

*The Golden Empire of*

**KERN**

*County*

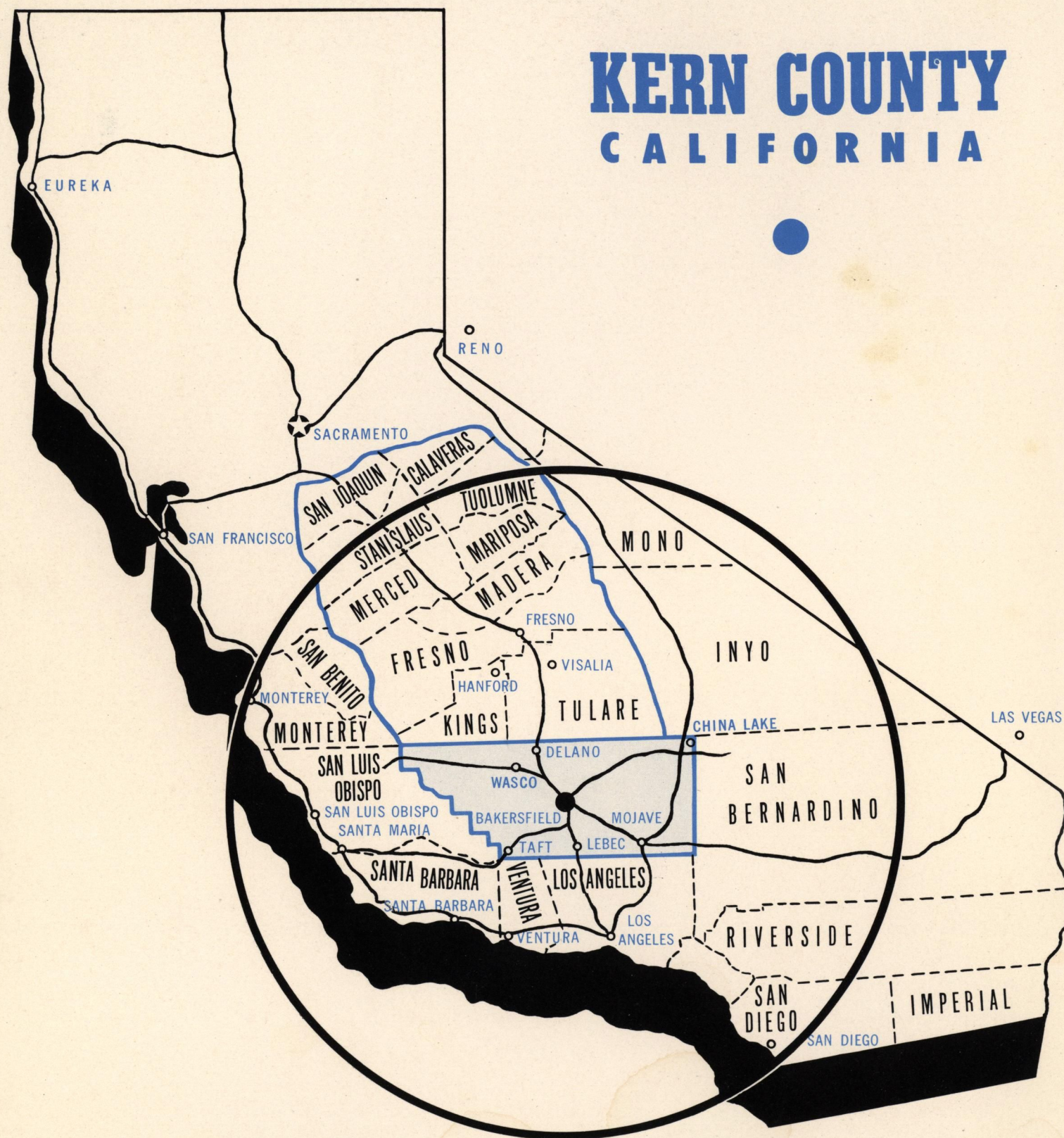


**"A BILLION DOLLARS IN SUNSHINE"**



# KERN COUNTY

## CALIFORNIA



### GEOGRAPHICAL GIANT

Largest of the Central Valley counties, Kern County is a focal point of the southern San Joaquin Valley for agriculture, oil, industry, recreation and tourist lure. Probably no one section of California surpasses the great Central Valley in natural resources or potentialities. Without dispute, one can state that Kern is the only county in California that boasts such a varied combination of natural advantages—valuable mineral deposits in the desert and mountains, grazing and dry farming in the foothills, exuberant farm crops and oil in the valley floor. In area, too, Kern County is a “geographical giant.” It covers 8007 square miles, with more than 5,000,000 acres. The area includes 50 per cent mountain, grazing and mining land, 27 per cent delta or valley, mesa or plains, and 23 per cent lies in the Mojave Desert.





## INTRODUCING YOU . . .

Through the lens of the camera—in color and in words—we present within these pages the cavalcade of Kern County.

Without intending to appear boastful, we can truthfully state that the growth and development of this sun-kissed land have transcended even the most ardent expectations of its early settlers.

Kern County, as an area, leads the state and nation in the production and valuation of petroleum; its farm output ranks among the "first five" of the country, and its brisk business and industrial activity for a long period of years have reflected the economic magnitude of the area.

Yet its potentialities and opportunities have been barely tapped. Attractive inducements for investment capital are offered as a result of the outstanding natural resources of the county, including oil, agriculture and mining.

Nationally famous parks and recreation areas are readily accessible by countless highways which radiate from the heart of Kern County. Some of the finest hotels and motels, air-conditioned in the summer and in the winter, are available for the traveler and tourist.

Endowed with a healthful, warm, dry climate and diversified opportunities, Kern County each year attracts more and more visitors searching for a prosperous place in which to live and earn a living.

The tremendous volume of Kern County's industrial business flows through Bakersfield, a modern, well-planned city flourishing with shops, department stores, office buildings, and other up-to-date edifices.

Ever-increasing cultural activities enhance the refinement of living in Kern County.

We cannot within this limited space go into voluminous detail about every phase and aspect of the sprawling giant which is Kern County. But we are certain this brochure, at a glance, will give you a fascinating impression of this wonderland of industry, agriculture, recreation and culture.



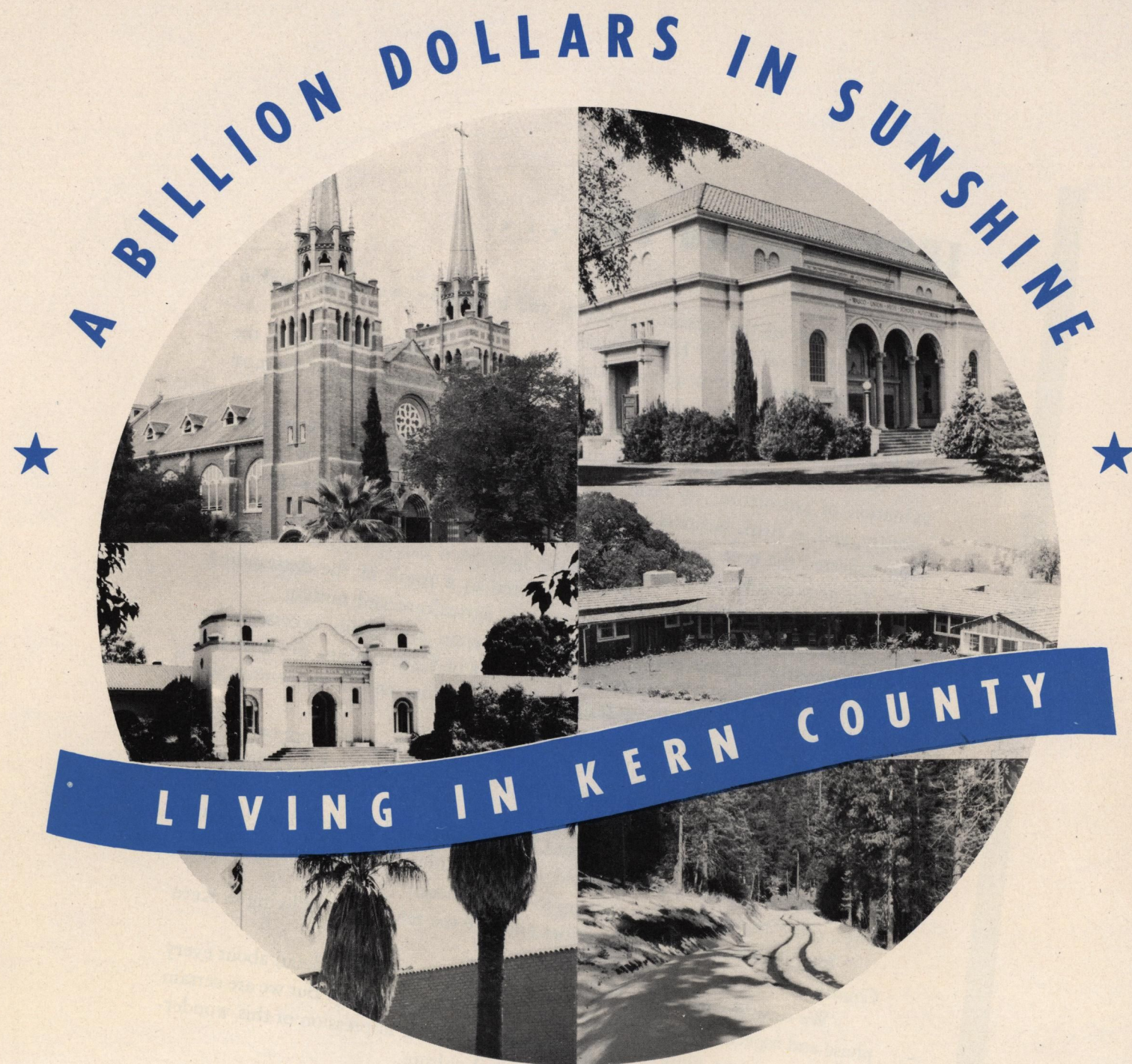
# KERN COUNTY

## *Chamber of Commerce*

KERN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SERVING 77 COMMUNITIES • PRINCIPAL OFFICE • BAKERSFIELD • CALIFORNIA





"The Golden Empire of Kern" ✦ southern link of the great San Joaquin Valley ✦ a world leader in production and valuation of petroleum in the state and nation ✦ a health paradise for nearly a quarter-million residents; varied climates at from 270 feet to 408 feet above sea level in the lush valleys, to 3000 feet on the desert; mountains rising majestically to over 8300 feet.

Although the tremendous volume of Kern County's industrial, agricultural, financial and subsidiary business flows through Bakersfield, the county seat, there are seventy-six other communities, ranging from cities to small towns, that are centers of civic life in the area. ✦ Excellent schools, from kindergarten through junior college . . . churches of all denominations . . . public libraries . . . public playgrounds and parks. These are the keys of culture. ✦ Ample and competitive transportation facilities serve the area. Motor coach lines reach every part of the county, and schools are served by an outstanding bus system. ✦ Modern, high-speed arteries traverse the county and link the area with all parts of the state and nation. Five U. S. highways travel across Kern County, feeding a large volume of tourist traffic through the area.

