

HISTORY  
OF  
LIVINGSTON  
CALIFORNIA

BY FRANKLIN S. FARQUHAR  
1944

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Dedicated to the Pioneers who laid the foundation for our better living

## INFORMATION IN BRIEF

Livingston founded by Edward J. Olds November 5, 1871. He started first store; was first postmaster.

William J. Little filed first plat of town December 12, 1872 (Actual plat says December 4, 1872) had 80 blocks. He built first warehouse in 1868.

William G. Collier surveyed original town site. He organized first irrigation canal in state March 30, 1870.

First school house was built in 1876 on McConnell Flats, west of town, and moved to north side in 1884.

Oldest business building in town is the Livingston Chronicle office.

Oldest residence at corner of Court Street and Stefani Avenue, built in 1883.

Bliven house, opposite Hammatt Park, built in 1889 by Cyrus Bliven, who bought the Little interests here in 1883.

Bliven, who bought the Little interests High School dedicated May 24, 1924, with 7 teachers in charge at the opening in September, 1924.

Oldest business block built by Hammatt & Crowell after the fire of June, 1894 (now a part of Crowell block.)

Methodist church built in 1909-10.

Episcopal Church built in 1910-11, now owned by the Seventh Day Adventists.

Lutheran church built in 1924.

Catholic Church built in 1930.

First garage was the Pioneer, built in 1912.

First Fire Department organized in 1909, with C. R. Davis as fire chief.

Idanha hotel built in 1910 by Edward Thomas and associates.

Plats of that part of town south of railway filed in 1910.

First Bank started here in 1914, now Bank of America.

Hammatt Park established in 1922.

Pentecost Hall built in 1919.

City organized in 1922. Water and sewer system built in 1928.

First elementary school had one teacher, now has 14.

Weekly Chronicle established by Peter H. Higgins; first issue October 2, 1909. Now owned by E. G. Adams.

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## FOREWORD

"A people without history is like the wind on the buffalo grass," is an old Sioux Indian proverb. It is the irony of fate that the whites who dispossessed the Indians should be so ignorant of their own people. Yet this is a fact. We all live mostly in the present: think little of the past and nothing of the future. It is to correct as far as possible this self-evident truth that this book is written about the founders and builders of Livingston.

The basis of this story is built upon the facts in the case, so far as I have been able to obtain them. This has been quite a task a labor I do not regret. To accomplish this has not been as simple as it looks from these pages. In assembling the material many people had to be contacted, many records searched, many letters written, and much cooperation sought-all to the end that this work might be furthered and completed.

Why not? Other cities have their written histories, why not put Livingston in the same category? History is but a relative matter. It is the sum-plus of the activities of all classes of any community. It is not based wholly upon the outstanding men and women, but on the proper functioning of all the citizenry combined in one vital force for civic and cultural progress.

History usually is of an eclectic nature. It is derived from various sources. Often it is a matter of choice on the part of the author. He selects and sorts the material in hand, annotates it and puts it in proper form for publication.

This book is not a money making scheme. It is merely an effort to preserve local history before it fades out of the picture. To accomplish this work the author finds it much easier to wrest facts from the dead past than from the living present. The past is unafraid; the present is in doubt of its own self.

The cost of printing this in book form would be prohibitive were it not for the fact that type has to be set for the Weekly Chronicle, thus liquidating that part of the expense. This feature enables the publisher to use the "paid-for" element in fixing the total cost at a much lower level than would otherwise be possible. The actual cost then would be the paper plus printing and binding.

However, let me say, that no history can be complete and free from errors. It is human to err. Yet any history could be more perfect by a better cooperation between the author and subjects. To obviate mistakes I have submitted, where possible, all the subjects herein to others for review and okay. On the biographies the okay has been obtained from either the subjects or their friends. Sometimes I have been in doubt, but in every case I have used my best efforts to secure

facts. Where I have failed it is because source material has not been available.

The facts given about the postmasters, their time of appointment and terms of office, I obtained through the post office department at Washington, D. C. As to Olds, Little and Collier I was assisted by their descendants, now scattered to the four points of the compass.

I here wish to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the help extended me in the preparation of this work by William T. White, county recorder; Robert W. Cothran, county clerk; Christian S. Weaver, county superintendent of schools; to Miss Minette Stoddard, county librarian; to Pearl Crowell, widow of the late Franklin E. Crowell; to Stillman H. Swan, city water superintendent; to Charles R. Davis, former fire chief; to Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Edwards, former residents here, now of San Jose; to the Southern Pacific railway officials at San Francisco; to Frank M. Jordan, secretary of State.

Also, to Mrs. Clara Coker, postmaster of Stevinson, who provided me with data on the Catholic Church there; to Mrs. Edna Lehfeldt, city librarian; to Mrs. A. N. Sheesley; to Mrs. Marian Court widow of the late Albert Court; to Gordon H. Winton; to Zeph Ecclefield; and especially to Elbert G. Adams, owner and editor of the Livingston Chronicle, for his sympathetic understanding and ready help in my effort to do this work as thoroughly as possible; and to all other town and country folks who have so kindly lent their ear to my questions.

FRANKLIN S. FARQUHAR.  
Livingston, California,  
December 1, 1944





William G. Collier  
*Father of Irrigation*



Edward J. Olds  
*Founder of Livingston*



Franklin S. Farquhar  
*Author*



William J. Little  
*Platted First Town Site*



## *History of Livingston, California*

### **CHAPTER 1**

#### **Introductory**

The founding of Livingston, California, began when Edward J. Olds set up his improvised stand offering for sale his wares the day preceding the crossing of the Merced River by the gang of bridge builders in the construction of the Central Pacific railway (now Southern Pacific) up the San Joaquin Valley.

