring" was rattled. The *American Citizen* claimed that an ex-convict Red was the chief Salinas agitator.

The strike went on and rioting grew worse day by day.

Then the people of Salinas were warned of a Communist advance heading toward town. The way they intended to come was all marked out. Those who warned brought red flags they had found, to prove their point! Airplanes were sent to reconnoiter, and ranchers got ready to defend their property against Communists!

Soon, angry red-faced Highway Department men roared into Salinas. They cursed all over the place. "What blankety-blank fool had taken all the red danger signals that they had put up along the road where they intended to work?"

Finally growers and laborers came to agreement. Another wave of bloodshed had washed over Salinas soil and passed into history. But in a short time young men from all over America were to come to the Salinas and prepare themselves to shed blood all over the world.

4

Rumors of War

THE WAR in Europe was creeping ever closer to the Salinas. Government men swarmed into the valley to buy up thousands of acres to be used for the training of troops. The even climate made an ideal training ground.

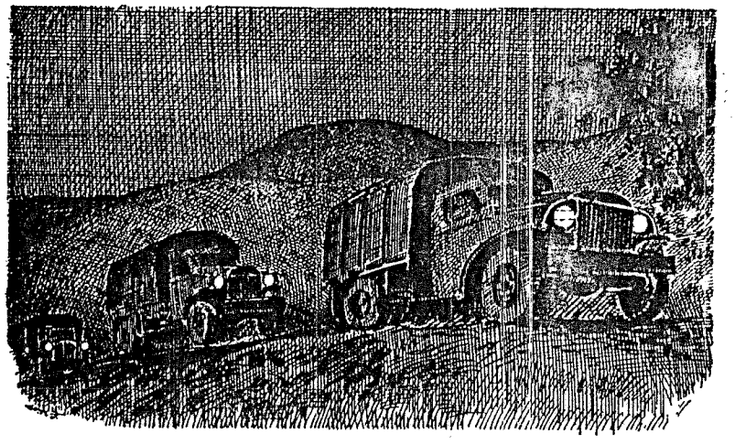
Great Fort Ord was started near the sea, on part of the land owned by the grandchildren of Esteban Munras, and by Bardins, and the Jacks Corporation; a flying school at King City on the land of Feliciano Soberanes' San Lorenzo. William Randolph Hearst had to let go a hundred fifty thousand acres of his empire in Jolon Valley for Camp Hunter Liggett, named after Lieutenant General Hunter Liggett who had the distinction of leading the greatest number of tactical fighting men ever to be assembled in the history of the world, during the Meuse-Argonne offensive. Barracks went up on low hills overlooking the peaceful ruined Mission San Antonio where Junípero Serra had first raised the cross. Military roads pushed through wild hills where padres had traveled grizzly-infested trails. Milpitas, Los Ojitos, and El Piojo ranchos all went to war! Deer and quail were startled by rifle practice and thundering trucks, and magpies scolded in vain over the state of affairs.

Between Old Estrada's Atascadero land and the mud springs of Paso Robles, building started on Camp Roberts. A flying field for army pilots was made at San Lucas in the

barley fields once so beloved by old Alberto Trescony the tinsmith!

Little brown men with slant eyes worked on in the lettuce and beets, and watched guns and tanks and heavy machinery roar by on rail and on the roads. They saw sons of Danes and Swiss, and Portuguese and Italians, leave the farms for military camps.

The whole Salinas Valley was soon flooded. This time with young men in khaki who had come from all over America to learn in the Salinas how to kill other men.



PART XIV

Trucks in the Silent Night

THE DAY was clear and hills were golden. Cars filled with laughing girls and soldiers on leave sped along the valley. Lettuce fields were bathed in Sabbath quiet, and in farmhouses men rested weary muscles in preparation for the week to come, while they read comic sheets or listened to the radio. Women "washed up" after the Sunday dinner.

Soldiers with girls on their arms jostled one another on crowded streets of towns, and movie ticket-takers prepared for the afternoon rush. High-school boys in Sunday best kidded on street corners.

Then in cafés, farmhouses, cocktail bars, hotels, and camps, news blared from thousands of radios:

"The Japs! Pearl Harbor bombed!"

There was a sudden hush as men gasped with horror; then came activity such as the valley had never known before.

Streets were suddenly emptied. Soldiers headed for camps, and farmers and businessmen rushed with guns to stand guard over electric plants and telephone exchanges and water supplies, lest the little slant-eyed men who had worked in their fields destroy them. Frightened Okies turned tail on bean field and lettuce patch, packed jallopies with children and possessions, and headed east.

By sunset, officers had found guns and a Japanese lieutenant's uniform in the house of a Jap who had been "so kind and thoughtful and always remembered birthdays of American children."

Dusk came, but no lights twinkled in the Salinas that night of December 7th.

Then in the dark, army trucks began to roll along the valley past the great silent sugar factory, the beet fields, and lettuce and beans. All night they passed, shaking the very earth as they rumbled by San Miguel where Franciscans prayed at the altar just under Esteban Munras's All-Seeing Eye.

On they traveled, past the healing mud of Paso Robles and the scraggly orchards of Atascadero, past Santa Margarita where once padres had stored grain in case of famine.

Up the mountain from a darkened silent Salinas Valley they went, these trucks loaded with grandsons and great-grandsons of those the valley had prospered: Spaniards, Mexicans, Peruvians, Basques, English, Scotch, Danes, Swiss and Portuguese—Americans all—riding through the night with other boys from other valleys all over America, on almost the very trail once trod by padres; out of the valley, to fight for their right to till the soil of the Salinas.

Rains came and washed away their footprints.

"The river's up!"

Acknowledgments

WITHOUT the hands and hearts and heads of a great many people, this book could not have been written. Special gratitude is due to members of old Spanish California and early American families along the Salinas who gave freely of their time, and the opportunity to examine old documents and manuscripts. To them the writer owes the loan of old family portraits which were copied in pen and ink.

Without the patience and hard work of Miss Thorne in the Monterey County Clerk's office, and her great help in copying legal documents and records there would be sad lapses in the continuity. Special thanks, too, should be given Miss Ellen Frink of the Monterey County Free Library for her help in tracking down old books and newspaper files; to Mrs. Bertha Hellum and her library staff in Monterey, and the staff of the Pacific Grove Public Library, as well as Miss Mabel Gillis of the California State Library. There is deep appreciation in the heart of this writer to Miss Alice Griffin of San Lucas who helped to clear up many difficulties and who so generously allowed the reproduction of her famous collection of old cattle brands, and to Lady Maria Antonia Field for the quaint old map of San Vicente Rancho.

Mr. Vivian of the King City *Rustler* and his staff were most helpful as was the Franciscan, Father Thaddeus of Mission San Miguel, and Mrs. Mary Green, custodian of Monterey Customs House Museum.

No effort was made to include all the people of the Salinas Valley who helped to make its history. In such a

Received 6/6/85

ALMADÉN VINEYARDS

May 29, 1985

Mr. Richard A. Mascolo
Chief, Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
FAA Wine & Beer Branch
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Mr. Mascolo:

This is in reply to your letters of 30 October 1984 and 09 April 1985 pertaining to your request for more information regarding Almaden Vineyards petition for a SAN LUCAS appellation.

The SAN LUCAS land grant came into being in 1842 and was awarded to Rafael Estrada as recorded in Historic Spots in California, Third Edition, pp. 230, by Brooke, Hoover, and Rensch, Stanford University Press, official copyright 1966. Therefore, this land grant is a historical entity and the vineyards are within the land grand boundaries. The famed San Lucas horse also helped spread the fame of the area prior to World War II.

We have extended the boundaries in order to encompass the vineyards presently in that area that have similar climactic conditions and identical topography. We have also attempted to include any area where grapes could be planted in the future, as suggested by other wineries in SAN LUCAS, and that would produce wines having similar qualities. The actual town of San Lucas is also included within the boundaries.

We have attached copies of various news releases naming the San Lucas vineyards and also an article from a magazine distributed in the United Kingdom. Also attached is a government approval of a Pinot St. George naming the origin of the grapes as being from San Lucas.

Compared to some winegrowing regions, SAN LUCAS is a relative newcomer, although a very vital one. It provides grapes with distinctive varietal qualities, thus creating rounder, fuller-bodied wines.

We trust this information will be of some assistance in establishing SAN LUCAS as a viticultural appellation.

Yours very truly,

Beverly J. Oaks

Beverly J. Oaks
Wine Inventory Coordinator

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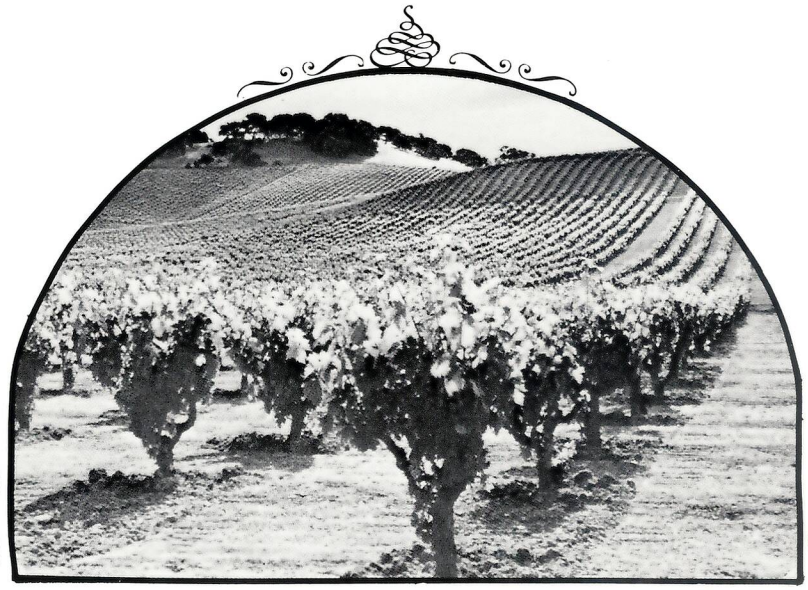
JUN 06 1985
PJ

1530 BLOSSOM HILL ROAD / SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95118 / (408) 269-1312



The Romance of Almadén Vineyards

1849 was a year long to be remembered in California. Lured by the glittering promise of gold, thousands and thousands of young and old poured into the state, determined to become wealthy overnight. Among the masses were two Frenchmen. One had the interesting name of Etienne Thee. The other one was known as Charles LeFranc. They, like all the rest, headed for the gold fields and if they had indeed "struck it rich" no one would have heard of them today. Instead they found "liquid gold" on the beautiful rolling hillsides of Santa Clara County. It was here that they established a vineyard in the year 1852 and their names were destined to play an important part of the history of California's wine industry —one of the greatest in the world.

