

The Golden Empire of
KERN

"A BILLION DOLLARS IN SUNSHINE"



FRANCISCO GARCES
1738 1781
SPANISH FRANCISCAN

"WITHOUT VISION
THE PEOPLE PERISH"



"Kern County Greet's You Here"

Tourist Lure

"From Powder Snow to Hunting Frogs
From Old Sol's Tan to Campfire Logs
A Year-Around Vacation Land
With Hunting Good and Fishing Grand."

THE indomitable spirit of the pioneers in California's '49ers epoch lures tourists to the Kern river canyon's fishing areas, mineral spas and resorts, where gold once attracted thousands of Argonauts. The spring water run-offs create numerous falls and the beauty rivals California's best-known areas.

Today the "main street" of California—Golden State Highway U. S. 99—Swiftly carries one from Los Angeles across the Ridge Route to the first stopping point at Lebec, where the celebrated California wild-life habitat museum is being built. Near here is Frazier Mountain Park, a summer-and-winter resort located near an altitudinal primeval forest. Vacation land begins here.

Below Lebec is the first historical landmark—old Fort Tejon, one-time headquarters for General John C. Fremont—

Fort Tejon 1854-1864



where Kern County was "first in defense" in 1854 . . . today, a score and seven years later, Kern County again is first in defense with air bases near Taft, Shafter and Mojave.

Jefferson Davis unsuccessfully introduced the camel at the fort as a substitute for the Army mule. A few were found wild on Tejon Ranchos near Grapevine many years later. Swinging off Grapevine Canyon one beholds the tremendous panorama of the San Joaquin Valley, where in the spring a veritable sea of wildflowers is breathtaking to the traveler.

Kern offers its vast, scenic recreation ground—Kern County Park—near Bakersfield, the thrilling, winding Kern River Canyon Drive, its Breckenridge, Greenhorn, and Frazier Mountain Parks, its year-around sports centers at Greenhorn and Mt. Pinos, its springtime wildflower vistas, both in the San Joaquin Valley and on the Mojave Desert, luring Red Rock Canyon, Buena Vista Lake and its replica of Sutter's Fort at Taft.

Kernville, picturesque capital of the Kern river canyon district, is a locale for Western motion pictures, vacationists and sportsmen. In addition, Kernville gives one all the very excellent hostelry appointments and comforts found in Kern County and California's most luxurious hotels and motels . . . Kern is an area famous for its rich, irrigated farmlands . . . the world's deepest oil wells, Red Rock Canyon and the Mojave Desert . . . historic Fort Tejon and Kern River Park . . . picturesque Kernville, quaint reminder of '49er days . . . and, of course, its wildflowers which cover hundreds of thousands of range acres with a flaming carpet each Spring.



The Dhammapada (A Pathway of Flowers), Kern's Wildflower Time

Personality of Kern County

AS large today as the state of Massachusetts, and with a population and wealth greater than that of Nevada, the county of Kern was organized in 1866 from parts of Los Angeles and Tulare counties. Kern County derived its name from the Kern River, so called in honor of Edward W. Kern, topographer of General John C. Fremont's third expedition.

Covering 8,007 square miles, Kern has an acreage exceeding 5,100,000, including 50 per cent mountain, grazing and mining land; 27 per cent delta, mesa or plains and 23 per cent desert bordering Mojave.

From the viewpoint of assessed acreage, Kern is the largest county in California and the United States, with 3,783,810 assessed acres. Ranking third in the state in wealth, the county has no bonded indebtedness and in 1940-41 had an assessed valuation exceeding \$284,000,000.00.

Because of its high standards in education, health, welfare, labor and recreation the torch of civilization in Kern County is burning higher and brighter. The Kern County Press, radio, civic organizations and advanced learning are unsurpassed.

Land of diversified lure for the tourist, Kern also is a land of diversified opportunity with a

wealth of oil, mineral and agricultural products. Nine thousand wells—of which 6,000 are producing in more than 36 known oil fields throughout the county—ring up the cash registers to the staggering annual income of over 85 millions.

Kern County, however, is not altogether a land of oil, for its "extra fancy" agricultural projects swell the favorable balance of trade by nearly half that of oil. Kern's fertile acres yield the highest average of any in the United States, and with completion of the mammoth Central Valley Water Project, Kern will play an important role in quantity as well as quality production of the fruits of agriculture.

Rounding out the county's economy to help all industry reach a total income of nearly \$200,000,000 is added mining of borax, cement, quicksilver, tungsten and gold and silver.