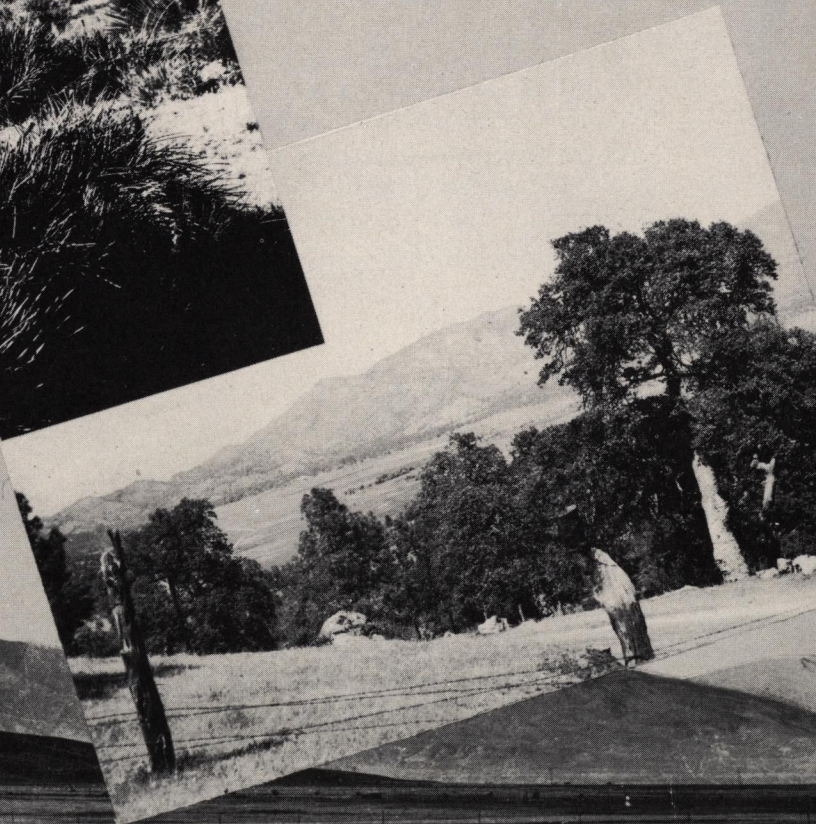


RED ROCK CANYON



# THE GOLDEN EMPIRE OF KERN COUNTY.

As large as Massachusetts. ✦ More population and wealth than Nevada. ✦ Larger than the combined states of Rhode Island, Delaware and Connecticut. ✦ The "Golden Empire of Kern County," land of "A Billion Dollars in Sunshine," was organized in 1866. ✦ Its name was derived from Kern River, which General John C. Frémont named for Lt. Edward M. Kern, topographer of Frémont's Third Expedition. ✦ Kern County is picturesquely situated in the southern part of the San Joaquin Valley. ✦ Its vast agricultural, petroleum and mineral resources adjoin fabulous Southern California, one of the world's largest populated areas supplying world markets. ✦ By automobile, Los Angeles is only 2½ hours from the heart of Kern County. ✦ Historic romance of Kern County's development is linked with the Spanish word "Tejon," meaning badger, famous trapping and hunting area known in the connections of Tejon Pass, Tejon Ranch and Fort Tejon. When Spanish Commandant Don Pedro Fages first penetrated the pass, he named it Buena Vista . . . the "good view." ✦ Fages is credited as first white man to set foot on Kern County. He came to this area in 1772 on a chase for deserters from his army. ✦ First white man at the site of Bakersfield was Padre Francisco Garces, Spanish missionary. ✦ In 1858, horse stages ran from San Francisco to St. Louis in 23 days, and Fort Tejon became a station on the Butterfield Overland mail route. The Fort was abandoned September 11, 1864. Still standing as testimony to the colorful days of the pioneer West are main walls of the adobe barracks, stables and officers' quarters. A program is under way for the restoration of buildings at the historic Fort and development of the area into a picnic ground and recreation center. Fort Tejon is only a few strides off Highway 99, below Lebec.

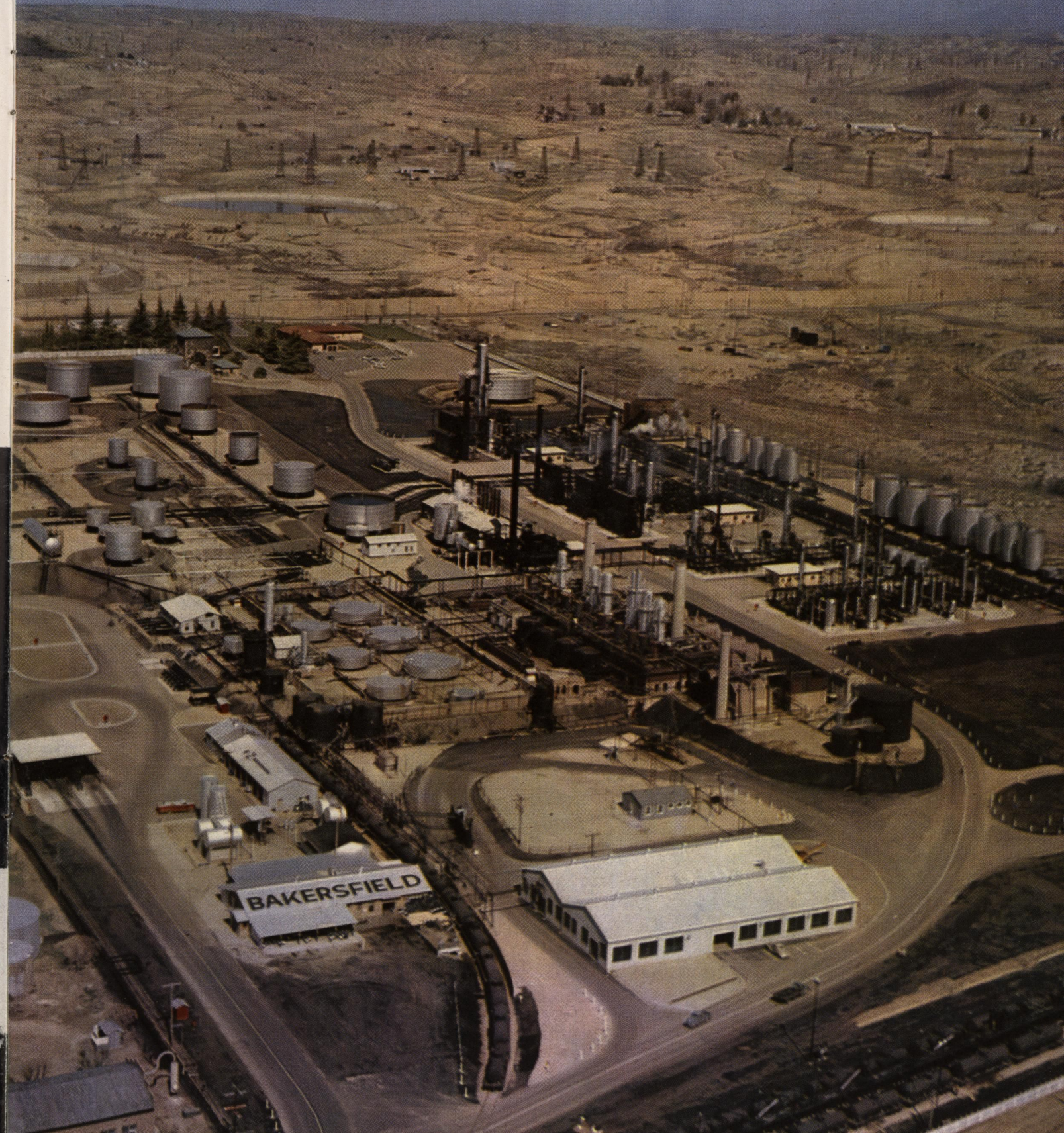




# SCENIC KERN COUNTY



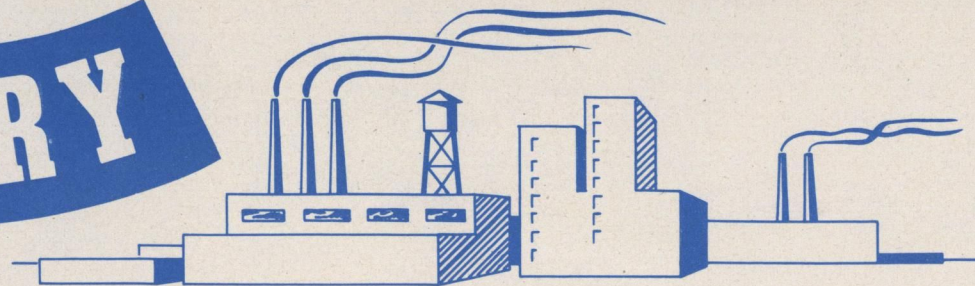
Eerie forests of Joshua trees in the fantastically beautiful Mojave Desert . . . Cool mountain streams tumbling toward the lush valley from America's highest peak . . . Vast acres of farm lands dotted with steel oil derricks . . . These are just a few of the scenic glimpses of The Golden Empire of Kern, whose patchwork quilt of attractions beckons tourist visitors and offers its scores of residents a wealth of recreational opportunities. ✦ While Kern County's famous fields of wildflowers . . . Nature's brilliantly-colored carpet which blanketed thousands of acres of land in the past . . . have been largely "plowed under" by farm encroachment, spots of color still splash Kern's picturesque hillsides in the spring. ✦ Mountain retreats, where both winter and summer sports may be enjoyed, are popular Cerro Noroeste in the Mt. Pinos area, Greenhorn Mountain, and its celebrated "powder snow" playground of Shirley Meadows, Frazier Mountain Park, and boulder-strewn Kern River and Caliente Canyons. ✦ Red Rock Canyon's weirdly sculptured rocks . . . Kernville, quaint locale for western motion pictures here and in the South Fork Valley; vacationists and sportsmen, giant Sequoias, scores of oil wells, colorful rodeos, fairs and fiestas which revive the gay spirit of the pioneer West . . . all are year-round attractions in Kern County. ✦ Lebec, southern portal to Kern County along U. S. 99 Highway, "the main street of California," is the entrance to the Frazier Mountain Park playground, and to Old Fort Tejon, whose buildings are being restored for development into a State Park.



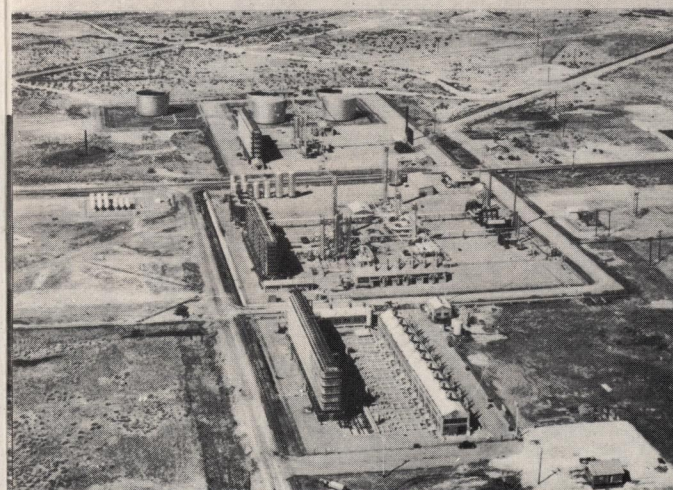
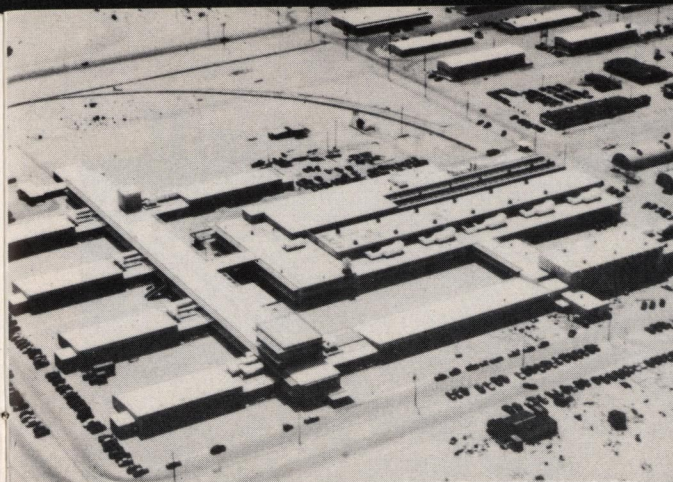
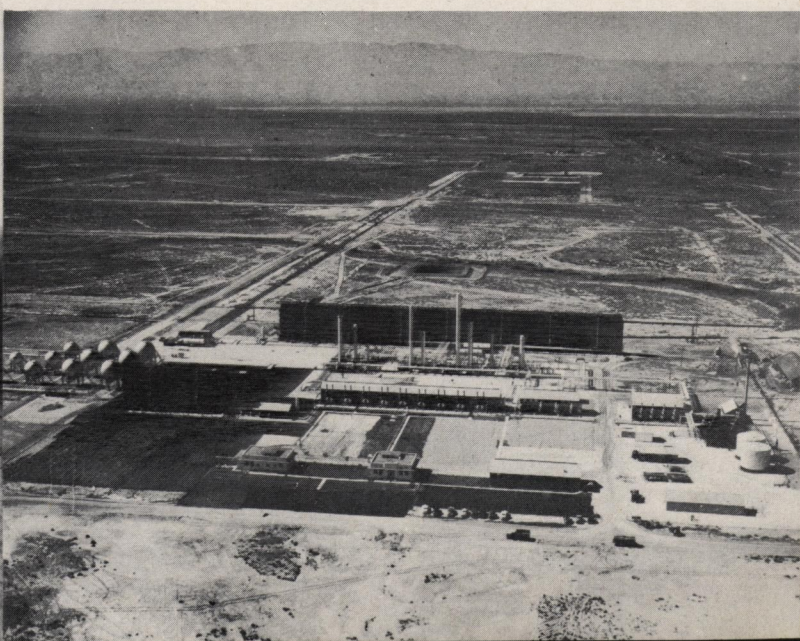
"FIRST IN OIL"