Today, in 1973, **Almadén's** historic winery at Los Gatos is the hub of the company's production facilities in Santa Clara, San Benito, Alameda and Monterey Counties. It is here at Los Gatos that **Almadén's** fine wines, champagnes, sherries, ports and vermouths are given their finished aging and then bottled for the enjoyment of the American consumer.

Today the vineyards of fine varietal wine grapes planted at the Los Gatos winery more than a century ago have given way to progress, with new tract homes built on former **Almadén** property. Only winery facilities with their age-old processes for the aging of **Almadén** quality varietal wines remain, together with a few acres of vines and the ranch home that was built before the winery was established.

In the stead of its acreage at Los Gatos, **Almadén** has established new and greater vineyards at Paicines and Cienega in San Benito County, at King City and San Lucas in Monterey County, and Pleasanton in Alameda County.

In each instance, the **Almadén** acreage has been selected for their small yield per acre, with **quality** rather than tonnage the main consideration, and with the best possible premium table wine as the major end in view.

In June, 1967, **Almadén** vineyards became a subsidiary of National Distillers and Chemical Corporation. Today, **Almadén's** reputation as one of the country's leading producers of fine California varietal wines and champagnes is acknowledged world wide.

High up in the Gavilan Mountains of San Benito County are **Almadén's** great Paicines vineyards. Here is the largest single planting of fine varietal wine grapes anywhere in the world. This planting stretches as far

San Mateo, CA
(San Mateo Co.)
Times
(Cir. 6xW. 43,322)
JAN 15 1980

THE WINE CONNOISSEUR

Charts prove inconclusive

ROBERT LAWRENCE BALZER

Vintage Wine Merchants of San Francisco, a distributor of fine California wines, recently addressed itself to the production of "an accurate and complete" vintage chart for California wines. They sought the assistance of winery consultants, enologists, winemakers, enology professors and wine journalists.

Responses were "averaged" and a chart covering red and white varietal wines of Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino counties for the decade from '68 to '78 were ranked on the Davis 20-point scale. What about the other regions — Alameda's famed Livermore Valley, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey and Santa Barbara counties, all premium wine-growing regions?

Vintage charts, like recipes, are no guarantee of the quality to be encountered in the end product. Too many variables are involved. Crop loads of vines, grape selection, harvesting times and techniques, winery equipment, plus varying technological skills can make a poor wine from one winery and a great wine from a neighboring estate.

It's as true in France as it is in California. Weather conditions are so capricious and dramatically different in all the wine regions of France, that vintage charts can be only primary guides to good and bad years.

We have witnessed, in the 70s, where there's been a run of good years — '75, '76 and '78 — but one must zero in on specific regions. Bordeaux '75 was truly one of the "vintages of the century" and for Burgundy a disaster. Wise buyers of these expensive wines always do well to rely upon the advice of a fine wine merchant.

No vintage chart will ever be able to cover the five main regions of California's 327,133 acres of wine grapes. Vintage Wine Merchants, in the release accompanying their "California Vintage Chart," fashionably agree with the old adage "that every year is a vintage year in California" but they were surprised at the consistency of quality in white wine ratings. 'It would be a rare year indeed that California could not produce white wines of at least 'fine' quality." Every year is a vintage year!

Peter Mirassou, one of the state's finest viticulturists, reports that the '79 harvest in Monterey County was a little warmer this year, good for both their red and white varietals, leading to the prophecy of less acid, lighter and more elegant wines.

True wine buffs, deeply into the climate effects upon varietal intensity, have been frequently misled into the belief that the exceptionally cool climate of Monterey County is responsible for an irreversible "vegetable" taste in the wines produced. Rubbish!

In the last few months, after some concentrated tastings of Monterey County wines, from the very heart of that area which once did produce wines with bell pepper, eucalyptus, cabbage and minty flavors, and white wines of odors not unlike armpits on hot summer days, only one winery persists in the production of wines with this regional identity.

Other wineries proudly showed off their Monterey County varietal wines at an annual meeting of the Monterey Winegrowers Council. There were treasures, both red and white, from several vintages, none of which could be called a dud.

All of us wine lovers love a bargain, and in the field of lovely varietals at this moment is a new one from the cellars of Ernest & Julio Gallo called "Gewurztraminer of California" ($3.19). I'd wager it's composed of mostly Monterey County grapes. It's 100 percent Gewurztraminer, fresh, clean, refreshing wine.

Two Chardonnays from Monterey County underscore our thesis on the growing importance of this splendid region: 1978 Ventana Chardonnay and 1978 Jekel Vineyards Chardonnay — both superb, well-balanced wines marrying oak and the grape magnificently. Don't hesitate to buy either or both by the case; the wines will age to a silky smoothness and more round bouquet with a couple of years in cool storage.

The Almaden 1977 Monterey Cabernet Sauvignon ($4.50) produced from vineyards in the King City and San Lucas areas is one of the easily available measures of the region's ability to produce a true claret of the grape's intrinsic charms with no regional slant. Twenty-five thousand cases were produced. It scored first among the '77s in the Los Angeles Times Home Magazine Cabernet Sauvignon Tasting last July.

Only 500 cases of the Monterey Peninsula Winery 1977 Cabernet Sauvignon Arroyo Seco Vineyard were produced, making this deeper, darker Cabernet more difficult to find. At $8.50 it's a wine to store away for a few years. Winemaker Dr. Roy Thomas says: "We make wine as an art form — not by the book." Aged in Wisconsin oak, it will age beautifully in bottle, in your cellar. Pleasant now, it will become profound after a few years.

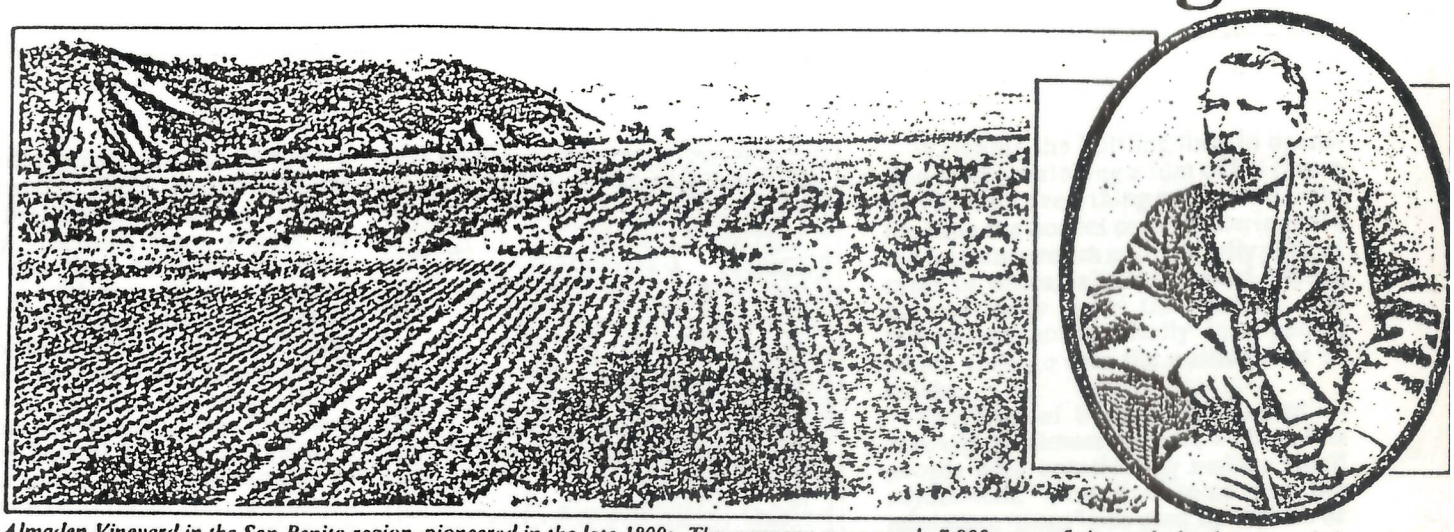
Don't trouble your mind with the abracadabra of dates and places in a California vintage chart. Just learn, as Herman Wente said, the names of the good wineries. Some are large and some are small. Size is not the measure of quality in wine production today.

Vintage dates in California are only important as age indicators. Bottling dates? We'll lobby hard for that one, and hope more wineries will decode that information on nonvintage wines for those of us who cellar these wines.

From the U.K.

H. Snyder

California's third and rising star



Almaden Vineyard in the San Benito region, pioneered in the late 1800s. The company owns nearly 7,000 acres of vineyards, but has control altogether of almost 19,000. Inset: Almaden's founder, Charles Lefranc, who came from Bordeaux in 1852, equipped with vine cuttings from Europe

Julius Jacobs analyses the success of Almaden Vineyards past and present, and looks at prospects in years and places to come

STANDING WITHIN reach of the top rung of the ladder, Almaden Vineyards of California is consolidating its position in the US marketplace. Almaden is now a solid third in the American wine hierarchy and, with 12 million case sales in the past year, is stepping up efforts both at home and abroad.