Defense industry has begun by way of three basic Army air training areas with investments soaring over the ten million-dollar mark.





"The Good Earth"

Agriculture



"Farmer Smith of Plow and Hoe
Makes Bumper Crops with Melting Snow."

RICH soil, engraved in vivid green avenues of lettuce and cotton, sugar beet and potato tops, checked in squares for alfalfa, set apart for vineyards and citrus and deciduous fruit orchards, in 1940 yielded crop returns of \$32,317,084.00. A standing army of 123,000 bales of acala cotton has been compressed into service for distant markets. Greatest in the country, Kern's 1940 harvest averaged a world-record yield of 860 pounds per acre.

Kern farmers grow nearly one-half of California's potatoes, chiefly in the Shafter, Wasco, Edison and Tehachapi areas, and their crop is scientifically cultivated for harvest when the nation's supply is at a low ebb. When season is in full swing, an average of 215 cars of

potatoes are shipped out of Kern County daily, with over 400 having been tallied on several occasions.

An agricultural paradise encompasses **Arvin, Buttonwillow, Delano, Edison, McFarland, Shafter, Tehachapi and Wasco** . . . a district approximately 50 miles wide and 50 miles long.

Delano has one of the world's largest wineries, while Arvin has the earliest and choicest table grapes in the country. (See map for Kern's advertised areas.)

Sugar beets, a new crop, have been making considerable gains at Buttonwillow and McFarland, and like all other Kern field items, excessive per-acre yields highlight sugar beet culture here.

Kern alfalfa this year topped California markets for high-quality hay.



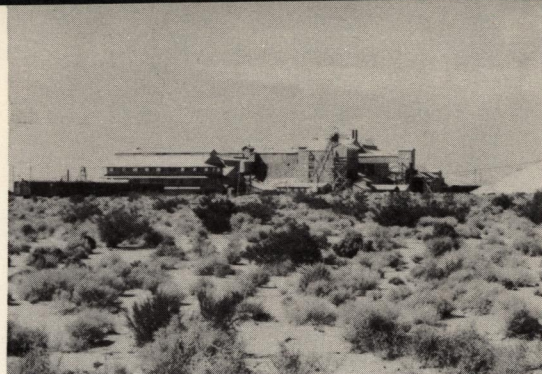
"Wealth Lies Beneath the Joshua"

Mining

"The Pioneers, in Endless Pilgrimage
Return Across the Moon-Enchanted Sage."

CACTUS-CLOAKED Mojave Desert, vast and colorful, proudly boasts of its numerous commercially valuable mineral deposits, both metallic and non-metallic in character.

Located along Kern County's tremendous desert area are the diggings and plant of the Monolith Portland Cement Company, the world-famous Twenty-Mule Team Borax, the Old Dutch Cleanser deposit, the Long Beach Salt



Borax

Company works, the Calsilco Company, developer of ingredients for kitchen cleansers, Tropical Mine near Rosamond aided in the discovery of the celebrated Golden Queen Mine at Mojave by a new kind of treating. Located five miles west of Rosamond, the 35-year-old Tropical Mine is owned by the Burton brothers and features a new-custom milling process that brings miners as far as 35 miles to have their ore treated.

Among outstanding properties of the desert are lead, tungsten, silver, gold, molybdenum, antimony, cinnabar and kernite, while gold-producing mines include the Gum Tree, Lode Star, Cactus, Golden Queen, Minnehaha, Big Dyke, Black Hawk, King Solomon, Big Butte, Tropical and Yellow Aster. The Kelley Mine and Atolia Mining Company produce silver, and the Ophir and Gold Bottom mines yield lead.

The Golden Queen Mine on Soledad mountain furnishes one of the most colossal gold discovery romances of the present times involving millions of dollars in a single day.

Kern has unlimited mineral resources being mined for all strategic purposes, with many more awaiting development.



Gold

Oil



"It's the oil in Kern County!"

IN 1854, at McKittrick, General John C. Fremont's scouts discovered the first asphalt beds . . . in 1863 and in 1867 the Pacific Exploration Company drilled a well near Devil's Den with a crude man or horse-drawn rotary auger . . . it was not until 1899, however, that oil was discovered in earnest in what now is the celebrated Kern River Field.

Almost every conceivable kind of oil field and its machinery make Kern a Mecca for the foreign visitor, the oil geologist or engineer. From Persia, Borneo and South America, oil technologists frequently visit Kern to inspect immense drilling equipment in a 175-foot steel derrick with 500-pound steam boilers—an installation costing \$125,000. Or they might be watching a light portable drilling machine in the foothills punch shallow holes easily and quickly.