According to the records the date was November 4, 1871.

As described by those who saw this first business" block in what was later to become Livingston, the stand was merely a counter, made of rough boards (hard to get here at the time). A large canvas, or tarpaulin, was used as a roof. This canvas hung down over the back and at each end, in the form of blinds, as a protection against wind and rain. The front was open to the north winds and the wide open spaces of the far flung fields.

Not a house nor any other building was in sight anywhere, except the large grain warehouse built by Little on the north side of the railway company's right-of-way. The whole landscape to the south was vacant-a plain-country without a tree as far as one could see. The entire scope of land had been used for twenty years for growing grain-barley, rye and wheat, and sometimes, in winter, subjected to the grazing of cattle and horses. William J. Little owned 2500 acres of this vast area, including what later became the Livingston town site. But this man Little did not live here; his home was then in Stockton, California.

Olds was a left handed carpenter working with the railway bridge building gang. It is told that on account of this physical handicap his fellow workers guyed him a lot. As a result Olds decided to quit work as soon as the occasion arose to enter some other kind of employment. With the purpose of bettering his own condition and to avenge his taunters, he kept to his plan of quitting. Before the workmen had completed the bridge he crossed the Merced River, followed the graded right-of-way to the little grain shed. Here, on the south side of the railway grade, he built his makeshift stand

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on company property, about 100 feet west of the present Third street crossing.

The county highway, or river road as it was then called, came up the Merced River from Dover and Hills Ferry, on the San Joaquin, and crossed the railway grade at this point. It was at this junction that Olds set up his place of business. Soon as the tracks of the railway were laid Olds moved his stand onto a new space allotted to him by Little, only a few feet away from his original location.

As to the kind of and nature of the stock of goods Olds displayed for sale on the day of his opening, it is said, he had mostly "drinks" of the hard liquor variety, Of other goods, he carried rubber and leather boots, shoes, a small assortment of men's clothing, such as shirts overalls, hats, caps pipes, tobacco, etc. – at best a very small collection, Also he had on display such second-hand goods as thrown away by the railway men, and "picked" up by Olds for practically nothing.

His first customers were they railway builders. Among them were Chinese, Kanakas and a few Indians, doing the grading, besides the white bosses. He had a full house, so to speak, on the opening day, this being augmented by the bridge builders and track layers pushing up from the river.

As Olds stand was the first business established in this area south of the Merced River, his trade boomed for a while. As the gangs pushed on up the valley, grading and laying tracks, building culverts and bridges, his trade diminished accordingly as his patrons got farther away.

To offset his loss other business naturally developed. The gold and land seekers were coming now by train. Here they would stop, load up with fresh goods, and then push on up into the hills toward the Mother lode. Besides, the farmers who had preciously settled along the river way became the customers. In the meantime he replenished his merchandise by rail transit from the new cities of Stockton, Sacramento and San Francisco.

As a result of this fast growing enterprise Olds flourished, until finally he had a new building and a new site provided him by Little.

In brief this was the beginning of Livingston. Since then many changes have taken place in the affairs of men and on the face of the countryside. True, the town has had its ups and downs, its good and bad luck. Yet it has never wavered in its hopes for a better future, What the past has been no one can fail to see; what the future portends none

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Can fail to note. Those who have been made up the town's past and those who are of the present are about as well off, materially and spiritually, as any people found in any other part of the state.

Since that day in the early part of November, 1871, when olds set up his little stand to barter in merchandise, many another man has come into the scene, ventured into the while of business, succeeded or failed, then passed on, leaving others to take their places. How many came to look for work, or for land, or for other things, may only be guessed. But many did come and many have gone, to be heard of no more. Those who stayed seem now to be ready to reap the long=ripening harvest; for there is a better permanency among the citizenry now living here.

Hopes, long deferred, are not nearing realization.

### CHAPTER 2

#### Origin of the Name

I never have been in doubt as to the origin of the name Livingston, California. But who has the honor of suggesting it to apply to this city will perhaps forever remain in doubt. There has been a lot of confusion and controversy over this matter so far so long that an explanation is necessary before proceeding with this history. Under date of January 2, 1928, the Southern Pacific Railway Company tells me the following:

Dear Sir: Am sorry to have to advise that I have been unable to get you the desired information (the naming of Livingston). Our records show that the portion of the line from Lathrope to Goshen on which Livingston is located was first operated on January 25, 1872. The original name of the station was "Cressey." Which was changed to Livingston about 1885.

(Signed) F. S. McGinnis,  
Passenger Traffic Manager

The above letter removes the question that the railway company had anything to do with naming the town "Livingston." In proof of this assertion I refer the reader to a little book entitled "Yosemite Guide Book." Written by Josiah D. Whitney, state geologist, in 1872, in which is shown a map, with this inscription: "Map of the routes from San Francisco to the Yosemite Valley." Merced County is not noted on this map. But the name Cressey is the first named place on the railway line (after it crossed the Merced

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River) that is definitely marked, Towns on the railway are to the North West: Turlock; to the north: Snelling, Eggleton, Clary; to the south east: Atwater and Merced. On the Merced River to the south west: Kustemento, Oden, Turner, Stevinson, Hills Ferry, On the San Joaquin, due south, was the place called Dover.

The cause of this confusion over the source of the name comes from the fact that Charles C. Livingston, a telegrapher of the Central Pacific, was the first operator of the line to work south of the Merced River. In an answer to my inquiry on the matter he wrote me the following letter:

Stockton, California, January 24, 1934

Frank S. Farquhar, Livingston, California

Dear Sir:

Your letter in the Stockton Record regarding information of a Mr. Little prompted the writing of this letter.