The Los Gatos-based winery giant, endowed with competent leadership, is a subsidiary of National Distillers Corp, but it is also a smoothly integrated, well-run operation with four strategic locations and long-ranging market plans to consolidate and expand its consumer markets. One of the current endeavours is the expansion of its wine sales to the United Kingdom and to Western Europe. Among the rewards that have already accrued is a striking gain in wine sales to West Germany within the past year. And in England, the market is also opening up, according to Robin Gold, director for Europe of Almaden Vineyards and Almaden Imports. Gold, located in Rutland Gardens, London, is optimistic about prospects for foreign sales of Almaden products. On a recent trip to the home base, Gold expressed hopes for continuing breakthroughs in what until recently has been a tough market.

But back to Almaden itself, a winery founded by Frenchman Charles Lefranc in 1852: this pioneering wine grower imported *vitis vinifera* cuttings from Europe, replaced the old Spanish mission grapes planted by fellow-countryman Etienne Thée in the fertile Santa Clara Valley, risking his reputation and pocketbook on a gamble they would take hold in foreign soil.

Bright marriage

The gamble paid off, though the first crop of grapes was not even pressed for wine but used as fresh table grapes. Lefranc was a bright grapegrower and equally bright in his matrimonial choice — he married Thée's daughter, and by 1880 had inherited some 130 acres of farmland and vineyards. The cuttings imported from the Bordeaux, Burgundy, the Rhône and Champagne regions of France flourished, and by 1890, Lefranc was producing around 100,000 gallons of wine a year. In 1876, the American Centennial, a huge 3,500 gallon cask holding 3,477 gallons of Almaden wine was transported to Philadelphia for exhibition at the Centennial celebration. Four years ago, during the second or Bicentennial observance, the same old cask was meticulously knocked down again and shipped back to Philadelphia.

The remarkable growth of Almaden in its modern era dates back to a rejuvenation of the winery by the late Louis Benoist, a Naval Academy graduate, football hero and capitalist, in 1941. Benoist teamed up with a great American authority, Frank Schoonmaker, to revitalise the old winery. There remained a famous name, a legacy of good wines, and the brilliant foresight of Schoonmaker, who for years was considered basically an authority on European wines. It was the wine merchant-shipper-writer who is said to have originated the now traditional Almaden label and who also urged Benoist to push ahead with a California Rosé wine. The product took hold. The winery was on its way up and was particularly fortunate and prescient in establishing new vineyards in the Gavilan Mountain foothills of San Benito County, and more recently in Monterey County.

The second and major phase in Almaden's modern history occurred when the Almaden properties, rich in vineyards, wine equipment and inventory but under-capitalized, was acquired by National Distillers. The pace quickened, the winery expansion was rapid, and within a short period, Almaden was facing tremendous wine opportunities at a time of enormously increased consumer interest in wines.

Giants

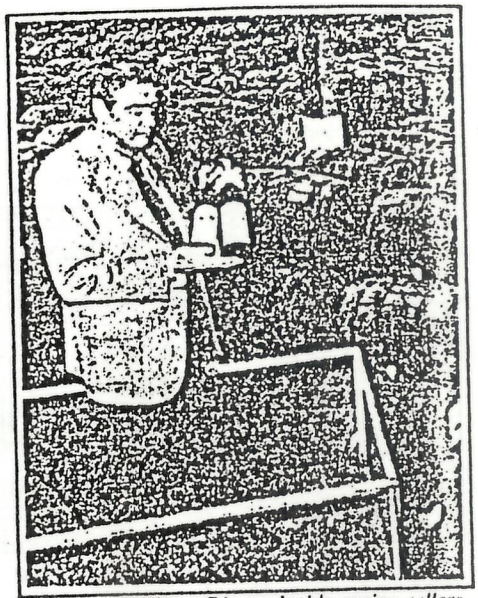
Almaden's policies are guided by two remarkable men — a chairman of the

board and a president. The two work hand-in-hand. Their leadership has brought the Santa Clara-San Benito-Monterey vineyards from a pace far back of the field to near the lead. William A Dieppe, chief executive officer as well as chairman, is a grizzled veteran of the wine world with 40 plus years of experience and a canny knowledge of what wholesalers, retailers and the consumer are looking for. President John McClelland is a gentle giant, a man who looks as if he is capable of loading a box-car full of vintage wine on his own. Another key man in a triad is a transplanted Swiss, Markus Friedlin, who travels the country incessantly boosting sales.

McClelland's most recent glow of pleasure has to do with Almaden's inclusion in the Guinness world record book. This is because the winery has the largest wine cellar in the world under one roof. At its Cienega Winery in the coastal region and, also on the famed San Andreas earthquake fault, there are 37,299 50-gallon oak barrels in one enormous four-acre area. Each month, two special crews of workers have to go into the mammoth cellar (which incidentally is above ground) and 'top the barrels'. This means a time-consuming task of replacing in each 50-gallon container enough wine to replace that lost by evaporation, so that no air will intrude into the ageing barrels.

The once tiny vineyard acreage has become a full-scale giant, too, divided almost equally between red and white wine varieties. The total extent of the vineyards encompasses 6,700 acres in four counties. More than half is at one location, Paicines, with its 3,789 acres. Cienega has another 519 acres. Monterey County ranks second with 2,104 acres, mainly in the San Lucas region (1,200) and the balance is at King City, 811 acres. Rounding out this vineyard empire are Alameda County with 257 acres and Santa Clara, the original tract, with a mere 19.4 acres left in this enormously fertile county, which has been taken over by homes, supermarkets and paved automobile parking lots.

An almost astonishing variety of grapevines abounds in the four county area. All the traditional varieties of France are planted in substantial plots, plus such grapes used in dessert and appetizer wines as Palomino, Tinta Madeira; the hybrid Ruby Cabernet, and even such a varietal as 'Cabernet Pfeffer', and 12 acres of experimental



Chairman William Dieppe inside ageing cellars which hold 37,299 50-gallon oak barrels . . . of 'Guinness Book of Records' fame as the largest cellar under one roof

finest of the white grape varieties. Chardonnay, is in Paicines. There are 942 acres in this one variety; combined with King City and San Lucas, total Chardonnay is in excess of 1,000 acres. Almaden also owns 1,030 acres of Cabernet Sauvignon and more than 700 acres of Pinot Noir. The remaining 4,500 acres include Chenin blanc, Sauvignon blanc, Semillon, Riesling, Napa Gamay, Merlot, Pinot St George, Gamay Beaujolais, Grenache, more than 360 acres of the unique California variety, Zinfandel, and a host of others. The vineyards vary in height from 370 feet at San José, to 1,175 at the Cienega winery in the Gavilan foothills. Climate variation is from cool to fairly warm in the King City region of Monterey County, but all refreshed by evening breezes. This is one reason why the difficult-to-cultivate Pinot Noir manages to do well for the Almaden winemakers.

Bottling of the future

Almaden's production statistics are equally impressive, with a crushing capacity of 3,300 tons daily and bottling capacity of almost 42,000 cases a day coming off the seven bottling lines. The various installations can age 2,140,000 cases of still wines, and the 'champagne' ageing capacity is 6.4 million bottles. Almaden is one of the largest sparkling wine producers in America. In addition to its crush, bottling and ageing capacity, it has bulk wine storage of 40

Watching the bottling lines in operation is like watching a film of the future — virtually everything automated from the time the bottles come clattering into the immense room until the fully packed cases of wines, labelled, corked, placed automatically into the cartons, lift themselves automatically into pallets which then go into the waiting fleet of trucks.

The lines of bottles are watched — casually, it almost appears — by a few people who occasionally make a small adjustment. One line spins out the miniature 'pony' size used by airlines or for individual consumption. Another line bottles three- and four-litre containers, still another, the fastest line of all, the 1.5 litre, which can actually bottle 180 containers in a minute. From the time the empties come into the bottling room until they are loaded on trucks to leave the winery, exactly seven minutes have elapsed. In a bottling line 20 years ago, it might take the better part of a week or longer to do the work done by a single shift at Almaden.

'Generous wines'

In the overall American wine picture, the future of Almaden appears bright. Demands for wine are constantly changing. White wine is tops at present, but even in this category, there is a growing appreciation of the late harvest styles — the botrytised wines which in Germany bear the names *Auslese, Beerenauslese.* Almaden has entered this competition also, with a vintage 1976 Charles Lefranc late harvest Johannisberg Riesling from San Benito County. It has been well received. The red varieties continue to do well and the winery is especially proud of the Pinot St George, also a Lefranc top-of-the-line 1976 edition, with a new variation still ageing in oak.

Chairman Dieppe has some very strong things to say about the role of wine in the marketplace, as quoted in a recent newsletter of wine marketing, *The Wine Trade:*

'Look, wine is not like art, although some people pretend otherwise. And wine is not an investment, at least in the traditional sense of the word. All wines — from the humblest *ordinaires* to the most costly *Trockenbeerenauslese* — are meant to be enjoyed, consumed. And there is a place and a time for each, and for people to enjoy them for what they are.'

Almaden's push into other countries began several years ago. As McClelland

continued from page 31

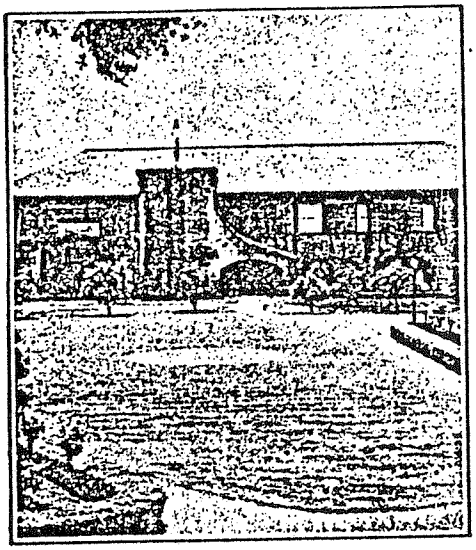
explains: 'We have progressed very well in West Germany since a large-scale exposure in the magazine *Stern*, and now we are doing very well in a number of other countries. In Germany, the distributor (doing an excellent job for us) is Eggers & Franke. Distribution is largely among the fine restaurants, hotels, and selected retail outlets. England is coming along. Our sales are predominantly in the red wine varieties and the rosés are also doing well. This is particularly true in Canada, which is our largest market and is almost like an extra state for us.'