Variety of geological conditions makes common the birth of new practices in the oil fields of Kern County. If a scientist desires to test a tool in an unusually deep well, there is Wasco Field with oil sand more than 13,000 feet below ground. West of here is

one of the dry-gas fields of the county, semitropic field. If a shallow field is sought, there is the east end of Kern River Field with sand only 300 feet deep.

Should one desire to experiment in heavy crude oil there are wells producing 12-degree gravity oil, almost tar. If light oil is wanted, there are distillate fields producing 55-degree gravity oil, near-gasoline which will run in a car. Heavy oil makes airplane fuel.

Kern County has everything in the way of oil . . . almost half of California's production. In two months, Kern produces sufficient oil to supply the United States' national-defense needs for one year.

Manufacturing

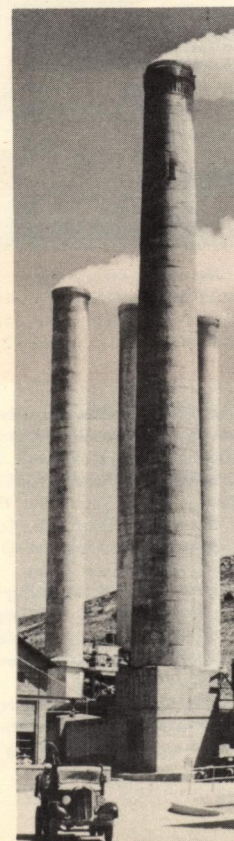
SWELLED to approximately \$32,000,000.00 annually, Kern's industrial payrolls are yearly fattened by oil-well machinery, production, agricultural by-products, electrical appliances, concrete pipe, cement factories with oil refineries, railroad shops, oil-well supply houses and transportation lines, including rail, truck and air. Manufacturing plants are constantly developing with oil-well supplies of world-wide demand.

Within the next few years it is anticipated that sufficient acreage will have been planted in sugar beets to support sugar refineries. Kern offers limitless possibilities for new industrial development, with a labor supply surpassing present demands, large tracts of land available near power lines, water, sewer and mains. Processors of dehydrated cull potatoes for stock feeds have gone beyond experimental stages and a textile survey has been completed.

New frontiers of defense industry have been brought to Kern County, with three air bases expanding the activity of machine shops, building industries, caterers, hostelrys and transportation facilities.



Sentinels of U. S. Air-Training Areas.



The Nation's California Trip No. 17 . . . Kern County

The Golden Empire of Kern County, California . . . a Billion Dollars in Sunshine

A tourists' folder published by the Kern County Chamber of Commerce, a governmental agency of the County of Kern. For further information write the Kern County Chamber of Commerce, principal office, Bakersfield, California.

Historical Landmarks

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--|-----------|--|---------|---|-----------|
| 1. Gold Found in Kern County..... | 1864 | 5. Big Blue Gold Mine Discovery..... | 1860 | 9. Sebastian Indian Reservation Gift..... | 1853-64 | 13. First White Man in County, Don Pedro Fages..... | 1772 |
| 2. Lebec, Killed by Grizzly Thought To Be Dead..... | 1837 | 6. Placer and Quartz Gold Mining..... | 1853-70 | 10. First White Man to Cross Kern River..... | 1776 | 14. First Recorded White Man, Bakersfield Site..... | 1776 |
| 3. Gordon's Ferry, Overhead Cable Type..... | 1850's | 7. Stage Station, Los Angeles-Havilah..... | 1864-72 | 11. U. S. Army Post, Fort Tejon, Gen. Fremont..... | 1854-64 | 15. First Hand-Dug Commercial Oil Well..... | 1889 |
| 4. Walker Pass, First to Cross Sierras from East..... | 1835 | 8. Oak Creek Pass, Tehachapi's..... | 1776-1876 | 12. First County Seat, Havilah..... | 1866-73 | 16. Fages-Zalvidea Trails to Found Missions..... | 1772-1806 |

ARVIN: Glider Meet, Wildflowers, DiGiorgio Farms, Table Grapes.
BAKERSFIELD: County Seat, Livestock Show and Frontier Days on Third Week of September, Tourist Terminal San Joaquin Valley, Wide Avenues, Forested Center Parkways, Clock Tower, First in Air-Conditioned Hotels and Motels.