The town of Livingston was named for my grandfather, Charles C. Livingston, who was a telegraph operator for the Central Pacific. His first place of residence was a box car near the railroad. He built the first house in the town. He later moved to Merced where he lived for some time.

I would appreciate your advising me of the completion and publication of your material regarding the town of Livingston, as I would like to obtain a copy.

Yours Truly,

Charles f. Livingston

It appears that in naming the station "Cressey" the railway company had not in mind any other name than that which it gave to this place. This was further aggravated by the long controversy over the name between the Cresseys and the railroad company. The Cresseys owned 7500 acres of land to the north east, through the southern end of which the Cressey family had agreed to give the railway company a free right of way providing the company would name a station honoring them, So, in appeasement, the company applied the name "Cressey" to this place. As the Cresseys did not own land in or around Livingston the name did not appeal to them. The Cresseys wanted their name applied to a siding, which would now be a little east of the Arena siding.

The Cresseys were large land owners in this and Stanislaus counties, having altogether nearly 25,000 acres of land. In this family there were three brothers and one sister, namely: Alvin L. Cressey, Frank A. Cressey, William C.

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Cressey; the sister was Cora (Cressey) Crow, all Livingston in Modesto at the time. On the land here the Cresseys built a big house, in which the first election was held December 12, 1872, to vote on the county seat. This precinct was then called Cressey.

And now as to acquiring this name "Livingston?" If it was not in honor of the first telegraph operator, Charles C. Livingston, for whom was it named? My investigation shows it to be in honor of the famous African missionary explorer, David Livingstone. His name at the time was being exploited in all the nation's newspapers as being "lost" in darkest Africa. He had not been heard of for three years, Henry M. Stanley, a famous newspaper correspondent working for Bennett of the New York Herald, was sent to find Livingstone, and in due time he was "found" about the time this new town was being laid down east of the Merced River crossing.

A man living here at the time, told me that when Olds opened his little stand for business he named it "Livingstone."

I have been told that when Little built his grain warehouse here he named it "Livingstone."

When the town was platted in anticipation of the county seat election to be held in Merced County December 12, 1872, it was named "Livingstone."

When the petition was filed for a new post office here it was given the name of "Livingstone." But when the department granted this petition on January 4, 1873, it had deleted the final letter "e."

It shall never be known at this late day who first suggested "Livingstone" for this town. Whether the honor goes to Edward J. Olds, William J. Little, or to William G. Collier, nobody now knows. We may only make a guess and proceed with the facts.

Little owned all the land adjacent to the siding which the railway company named "Cressey." When the question of voting on a new location for the county seat, as against Snelling arose, Little decided to enter the contest, He accordingly deputed his land agent here, J.B. Sensabaugh, to engage William G. Collier, the surveyor, to make a map of a new town site, and file it for record. Here is Collier's dedication:

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Map of the town of Livingstone

In Merced County, California

Surveyed by Wm. G. Collier, Nov, 5, 6 & 7, A.D. 1872, Blocks 250 ft. x 250 ft.; lots 25 x 125 ft.

Filed for record December 4, 1872, at 4 o'clock p.m., at request of J. B. Sensabaugh, agent for W. J. Little.

Recorder at request of cyrus Bliven December 6, 1886, at 30 minutes past 3 p. m., in Book Y of deeds, page 121 records of Merced county. Fee \$2.50

J.G. Elliott, County Recorder

State of California

County of Merced ss.

I hereby certify that this map is true and correct copy of the original on file in this office except as to scale, position and style of lettering.

Dated this 5th day of December, A. D., 1921

J. C. Ivers, County Recorder

Note the name LIVINGSTONE in this dedication, not "Livingston". This most certainly controverts the claim that it was named to honor Charles C. Livingston, the telegraph operator. However, as I have presented the facts, I shall leave the question to others for their individual decision, if so inclined,

This plat provide for 80 blocks of lots, each one 25 x 125 feet in area. Forty of the blocks lay south of the railway and 40 to the north. The numbering stated at "1" on the north west corner, ending at "80" on the southwest corner, Streets running east and west were 80 feet wide. Those running north and south 66 feet wide, and no alleys in any of the blocks. Not a name was given to any of the streets. Across the center of the plat is shown the railway right of way, depicting the tracks, with a siding at the eastern end. On the right of way is the following reading: CENTRAL PACIFIC RAILROAD, VISALIA DIVISION.

The word "switch" indicates the Switch.

The election for the new county seat was held on December 12, 1872, the polling place was "Cressey" and was held at the Cressey house, which was located about 2 ½ miles northeast of Livingston.

As an inducement to those favoring Livingstone for the new county seat, Little had printed on a card and circulated in the voting precincts the following:

"Should the Board of Supervisors of Merced county de-



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Clare the town of Livingstone county seat of Merced county, for the sum of one dollar my agent, J. B. Sensabaugh, is authorized to sell to the holder of this card a lot in the said town, 25 feet front by 125 feet deep, choice to be determined by lot, in common with all other lots sold at the same price, the purchaser to pay said agent for the making of the deed, etc.  
(signed) W. Little

The result of the voting was as follows:

Merced	566
Livingstone	236
Snelling	181
Total Votes Cast	983

Early in the year 1883 Cyrus Bliven came from Escalon and bought all of Little's holdings, consisting of the town site of "Livingstone" and all the lands surrounding it of about 2500 acres. Bliven had been a successful grain grower in the Escalon district, and had accumulated a good sized fortune. The deed of purchase from Little to Bliven shows a cash consideration of \$45,000.