Labelled 'produce of USA', Almaden exports are going into France, Italy, the Netherlands, the UK, Denmark, soon into Belgium, and altogether into 40 countries. This still represents a small percentage indeed of Almaden's total sales — perhaps just over 100,000 cases — but to make a comparison, that was about the output of this well-established winery a century ago. McClelland also said, 'We've recommended the usage of "generous wines" in export markets.' By this he means the 1.5 litre sizes or what have come to be known in the US as jug wines. Export director Robin Gold assists in selecting wines for English and other Western Europe markets, also appoints distributors, and has a hand in the imports of wines by Almaden into the United States, for which there is also a considerable traffic.

Lefranc thrust

One of the major thrusts in the past year has been the introduction of the Lefranc line of varietal wines. McClelland explains, 'We're positioned in the third place among US wineries and we feel sufficiently diversified to remain competitive in the upper ranks of wineries. At the same time, we are also successful in branching out with the Lefranc wines to appeal to a broader base of the consumer public.'

The highest priced item in the Almaden line is probably the Chardonnay Nature, described as a sparkling wine, 1976 cuvée, made without dosage, and selling in the $8-$9 range. The most popular of the 'champagnes' is a Blanc de Blancs, and another new variety is a sparkler with the name of 'Eye of the Partridge', made from grapes of the Pinot varieties and with a 'bronze-pink' hue. Almaden also has a secondary line of sparkling wines under the Le Domaine label, a popular middle price range of approximately $3.50



The Almaden Corporate Headquarters were dedicated in 1978, when Almaden was on its way towards its 125th year of wine-making

the line, Almaden sells, and in great volume, the jug sized wines and more recently, the 'Bag-in-the-Box' at the lower end. This is the soft pack with the plasticised liner which collapses as the wine is withdrawn and allows no air to enter. It is becoming popular both in Australia and the US, and is in use in restaurants as well as in consumers' homes. Almaden has introduced this one gallon seven ounce package throughout the US with the exception of California, where it will make its debut shortly. It is in the $6 to $7 price range.

Every varietal

'We now make just about every varietal,' explains McClelland, 'and have vintaged French Colombard, Chenin Blanc, Gamay Rosé and Zinfandel in both the 1.5 litre and three-litre packets, and all of them have done well.'

The great increase in Almaden Vineyards as a leading force in the American market has taken place within the past 20 years. It was in the first year of 1970 that this winery first produced 2,000,000 cases, and in 1980, the increase has been sixfold. Almaden is going over to appellation of origin and vintage dating on all its varietals. 'This,' states McClelland, 'is a unique step for someone as large as ourselves. We're also going into a litre and a half "classic" bottle shape.' These wines will include Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay from San Benito, Monterey 'Burgundy' and 'Chablis' and a Maison Rouge and

Winemaster for all Almaden wines is Klaus Mathes, product of a German wine background, and his assistant is George Delaye. There are winemakers in the Almaden wineries at Cienega, MacFarland, and Paicines as well. Almaden also produces brandy.

Asked recently by *The Wine Trade* marketing periodical whether he believed that California wines had gained prestige by the high prices that some of the 'estate' or 'boutique' wineries have asked and received for their wines, Chairman Bill Dieppe responded, 'No. Just the opposite is the case. In the long run, says the veteran wine leader, former chairman of the board of California's trade association, Wine Institute, 'the future of a wine-producing region will be determined by its reputation for high quality wines at reasonable prices.'

Brazilian scope

Some idea of the scope and importance of Almaden Vineyards is the fact that Dieppe and other officials fly quite often to Brazil. Why? Because the organisation owns 'substantial' vineyards in that South American country and will be in production by 1981, if the crop holds up. Vines were planted four or five years ago. Plans are to distribute these wines made at the Brazilian winery property throughout that country only. The project was initiated 'because Brazil is a large wine consuming country'. This pragmatic approach is an example of the philosophy that prevails in all Almaden's operations at home or abroad.

*NOTE: The 'Cabernet Pfeffer' is named after its apparent 'discoverer', a grower named W Pfeffer. In *Hilgardia*, Prof Amerine and Prof Winkler described it, saying its antecedent in Europe is not definitely established. First plantings date back to 1908 and propagation later in 1914, at the Cienega winery by Prof Bioletti of the University of California. Pfeffer is used in blending generic Almaden wines. It comes from three to four acres of vineyard, producing two and half to three tons per acre. The grape is described as vigorous, the berries short, small and oval, ripening late. The wine produced is a red 'Claret' in the French style, with some peppery, cabernet nose. It is a conversation piece, and some day, Winemaster Klaus Mathes hopes, perhaps it will be singled out and

NEWS

Charles Lefranc Cellars

November 24, 1982

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Faith Greaves
Business Phone: (see below)
Home Phone: 408/255-7611

SAN JOSE, Calif.--With Charles Lefranc Cellars, there's no contest between California and European wines. Charles Lefranc Cellars either makes or imports the best of both.

From California, Charles Lefranc Cellars' newest--produced from grapes from the winery's own vineyards--is 1979 Monterey Cabernet Sauvignon. From Europe, Charles Lefranc Cellars' newest is Italian--a white wine from Sicily, Rapitala.

The Lefranc 1979 Monterey Cabernet illustrates why cabernet is called the "king of California red wines." Like royalty, there's little of it and the Lefranc wine has been pampered for years, from selection of choice grapes in the San Lucas area of California's Monterey County, to long ageing in small wood barrels and then more long ageing in the bottle. All along, taste test after taste test determines, up to the last crucial bottling moment, whether a wine will earn the Lefranc label.

The new Lefranc Cabernet comes to the marketplace already heralded through previews at the winery by visiting wine journalists. The syndicated wine column in the San Francisco Chronicle proclaimed it "a big, assertive, California-style wine with depth and exquisite fresh fruitiness...remarkable complexity and finesse."

Charles Lefranc 1979 Monterey Cabernet is 12.5 percent alcohol, 0.58 percent total acid and 0.1 percent residual sugar. Cases produced, about 9,900. Price in California, about $7.60.

Charles Lefranc Cellars' newest exclusive import is one that wine author Bruce Anderson, in his book Viva Vino, calls "a good example of the new white wine from Sicily." Producer Count Hugues Bernard de la Gatinais calls his wine Rapitala. It's classed with Italy's best as an approved DOC wine from Sicily's Alcamo region.

Made from free-run, then cold fermented, Rapitala has a dry, yet soft character. The 1981 Rapitala, fortieth import line exclusive to Charles Lefranc Cellars, is available nationwide for the California suggested price of $4.65. # # #

NEWS

ALMADEN VINEYARDS
ESTABLISHED 1852

April 22, 1983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Faith Greaves
Business Phone:408/448-9225
Home Phone: 408/255-7611

SAN JOSE, Calif.--Proving that Monterey grapes can indeed make a superior cabernet sauvignon was shocking enough at the time. But the stunning capper was that a large winery, Almaden Vineyards, proved it.

Almaden proved it in the 1979 wine judging of the Los Angeles Times, when professional judges including 10 winemakers tallied their scores after a marathon tasting of 1977 California cabernets. Among dozens of '77 cabs, 10 finalists were listed and Almaden's Monterey Cabernet topped them all, most of them pricey boutiques from the North Coast charging up to double that of the winner from Almaden.

That first domino set off a chain reaction through the years: Gold medals, high praise from wine critics, thousands upon thousands of cases of Almaden Cabernet sold out, Almaden as the largest winery yet invited to the Four Seasons California Barrel Tasting and showing cabernet, singular example that big ain't bad... Score one for dollar-value.

The quality of Almaden's cabernet in the 1977 vintage--and 1978 and 1979--continues in the winery's 1980 edition. The grapes are all from Almaden's own vineyards in Monterey's San Lucas and King City area, where Almaden planted first and reaped first acclaim for cabernet from a county they said couldn't produce good cabernet.