BORON: Pacific Coast Borax Mine, Boulder Dam Highway.
BUTTONWILLOW: State Elk Preserve, Sugar Beets, Cotton, Ginning, Small Farms, Frogs, Free Buttonwillow Trees.
CANTIL: Red Rock Canyon, Salt Beds, Insulating and Acoustical Plaster Materials, Old Dutch Cleanser Mines.

DELANO: Lettuce, Grapes, Largest Wineries, Melons, Gateway to Greenhorn Mountain Country, County Guest Building.

FELLOWS: Oil, Temblor Mountains, Airline Highway.

FORD CITY: Oil, Schools, Modern Horse Show Arena, County Park.

GRAPEVINE: Portal to San Joaquin Valley, Wildflowers, Information.

INYOKERN: Mining, Agriculture, Desert Lure.

KERNVILLE: Mountain Resort Terminal, Confluence of the Kern Rivers, Western Movie Sets, Historical Lore, Water Falls, Pioneer Pageantry, Summer Estates, Autumn Color, Big Trees.

LEBEC: California Wild Life Museum, South Gate to Kern County, Frazier Park, Recreation Thoroughfare.

BELRIDGE: Oil Fields, Carneras Rocks.

MARICOPA: Lakeview Gusher, Winter and Summer Sports Gateway, National Defense Areas.

MUROC: U. S. Bombing Range, Mines, Rotary Mud.

LOST HILLS: Oil, Artillery Range, Livestock.

McFARLAND: Agriculture, Cotton-Picking Contests, Alfalfa.

McKITTRICK: Birthplace of Oil, 1864; Temblor Mountains, Wheat Elevator Terminal.

MOJAVE: Joshua Forest, Desert Wildflowers, Red Rock Canyon, Golden Queen Mine, Mt. Soledad, Railroad Terminal, Boulder Dam Highway, Muroc Bombing Range, Annual "Gold Rush" Days.

OILDALE: Home Port of World's First County Airport System, Kern County's Fastest-Growing City, Orange Belt Highway Terminal.

RANDBURG: Strategic Mining Industries, Petrified Forest, Death Valley Highway.

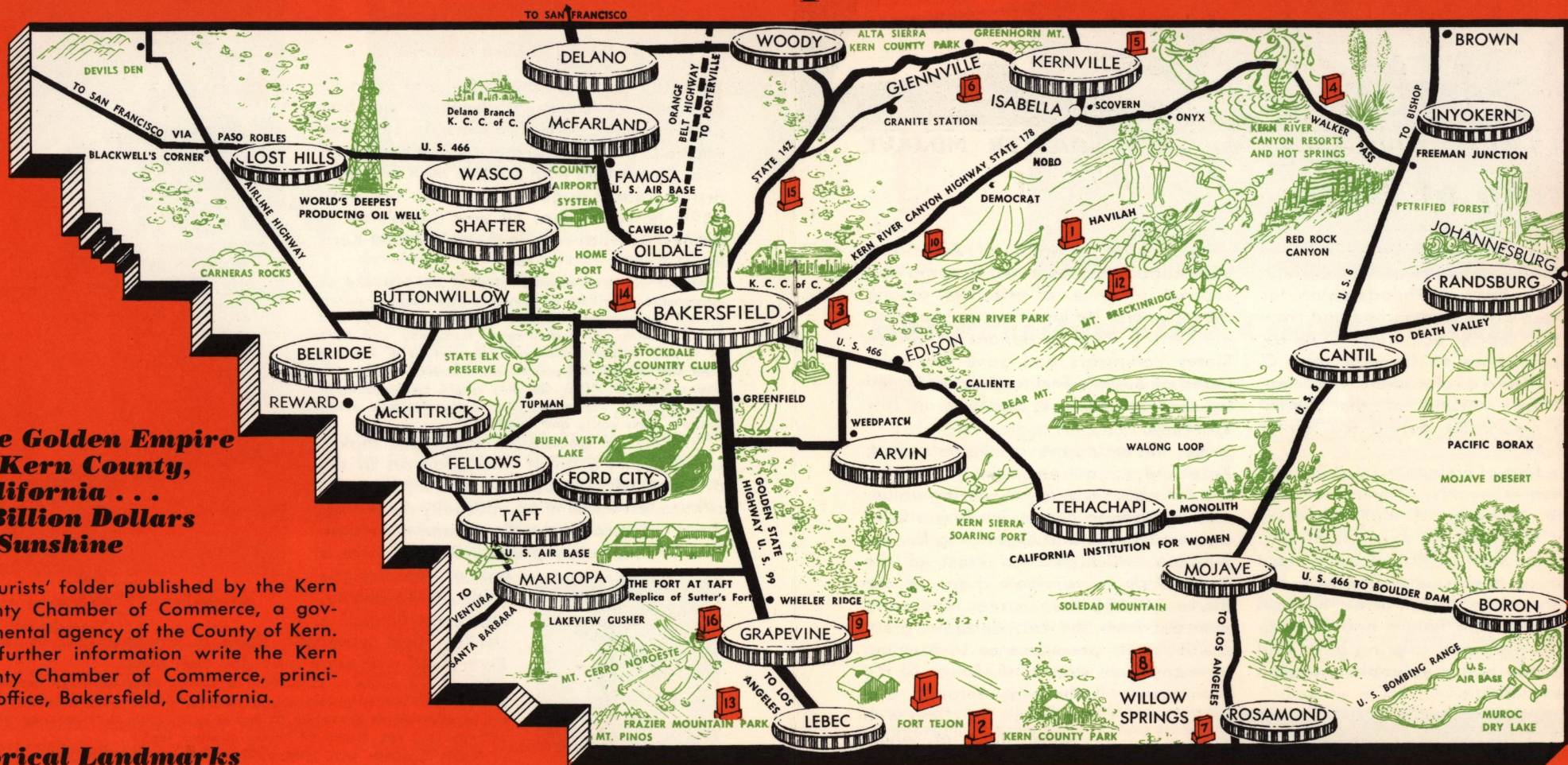
SHAFTER: U. S. Army Basic Air Training School, Potato Empire, World's Deepest Oil Fields.