The adverse results of the county seat fight had blighted the "booming" prospects of the new town of Livingstone. As a result its "future" seemed far away, Being a grain grower, Bliven decided to throw back into vacancy all that part of the town site not sold. With this object in view Bliven filed a petition with the Board of Supervisors of Merced county asking that all vu 16 blocks of the town site be vacated. Those 16 blocks of the original pat of Livingstone are on the north side, and are as follows:

North  
1 2 3 4  
20 19 18 17  
West      East  
21 22 23 24  
40 39 38 37  
South

The present railway crossing at Third Street is in the middle of block 39. The other crossing is at the east end of

## HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON

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Town. Third Street runs due south. The north side streets angle with the railway right of way.

In the original plan a space of 500 feet lay between the property line on the north side and property line on the south side. The railway ran directly through the center of this 500 foot space, which left 200 feet in the clear on each side of the tracks.

The crossing then was connected with what is now White Street, then not given a name. It corresponded with the present Masonic building corner.

The present plan of the south side was done in 1909 by the land promoters-Grunsky, Curtner, Thomas, et al.

### **CHAPTER 3**

#### **The Two Co-Founders**

It is interesting to note that William Jackson Little, one of the co-founders of Livingston, was a prominent Californian. He is designated as a 49er. He came to this state at the age of 21. For a time he mined on the Yuba River. Acquiring gold he early began to buy grain lands in different parts of the state, owning 10,000 acres at one time. His first permanent residence was at San Jose. In 1860 he moved to the Stockton area. There he developed a 320 acre ranch and built one of the finest residences in the district. It was there also that he spent the rest of his life, dying at the age of a little over 80 years, in the abundance of good fortune.

Little was born in Warren County, New Jersey, July 15, 1828; died at his residence, on West Lane, north of Stockton, on July 19, 1908. He was the son of William and Sarah (Ayers) Little. His father was a native of New Jersey, of Scotch-Irish extraction. His ancestors came to America before the Revolution.

At the age of 18 William went to Lafayette County, Missouri. In 1849, at the age of 21, he joined an emigrant train bound for California. After a six months' trip overland via the Lawson route the party arrived safely in the gold fields on the Yuba River. In this party was the well-known Judge Buckner and other men who later became famous in the development of the state of California.

As a miner Little was very successful. He put all his surplus money into land-whenever he could find it to buy cheaply. First he made his home in San Jose, but finding

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A wider field of operations in other parts he moved to Stockton, as previously mentioned, From 1860 and before until late in life he was a grain grower on his widely expanding accumulation of land, scattered throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. In the middle 1860's he came to the Merced River area, and by 1868 had 2500 acres in and around Livingston, Here in 1868 he built a grain warehouse, which he put in charge of J. B. Sensabaugh first and later Edward J. Olds after the latter had established himself here in 1871.

The grain stored in the Little warehouse here prior to the coming of the railway in 1871 was hauled to the landing at the mouth of the Merced River, and from there shipped by boat down the San Joaquin to the Bay area, for distribution.

After his removal from San Jose to his Stockton farm he began developments on his 320 acre tract there, He built what in those days was called a "mansion" as a home, fitting it up with all the then modern essentials for a fine farm house. His one great asset was a gas well, which he had bored. This came in- not as a gusher- but as a modest flowing well sufficient to supply his estate with all needed heat and power. This is said to have been the first gas well developed in Northern California, and is still flowing.

On December 4, 1853, William J. Little married Miss Nancy Fine, She was born at Lafayette, Missouri, June 3, 1833, her parents being John and Agnes (Mitchell) Fine, He was a native of Tennessee, she a native of Kentucky. The fines crossed the plains by ox-team from Missouri in 1853, locating in Santa Clara County. To this union was born the following children:

Mary K of San Joaquin County

Sarah A., wife of Samuel McLean of San Joaquin County

Loretta, wife of Andrew Sinclair of Calaveras County

Louisa, wife of Jesse Reynolds of Calaveras County

Susan E., wife of Thomas Cowan of Fresno County

Henry H. of Calaveras County

Birdie, wife of James Sutherland, Sonoma County

Charles H., of San Joaquin County

Laura B., wife of William Cowan of Stockton

All the above named children but one have died. She is Mrs. Birdie Sutherland, now residing in Santa Rosa. There are many grandchildren and great great grandchildren living in various parts of the state.

**William G. Collier**

While the subject here under discussion, William G. Collier, was never a resident of Livingston, he was within "a stone's throw" of its environs, and had much to do with its original promotion. Besides he was the "Father of Irrigation" in the State of California, Also he was the posthumous father in law of the founder of the town, Edward J. Olds. His help was moral rather than material. He lent his aid to the new enterprise here by giving advice and encouragement; and it was through his patronage and other help that made for much of Olds' primary success.

William G. Collier was born in Shelby County, Kentucky, July 17, 1827; died at his home ranch at Stevenson, California, October 9, 1883. He was a son of Michael and Amelia (Wilcox) Collier his father being a Mason of high degree and a prosperous merchant of his county. After the father's death the widow moved to Boone County, Missouri, where the boy William passed to his early manhood. He took a three year course at the University of Missouri, studying civil engineering, but left college before graduating.

Having a brother in California William decided to join him in 1853, at the age of 26. He crossed the plains by ox team, experiencing all the hardships of such emigrants coming to California, He arrived in Tuolumne county that fall, and immediately engaged in the lumber business with his brother. During his stay in that county he became a member of the county board of Supervisors.

In 1859 Collier came to this valley, settling on the Merced River five miles up from its mouth, on the Merced county side, First he engaged in stock raising, and , and later took up grain growing. Being very successful in the latter he accumulated 3,000 acres of grain land. While farming he did much surveying for Miller & Lux, on the West Side, besides doing surveying for others in his own district and throughout the county.