# INDUSTRY



Kern County produces everything from petroleum to potato chips. ✦ While not an area of smokestacks, Kern has numerous small industries which bring in a steady, sound pay roll to supplement basic multimillion-dollar returns from minerals and farm crops annually. ✦ A steel foundry manufactures thousands of units of a new-type two-way farm plow; batteries are turned out by the hundreds; a Kern County oil refinery is producing newly-discovered solvent-processed oils which stand the tests of the finest eastern oils; cement plants, cotton gins, wineries, railroads, the largest borax plant in the world . . . these are all part of the industrial picture of Kern County. ✦ World's largest winery at Arvin.



Kern produces salt, too, to go with its potato chips. Resembling snow on the desert, deposits at Saltdale mark the site of an industry that has tripled its output in the last decade, and produces nine varieties of commercial salt. ✦ At Monolith, near Tehachapi, one of the longest-established and most consistent producers of cement and lime products contributes substantially to the industrial pay roll of the county. ✦ For the most part, products manufactured here in this equable climate are by-productive from Kern County's own raw materials: 100-octane gasoline, borax, cement, salt, oilwell mud, farm machinery, steel castings, acoustical and tile clays, pumice, electrical switches, giant oilwell supplies, hose connections, fine instruments, and numerous other goods from the farm, the mine and the oil well. ✦ Kern County is on the threshold of a new manufacturing potential, cotton textile industries, following compilation of the first state survey on textiles for the West. The survey, accomplished by a nationally-known concern, has received wide acclaim by U. S. as well as foreign interests seeking to start a "new era" in cotton spinning.

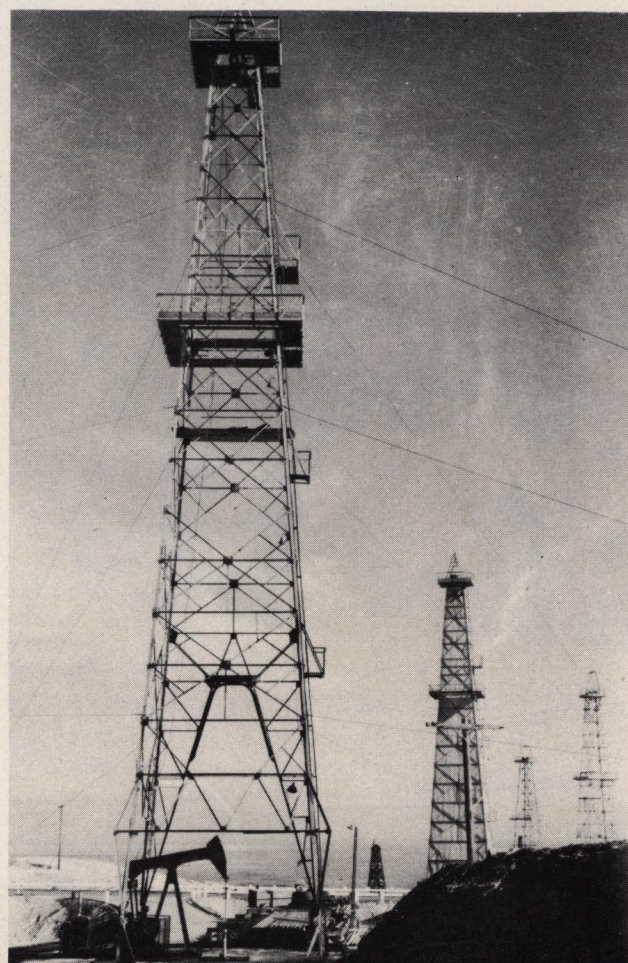




# PETROLEUM

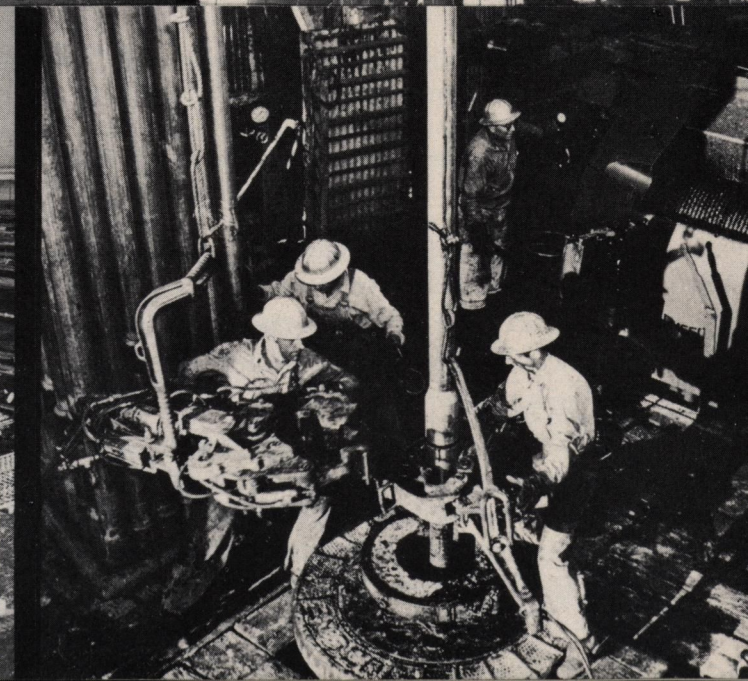
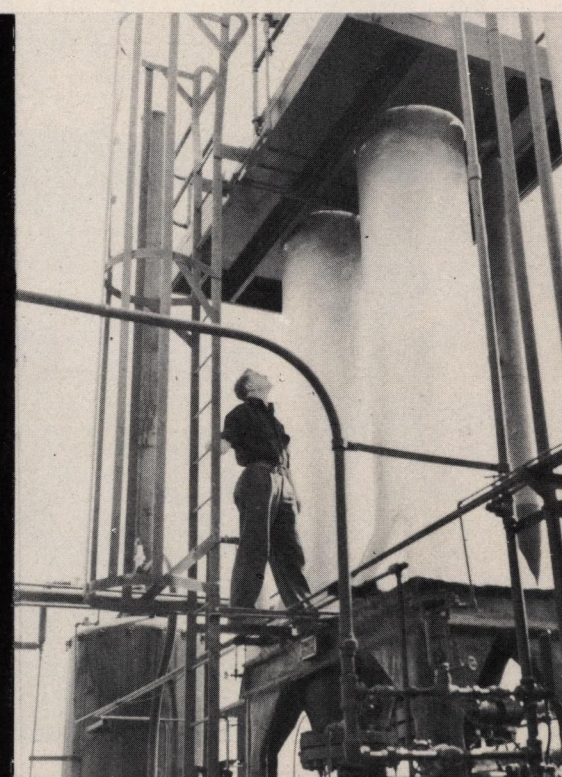
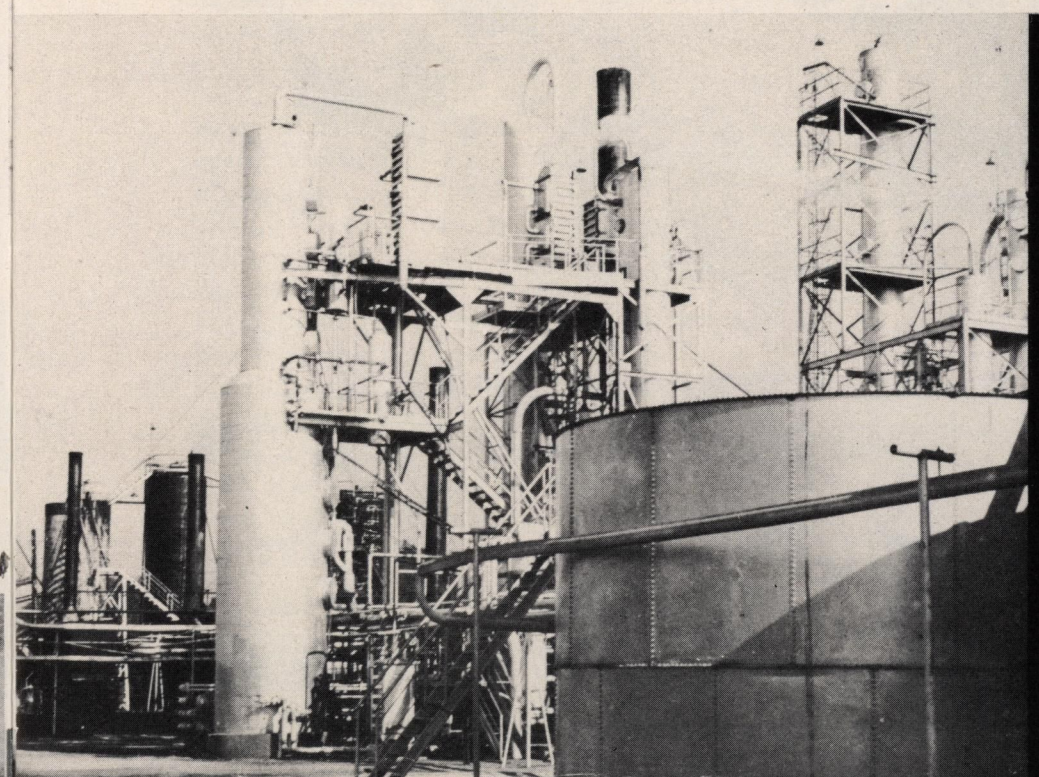
## KERN COUNTY...

produces more than one-third of the total California petroleum output. Oil constitutes one of Kern County's chief sources of wealth and income. The industry's dollar-volume returns annually vie with the county's huge agricultural enterprises. ✧ In many areas, towering steel derricks jut out of expansive crop acreages. So while fertile farm lands are producing a multimillion-dollar potato crop, lying beneath the soil are bountiful supplies of oil and gas. ✧ Small independent producers and large corporations alike have exploited the rich oil- and gas-bearing formations of Kern County since the turn of the century. Two soldiers discovered the first asphalt beds in 1854 near Reward in western Kern County, and in 1863 several thousand barrels of oil were produced near Buena Vista Lake. In 1867, the Pacific Exploration Company drilled a well near Devil's Den with a crude, rotary auger. ✧ It was not until 1899, however, that extensive oil deposits were discovered in what now is the famous Kern River Field. ✧ Activity spread to the West Side, and Taft soon became the capital of the oil empire of Kern. In 1910, the Lakeview Gusher "blew in," flooded the world's markets with oil, and boomed Kern County.