TAFT: U. S. Army Basic Air Training School, Second-Largest Metropolitan Area, Oil, Schools, Boat Races, Horse Shows, Rodeos, Replica of Fort Sutter, Buena Vista Lake, Plunges and Therapy Pools, Polo, National Defense Industry, Leaders in Education.

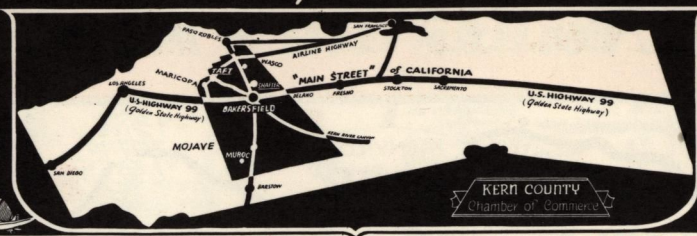
TEHACHAPI: Cement, Scenic Area, Walong Loop, Ranches, Bartlett Pears, California Institute for Women, Famous Fourth-of-July Celebrations.

WASCO: World's Deepest Producing Oil Well, Agriculture, Dairying, Potatoes, Music Festivals, U. S. Coast Travel Thoroughfare, City Beautiful of Kern County.

WOODY: Mountain Ranches, Wildflowers, Wooded Vistas.



KERN COUNTY.. *First* in defense..



THREE U.S. ARMY AIR BASES Near TAFT · SHAFER · MOJAVE

County of Kern

THE man, the river and the county is the name-sequence of Kern County. Edward M. Kern, a Philadelphian for whom Kern River was named and from which the county acquired its name, was topographer on General John C. Fremont's Third Exploration Expedition, marked by crossing of the Sierra-Nevada Mountains during the winter of 1843-44.

At the time of Fremont's Third Expedition, Kern was only 21 years of age and the youngest of eight children. Fremont wrote of the expedition: "Mr. Edward M. Kern of Philadelphia went with me as topographer. He was, besides, an accomplished artist; his skill in sketching from nature and in accurately drawing and coloring birds and plants made him a valuable accession to the expedition."

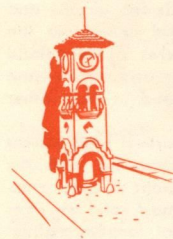
Later when a group of Americans from Sutter's Fort captured Sonoma and secured a number of prisoners, among them General Vallejo, Fremont appointed Kern a First Lieutenant of United States Volunteers and gave him command of Sutter's Fort, orders confirmed by Commodore R. F. Stockton on July 25, 1846.

As Commandant at Sutter's Fort, Kern led a not-particularly exciting life for about a year, mustering volunteers, gathering horses, leading a force against Indians and organizing the expedition which rescued most of the Donner party survivors high in the Sierras. Of this Kern wrote: "The party sent out from the Fort deserves great credit for its perseverance in rescuing so many from starvation. Seven of the men went all the way through and started from the camp with 21 souls, three of whom died on the road, one from over-eating."