Seeing the need and advantages of irrigation in Merced County he promoted the first irrigation project in the state by organizing on March 30, 1870, the Robla Canal Company, with its place of business at the Collier Ranch. He was also associated with the organization of the Farmers Canal Company, which later became the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company. The latter was eventually merged into the Merced Irrigation District. He was county surveyor of Merced for several terms.

In his passing on October 9, 1883m at the age of 56, Merced county lost one of its most enterprising and valuable citizens. He was always interested, with good intentions, in the hopes and aspirations of others. He was not only a successful farmer and an expert general surveyor but he was a scholar-an exceptionally well-informed man. Early in life he was a school teacher, but soon forsook that laudable profession for the larger spheres of life. He was held in high esteem by all those fortunate enough to know him.

On July 29, 1851 in Chariton County, Missouri, Mr. Collier married Miss Eliza Jackson, daughter of George Jackson, county judge and political leader. George Jackson was a brother of Governor Jackson of Missouri, related to Stonewall Jackson and Robert E. Lee. To this union were born the following children:

Amelia (Stone), Harriet (Whitworth), Laura (Munson), Elizabeth Lee (Olds), Francis (Hartman, George Jackson, William Lee, Mary, Caroline Calhoun, Virginia Washington, Sara Boone and Lillian.

#### **CHAPTER 4**

##### **Olds, the Promoter**

Edward Jerome Olds was not a big man in world affairs, but he had more than ordinary business ability. He possessed energy, high courage and a determination to succeed. His prevailing characteristic was that quality of being able to get along with other men. Starting from scratch, he soon rose to an enviable position among his fellows.

Within a few months after his modest start in Livingston Olds' trade was so large that he enlarged his building on a more elaborate foundation. It will be remembered that on his opening day November 5, 1871, his effort was merely an adventure of a young man without experience in the marts of men. How he progressed may be computed from the fact that within a year he had a bigger and better store building of his own, built on a site granted by William J. Little on the south side of the railway right of way. I have been informed that his building stood about 100 feet west of the present Third Street crossing.

In the meantime olds' many activities were increasing. It was in his first year here that he took on the management of Little's grain warehouse, on the north side of the right of little's grain warehouse, on the north side of the right of way. This warehouse was a frame structure built in

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1868 by the firm named Ward & Bliven, who erected almost all the warehouses up this valley in those days. It was replaced in 1928 by the present fireproof building, now owned by Mrs. Pearl Crowell, widow of the late Franklin E. Crowell, and occupied by the Livingston Warehouse, under the ownership of Fred H. Henneman. Olds held this job of manager for Little up to the time Little sold all his holdings here to Cyrus Bliven, on May 21, 1883.

From the time of his start in business here Olds had in mind the establishment of a post office, to be named Livingstone. Proceeding on the assumption that it would be of great benefit in helping to develop the community, he circulated a petition to that effect. Being informed by the post office department that this original petition had been destroyed, according to practice, I can only guess who some of the signers were.

Probably Olds was the first to put down his name with the fact that he was a candidate for the office of postmaster. Others who lived here and who must have signed it were Josiah Bink, Thomas J. Simpson, J. B. Sensabaugh (agent for Little), W. G. Collier, T. J. Thompson, T. C. Shaw, W.P. McConnell, and Captain John P. Ward; and perhaps others.

The petition was filed in time for the office to be opened as a fourth class on January 3, 1873. This would be 21 days following the election for the new county seat location on December 12, 1872, with Livingstone as one of the lively contestants.

In granting the petition the department named Olds postmaster, to serve indefinitely, as is the law in 4th class actions. Olds served until he resigned on August 1, 1883, after having sold his interests here to M. Goldman, who later sold to A. Zirker & Hammatt.

It will be seen that Olds was in business in Livingston from November 4, 1871 to August 1, 1883 - short three months of being 12 years. Early in his business career he took in a partner, George Barfield, The two partners later built the Livingston Hotel on the present site of the Ecclefield's store room. The hotel was destroyed by fire early in 1884.

What aggravated the situation here during the 12 years was the difference in the names. The railway station was Cressey; the post office was Livingston, all train shipments came to Cressey; all mail was addressed to Livingston. The demoralized shipping matters, besides confused the traveling public. To rectify the matter a petition was

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Sent to the post office department to have the name Livingston eliminated. Being granted, the petition to change the post office name to Cressey went into effect May 1, 1882, with Olds being renamed the postmaster of Cressey.

But the name of Cressey for the post office was not of long duration, after Olds had resigned, effective August 1, 1883, the railway telegraph operator here, Miss Ida Howard, was appointed postmaster. She served only until December 13, 1883, that the name was changed back to Livingston. And so it has remained.

A letter from Elizabeth Olds tells the following further facts about her husband:

Berkeley, California June 8, 1934

2440 Dana Street

Dear Mr. Farquhar;

Your communication at hand. I am quite willing to extend a little data on the subject you desire. My husband, the late Edward Jerome Olds. First postmaster and merchant of Livingston, California, was born in Ingham County Michigan, September 11, 1848, son of Ariel Olds a Presbyterian clergyman, and Eloise Gallup, both of English stock.

Mr. Olds came to California in 1867 via the Panama Isthmus, in company with his brother-in-law, the late Dr. Samuel Lockwood. He settled first at Hayward, later coming to Livingston. Here he located and operated a store, later becoming the first postmaster. In the meantime he conducted the Little warehouse for shipping grain.