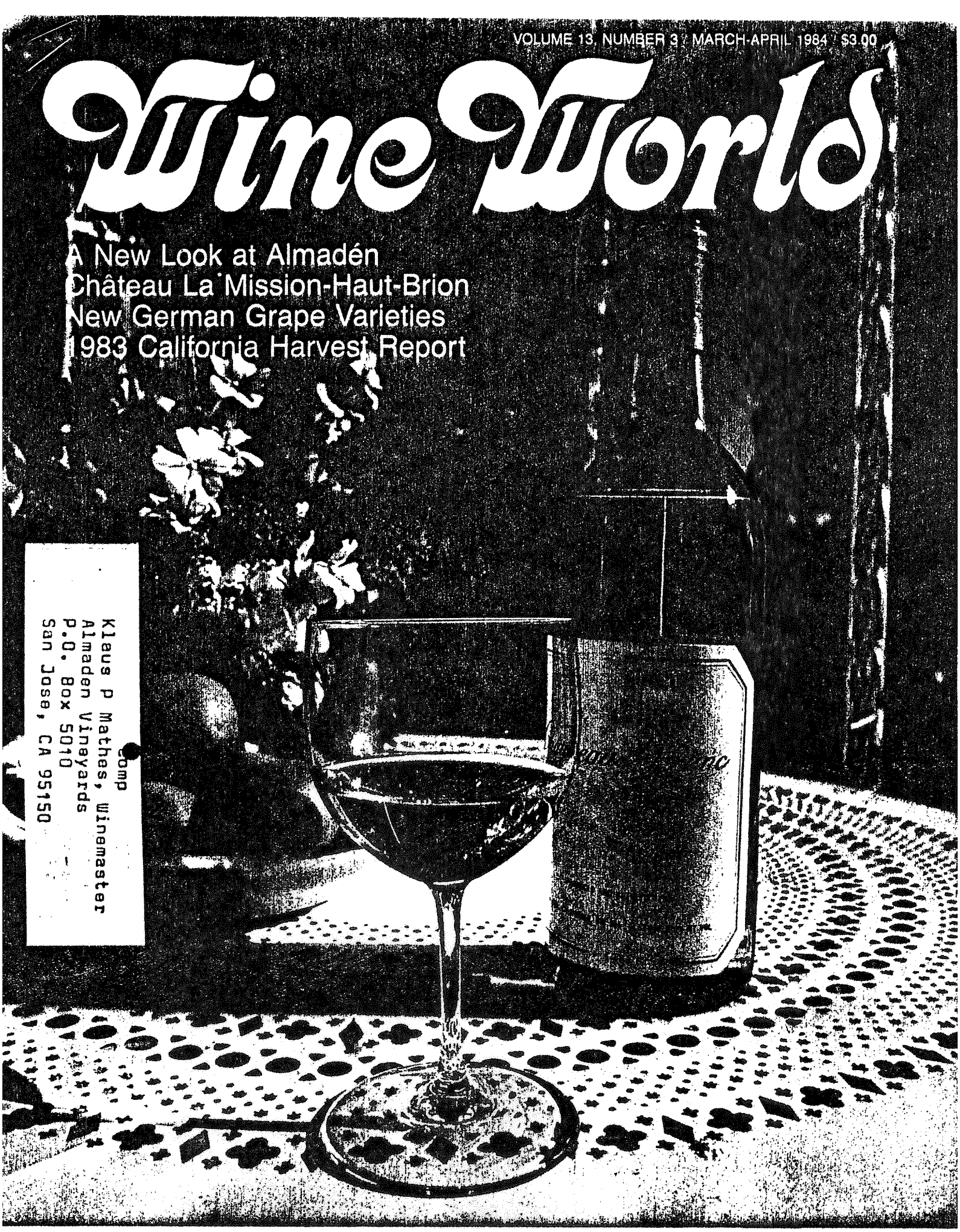
But the beat goes on. From vine to wine, cabernet character in Almaden's 1980 Monterey Cabernet holds steadfast, as if clusters of grapes suddenly transformed into a mature, luscious liquid, purple as violets, though in reality the difference between ripe grapes on the vine and well-made wine in the bottle is the difference between holding a Stradivarius and having it played by Yehudi Menuhin.

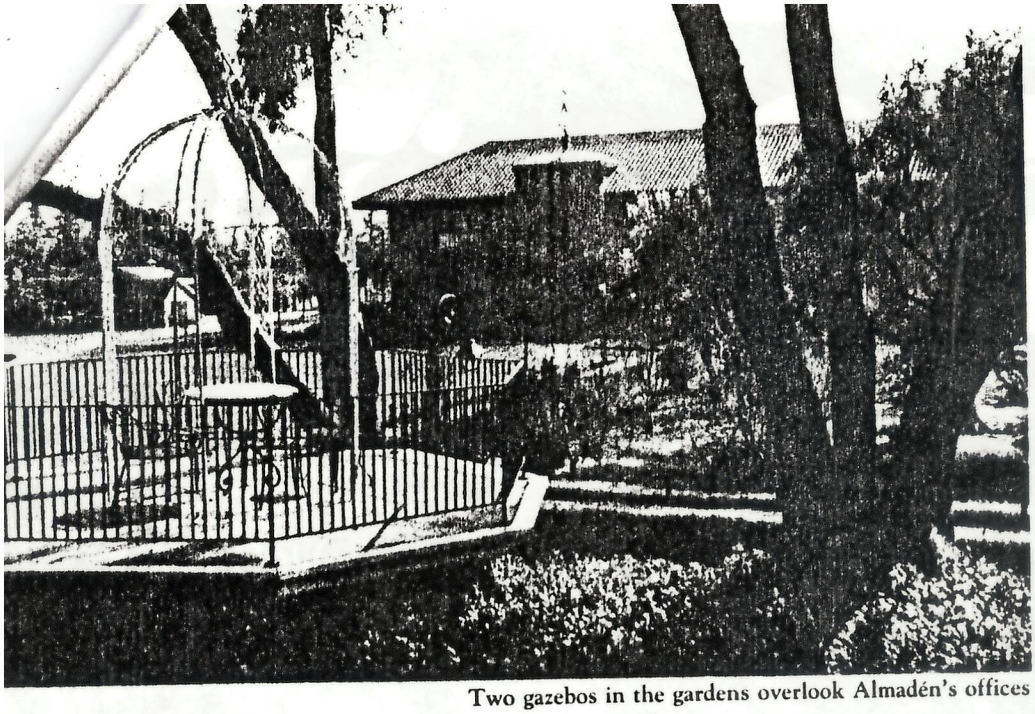
Almaden's Cabernet is smooth and gentle, easy to drink. It is purely and simply delicious, rather than a winemaking exercise in high alcohol-, high tannin-shudders and puckers. And it's all around the country in two sizes, 750 milliliter ($5.35) and 1.5 liters ($7.80). Alcohol by volume is 12.5 percent and total acid, 0.63 percent. Residual sugar is 0.1 percent. # # #

VOLUME 13, NUMBER 3 / MARCH-APRIL 1984 / $3.00

Wine World

A New Look at Almadén
Château La Mission-Haut-Brion
New German Grape Varieties
1983 California Harvest Report





Two gazebos in the gardens overlook Almadén's offices

acclaimed wines with this varietal for the past four or five years, under both the Almadén and Charles Lefranc labels. "With Cabernet," Mathes explains, "we have been unmistakably successful. The San Lucas area [of Monterey, where Almadén has nearly 400 acres planted to Cabernet] is very good. For our Almadén Cabernet, we age the wine in small American oak barrels for 18 months. With the Lefranc wine, we start in American oak, but then age in Limousin for a total of 24 to 26 months. The wine is light bodied, with good flavors and lots of tannins underneath. They age very well."

(A recent bottle of Almadén 1970 Special Selection Estate Cabernet would seem to support this. See tasting notes.)

Never one to stand still, Mathes' latest achievement has been to make a new wine, Cabernet Pfeffer. It is a type of Cabernet that was developed by William Pfeffer about the turn of the century. This grape had its first experimental cultivation in 1908 by noted agricultural scientist Eugene Hilgard and his associates, professors at U.C. Berkeley (this was before there was a U.C. Davis). No one has made a commercial wine from this grape until the 1980 Charles Lefranc was released. With fewer than 4.5 acres of this grape planted in Almadén's vineyards, production is extremely limited. The winery describes this wine as being similar to Cabernet Sauvignon, but with a spicy, more peppery quality.

Mathes has also achieved a string of successful late harvest wines under the Charles Lefranc label. In fact, the first wine sold under this name was a 1977 Late Harvest Johannisberg Riesling. Most of the botrytised wines have been Rieslings, with Gewürztraminer making an appearance every three years or so. "Gewürztraminer," says Mathes, "is exceptionally difficult as a late harvest wine. The skin of the grape is so delicate, and the berry is larger. They tend to break open much sooner than Riesling which, by comparison, is much easier."

In 1982, Mathes made a Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc, called Chateau Lefranc, and it wasn't easy. "Sauvignon Blanc is even more difficult than Gewürztraminer," explains Mathes. "You need to bottle it to preserve the fruit, yet you need to age it to gain complexity. Keep it in a stainless tank, and you lose the fruit. It is very hard to make." He managed to make slightly more than 1,600 cases, scheduled for release in the fall of 1984.

Almadén also produces a full line of sparkling wines. On the inexpensive side is the Le Domaine label, at less than $5 a bottle. In the middle are Almadén's Extra Dry and Brut, both vintage dated and selling for approximately $2 more. The high end consists of a Blanc de Blancs and Blanc de Noirs (labeled Eye of the Partridge) priced less than $9.

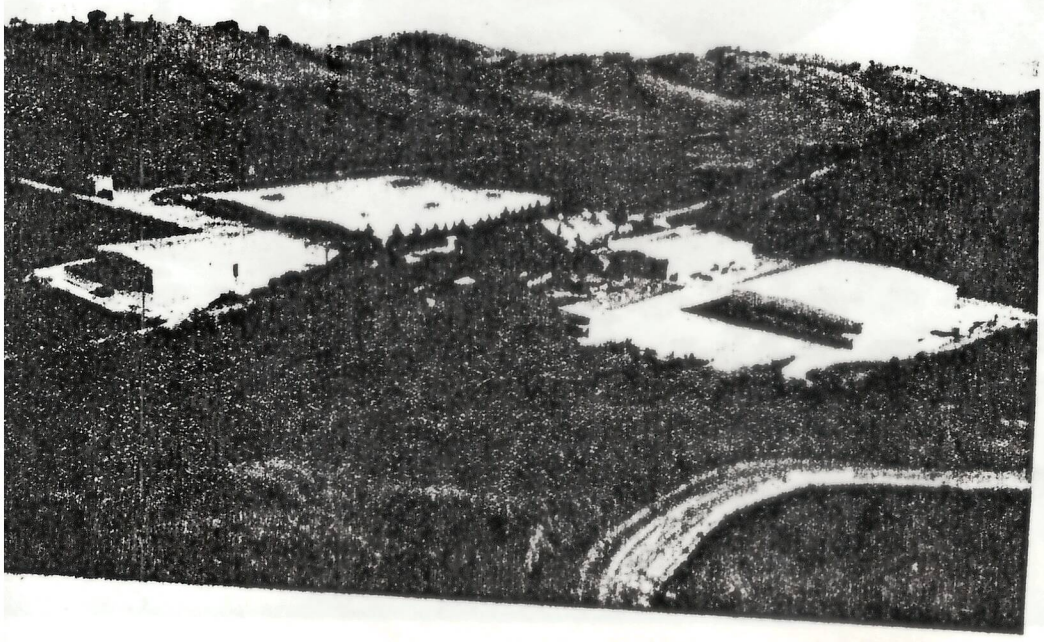
What many people do not realize is that *all* of Almadén's sparkling wines are bottle fermented. More than 8.5 million bottles are "on the yeast" at any one time. This translates to hundreds of thousands of cases of sparkling wines a year.

Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, and Pinot Noir make up the majority of Almadén's sparkling wine *cuvées*, with some Riesling and occasionally some Folle Blanche also used. Certainly the Le Domaine Extra Dry is not going to spend so much time on the yeast as might their Blanc de Blancs, but their driest sparkler, the Chardonnay Nature, remains *en tirage* for a minimum of two years, longer than some so-called "premium" producers.

In 1982, a joint venture with the Champagne house of Laurent-Perrier resulted in a Chardonnay made by Almadén in the Coteaux Champenois style, that is, very light, very dry, very crisp. Until just a short while ago, it was illegal to export such wine from France. The government feared people would take this wine and use it to make their own "Champagne." This wine is, after all, virtually a base wine for Champagne. Almadén, which sells their wine under the Caves Laurent-Perrier label, is the only producer of such a wine in the United States.

Almadén also makes a full range of sherries. All are produced from Palomino

The world's largest wine cellar, recorded in the *Guinness Book of World Records*



NEWS

ALMADEN VINEYARDS
ESTABLISHED 1852

May 15, 1984

Contact: Faith Greaves
Business Phone: (408) 448-9225
Home Phone: (408) 255-7611

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SAN JOSE, Calif.--Follow that cab...

Continuing the great tradition of Almaden's gold medal Monterey Cabernet, the new 1981 vintage carries on with style.

Somewhat more subtle than its immediate predecessor, the winery's most recent offering of this splendid red wine varietal is sure to win more fans for the award-bedecked cabernet produced from Almaden's San Lucas and King City vineyards. Last year's medals--a gold, three silvers, a bronze, and an "Oscar" (for best US wine at the Vinexpo in France)--were testament to quality, as well as proof that a great cabernet didn't have to cost wine drinkers an arm and a leg.

Also new is Almaden's 1982 San Benito Gewurtztraminer (1981's was a dual appellation Monterey-San Benito offering) which begins sweetly in the mouth and finishes with a crisply-dry aftertaste.

Spicy and flowery to the tenth power, this quintessential gewurtztraminer is an ideal white wine choice to accompany both traditional and hotter Northern Chinese dishes, as well as a multitude of other foods with the texture, temperature and hint of sweetness to point up its lovely qualities.

Super-value 1981 Almaden Monterey Cabernet, available in California for $5.85 or less in the 750 milliliter size, has the following vital statistics: 0.61 percent total acid, 12.5 percent alcohol, and 0.1 percent residual sugar.

Almaden Vineyards 1982 San Benito Gewurtztraminer is 0.62 percent total acid, has an alcohol content of 11.5 percent, and is 1.8 percent residual sugar. Suggested California retail is $5.85.

# # #

NEWS

Charles Lefranc Cellars

October, 1984

CHARLES LEFRANC 1981 CABERNET SAUVIGNON OF MONTEREY COUNTY

Bottled in mid-October of 1984, this Lefranc Cabernet will not be released until mid-1985. The wine is 100 percent varietal, made from grapes picked in the San Lucas Vineyards in the southern end of Monterey County. Although the tannin in the wine promises excellent staying power, it is expected to be very drinkable on release and will probably improve for three or four years after, holding steady for at least five years after that. Wine critic Robert Parker writes in his most recent issue of "The Wine Advocate" (Number 35) that one finds in this wine "rich, deep fruit, spicy blackcurrant fruit, full body, a powerful, long finish. It is an excellent cabernet."

Total alcohol: 12.5 percent
Total acid: 0.61 percent
Residual sugar: 0.1 percent
Suggested Calif. retail: $8.40 per 750ml.

CHATEAU LE FRANC 1982 LATE HARVEST SAUVIGNON BLANC OF MONTEREY COUNTY

The 1982 Monterey harvest was the one that finally, after years of earlier harvests and of waiting and watching and getting close but not close enough, the 1982 harvest was the one that finally yielded the perfect, botrytised Sauvignon Blanc grapes. All reduced by their long time in the sun to an essence of natural sweetness, the grapes were hand-picked, then cold-fermented...and then the waiting began again. But this time, success. At the end of fermentation, residual sugar in the dessert wine remained at a luscious 11.3 percent. Success. Now the waiting begins again, this time for that next elusive harvest sometime in years to come yielding perfect botrytised Sauvignon grapes. Then there will be another Chateau Lefranc Late Harvest Sauvignon Blanc of Monterey County.

Total alcohol: 9.9 percent
Total acid: 0.65 percent
Residual sugar: 11.3 percent
Suggested Calif. retail: $9.75 per 750ml.
$5.10 per 375ml.

HARVEST REPORT / CHARLES LEFRANC CELLARS

In a word, excellent. That's the word that comes up most in describing quality of the 1984 Monterey grape harvest.

For the Monterey wines of Charles Lefranc Cellars, nature gave the quantity-break to red grapes. Their yield in 1984 held close to estimates. Cabernet was unfortunately short, but zinfandel met the mark. Pinot St. George exceeded it.

Although white grapes, like red, scored high on quality, whites didn't fare as well on yield. The spring frost and 1984's short rainfall, compounded by a long hot summer, affected cluster weight. Thus, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc and chenin blanc were down in tonnage -- but at the same time, well up in quality. It looks like they'll make some wines that'll be, in a word, excellent.

1530 BLOSSOM HILL ROAD · SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95118 / (408) 269-1312

ALMADÉN

VINEYARDS

December 13, 1985

Mr. Richard A. Mascolo
Chief, FAA, Wine and Beer Branch
Department of theTreasury
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Mr. Mascolo:

RE: San Lucas Viticultural Appellation Request

As per your request during our last phone conversation, I am enclosing the books that were listed as our source of information. In the instances where the public library would not release books as they are collector's items, and as per your approval, I have copied the cover and pages inside the books referring to San Lucas.

Also attached is a copy of the records maintained at the vineyard offices comparing the degree days between San Lucas and King City. As you can see, San Lucas is much warmer than King City thus creating a warmer soil and better growing temperatures permitting the grapes to ripen earlier. King City gets approximately ten inches of rain annually whereas San Lucas gets approximately twelve inches. San Lucas soil is light, deep and well-drained, similar to decomposed granite,whereas King City has heavy, loam-type soil. San Lucas also has better quality irrigation water as it drains directly from the reservoir beneath the Salinas River. King City gets a small amount of water from the same source but it is mingled with drainage from the surrounding area. The winds are about the same for the two areas, however, the fog burns off at least an hour earlier each day at San Lucas. This helps to create a better quality grape--actually some of our best grapes come from the San Lucas area.

I hope this information helps answer some questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours very truly,

Beverly J. Oaks
Wine Inventory Coordinator

ALMADEN VINEYARDS, INC. TEMPERATURE AND DEGREE DAY AVERAGES: KING CITY STATION

	AVERAGE	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
APRIL													
HIGH	70.9	75.5	64.2	**	**	68.3	74.3	74.6	76.6	68.8	65.7	70.4	**
LOW	43.4	40.5	36.7	**	**	49.4	50.3	42.7	43.1	46.7	43.1	38.1	**
DEGDAY	223.1	239.5	59.0	**	**	266.0	369.5	264.5	296.0	236.0	142.0	135.5	**
MAY													
HIGH	76.9	77.4	78.1	**	**	**	81.7	74.2	77.5	72.7	76.5	**	**
LOW	47.0	43.4	43.7	**	**	**	54.1	44.8	47.2	49.2	46.9	**	**
DEGDAY	371.8	325.5	340.0	**	**	**	555.5	294.5	384.0	340.5	362.5	**	**
JUNE													
HIGH	82.6	84.7	80.0	**	**	83.3	85.7	81.7	89.4	74.3	81.9	**	**
LOW	51.2	49.4	47.6	**	**	54.9	55.8	49.4	50.7	51.9	49.6	**	**
DEGDAY	506.4	511.5	410.0	**	**	572.5	623.0	457.5	601.5	393.5	471.5	**	**
JULY													
HIGH	85.3	88.1	85.0	**	**	84.7	86.4	85.5	84.9	82.3	**	**	**
LOW	54.1	51.8	51.2	**	**	57.1	59.8	54.5	51.7	52.3	**	**	**
DEGDAY	606.6	619.5	536.5	**	**	648.0	716.0	622.0	568.5	535.5	**	**	**
AUGUST													
HIGH	84.7	86.6	87.5	**	**	86.5	84.6	83.1	82.7	81.8	**	**	**
LOW	54.4	54.3	50.8	**	**	56.2	59.1	53.8	53.7	52.9	**	**	**
DEGDAY	606.0	633.0	593.5	**	**	662.0	677.5	572.5	564.5	539.0	**	**	**
SEPTEMBER													
HIGH	84.8	88.6	87.3	**	**	**	89.7	83.8	79.4	80.0	**	**	**
LOW	53.1	51.7	49.5	**	**	**	60.3	51.8	54.4	50.6	**	**	**
DEGDAY	567.9	605.0	553.0	**	**	**	749.5	534.0	507.0	459.0	**	**	**
OCTOBER													
HIGH	79.6	81.3	79.1	**	**	**	80.5	85.1	72.2	**	**	**	**
LOW	48.9	49.2	45.0	**	**	**	58.6	46.4	45.3	**	**	**	**
DEGDAY	443.6	472.5	379.5	**	**	**	606.5	489.0	270.5	**	**	**	**
TOTAL													
DEGDAYS	3325.4	3406.5	2871.5	**	**	**	4297.5	3244.0	3192.0	**	**	**	**