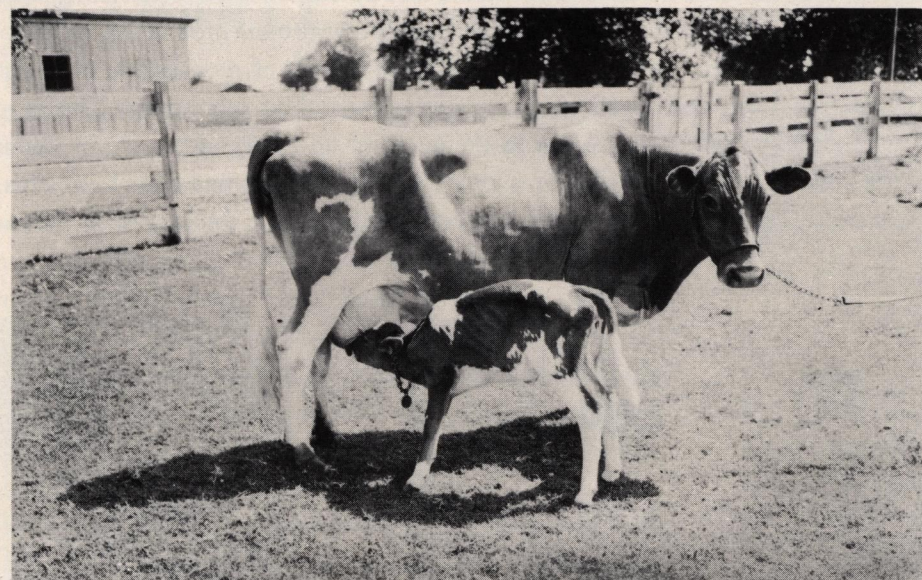
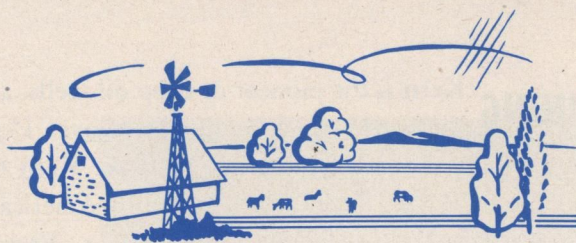
## REFINING

Kern is the pioneer of deep oil wells, and has a large number of the deepest producing wells in the world, reaching depths of over 15,000 feet . . . nearly three miles. Almost every conceivable kind of oil field and related machinery make Kern County a mecca for foreign visitors, the oil geologist or engineer. From Egypt, Persia, Borneo, South America and other foreign lands have come oil technologists to study Kern County oil-producing techniques. ✧ Variety of geological conditions makes common the initiation of new practices in the oil fields of Kern County. ✧ During national emergencies, Kern's oil wells and refineries supply 100-octane gasoline for the nation's defense. ✧ The renowned Midway-Sunset Field (including Buena Vista and Elk Hills) on Kern's West Side has supplied about half the county's entire oil production in the past half-century. ✧ The largest military reservoir in the country, 300,000,000 barrels of recoverable oil reserve, is contained in rich Elk Hills, which has been converted into a gigantic controlled laboratory. The newly-discovered reserves would give the nation 71,000 barrels a day in the event of an emergency. ✧ In Cuyama Valley, near Maricopa and Taft, the state's richest oil strike in a quarter of a century has added impetus to petroleum activities in Kern's West Side. The Cuyama field, it is predicted, will become the largest in the state.





# LIVESTOCK



Livestock is the largest and most important single agricultural activity in Kern County. A sprawling range, offering both winter and summer forage, has enabled the raising of livestock to progress and develop at a steady pace. The industry is one of the county's oldest, most dependable, diversified and profitable occupations. ✓ There are several million acres of range land to support sheep as well as cattle. ✓ Milk producers, too, are finding it cheaper to transport milk to markets in Los Angeles from Kern County than it is to haul hay to cows closer to Los Angeles. For over a quarter of a century one major railroad has purchased only Kern County milk and its products. ✓ Each year, in the fall, the livestock show held in connection with the Kern County Fair exhibits some of the finest herds in the country and draws national attention. ✓ Livestock production includes beef, poultry, hogs, sheep, and dairy products. Kern County lambs bring the earliest market prices. ✓ The industry is enhanced and abetted by its proximity to the Los Angeles market.

# MINING



The dollar-and-cents development of Kern County first started with the important industry of mining. Although mining today is far from the top of the income bracket, it was at one time virtually the only reason for settlers in this area. ✓ Starting in the years immediately following the '49 Gold Rush, gold seekers began to follow the Sierra Nevada range southward in search of new locations and streams. The first real "strike" in the area was made by Richard Keys, who in 1853 discovered the first quartz vein and changed the character of subsequent activities in Kern County. ✓ Within a short period, early in 1855, nearly 6000 men rushed to the "new country" and established such famous mining towns as French Gulch, Spanish Gulch, Hogeys Gulch, Bradshaw's, Quartzburg, Keysville, Havilah, and Whisky Flat. Today many are only ghost towns. ✓ Although there is no accurate record of the amount of placer gold removed from the area in the early days, various estimates have placed it at over \$100,000,000.



A renowned doctor of chemistry advanced some indication of the scope and magnitude of the mineral-bearing section of eastern Kern County when he stated: "Almost every known element of the periodic system has been identified within a 100-mile radius of Randsburg." All of the deposits are of interest from a mineralogical standpoint and many have great commercial importance. The world's largest deposits of borax are located near Boron on the Mojave Desert. Here is the home of Twenty-Mule Team Borax, nationally-known household article. Cement, oilwell mud, gypsum, tungsten, lead, zinc, clay, limestone, gold, silver, salt and scores of other solid minerals are produced in the eastern Kern County mining empire. Government researchers have been investigating mining areas in eastern Kern County, where traces of radium and helium have been discovered.



## Historical Landmarks

- ① Gold found at Havilah.....1864
- ② Peter Lebec, fur trapper, killed by grizzly bear...1837
- ③ Gordon's Ferry, overhead cable type.....1850's
- ④ J. R. Walker, first to cross Sierras from East....1835
- ⑤ Whiskey Flat, now Kernville.....1860
- ⑥ Keysville, Placer and Quartz gold mining.....1853-70
- ⑦ Willow Springs Stage Station.....1864-72
- ⑧ Oak Creek Pass,  
Tehachapi-Los Angeles route.....1776-1876
- ⑨ Sebastian Indian Reservation.....1853-64
- ⑩ Garces, first white man to cross Kern River.....1776
- ⑪ U. S. Army Post, Fort Tejon, Colonel Beale...1854-64
- ⑫ First County Seat, Havilah.....1866-73
- ⑬ First white man in county, Don Pedro Fages.....1772
- ⑭ Garces Circle, Bakersfield.....1776
- ⑮ First Kern River commercial oil well.....1899
- ⑯ Fages-Zalvidea Trails.....1772-1806
- ⑰ Rose Station, old stage stop.....1853-1875
- ⑱ City Hall, Colonel Baker.....1863
- ⑲ Padre Garces, Arvin.....1776
- ⑳ Grapevine Pass.....1806
- ㉑ Tulamni, ancient Yokuts Indian village site...1772
- ㉒ Indian Wells, Death Valley  
'49ers' watering hole.....1849-50
- ㉓ Desert Spring, Death Valley '49ers early-day  
water hole and freight station.....1849-50
- ㉔ Willow Springs, Death Valley '49ers camp....1849-50
- ㉕ Glennville Adobe, oldest structure in  
Kern County, about.....1850

• The Kern County Historical Society and the Kern County Museum will give further and interesting information about historical landmarks and events.

## Communities

**ARVIN:** Winery, Wildflowers, Di Giorgio Farms, Table Grapes.

**BAKERSFIELD:** County Seat, Livestock Show Last Week in September, Southern Terminal San Joaquin Valley, Wide Avenues, Clock Tower, Kern Philharmonic Orchestra, Community Theater, Parades.

**BELRIDGE:** Oil and grazing, Carneros Rocks, Flowers.

**BODFISH:** Gateway to Historic Havilah.

**BORON:** Pacific Coast Borax Mine, produces one-half world's borax; Las Vegas-Barstow Highway.

**BUTTONWILLOW:** State Elk Preserve, Sugar Beets, Cotton, Ginning, Small Farms, Frog Hunting.

**CALIENTE:** Pioneer Railroad Center, Portal to Scenic Caliente Canyon and Walker's Basin.

**CANTIL:** Red Rock Canyon, Salt Beds, Insulating and Acoustical Plaster Materials, Old Dutch Cleanser Mines, Petrified Forest, Salt Beds.

**CHINA LAKE:** Naval Ordnance Test Station.

**DELANO:** Lettuce, Grapes, Wineries, Melons, Gateway to Greenhorn Mountain Playground, County Guest Building, Chamber of Commerce Branch, Pipe Manufacturing Industry.

**FELLOWS:** Oil, Temblor Mountains, Airline Highway.

**FORD CITY:** Oil, Modern Horse Show Arena, County Parks.

**GLENNVILLE:** Cattle, Resort Area, Gateway to Greenhorn ski area.

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

**INYOKERN:** Mining, Agriculture, Desert Lure, Naval Ordnance Test Station, World's Largest Inland Naval Base, U. S. 395.

**ISABELLA:** Confluence of Kern Rivers, Isabella Dams.

**KERNVILLE:** Mountain Resort, Western Movie Locale, Historic Lore, Water Falls, Pioneer Pageantry, Whiskey Flat, Summer Estates, Wildflowers, Big Trees, Fishing, Lumber, Isabella Flood Control Dams, Power, Irrigation and Recreation Projects, Winter Sports.

**LEBEC:** California Wild Life, South Gate to Kern County, Frazier Park, Year-Around Recreation, Winter Sports.

**LOST HILLS:** Livestock, Oil, Gypsum, Devil's Den, Point of Rocks.

**MARICOPA:** Lakeview Gusher, Winter and Summer Sports Route, Entrance to Cuyama Valley, Ventura and Santa Barbara.

**METTLER STATION:** New Agricultural Center, Cotton Gins, Cotton.

**McFARLAND:** Agriculture, Cotton, Alfalfa, Potatoes, Beets.

**McKITTRICK:** Birthplace of Oil, 1864; Temblor Mountains, Wheat Elevator Terminal, Carissa Plains, Prehistoric Fossils.

**MOJAVE:** Joshua Forest, Desert Wildflowers, Golden Queen Mine, Mt. Soledad, Highway and Railway Terminals, Boulder Dam Highway, Santa Fe and Southern Pacific Railways, U. S. Nos. 6 and 466, Annual Gold Rush Days, Marine Air Station.

**MUROC:** Edwards Air Force Base, U. S. Army; Testing Grounds for Jet Airplanes and Latest Military Aircraft.

**OILDALE:** Home Port of World's First County Airport System, Orange Belt Highway Terminal.

**ONYX:** South Fork, Kern River Country, Cattle, Walker's Pass, Weldon, Motion Picture Locale.

**RANDBURG:** Strategic Mining Industries, Death Valley Highway, Gold, Mineral Museum, U. S. 395.

**RIDGECREST:** Naval Ordnance Test Station, Rockets, Cal Tech. Institute, Michelson Laboratory, China Lake, Cross-Country Highway.

**ROSAMOND:** Mining, Agriculture, Rotary Mud.

**SHAFTER:** Minter Field, Potato Empire, World's Deepest Oil Fields.

**TAFT:** Oil, Horse Shows, Rodeos, Replica of Fort Sutter, Buena Vista Lake, Plunges and Therapy Pools, Steel and Soil Pipe Plant, Oilwell Supplies, Oildorado Days.

**TEHACHAPI:** Cement, Scenic Area, Walong Loop, Ranches, Bartlett Pears, California Institution for Women, Famous Fourth of July Barbecues, Sugar Beet Seed Industry, Potatoes, Soil Conservation District.

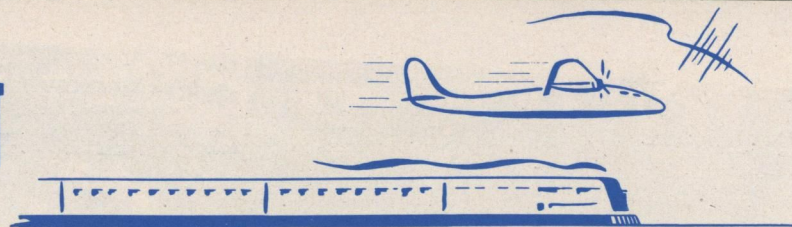
**TUPMAN:** Oil, U. S. Navy Headquarters, Elk Hills Game Preserve.