He later took in George Barfield as a partner. The two built a beautiful Hotel in Livingston, which was later burned. He now began grain growing on a large scale, buying land southeast of Merced, which proved very good for this kind of agriculture. When the raisin industry was introduced in this belt he took out a water right, leveled the soil, and planted grapes. He was very successful.

The raisin price falling in 1893, he moved east of Merced and again entered farming extensively. Afterwards he bought a large tract of land north of Merced, on the Oakdale line. Here farming and stock raising engaged his attention.

In 1911 he sold his (farming) interests and moved with his family to Berkeley, for educational advantages. He passed away in December, 1913.

Elizabeth Lee Olds

The above Elizabeth Lee Olds was a daughter of William G. Collier, the county surveyor, who drew the plans for the Livingstone town site, and also got up the petition for the new post office, She was born at the Collier home, on

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The Merced River, in 1866, and died at her home in Berkeley on August 17, 1942. She attended the public schools in Merced County, and later in life became a well-known writer in writing circles of this state. She and Olds were married on January 20, 1884. Their children are:

Miss Isabel Olds of Turlock

Miss Beatrice D Olds of Los Angeles

Calvin J. Olds of San Francisco

Danton E. Olds of Oakdale

Claude M Olds of Panama

Oscar Olds, a mining engineer was an officer in World War No. 1, and was killed in action in the last battle of France

Before closing this sketch of the Olds family I feel that I ought to mention some of the outstanding cultural qualities of the family. The Olds family is represented by a long line of college professors, lawyers and ministers. The Gallup's were from a line of prominent financiers in New York and Michigan. Mrs. Olds' talent of course comes from the Collier line. She was a frequent contributor of miscellaneous articles and poems to magazines and newspapers. Of her poems she had contributed over one hundred to different publications. For several years, I am told she was on the political staff of the Merced Sun. She was particularly interested in the 18th and 19th amendments to the federal constitution. She delivered the first speech ever made in the San Joaquin Valley on woman's suffrage.

Likewise her children were talented. Roscoe, the engineer, was a writer of note on geology and other subjects. He belonged to the writers' Club of Seattle, Washington and was generally known as the "Kipling of the West." Beatrice became a dramatic reader and an esthetic dancer of distinction. Isabel specialized in music, both in piano and voice. Danton was a scientific dairyman, and Claude became a Pacific Gas & Electric employee of Modesto.

## CHAPTER 5

### The Postmasters

In the settlement and development of Early America, towns and cities were created, flourished or decayed, without the thought that a post office was a stimulant to civic growth. A post office was considered a luxury in the Colonies, in the first one hundred years after the settlements at Plymouth Rock and Jamestown, towns and cities prosper-



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Ed or met quiet deaths because of natural conditions. In the organization and growth of the unfolding West things were different. Particularly was this the case in California, where the post office has been coincidental with the founding of every community.

True enough, this applies to Livingston. Here the city has grown up around the post office. To prove this fact I here give the data as to grades, as follows:

4th class – Created January 3, 1873; time 44 years; first postmaster, E. J. Olds

3rd Class – Created July 1, 1917; time 27 years; first postmaster, F. S. Farquahar.

2nd Class- Created Eligible July 1, 1944; first postmaster, Mrs. Gertrude (Adams) Butler.

(Resigned September 30, 1944.)

Who knows but that another 73 years shall pass before the local office will rise to the status of a first class institution? Or, Dame Fortune may be good and favor us with her magic by casting a spell over the place. Then presto! Create a situation that will surprise the natives. As to that, we may all have but a faint hope of realizing-for boosting purposes. At any rate, as this chapter deals with the past and present postmasters, I shall now take them up individually for discussion. The line-up follows:

Edward J. Olds, January 3, 1873, to August 1, 1883, Name changed from Livingston to Cressey May 1, 1882. Resigned.

Miss Ida Howard, August 1, 1883 to December 13, 1883. Resigned

Edward W. Fulkerth, December 2, 1884 to June 21, 1886. Resigned

Albert Hummerltenberg, June 21, 1886, to May 17, 1888. Resigned

Robert W. Hammatt, May 17, 1888, to June 21, 1910. Served 22 years. Resigned

Frank E. Crowell, June 21, 1910, to December 24, 1914. Term Expired.

William T. White, December 24, 1914 to September 17, 1918. Resigned

Frank S Farquhar, September 17, 1918 to July 15, 1935. Served 17 years. Term Expired.

Charles A. Ottmann, July 15, 1935 to October 15, 1940. Term Expired.

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Vernon H. Adams, October 15, 1940 to November 17, 1942. Died in office.

Mrs. Gertrude (Adams) Butler, January 7, 1943. Resigned to take effect September 30, 1944

Ralph W. Crockett was appointed acting postmaster December 1, 1944.

### **Mail Methods**

It is interesting to note the methods by which the early pioneers obtained mail. In those "good old days," so-called, and from the larger towns was nothing to boast about. But here in the outlying districts it was a problem to be solved mostly by transportation. This was measured by the sparse settlements and the long distances to be traveled.

We may speculate now on how Olds obtained his mail the first year he was in business here, when no post office was handy. It was easy enough for him to get goods by train, but his mail was another thing to be considered, Small as his enterprise was it was a great inconvenience to Olds not to receive mail promptly, as was his due as a growing business man. His nearest post office was Brickville, on the William C. Turner ranch, nine miles over a sandy road down the Merced River. But mail there was uncertain. It was brought in infrequently from Stockton by "mail riders", as they were called.