** Weather data incomplete.

3325.4
3406.5
2871.5
4297.5
3244.0
3192.0
6 | 26335

3389
6 | 20335
18
23
18
53
48
55

ALMADEN VINEYARDS, INC. TEMPERATURE AND DEGREE DAY AVERAGES: SAN LUCAS STATION

	AVERAGE	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
APRIL													
HIGH	73.7	71.6	67.1	66.9	79.4	67.1	73.7	77.1	80.3	76.8	**	77.1	**
LOW	42.8	37.5	39.4	39.7	43.7	44.6	42.2	45.9	46.0	46.7	**	42.6	**
DEGDAY	255.5	150.0	111.5	130.5	346.5	186.0	238.0	345.0	394.0	357.5	**	295.5	**
MAY													
HIGH	81.5	76.8	78.5	**	72.3	84.3	86.0	78.5	83.6	82.9	85.4	86.7	**
LOW	48.0	41.0	46.1	**	45.2	49.9	49.8	47.9	50.3	51.4	52.5	46.0	**
DEGDAY	457.8	278.5	381.5	**	275.0	530.0	554.5	408.5	525.5	531.0	586.5	507.0	**
JUNE													
HIGH	86.7	83.4	76.6	88.8	84.4	88.5	89.6	86.3	97.9	85.6	91.1	82.0	**
LOW	50.7	46.5	49.4	47.0	52.1	52.3	50.5	49.1	55.7	55.5	54.5	44.6	**
DEGDAY	561.1	449.0	399.0	536.0	548.0	612.0	602.0	531.5	804.5	617.5	684.0	399.0	**
JULY													
HIGH	90.8	87.7	85.5	89.4	89.7	92.1	91.8	93.6	94.5	92.2	93.8	88.7	**
LOW	53.7	50.6	51.7	52.4	51.2	53.7	55.4	56.0	54.2	56.0	56.3	53.2	**
DEGDAY	690.0	594.0	577.0	647.5	635.0	709.0	731.5	768.5	753.5	747.0	777.0	650.0	**
AUGUST													
HIGH	91.3	88.8	84.8	**	89.2	92.7	89.2	90.7	93.6	95.6	99.2	89.1	**
LOW	54.6	51.4	51.1	**	53.4	54.3	53.0	57.0	56.4	57.5	60.4	51.6	**
DEGDAY	711.4	622.5	556.5	**	660.0	729.5	653.5	739.0	775.5	823.0	923.0	631.5	**
SEPTEMBER													
HIGH	91.6	89.5	84.7	**	89.7	91.5	94.6	90.2	92.4	90.0	98.5	95.2	**
LOW	53.4	49.0	51.2	**	50.8	50.6	53.6	53.3	54.7	56.5	60.6	53.7	**
DEGDAY	676.2	579.0	539.0	**	607.0	635.5	724.0	652.0	707.0	697.0	887.5	734.0	**
OCTOBER													
HIGH	82.6	83.9	74.8	**	84.8	**	81.8	90.4	82.9	85.6	**	76.7	**
LOW	46.5	48.2	43.0	**	44.3	**	51.0	46.3	44.9	49.0	**	45.1	**
DEGDAY	451.2	497.5	279.0	**	451.0	**	508.0	568.0	431.0	536.5	**	338.5	**
TOTAL													
DEGDAYS	3803.2	3170.5	2833.5	**	3522.5	**	4011.5	4012.5	4391.0	4309.5	**	3555.5	**

** Weather data incomplete because of malfunctioning thermograph.

3803.2
3170.5
2833.5
3522.5
4011.5
4012.5
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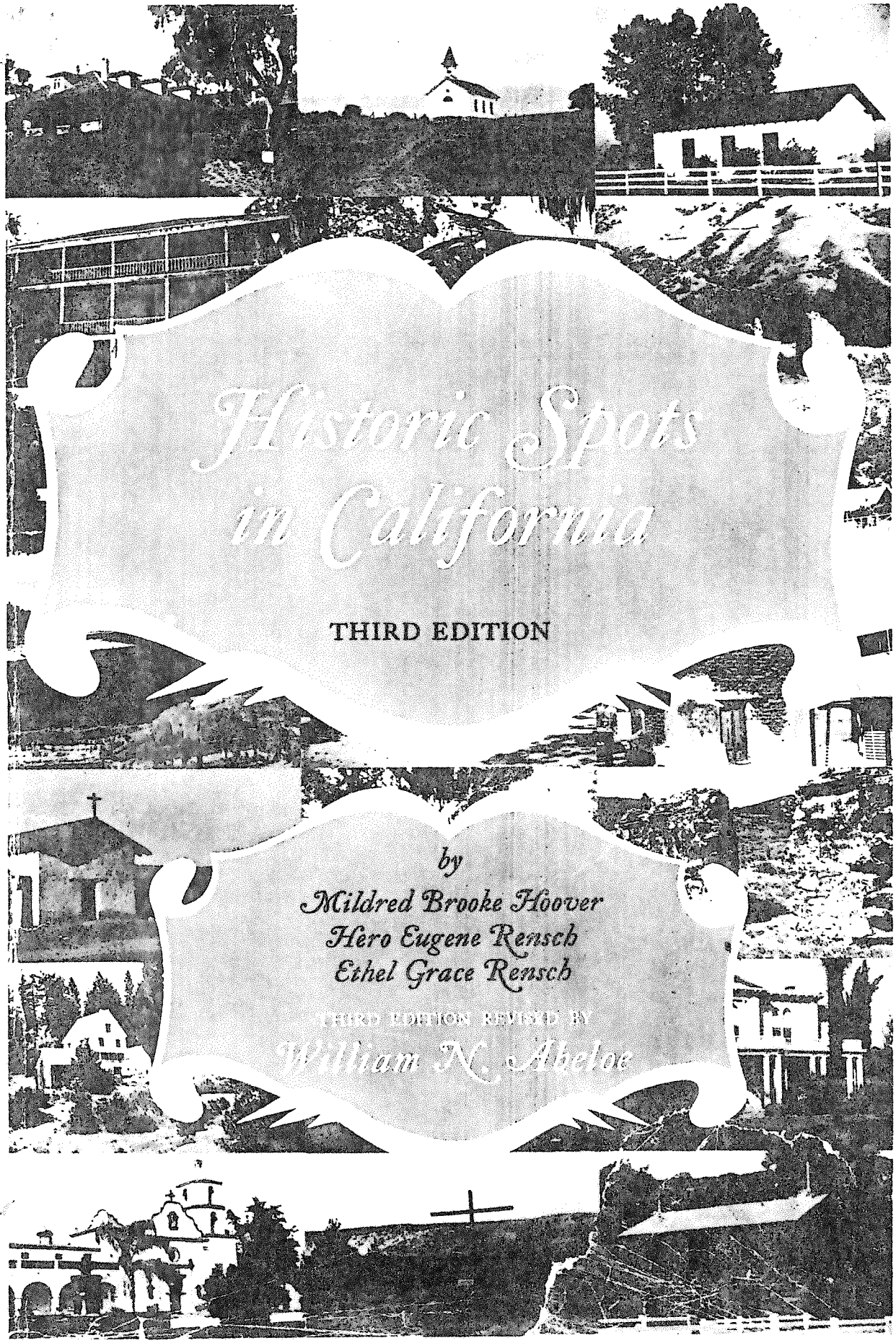

Historic Spots in California

THIRD EDITION

by

Mildred Brooke Hoover
Hero Eugene Rensch
Ethel Grace Rensch

THIRD EDITION REVISED BY

William N. Abeloe

of the Arroyo Seco Road. This story-and-a-half building *(SRL 494)*, known as the Richardson adobe, faces the branch road. A porch extends along the entire front. The structure has had various uses: a family residence, a post office, a stage station, a house used by tenant farmers, and now the residence of the ranger in charge of Los Coches Rancho State Historical Monument. Bancroft says the grant of Los Coches was made in 1841 to María Josefa, daughter of Feliciano Soberanes. She was married to William Brunner Richardson, who built the adobe in 1843 and planted the row of black locusts in front in 1846.

Rancho Arroyo Seco, which adjoined Los Coches on the south, consisted of 16,523 acres. Its northwest corner was near the present junction of Paraiso Springs Road and Clark Road. For this property Joaquín de la Torre filed a claim founded on a grant of four square leagues that Governor Alvarado made to him on December 30, 1840. Don Joaquín was a Mexican patriot of energy and courage, active against incoming foreigners. Greenfield has grown up on the southeast boundary of this rancho. Southeast of Arroyo Seco was Rancho Poza de los Ositos, which was granted to Carlos Cayetano Espinosa by Governor Alvarado on April 16, 1839. This tract, consisting of 16,939 acres of rolling land lying on the west side of the Salinas River, was patented to the grantee on June 29, 1865.

Across the river from Arroyo Seco and Poza de los Ositos was Rancho San Lorenzo, stretching south along the river as far as San Lorenzo Creek. King City is located on the southern part. This grant of 21,884 acres, made by Governor Alvarado to Feliciano Soberanes in 1841, was in addition to Rancho Alisal already held by the grantee, who later purchased some of the land formerly belonging to Soledad Mission.

South of King City lay Rancho San Bernabe. Through it flowed the Salinas River. From its banks the rancho lands extended back to the hills on both sides. Two old grants made by Governor Alvarado were consolidated in this one rancho. The first grant was made to José Molina on March 10, 1841, and the second to Petronelo Ríos on April 6, 1842. Don Petronelo was a Mexican sergeant of artillery in San Francisco from 1827 to 1840. His wife was Caterina Ávila.

From the westernmost point of this rancho, a trail led up Pine Canyon and through the forest down to Rancho Milpitas. Somewhere along that trail near the summit is an immense pile of jagged rocks and within them a cave frequently used by early travelers as a shelter at night. On top of these rocks, unseen until the perilous ascent is made, is a flat piece of ground several acres in extent. This is said to be the hidden pasture where the bandit Vásquez concealed his stolen horses.