**WASCO:** World's Deepest Producing Oil Wells, Agriculture, Dairying, Potatoes, U. S. Coast Travel Thoroughfare, Central Valley Highway and U. S. No. 466, Vitamins and Cement Pipe Production.

**WOODY:** Mountain Ranches, Wildflowers, Wooded Vistas, Resorts Area, Granite Station, Greenhorn Road, Cattle.



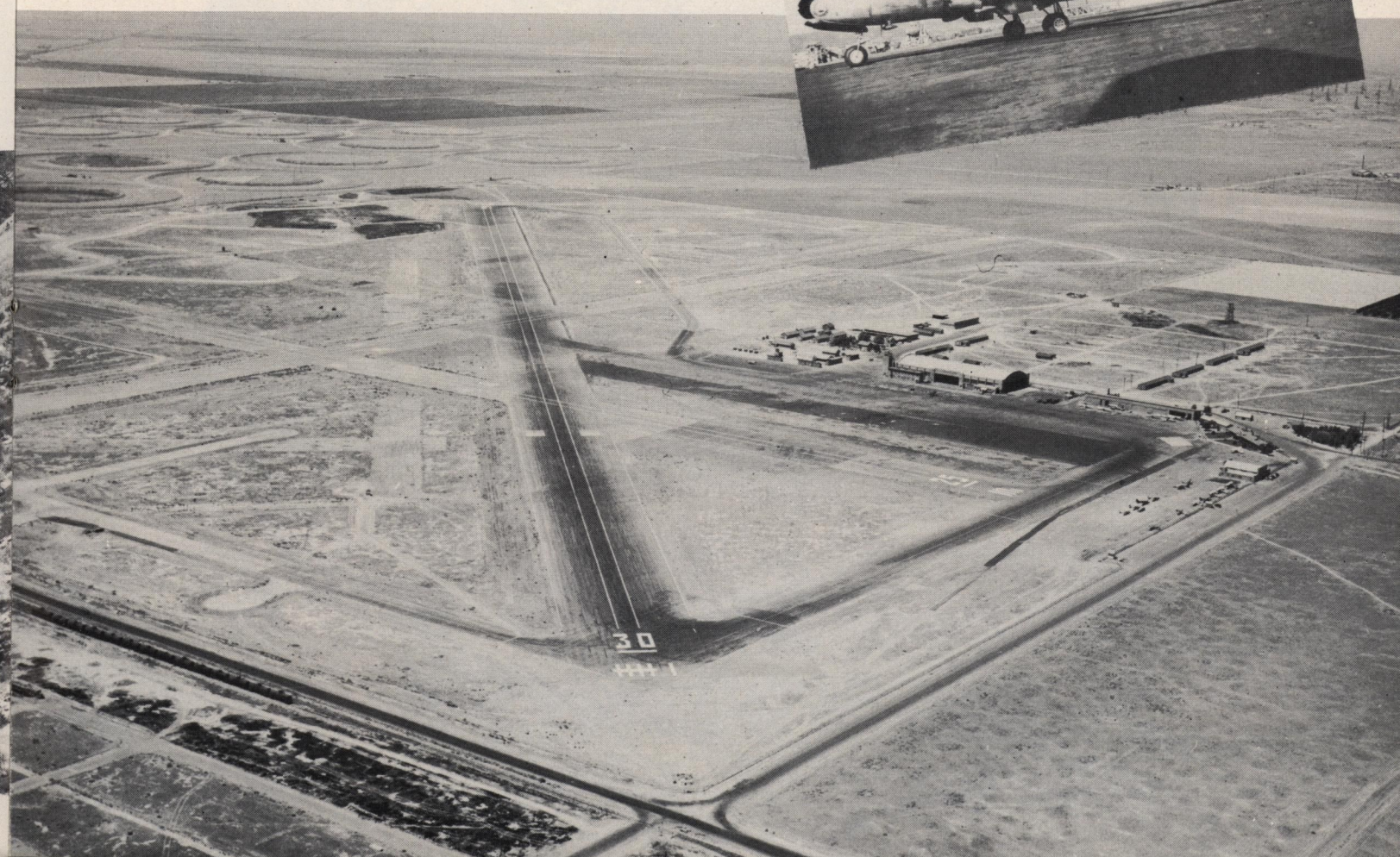
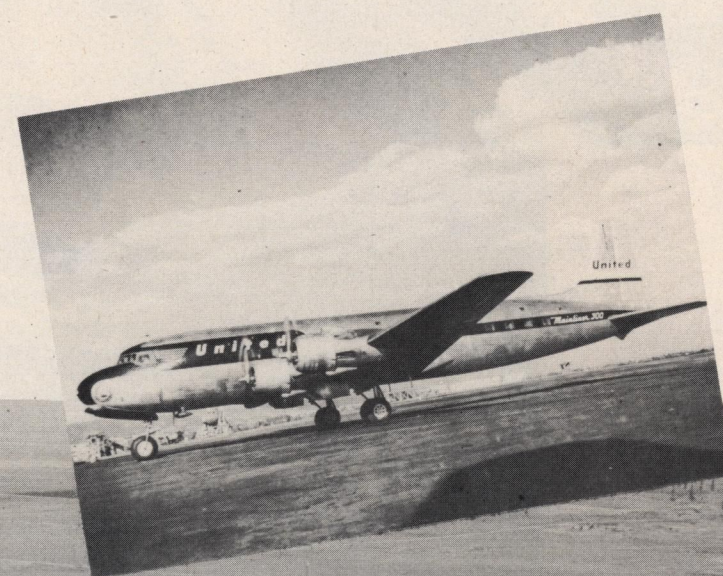
# TRANSPORTATION



Moving swiftly by air, rail and motor transport, industrial and agricultural products are shipped daily from Kern County outlets to nation-wide markets. Two transcontinental railroad lines provide fast, modern access to markets throughout the country, with transoceanic shipping. Competitive truck and bus lines also serve all points in the West. Major air lines connect direct to all terminals of the nation and foreign ports. Geographically favored, Kern County enjoys the most modern and extensive transportation facilities. U. S. 99 Highway, bisecting Kern County north and south, provides a quick arterial route to Southern California, the coast, harbors, beaches, desert and High Sierra mountain resorts . . . all within 2 to 3 hours' driving time. U. S. Highway No. 6, traversing eastern Kern County, is not only an artery for travel to and from Los Angeles and to the High Sierras, but is a transcontinental route spanning from California across nine states to New York. One of the newest transcontinental links, the highway supplies a steady flow of tourist traffic into Kern County from the east. Three other U. S. highways are important transportation links to Kern County: U. S. Highways 395 (Three Flags Highway), 466, from the coast, and 399. The Cross-Country Highway, cutting through scenic Kern River Canyon, will open a new avenue into Kern County from the east and eventually will provide a direct, all-weather link between Kingman, Ariz., Las Vegas, Nev., through Bakersfield to San Luis Obispo on the coast. In time, the route will become a link on an ocean-to-ocean transcontinental highway which will be the shortest road distance across the continent. Leadership in "skyways," too, was taken by Kern County . . . the first area to initiate an air-marking program in connection with the Skyway 99 "aerial highway" that will extend from Calxico to Vancouver along a route paralleling U. S. 99 Highway.

# AIRPORTS ★

The first airport in Kern County was developed by the Kern County Chamber of Commerce in 1925 near Highway 99 . . . about a mile west of the present site of the Kern County Airport. On July 22, 1927, the Board of Supervisors purchased the present site on land that just previously had been plowed for cotton planting. The Kern County Planning Commission, in May, 1941, mapped the preparation of a Master Airport Plan. The tentative plan was officially approved by the Board of Supervisors in November, 1945, and in January, 1946, was sanctioned by the Civil Aeronautics Administration to become one of the first such master airport plans approved in the state and nation. Today the county's sprawling system has facilities valued conservatively at \$5,000,000. ✎ County-owned airports alone, not counting private and military installations, comprise more than 6000 acres of land. They have paved runways, aprons and taxiways which, if sliced into strips 20 feet wide, would provide a good highway from Bakersfield to San Diego. ✎ Kern's military airfields rank among the most important and essential in the nation. The latest aircraft are flight-tested at the Edwards Air Force base at Muroc; the Naval Ordnance Test Station near Inyokern is the scene of naval air arm and rocket development; hundreds of aircraft-carrier flyers were trained at the Marine base at Mojave.