The next best and nearest post office was Hopeton, 15 miles up the Merced River. This point, with Snelling, was supplied by the stage coach line running between Stockton and Fullerton. The Hills Ferry post office was too far away, but it was better than none. Sometimes, in a pinch, Merced, 14 miles to the eastward, and Turlock, ten miles to the northward, were used in emergencies. During the first year train service to Livingston was not up to par. Yet such inconveniences were overlooked by not "being in a hurry", as would be the case in this year of 1944.

When the mail did begin to come to Livingston on January 3, 1873, for the first time, what a rejoicing there must have been on the part of this lone merchant-Olds- and all his fellow patrons in the district!

But as that event was only 71 years ago this very year, let us not forget the further fact it was but 29 years ago after John C. Fremont had passed along this way, going up the river, as the trailblazer seeking a road through a vast and almost wholly unexplored region, yet uninhabited by the white man with his

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influences. In this connection let me state that it was one hundred years ago last April 4th when Fremont crossed the Merced River at a point five miles up from its mouth. And it was 75 years ago (May 10, 1869) that the golden spike was driven in the last rail connecting the East with the West. This was at Promontory, Utah, when the two railroads-the Central Pacific, building from Sacramento, and the Union Pacific, building from Omaha-completed their two transcontinental lines.

Having considered Olds as the founder Chapter 4 of this history, I now turn to Miss Ida Howard, the second postmaster of Livingston. Operator here for the Central Pacific railway. The exact date of her coming is not known, but she was appointed postmaster and took office August 1, 1883, and served until December 13, 1883, when she resigned and left parts. Miss Howard was a daughter Capt. William W. Howard of Mariposa County, at the time the leader of the California Rangers. This organization enforce law and order in the mining regions.

In his later years Capt. Howard moved with his family to Portland, Oregon, where he died in 1931, age 94 years. He was the last of the noted California Rangers. Miss Howard married C.J. Desmond, an official of the Mexican Central Railroad. They lived in Mexico many years, and after her husband's death there I 1916 she moved to Portland, where she died June 4, 1931, leaving no children. She had four brothers, two of whom were doctors, and one sister.

John Henderson, who succeeded Miss Howard, came here to manage the new Livingston hotel built by Olds & Barfield. After the hotel burned in 1884 he left to become a resident of Merced.

Edward Fulkerth, after he had resigned in June, 1886, went to Atwater to live. There he served as constable for many years. He was related to the late Superior Judge Fulkerth of Stanislaus County.

Albert Hummeltenberg, who served but two years, from June, 1886, to May, 1888, lived here. He was the father of Jack and Fred Hummeltenberg. The family were farmers in the lower Merced area.

Robert W. Hammatt came to California from New England to work on the Fremont holdings in Mariposa Count. In 1883 he arrived in Livingston and bought

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Olds' business from M. Goldman, forming a partnership of Zirker & Hammatt. Hammatt was a successful business man. Later he took in Franklin E Crowell, who bought the Zirker interest in the store. When Hammatt died in 1909 he left a large estate to be divided among his heirs. He was not only the leading merchant here for many years; He was an extensive farmer also, growing grain and developing vineyards, Vern Hammatt is his only descendant living in Livingston. He conducts the largest walnut grove in the community, on the east side of the city, and lives in town. Robert Hammatt served 22 years as postmaster.

Franklin E Crowell is the best evidence of a man's rise to a good estate by honesty and perseverance, He came here as a boy of 14 years (June 6, 1884), went to work for Hammatt, and stayed with him to the last as his confidential man and business partner. Crowell died December 31, 1938.

William T White came here in 1909 from the management of the big store of Miller & Lux of Los Banos, to form a partnership with his brother in law, Mr. Crowell, widely known for many years as White and Crowell, general merchants. After selling the store in 1923 White became county sheriff, He is now the Recorder of Merced County. It was during his incumbency that Livingston post office was raised from the status of 4th class to that of 3rd class.

Frank S Farquhar, would succeed White and became the first postmaster under the 3rd class, came here from the state of Washington, where he had been in the newspaper business, He arrived on September 1, 1916 and worked for two years on the Livingston Chronicle before becoming postmaster. He filled this office 8 weeks short of 17 years.

Charles A. Ottman came here from New York in 1910. First he operated a farm southwest of town, selling that he came into town and became a large holder of property. When the town was organized and incorporated on September 11, 1922, he became the first mayor of the city. On account of ill health by both himself and wife he sold all his holdings here and moved to San Jose to make his future home. His post office term ran from July 15, 1935, to October 15, 1940.

Vernon H. Adams is the only postmaster who died in office. He was born October 8, 1912, in Merced, death being due to a heart attack. He was the first postmaster under the new rules which provided that the official term shall be

for an indefinite period. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert G. Adams, the latter owner and editor of the Livingston Chronicle.

In the meantime following the death of Vern Adams the post office was without a postmaster. It was left in charge of Mrs. Mabel Mayes, who had been the clerk since her appointment to the position by Mr. Farquhar on May 1, 1920, serving the 22 years under all the intervening post-masters. Soon after the death of Vern Adams his widow entered the office to learn the business, and by January 7, 1943, was appointed acting postmaster. On February 20, 1943, Mrs. Adams took the Civil Service examination. Being successful she became the real postmaster on January 1, 1944. On March 11, 1944, she was married to Mr. Lloyd W. Butler, assistant cashier of the Bank of America in Livingston.

Mrs. Gertrude (Adams) Butler has the distinction of being the first postmaster for Livingston when it reached the status of second class. At least the office, by reason of the big increase in business is eligible now to be in that class by July 1, 1944.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Stratton, a farmer in the Ballico area, and is a granddaughter of the first surveyor-general of California. She is a graduate of the Livingston Union High School, and was married to Vernon H. Adams on June 15, 1936, one child, a daughter, Carol, being the result of this union.