In later years, Kern was with parties exploring the Southwest. During the Civil War he served as a captain of topographical engineers. He died at Philadelphia on November 25, 1863. An indirect monument to Kern is found today in the replica of Sutter's Fort at Taft, a structure slightly larger than the original and housing Federal, State and County offices.

National Glider Meet Event
—Glanders for Defense.

County seat of Kern County overlooking the business district.



Bakersfield—the County Capital

MECCA of the golden empire of Kern, Bakersfield was founded in 1859 and named for Colonel Thomas Baker, who was responsible for laying out the original townsite from his fields. In the early days when Havilah, of which only a historical marker remains, was the county seat, Bakersfield was a mining, cattle and exploration center. As the hub of Kern County, Bakersfield was incorporated in 1873 when the county seat was moved there. Greater Bakersfield population is now 80,000, or 60 per cent of that of the county.

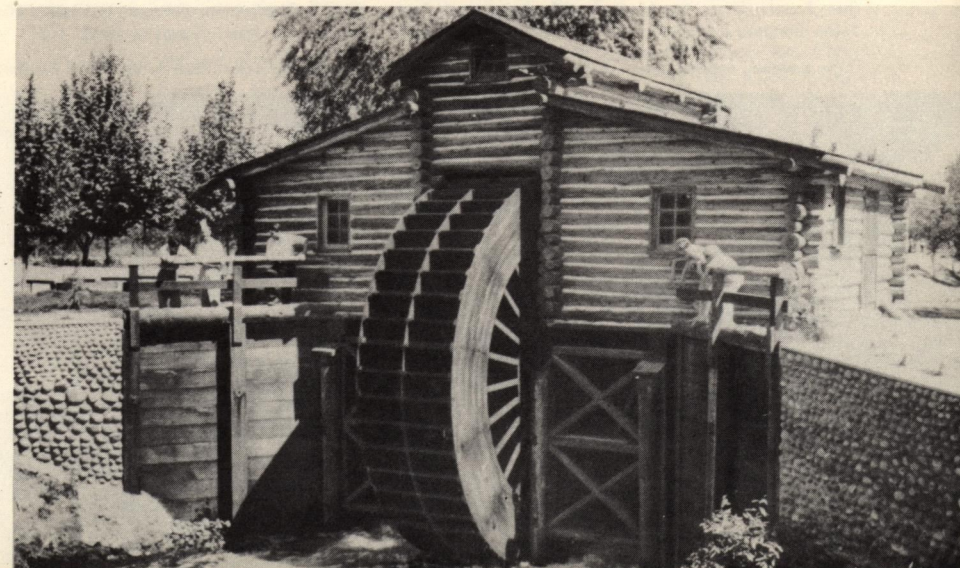
By 1910, with oil operations swinging into full stride, Bakersfield started its rapid and substantial development. Drawing upon a back-country of inestimable wealth, the city is now a clearing house and trading center for the southern San Joaquin Valley.

Bakersfield features wide streets, beautiful homes, immaculate lawns, trees and shrubs, while the economic future of the town is assured by substantial business enterprises, modern manufacturing plant structures and office buildings.

Tourist accommodations in Bakersfield are unsurpassed, as it offers ample and competitive transportation facilities along the main lines of the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads, the Greyhound and Trailways bus line. Kern County Airport near Bakersfield, at Oildale, is a stopping point for air transports of various lines to and from all destinations. Bakersfield is a gateway to the national parks, to the coast, the High Sierras, the Mojave Desert and Death Valley via Walker's Pass or Tehachapi, with a driving time to all these attractive points averaging about two hours.

Close by is Kern County Park, San Joaquin Valley's largest recreation center, with its lakes, giant plunge, picnic grounds, zoo, miniature railway, famous old mill wheel and the Kern River (Rio de San Felipe).

Kern County Park



Livestock

"The Cowman Was a Grand Old Mug,
Yet All His Days No Ditch He Dug."

LIVESTOCK is king on Kern County farms and ranches.

Raising and feeding livestock is the largest and most important single agricultural activity in the county. A total of 4,835,912 acres of rangeland offers ideal forage, both summer and winter, and cattle in great number are shipped in from other states for fattening.

Kern spring lambs bring the earliest high-market prices, and sheep raising is increasing with the opening of new irrigated permanent pasture grazing land. Dairying is one of the most solid activities in Kern, facilitated by the ideal location, abundance of feed, land, water and mild winter weather. A nationally-known railroad company has purchased only Kern County milk and other dairy products for a quarter of a century.