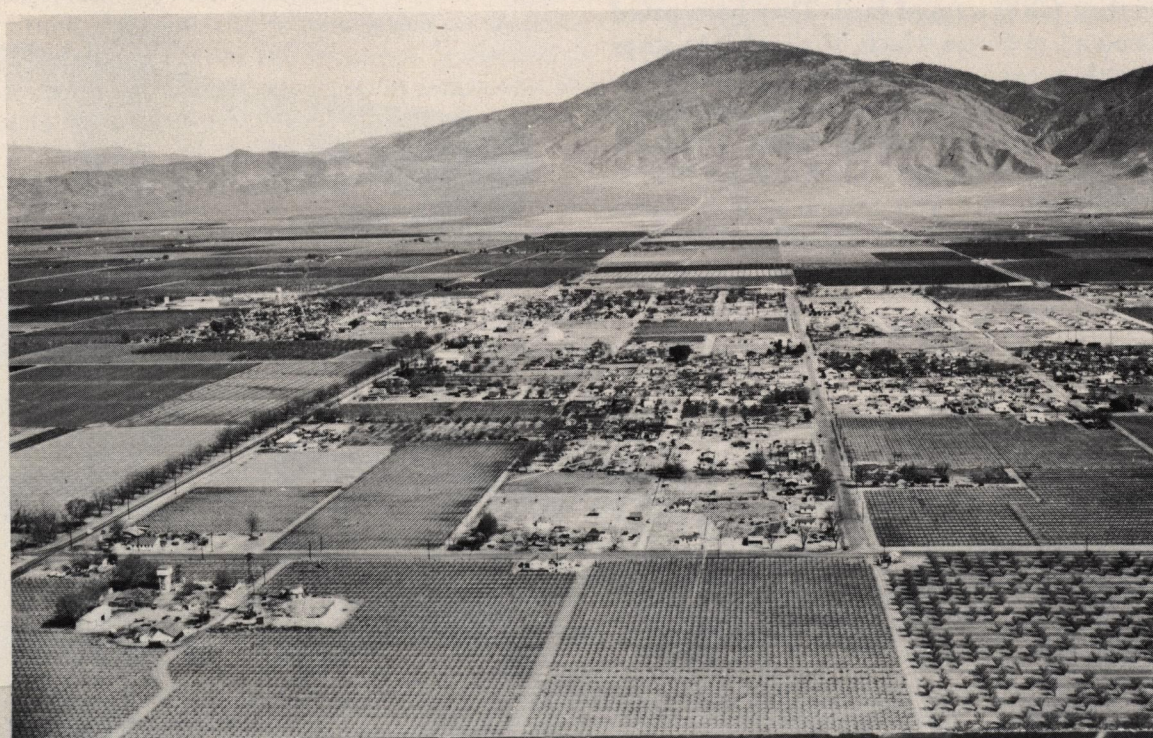




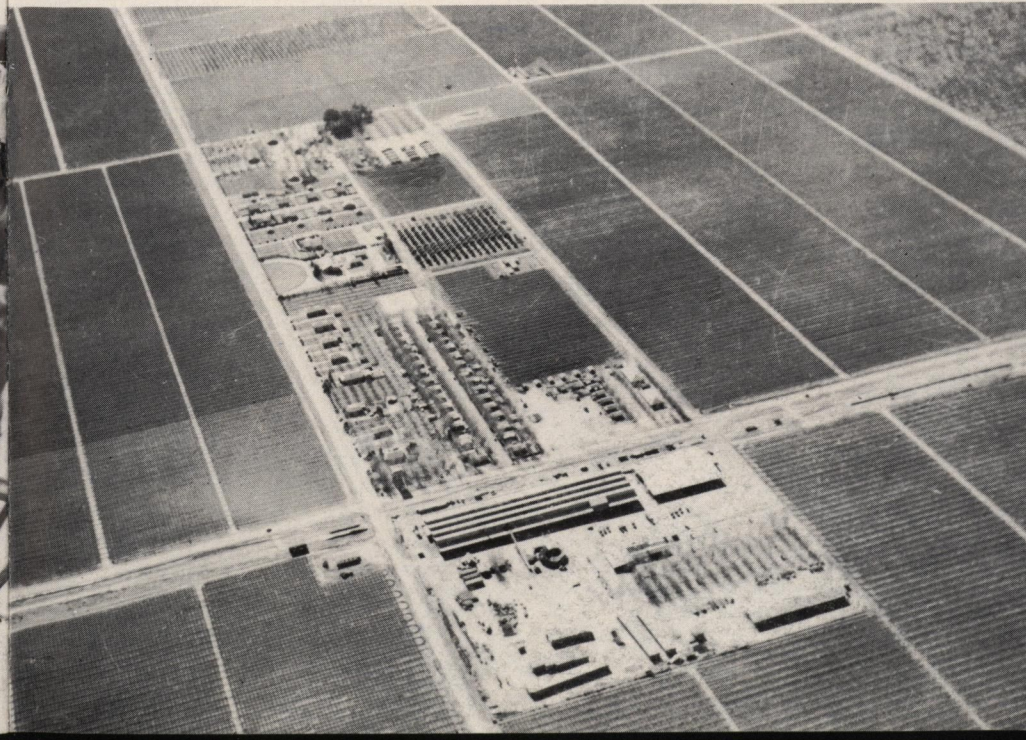
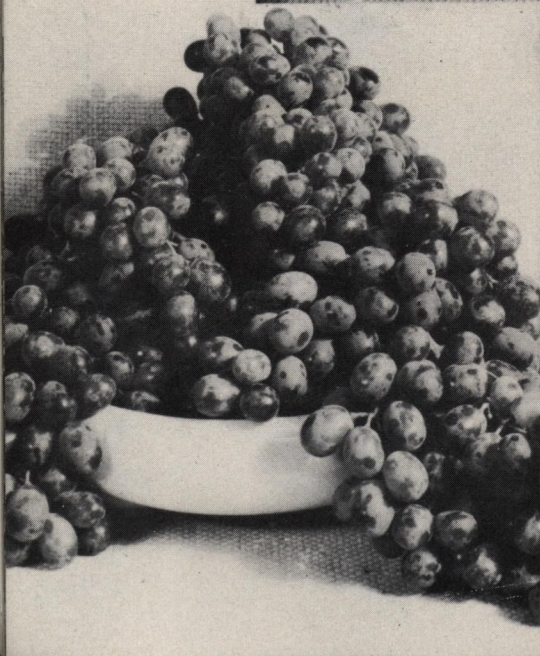
# AGRICULTURE



Fabulously expansive fields, engraved in vivid avenues ranging from peas to potatoes, place Kern County in a position as one of the world's leading agricultural empires. ✦ Nearly three-fourths of California's total potato output is produced by the famous Kern County "potato pot" embracing McFarland, Wasco, Pond, Shafter, Cawelo, Edison, Wheeler Ridge, Arvin and Tehachapi. Long, white, shallow-eyed and thin-skinned, Kern potatoes feed the nation, vying with "king cotton" as the No. 1 farm income. Kern is the nation's foremost county in the production of cotton. ✦ One of the major discoveries of the U. S. Experimental Farm, near Shafter (originally founded by the Kern County Chamber of Commerce), is the development of a new cotton strain yielding fibers from 20 to 25 per cent greater in tensile strength. Outstanding feature of the new strain (Acala Type 4-42) is the substantial lessening of spinning waste compared with the standard Acala P-18. ✦ The government farm conducts valuable research for the improvement and development of crops.



Some 13 other crops are produced in Kern County, each of which grosses more than a million dollars annually. ✦ Propitious weather, available labor, transportation and shipping facilities make possible the stupendous scope of the Kern County agricultural enterprise. The area's bountiful crops all are within easy reach of the early-morning Los Angeles market, just 112 miles south. ✦ The initial agricultural moves in Kern County came concurrently with the first frenzied searching for mineral wealth: First came the pastoral period, with widespread herds bearing many famous brands; then the day of the grain ranch on as wide a scale as such activity ever has been practiced in the world, and, following this, farmers discovered the value of intensive cultivation of crops of greater market value, such as cotton, alfalfa and potatoes.





# BAKERSFIELD



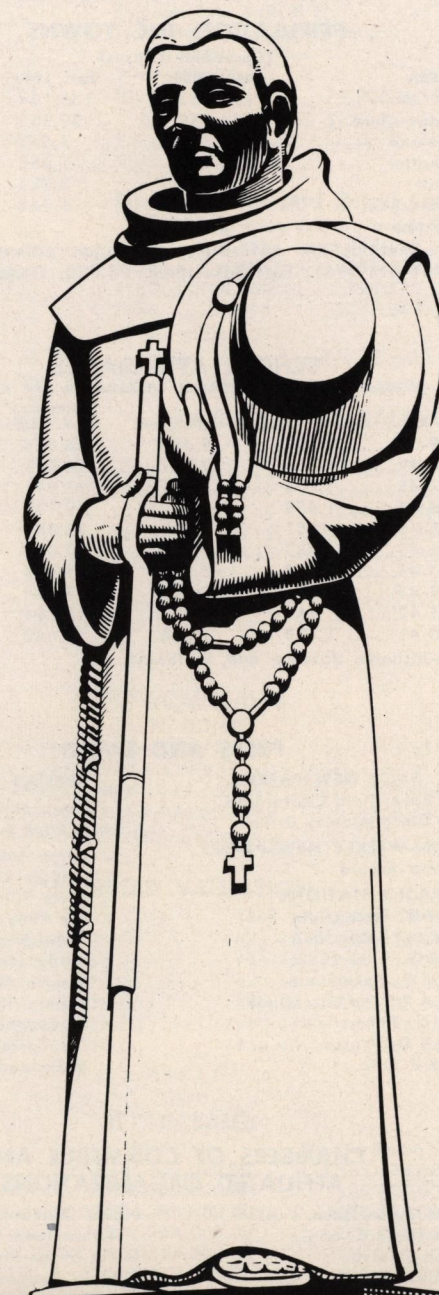
THE COUNTY SEAT

The story of Bakersfield, as well as Kern County, to a great degree has reflected that of the atmosphere of the West: First, the missionaries; then the soldiers, and, finally . . . under the protection of the armed forces . . . the permanent settlers. ✦ The city was named for Colonel Thomas Baker, who was one of few men at that time with vision to look into the San Joaquin Valley and foresee a gigantic metropolis sprouting out of an undeveloped plain. ✦ In the 1860's, Colonel Baker's green fields and adobe house already had become a welcome oasis to people traveling north from Los Angeles. Their horses were usually put in "the field of Colonel Baker" to keep them from joining the many bands of wild horses that still roamed the valley. Later, the name was abbreviated to "Baker's field," and, finally, became its present-day title, "Bakersfield." ✦ From that modest beginning, Bakersfield has expanded until today it is a city with a metropolitan area in excess of 114,000 persons. ✦ This "growingest" city is the southern portal to the lush San Joaquin Valley, one of the richest regions in the world; yet its potentialities are unrealized. ✦ Throbbing heart of Kern County, Bakersfield is a beautiful city with a reputation for casual living expressed by modern, comfortable homes lining wide streets, shaded with tall palms and eucalyptus trees. The city was incorporated in 1873 when it became the county seat. ✦ Perhaps the most vivid picture absorbed by the visitor entering Bakersfield is from the south: As the traveler comes out of the Tehachapi Mountains, moving swiftly along a smooth, four-lane divided artery, he is suddenly awed by the vast panorama sprawled out before him below the Grapevine. ✦ With snow-capped Sierra Nevadas scraping the sky to the east, the Coast Range towering to the west, and the Tehachapis rising to the south, Bakersfield is a natural center for the whole valley with vast resources.

# PADRE GARCES



Padre Francisco Garces is one of Kern County's most legendary historical figures. On May 7, 1776, fifty-eight days before the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Padre Garces crossed the Kern River at the Indian rancheria of San Miguel, a short distance from the present site of Bakersfield. However, 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 (proximate to Hart Memorial Park). The priest named the river he had discovered "Rio de San Felipe." ✦ Padre Garces, on his round trip into the San Joaquin Valley from his base at San Xavier Mission (now the state of Sonora, Mexico), traversed over 2000 miles unaccompanied by other white men over unknown trails. He blazed the route now used by the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads over Tehachapi Pass. The priest opened the first trail from California to New Mexico. In the words of one historian: ". . . he had traveled for days, first through arid mountains, then through a more arid and desolate giant flat. And then he came upon the banks of a broad river, never before sighted by the eyes of a white man, and he named it 'Rio de San Felipe'." ✦ It was in the year that the English colonists on the shores of New England made their first bid for freedom that Garces was looking for a practicable overland route from the Spanish settlements in New Mexico to Monterey.



A 25-foot statue has been erected in the honor and memory of Padre Francisco Garces at the vehicular circle of traffic at the north entrance to Bakersfield intersecting U. S. 99 Highway and Chester Avenue. The Spanish padre was the first white man at the site of Bakersfield.





# KERN COUNTY BUSINESS

## POPULATION

1951—230,100	1947—196,600	1930—82,570
1950—227,163	1946—183,000	1920—54,843
1949—223,200	1945—174,000	1910—37,715
1948—208,900	1944—156,000	1900—16,480
	1940—135,124	

Source: California Taxpayers' Association and U. S. Census.

## POPULATION, INC. TOWNS

AREA	Apr., 1950	Apr., 1940	% Change
Kern County	227,163	135,124	68.1
*Bakersfield	34,540	29,252	18.1
Delano	8,672	4,573	89.6
Shafter	2,198	1,258	74.7
Taft	3,678	3,205	14.8
Tehachapi	1,597	1,264	26.3
Wasco	5,580		

(\*—Metropolitan Bakersfield population estimated between 106,440-114,961; East Bakersfield, 38,020; Oildale, 16,616.)

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

### AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE IN REGULAR DAY CLASSES

YEAR	Junior College	High School	Elementary (Incl. Kdgn.)	TOTAL
*1949-50	1,827	9,587	36,674	48,088
*1948-49	1,470	9,061	34,545	45,076
*1947-48	1,508	8,607	31,941	42,056
*1946-47	1,458	8,110	29,130	38,698
1945-46	381	7,030	23,565	30,976
1944-45	233	6,329	22,032	28,594
1943-44	213	5,737	19,914	25,864
1942-43	534	5,692	17,685	23,911
1941-42	954	6,797	18,764	26,515
1940-41	1,208	7,216	19,440	27,864

\*—Includes absence due to illness.

## PRESS AND RADIO

### DAILY NEWSPAPERS

The Bakersfield Californian  
Taft Daily Midway Driller

### SEMI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

Delano Record

### RADIO STATIONS

K A F Y, Bakersfield  
K E R N, Bakersfield  
K E R O, Bakersfield  
K P M C, Bakersfield  
K M A R-FM, Bakersfield  
K B I S, Bakersfield  
K W S O, Wasco  
K T K R Taft

### WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS

News of Delano  
Shafter Press  
Union Labor Journal  
Oildale News  
Arvin Tiller  
The Times-Herald,  
Ridgecrest-Randsburg  
Wasco News  
Mojave Record  
Mojave Desert News  
Tehachapi News  
The Lamont Reporter  
McFarland Press

## CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Arvin Businessmen's Assn.  
Bakersfield C. of C.  
Baron C. of C.  
Buttonwillow C. of C.  
Caliente Progressive Club  
Delano C. of C.  
East Bakersfield Progressive Club  
Kern River C. of C.  
Lamont Lions Club  
McFarland C. of C.  
Mojave C. of C.  
Naval Ordnance Test Station,  
China Lake Com. Council  
North of the River Assn.  
Oildale Businessmen's Assn.  
Randsburg, Kern Co. Chapter,  
Western Mining Council  
Ridgecrest C. of C.  
Rosamond C. of C.  
Shafter C. of C.  
Taft C. of C.  
Tehachapi District C. of C.  
Wasco C. of C.