The King City–Jolon road passes through this rancho. At the left, two miles after crossing the river bridge at King City, one may see a fragment of the thick adobe walls of an abandoned ranch house originally covered by a shingle roof. In this building lived David Leese, son of Jacob P., as manager of the ranch. During his residence there with his family, the place was struck by lightning and burned to such an extent that it was never repaired.

San Bernabe, consisting of 13,296 acres, was confirmed in 1855 to Henry Cocks, a famous justice of the peace in the county, and was patented to him in 1873. Before the destruction of the adobe, the land had been purchased by J. B. R. Cooper. David Leese, to whom the management of the ranch had been given, was the nephew of Cooper's wife.

South of the San Bernabe lay Rancho San Benito, extending on both sides of the river. The little town of San Lucas is situated in its southeastern corner. Here, one and one-half square leagues were granted to Francisco García by Governor Alvarado on March 11, 1842. The patent for 6,671 acres was given in 1869 in the name of James Watson, deceased claimant. Watson was an Englishman engaged in trading in Monterey who had married Mariana Escamilla. The original grantee, Francisco García, built an adobe house of eight rooms with a tile roof on the bank of the Salinas River about two miles northwest from San Lucas. The river has so changed its course since that time that it no longer flows near the house, a tiny remnant of which still stands on an embankment in an open field about one mile west of Highway 101. One wall of the house was constructed with openings to shoot through. A 20-year-old son of the family was ambushed by Indians and killed on his return journey from Monterey, where he had gone with an ox-team load of hides to be sold. The house was occupied by the patentee until the year before his death in 1865. The sharp-eyed may see the ruin from the highway, far in the distance across the river, but there is no access to it at this point. A private farm road leads one and one-half miles to it along the west side of the river from the far end of the bridge southwest of San Lucas.

The southernmost rancho in the Salinas River region was San Bernardo, composed of 13,346 acres of rich bottom lands which reached up the river to Sargent's Canyon. It was founded on a grant made by Governor Alvarado to Mariano and Juan Soberanes on June 16, 1841. At its northern line it joined Rancho San Lucas. San Ardo, a station on the Southern Pacific Railroad, is about midway of the long narrow tract. The property was owned by M. Brandenstein at the time the right of way was purchased for the railroad, and he stipulated that trains must stop at the town when flagged.

Rancho San Lucas

The group of adobe buildings composing the headquarters of Rancho San Lucas lies about six miles south and west of the town of San Lucas. The grant of this land was made to Rafael Estrada in 1842, and the original ranch house, no longer standing, was built near the northern line of the rancho west of the Salinas River. The present headquarters are at the southwestern corner of the grant.

James McKinley, a Scottish sailor who deserted ship at Monterey in the 1820's, came into posses-

sion of 8,875 acres, according to the patent of February 23, 1872. Alberto Trescony, who came to California from Italy in 1842, purchased the land in 1862 and moved there with his family. He added adjoining properties to his holdings until he possessed many thousand acres over which his herds of cattle ranged. The patent for the branding iron used in roundups was issued by the last Mexican governor of Alta California. The iron is a treasured relic of those early years. Descendants of Alberto Trescony, who still own a large part of the estate, now give their attention to grain farming as well as cattle raising.

The six adobe structures built by the Tresconys lie in a pocket valley protected by hills and trees, one and one-half miles from the Paris Valley Road. The main dwelling house, built in 1865, consists of one story only. It has thick walls and is nearly surrounded by porches. The barn is of two stories, both made of adobe bricks. The blacksmith shop is roofed with handmade tiles removed from a building on Rancho San Benito, also purchased by Alberto Trescony.

Ranchos El Pescadero and Punta de Pinos

The land contained in these two grants occupies the greater part of the area of the Monterey Peninsula, and through both of them runs the scenic Seventeen-Mile Drive.

Rancho Punta de Pinos was the more northern of the two. For this tract three men, Jacob P. Leese, Milton Little, and Santiago Gleason, as joint claimants, petitioned the Land Commission on September 2, 1852, their claim being founded upon a grant made by Governor Figueroa to José María Armenta on May 13, 1833. Later other names were substituted for these claimants: Henry de Graw for Leese, and Charles Brown for James H. Gleason. Finally Milton Little's interest, in addition to that of Leese, was absorbed by De Graw. The courts approved the claim, and patent for 2,667 acres was issued on November 19, 1880. Point Pinos, southwest headland of Monterey Bay, early and present site of the Light Station, is the north limit of the rancho.

The whole shoreline of Rancho El Pescadero, extending from near Seal Rocks to Carmel, is threaded by the Seventeen-Mile Drive, of which Cypress Point is the most western limit and the most famous spot on the route. At this point on the rugged shoreline are found the picturesque Monterey cypress trees, whose branches have been grotesquely bent and gnarled through long exposure to ocean winds. Few species of cypress—trees of ancient origin—are found in the state, and *Cupressus macrocarpa Hartweg* (commonly known as the Monterey cypress) has a restricted habitat and is found only on the coast adjacent to the mouth of the Carmel River.

Because of early fishing activities carried on at the water's edge on the southern part of Monterey Peninsula, the name Pescadero ("place where fishing is done") was given to the rocks off the shore in Carmel Bay, to a point to the west of them, and to the rancho itself.

The grant, containing one league, was made by Nicolás Gutiérrez to Fabian Barreto on February 29, 1836. Other names associated with its ownership were John Frederick Romie, who came to California in 1841 and bought the rancho before he died in 1848; John C. Gore, who filed a claim for it on February 9, 1853, which was rejected by the court; and David Jacks, whose name was substituted for that of Gore and to whom a patent for 4,426 acres was given in 1868. The grantee, Fabian Barreto, a Mexican who came to Monterey in 1827, became a permanent resident of the place and married Carmen García, who outlived him. As an aftermath of the Bear Flag depredations the widow filed a claim for $2,582.

That Gore actually lived on the land is proved by the map made by the survey of 1864, which shows the location of his house near the present Pebble Beach. A cistern, remembered as being filled about 1926, was in an open space among the trees near the Gore home.

Both of these ranchos, Punta de Pinos and El Pescadero, became part of the large holdings of David Jacks, who also owned Rancho Aguajito adjoining El Pescadero on the east. In the 1870's Jacks developed a tent city in the cove on the bayshore northwest of the city of Monterey. He patterned it after one on the Atlantic Coast and named it Pacific Grove. This tent city has grown to be a city of broad paved streets lined with houses.

Standing two miles southeast of downtown Monterey in the suburbs is the old Castro adobe of Rancho Aguajito, now restored by the Jacks family. It stands at 1224 Castro Road facing the Del Monte Golf Course.

Ranchos along the Río Carmelo

The novelist Mary Austin used this region as the setting for *Ysidro*, an idyl of mission days in the quiet Carmel Valley. Six land grants were recognized and patented by the United States.

Los Tularcitos, the great triangular tract of 26,581 acres covering the Buckeye Ridge and Burnt Mountain, contains a short stretch of the upper part of the Carmel River. As the river flows through the southwestern corner of the rancho, Los Tularcitos Creek drains into it. This rancho was granted by Governor Figueroa to Rafael Gómez on December 1, 1834. In April 1852 his widow, Josefa Antonia Gómez de Walters, and his children filed claim for the property; they received a patent in 1866.

Some time later, Rancho Los Tularcitos was acquired by Andrew J. Ogletree, and in the late 1880's it passed into the hands of Alberto Trescony, owner of Rancho San Lucas. Although he sold portions of it, Trescony still owned about 14,500 acres of the original grant at the time of his death. Some 2,000 acres remain in the Trescony family today. The main portion, however, which still bears the name Rancho Tularcitos, was acquired by the Marble family in 1924. This consists of about 8,000 acres, to which the Marbles added 6,000 acres of adjacent land that was not part of the Tularcitos grant. On a hill south and across the road from the Marble residence is a fragment of adobe wall, all that is left of the original ranch house of Los Tularcitos. The Marble

MONTEREY AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTIES

CALIFORNIA

R.G. WATKINS

AND

SAN BENITO COUNTY

M.F. HOYLE

VOL. I

ILLUSTRATED

King City is as progressive, if not as large, as Salinas. Excellent hotels and cafes, beautiful homes, broad paved streets, and its location on the new $18,000,000 State Highway makes King City a place of worth-whileness. King City is justly proud of her lighting system, her good water and her schools. Adjacent to the new High School building is the City Auditorium, an imposing structure which does much toward bringing together the community interests in a way that is reflected in the rapid growth of King City. King City is a grain shipping center, as well as a producer of gypsum from the near-by gypsum mines.

San Lucas is in the center of a large area devoted to grain and cattle raising and general farming. The adjoining district to San Lucas is amazingly rich and several small valleys such as Peach Tree, Jolon, Long and White Horse valleys are included in this territory. It is from here that the famous San Lucas horses come, and San Lucas horses in any market in California bring a good price.

San Ardo can be spoken of in the same terms as San Lucas. It is the distributing point for a large portion of the Salinas Valley, and for the products of the Poncho Rico and Pine valleys and Sargent's Canyon, which swell the shipments that go out from this center.

Bradley centers itself in a grain country, but this does not mean that fruit and stock raising cannot be successfully carried out here. This means only that Bradley, as well as the other communities, has not possessed itself of the fullest possibilities, and the only reason it has not is because population in the contingent territory is needed to bring out these wonderful money-making proclivities of the various sections.

Moss Landing has been mentioned before as the seaport for Salinas, but from present indications Moss Landing will be a shipping and industrial center of itself. It is a regular port of call for several steamship lines and a big tonnage of freight is being handled here annually.

At Moss Landing is the only whaling station on the Pacific Coast south of Alaska. The whaling season extends from February to October, and on the average, five whales per week are caught and refined into commercial products here. One of the by-products of this station is fertilizer, and the use of this is being taken advantage of throughout Monterey County. Here,