Surprising enough, milk producers have discovered that it is more economical to transport milk to markets in Los Angeles from Kern County than to haul hay to cows in the Los Angeles vicinity. The milk direct into glass-lined thermos tank-trucks remains cooled at the same point of temperature when it reaches Los Angeles.

mail route but was abandoned as a military station on September 11, 1864. Main walls of the adobe barracks, stables and officers' quarters remain standing today.

The original grant of Tejon Ranchos to Jose Antonio Aguirre on November 24, 1843, was the largest Mexican grant in the San Joaquin Valley—97,616 acres. On the ranch, sites of several Indian villages date back to prehistoric times. Superintendent of Indian Affairs, General Edward Beale, created a reservation here in the 1850's. One of the buildings erected still stands as a ranch store for Arroyo Del Paso.

The 1830 trappers of British Hudson's Bay Company came to the Badger district, and Lebec preserves the memory of a member of the company, Peter Lebec, killed by a grizzly bear he had shot and wounded on October 17, 1837. His grave lies under the tree where he died.

Los Tejones

"The Trapper with His Gun and Snare
Just Smote the Beaver in His Lair."

THE Spanish word "Tejon," meaning badger, is a romantic one in Kern County. It is applied to Tejon Pass, Tejon Ranch and Fort Tejon. Don Pedro Fages, who first penetrated the pass, named it Buena Vista. Now called Grapevine Canyon, the summit is known as Tejon Pass.

Fort Tejon, established in 1854, protected settlers from Indians. In 1858, six-horse stages ran from San Francisco to St. Louis in 23 days, and Fort Tejon became a station on the Butterfield Overland

"The timeless, ageless desert—fantastic, weaving spells, working magic—comes into its own as a recreational area."



The First White Man

ALWAYS an interesting one is the "First White Man" problem in the West, and in Kern County that title falls to Don Pedro Fages, Spanish army commandant and one of the greatest Spanish governors of Alta California. Although historians have disputed over the "First White Man" claims, a translation of Fages' diary by Dr. Herbert E. Bolton of the University of California shows this soldier was the "first." Don Pedro Fages first beheld the wildflowers, the water and the desert.

Fages was brought into Kern County in 1772 on a chase for deserters from his army. His route took him through Tejon Pass, which he called the Pass of Buena Vista (beautiful view). He skirted south of the Kern and Buena Vista lakes and visited the ancient Yokut Indian Village of Tulamnui, naming it Buena Vista—oldest place name in the South San Joaquin Valley and one still in use.

Nationally recognized, the site was the scene of the excavation operations of the Smithsonian Institute in 1933 and 1934. Fages left the county westward through the mountains to San Luis Obispo where he conducted a bear hunt to save inhabitants of that mission from starvation.

First white man at the site of Bakersfield was Padre Francisco Garces, in whose honor and memory has been erected a 25-foot statue at the unique U. S. 99 Highway circle checking and directing the daily heavy flow of traffic along the "main street" of California that bisects Kern County.

Padre Garces crossed the Rio de San Felipe (Kern River) on May 7, 1776, fifty-eight days before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, when he set foot on the Indian Rancheria of San Miguel, a short distance from what is now Bakersfield.

He had first crossed the river on May 1, 1776, at the mouth of the Kern River Canyon near the present site of the Olcese Ranch, giving the name San Felipe to the river he had discovered. Padre Garces transversed more than 200 miles unaccompanied by other white men on his roundtrip into the San Joaquin Valley from his base at San Xavier Mission—now the State of Senora, Mexico—and blazed the route over Tehachapi Pass now used by the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads. The priest opened the first trail from California to New Mexico.





Kern River Canyon

GATEWAY to one of California's most fascinating mountain gold countries, Kern River Canyon, rival of Yosemite and Kings, is a canyon of solid beauty and through it winds Kern River, which originates on Mount Whitney, highest point in Continental United States.

A flood of miners and their camp followers swarmed into the canyon in 1855 with discovery of gold on the river—a rush which led to the rubbing of the hands of many Southern California merchants who previously had no chance to reap the harvest gathered in Stockton, Sacramento and San Francisco.

Richard Keys opened a mine in the new field in the Greenhorn Mountain and Keysville mushroomed into a mining town as blatant as any movie set could make it. Now, vandals and time have had their way with Keysville and all that remains are a few "shake" roofed houses.