## MILLION-DOLLAR CROPS—1950

CROP	ACRES	PRODUCTION	VALUE
Cotton	166,000	288,852 bales	\$58,363,991.00
Livestock			41,230,801.00
Potatoes	65,423	14,373,380 sacks	24,434,746.00
Grapes	29,447		19,922,507.00
Cotton Seed		106,520 tons	10,652,000.00
Alfalfa	58,794	411,558 tons	6,996,486.00

## BUILDING PERMITS

	1949		1950	
	Number	Valuation	Number	Valuation
BAKERSFIELD—				
Dwellings . .	417	\$ 3,295,065.00	704	\$ 5,489,251.00
Total . . .	1423	7,070,318.00	1854	9,805,688.00

COUNTY AREAS—  
Total . . . 1658 \$ 7,132,958.00 3673 \$18,721,251.00

INCORPORATED AREAS—  
Dwellings . . . 268 \$ 1,318,800.00 378 \$ 2,203,271.00  
Total . . . 659 2,267,260.00 805 4,036,866.00

TOTAL KERN COUNTY—  
Total . . . 3740 \$16,470,536.00 6332 \$32,563,804.00

Source: Kern County C. of C.

## TELEPHONES

1950—59,557	1946—34,884	1942—25,125
1949—49,298	1945—29,963	1941—23,815
1948—43,628	1944—28,953	1940—21,808
1947—38,242	1943—27,845	1939—20,039

Source: Kern County C. of C.

## MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION

YEAR	Automobiles	Trucks	Motorcycles	Trailers
1950	85,230	13,966	1,502	13,066
1949	76,894	12,518	1,545	12,823
1948	68,111	11,131	1,708	12,441
1947	61,591	10,178	1,063	11,544
1946	55,358	8,362	641	10,100
1945	51,218	7,081	461	8,731
1944	45,560	5,594	315	27
1943	45,030	5,407	337	35
1942	50,647	5,137	353	7,227
1941	54,323	5,234	329	7,251
1940	52,252	4,651	216	6,765
1939	49,198	4,102	218	6,226
1938	47,048	3,871	205	5,640

Source: Motor Vehicle Dept., State of California.

## KERN COUNTY AIRPORT

### TOTAL AIRPLANES LANDING AND TAKING OFF

YEAR	Number	YEAR	Number
1950	78,490	1945	50,615
1949	105,568	1944	27,619
1948	169,757	1943	18,906
1947	182,000	1942	21,000
1946	95,000	1941	82,450

1940 . . . 77,824

Source: Superintendent's office, Kern County Airport.  
Note: Decreases in 1948-1950 due to decline in Veterans' Flight Training Program activity.

## VITAL STATISTICS

YEAR	Births	Birth Rate per 1000	Deaths	Death Rate per 1000	Infant Mortality per 1000 Live Births	Vital Increase
1950	6,637	29.2	1,574	6.9		5,063
1949	6,650	29.7	1,681	7.5	34.0	4,969
1948	6,479	30.0	1,676	7.8	37.0	4,803
1947	6,441	31.3	1,557	7.57	36.8	4,884
1946	5,350	27.9	1,407	7.1	34.0	3,943
1945	4,436	24.8	1,484	8.3	38.8	2,952
1944	4,489	27.2	1,401	8.5	40.5	3,088
1943	4,006	26.8	1,336	9.0	44.2	2,670
1942	3,626		1,301			2,325
1941	3,479		1,260			2,219
1940	3,372		1,319			2,053

Source: Kern County Health Department.

# KERN COUNTY BUSINESS

## OIL PRODUCTION

NATURAL GAS			OIL		Average Number of Producing Wells
Date	Mcu. Ft.	Value	Barrels	Value	
1950.....			* 87,382,300	\$197,472,000.00*	* 12,450
1949.....	99,285,460	14,892,550.00*	94,766,292	204,849,000.00	10,362
1947.....	114,765,850	9,588,536.00	107,196,152	170,164,606.00	11,008
1946.....	76,894,702	5,694,426.00	100,639,755	120,353,402.00	10,732
1945.....	78,356,108	3,829,308.00	110,280,770	116,846,281.00	10,525
1944.....	74,328,818	3,786,075.00	92,703,950	98,829,308.00	9,916
1943.....	65,576,727	3,395,175.00	84,934,943	86,174,973.00	9,242
1942.....	70,890,547	3,431,558.00	72,093,741	64,477,255.00	8,400
1941.....	91,807,125	4,573,754.00	65,628,935	57,607,724.00	7,461
1940.....	79,409,481	4,257,590.00	60,660,165	50,835,439.00	6,449
1939.....	73,950,832	\$5,191,065.00	58,893,865	\$48,664,001.00	5,865

\*—Local estimate based on actual production figures.

Source: Division of Mines, Department of Natural Resources, State of California.

## AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

	Acres Fruits and Vegetables	Acres Field Crops	Total Acres	Value All Crops (Including Livestock)
1950	288,593 1/2	254,297	542,890 1/2	\$186,454,739.00
1949	251,100	312,896	563,996	153,226,253.00
1948	106,935	424,960	531,895	165,584,552.00
1947	90,576	358,054	448,630	160,279,206.00
1946	107,658	314,574	422,232	143,176,175.00
1945	106,136	290,446	396,582	112,032,254.00
1944	100,931 1/2	313,669	414,663	90,686,158.00
1943	86,392	331,146	417,538	95,170,923.00
1942	70,058	301,023	307,480	67,282,688.00
1941	69,470	231,458	301,948	42,039,812.00
1940	60,834	286,962	327,695	32,317,084.00
1939	57,303	226,785	284,088	26,455,778.00
1938	53,206 1/2	216,963	270,169 1/2	24,995,944.00
1937	49,312	227,674	276,986	30,254,784.00

GROWING SEASON—277 days.

Source: Kern County's Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

## BANK DEBITS—Kern County

	1948	1949	1950
Jan. - - -	\$169,058,399.21	\$172,766,239.46	\$173,809,010.27
Feb. - - -	129,802,627.21	140,464,780.00	133,728,088.84
March - - -	135,854,835.19	136,006,623.12	141,831,793.88
April - - -	127,472,172.99	132,934,766.51	141,633,630.77
May - - -	128,958,041.69	159,980,410.97	146,574,614.20
June - - -	147,444,875.15	164,873,293.41	155,792,647.22
July - - -	143,021,830.00	143,113,801.10	150,910,557.29
Aug. - - -	122,831,513.84	137,459,936.65	148,022,393.29
Sept. - - -	122,723,762.94	132,024,538.21	147,915,744.78
Oct. - - -	141,011,455.71	156,270,741.47	171,881,638.20
Nov. - - -	147,923,778.03	187,057,309.59	212,004,616.76
Dec. - - -	159,320,521.85	192,205,092.49	202,288,129.71
Totals -	1,804,382,054.96	1,855,157,532.98	1,926,392,865.21

Source: Research Dept., Kern County C. of C.

## MILEAGE DISTANCES FROM BAKERSFIELD COUNTY SEAT

Arvin . . . . . 20	Isabella . . . . . 48	Randsburg . . . 109
Barstow . . . . . 134	Kernville . . . . 52	Ridgecrest . . . 117
Badfish . . . . . 42	Lebec . . . . . 39	Sequoia . . . . . 127
Buttonwillow . . 25	Lerdo . . . . . 12	Sacramento . . 275
Caliente . . . . . 25	Long Beach . . 134	San Diego . . . . 234
Coalinga . . . . . 106	Los Angeles . . 113	San Francisco . . 291
Delano . . . . . 31	Lost Hills . . . 49	S. Luis Obispo . 125
Earlimart . . . . . 39	Maricopa . . . . 45	Santa Barbara . . 143
Edison . . . . . 9	McFarland . . . . 26	Stockton . . . . . 228
Famosa . . . . . 20	McKittrick . . . . 40	Taft . . . . . 38
Fellows . . . . . 43	Merced . . . . . 162	Tehachapi . . . . 45
Fresno . . . . . 107	Modesto . . . . . 199	Tulare . . . . . 62
Glennville . . . . 42	Mojave . . . . . 62	Visalia . . . . . 73
Gorman . . . . . 44	Oakland . . . . . 281	Wasco . . . . . 27
Hanford . . . . . 89	Paso Robles . . 118	Weldon . . . . . 59
Havilah . . . . . 51	Pismo Beach . . 147	Woody . . . . . 30
Inyokern . . . . . 96	Porterville . . . 55	Yosemite . . . . . 206

## BANK DEPOSITS

	Demand Deposits	Time Deposits	Total Deposits
1950	\$128,017,000.00	\$53,345,000.00	\$181,362,000.00
1949	81,306,000.00	56,670,000.00	137,976,000.00
1947	88,535,000.00	54,900,000.00	143,435,000.00
1944	56,754,000.00	34,252,000.00	91,006,000.00
1943	44,624,000.00	24,757,000.00	69,381,000.00
1942	27,561,000.00	18,512,000.00	46,073,000.00
1941	16,442,000.00	16,945,000.00	33,387,000.00

## EMPLOYMENT IN 1950

Agriculture . . . . . low 11,500	high 34,550
Government . . . . .	8,800
Construction . . . . .	7,400
Manufacturing . . . . .	3,436
Mining and Sawmills . . . . .	950
Petroleum . . . . .	7,500
Retail Trades . . . . .	12,070
Service Industries . . . . .	10,565
Finance, Ins. and R. E. . . . .	1,222
Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities . . . . .	6,456
Wholesale Trade . . . . .	4,202
Totals . . . . .	74,301 to 97,351

Source: California State Employment Service, Bakersfield Office.

## Taxable Sales and Retail Outlets

	Number of Outlets*	Taxable Sales
1949	5,325	218,617,000.00
1948	5,206	236,539,480.00
1947	4,869	199,773,240.00
1946	4,195	\$157,684,000.00

\*As of Dec. 31.

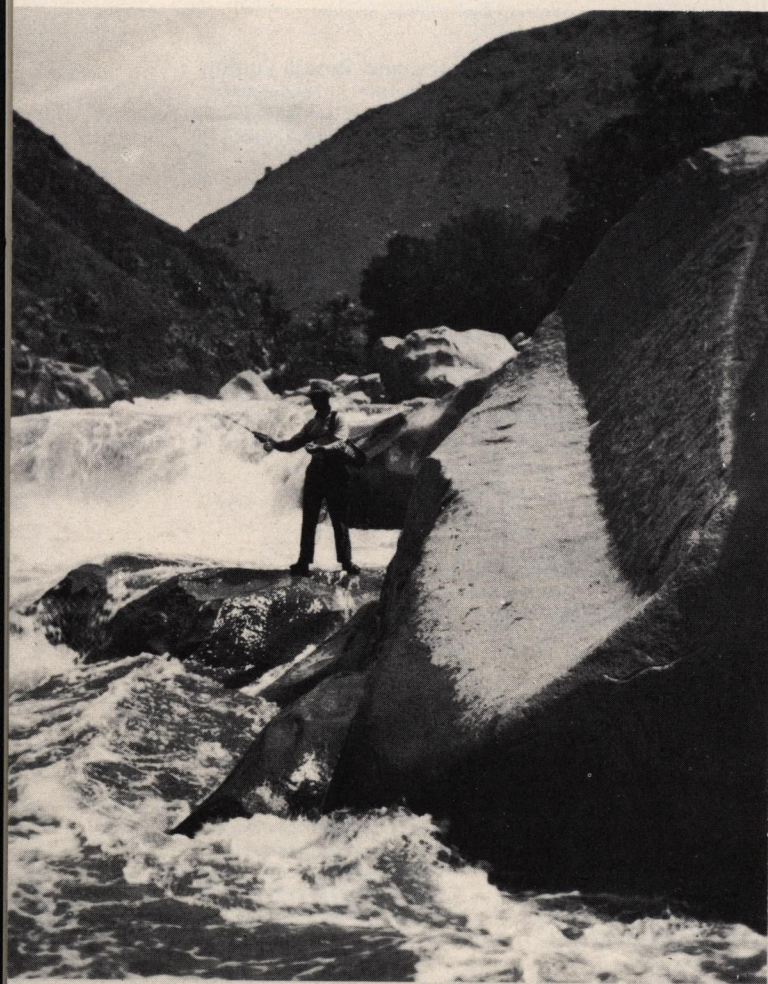
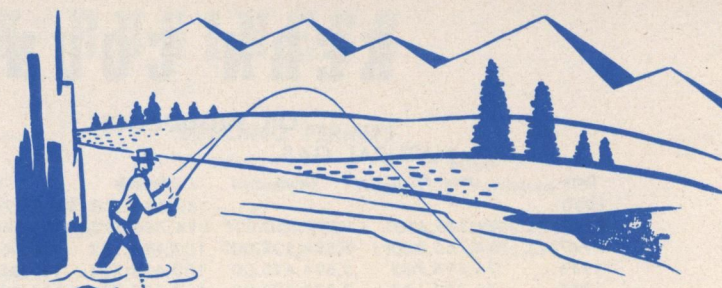
Source: State Board of Equalization.

## NATURAL GAS SALES

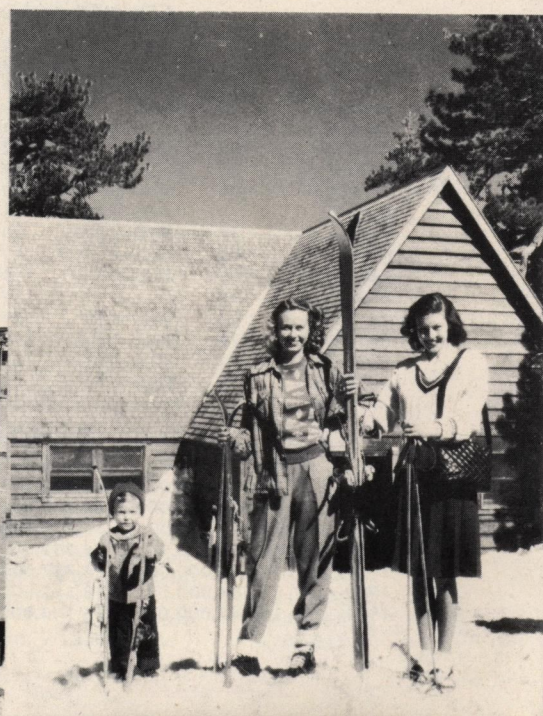
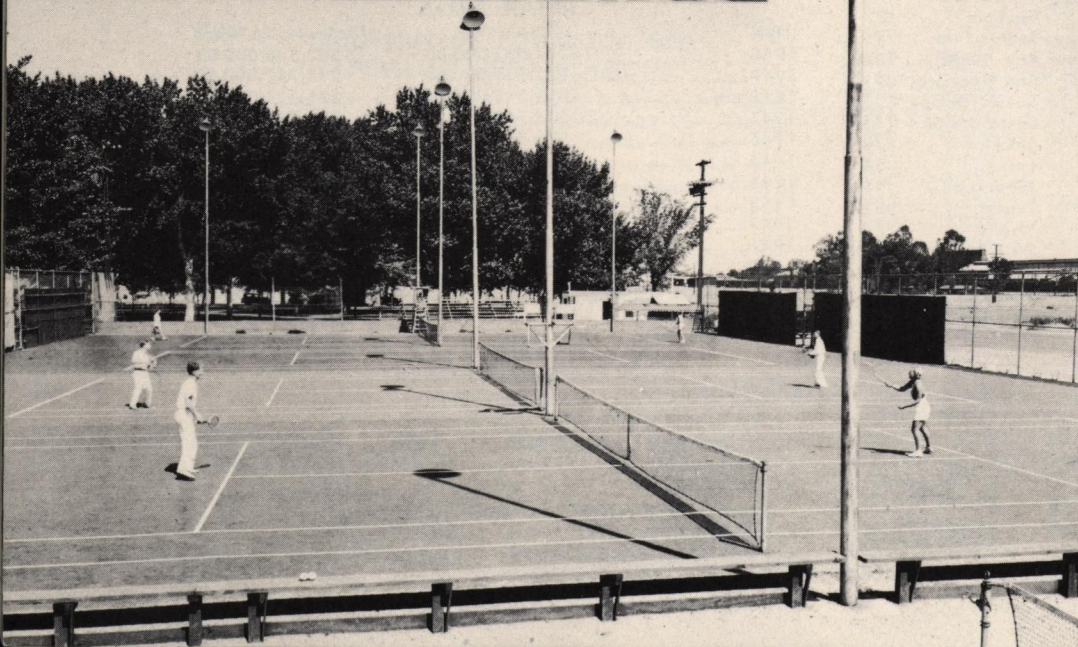


# RECREATION

CULTURE AND HEALTH



Multifaceted beauty in the verdant valleys, rivers, mountains and desert of the Golden Empire of Kern is offered the area's tourists and residents. ✧ Visitors the year around are delighted to discover diversified attractions ranging from the bland, primitive enchantment of the cactus-cloaked Mojave Desert to cool, exhilarating mountain streams rolling valleyward from Mt. Whitney, highest point in America. ✧ Development of river beaches, hiking and bridle trails, and park areas, along with camping, fishing, hunting and winter sports with "powder snow" skiing, have added to the upswinging trend of recreation opportunities and activities in Kern County. ✧ The cultural life of the county, too, is being constantly enriched through the efforts of organizations such as the Kern County Historical Society, Kern County Musical Association, Philharmonic Society, Community Theater, Bakersfield Art Association, Kern County Recreation and Cultural Commission, and others. ✧ A year-round program of concerts, plays, festivals and exhibits is offered for all areas of Kern County. ✧ Astride with other progressive communities, Kern County realizes that in these times recreation and cultural resources are not only an integral part of individual living, but a definite asset to the economic as well as social phase of these areas.





# KERN COUNTY WILDFLOWERS



CALIFORNIA POPPY



BLUE DICKS, WILD HYACINTH



HILL TOP DAISY



OWL'S CLOVER



Famed Kern County fields of Lupine and Poppies with oil derricks near Edison



YUCCA



BEAVER TAIL



SNOW PLANT



GOLD FIELDS, SUNSHINE



DESERT EVENING PRIMROSE



FREMONTIA



PARRY MANZANITA



BABY BLUE EYES

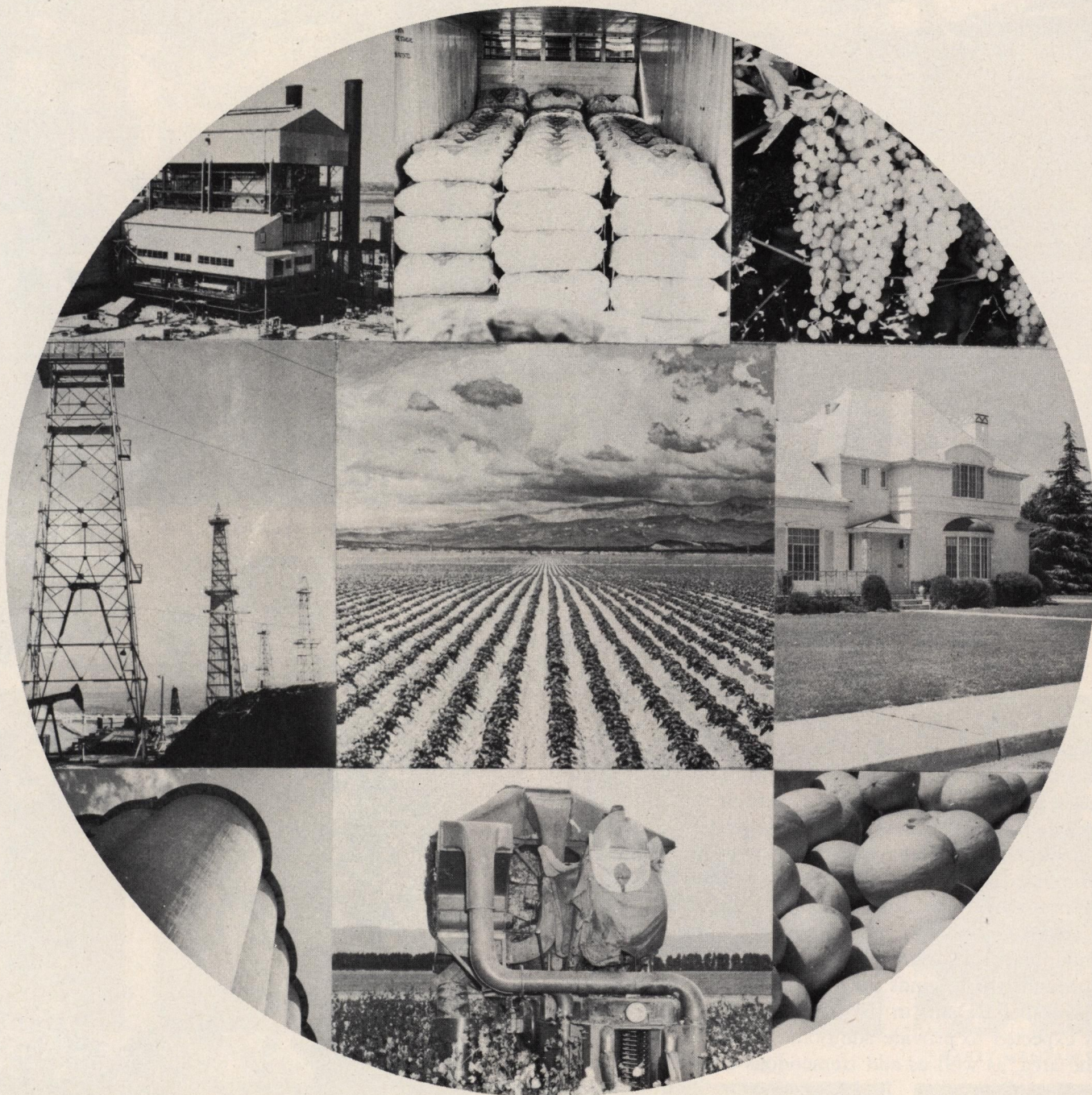


Kern's celebrated wild flower fields, which in the spring blanketed thousands of acres in brilliant color, largely have given way to the encroachment of agriculture. The potato has replaced the poppy, so to speak. But spasmodic bursts of color still may be found in some areas, especially fringing hillsides. ✦ Fishing areas, mineral spas and resorts attract thousands of tourists up the Kern River Canyon. Gateway to one of California's most fascinating mountain gold countries is this gorge of bold beauty, through which winds the Kern River. ✦ Building of the Isabella Dams in the upper reaches of the Canyon is expected to provide additional recreation features in the area, as well as add tremendous economic impetus to Kern County. ✦ Red Rock Canyon, 25 miles north of Mojave near Cantil, is one of the most spectacular and magnificent geological wonders of the West. ✦ The Canyon is noted for its weird formations and vivid colorings. By following narrow trails branching off the highway, the visitor may see imagination-provoking figures such as the Kneeling Nuns, the Phantom City, Pillars of Hercules, the Acropolis, Lady at the Organ, Sun Temple and many others. ✦ In winter, thrilling "shirt-sleeve" skiing for "snow fun in the sun" is available at mountain sports centers at Greenhorn-Shirley Meadows and in the Mt. Pinos area above Taft. ✦ Near Bakersfield, Hart Memorial Park calls picnickers and recreation seekers.





you have seen . . .



*The Golden Empire of*  
**K E R N C O U N T Y**