In 1860, "Lovely" Rogers, a Keysville miner, located the Big Blue Mine near which rose the law-and-order settlement of Quartzburg, although Whiskey Flat, later known as Kernville, only a

mile away, imposed no such restrictions. Senator John P. Jones acquired most of the Quartzburg mines and consolidated them into the Big Blue, but when he suffered financial reverses in 1879 his operations were checked and water supply cut off, killing the town. Reminiscent of Quartzburg's peaceful past now are only two lonely chimneys.

Havilah, fourth town founded in the Kern River mining country, was named by a Southern sympathizer, Asbury Harpending, who became involved in a plot to prey on shipping at San Francisco for the benefit of the Confederates. Havilah was a flourishing town when Kern County was established on April 2, 1866 and became the county seat, but it was also killed by the Big Blue shutdown and now only a marker remains.

Kern River Canyon country travel by the Sierras offers the next and final mountain home estates frontier, just ahead with growing Southern California less than a half-a-day away demanding recreation space. Greatest single economic factor changing life in Kern County is the proposed irrigation and flood control dam at Isabella near the confluence of the Kern Rivers, the life lines of Kern County.

Kern's West Side



"In the Quick Forge and Working House of Thought."—Shakespeare

TOPPING the western portion of Kern County, which has more than 30,000 persons depending on oil production for their livelihood, the "Big Little City" of Taft is the second largest one in the county with a greater population of approximately 20,000.

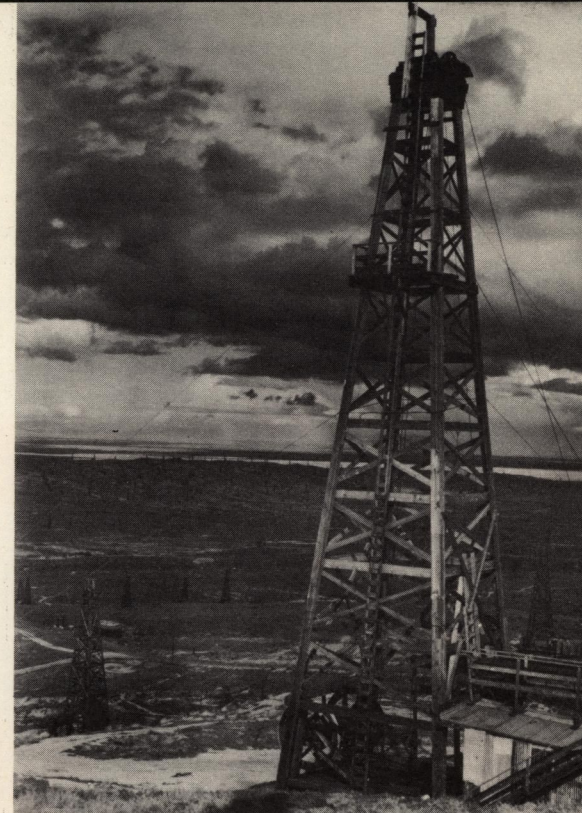
With an elevation of 950 feet, Taft is the gateway, through Maricopa, to the Mt. Pinos year-round recreational area, to the Cuyama Valley, to the coast and is on the "airline highway"—shortest and swiftest route between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Taft schools have won nationwide acclaim and reputation for their forward-looking policies. The system enjoys use of a therapy plunge for handicapped children. There are six elementary schools with 1,272 pupils. The high school and junior college system has a combined enrollment exceeding 2,000, while the Taft evening school enrollment has swelled close to the 1,500 mark. There are 17 churches.

Taft houses headquarters for operators in the Midway, Buena Vista Hills and Sunset Oil Fields, comprising 43,196 proven acres. Midway Field is 20 miles long and 7½ miles wide. Two-thirds of all the proven oil-producing area of California is



Lakeview Gusher,
1910, Maricopa.

Replica of Old Fort Sutter, housing Federal, State and County offices including personnel of Taft Basic Air Training Corps of the U. S. Army. It is interesting to know that Lt. Edw. M. Kern had a post in Sacramento under Gen. Sutter at Sutter's Fort.



adjacent to the Taft district, where the average daily production in 1940 was 50,365 barrels from 2,500 wells. Adjacent fields embracing Fellows, Ten Section, Canal, Elk Hills, Tupman, McKittrick, Belridge, Lost Hills, Cole's Levee, and Canfield Ranch daily produced in that period an average of 54,744 barrels.

Buttonwillow, the newest agricultural center, has boomed in the center of the oil area with 53,000 acres under cultivation and irrigated by well water and an abundance of ditch water from the Buena Vista reservoir.



Wealth Comes from Understanding