Ralph W. Crockett, the new postmaster, was born at Lebanon, Oregon, April 27, 1913, son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Crockett. At the age of nine years the parents moved with him to the Jordan-Atwater district, where the father died four years ago. Ralph is a graduate of the Jordan-Atwater grammar school and the Livingston high. On November 18, 1937, he was married to Miss Lela Martin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Martin. They have two children, a son of six and a daughter of four.

### **Rural Delivery Service**

Rural free delivery service was established for Livingston on October 1, 1922, under the administration of Post-master Farquhar. By petition the new route was created and was only 18 miles long, covering the area in the Japanese Colony, with three deliveries a week.

This was a trial service, and, if successful, would be extended. It proved highly serviceable. Extensions were made to the south and southwest in 1923-24-25, until now

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the route is 72 miles in extent. It takes in the districts north, east, south, and southwest to and beyond and around Stevinson.

The first rural mail carrier was Leroy M. Larimer. A civil service examination had been called for September. No applications being made, Mr. Larimer was selected by the postmaster and recommended for appointment. He was selected. Mr. Larimer had been a rural carrier out of Franklin,, Pa., at the outbreak of World War One. He joined the army and served in France. In the Battle of Argonne he was gassed and shell shocked and had to be invalidated home. His condition was such that he was eventually ordered to California by a war department physician for relief. By this move he was put on his own initiative. Being available here at the opportune time, Mr. Larimer's services were valuable in helping to create and promote this new service out of Livingston. He was honest, energetic and' on the job all the time.

Mr. Larimer served from October 1, 1922, to January 16, 1927. He had taken ill as a result of his war infliction in November, 1926, and lingered along all winter till he passed away on January 16, 1927. He was born at Brookville, Pa., Sept. 19, 1886. Before he joined the army he had married Miss Phena Barnes of Sandy Lake, Pa., August 8, 1919. His widow still survives him, together with two daughters, Margaret and Alice, and are residents of Livingston.

### **Substitutes**

During Mr. Larimer's illness Miss Hazel Snyder (now Mrs. Halteman) of Winton served as the substitute carrier up to May 9, 1927, when Wilbur D. Crosby was appointed regular carrier. Crosby came from a clerkship in the post office of Turlock on a transfer, being recommended for appointment by the postmaster. He served until November 16, 1941, when he exchanged positions with John Healy, superintendent of mails in the Yosemite office.

Aside from Hazel Snyder, other substitute rural carriers have been Edward J. Hicks, who is now a carrier on the rural route out of Merced.

Hicks was followed by James A. Chase, the dairyman and vineyardist, living a half mile south of town.

The present substitute rural carrier is Everett Ulrich. He was appointed August 21, 1941. Recently he bought the Cyrus Bliven residence and 22 acres opposite the City Park and Pentecostal Hall. Here he makes his home with his wife and growing family of children.

Mrs. Mabel C. Mayes retired 1943 on account of illness. Mrs. Mayes died September 19, 1944. The present clerks are Mrs. Robert Cooper and Mrs. Prusso, widow of the late Louis Prusso.

Henry Plaster carries the mail from the post office to and from the railway station daily except Sunday. To this position he was appointed in 1940. He was the honor of owning and living in the first house built south of the railway tracks (excepting the Bliven residence). This house is situate at the west end of A Street at First Street.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **Cyrus Bliven and His Works**

Cyrus Bliven is a hard man to define. He came to Livingston from Escalon, San Joaquin County, and well equipped financially. For a brief time he prospered, then went out of the scene unheralded and unsung, and is now almost forgotten.

I am told he was a likeable man, generous and very energetic. His main purpose in coming here was to grow grain and to promote the town into a vital, thriving community. How he succeeded the records are not clear. We can only guess by reviewing part of the evidence.

On May 21, 1883, he purchased all the holdings of the William J. Little, consideration, \$45,000 cash. Such holdings consisted of 2,500 acres of land and the unsold part of the Livingstone town site, including the frame grain shipping warehouse. He immediately took over and proceeded to make improvements.

As houses were scarce in the town (perhaps three or four would cover the number) he built a commodious dwelling. This may now be recognized as the old building situate on Stefani Street, between the Union Oil Company's grounds and the Highway Garage. At Present it is occupied by a Filipino family. It was to this house that Bliven brought his family.

Early in the autumn of the same year Bliven plowed and planted to grain all his available land. Perhaps the first crop was barley, as that is the most suitable grain for this area. The season was favorable and a bumper crop was the result. After this first year he had the usual average luck of grain growers in the lighter sandy soils of the San Joaquin valley. Some of his years were abnormally good, some medium, and some bad. At first the good years outweighed the

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Bad. Yet the average was always the same-fairly good crops.

Finding the sale of town lots a "drug on the market" and that taxes would "eat" them up eventually, he decided to do something about it. He filed a petition with the Board of Supervisors asking that four-fifths of the town site be vacated. On December 6, 1886, his petition was granted, throwing back into open land about 125 acres, all east of the town. This left sixteen blocks on the north side of the railway tracks, embracing a total of 43 acres, including the streets.

Bliven continued the growing of grain here up to September 4, 1893, on which date he leased Section 35 to William C. Blewett, a grain grower, for a term of two years, for one fourth of the crop as a consideration. In this lease it was provided that Blewett had the privilege of buying the entire section at the rate of \$19 per acre. Instead of waiting the termination of the lease Blewett bought the land on December 15, 1894.

On October 20, 1896, Bliven sold the rest of his land to J.H. Simpson and C.B. Harrell of Merced.

Before Bliven built his big house there was no road due south of town, On December 24, 1885, he deeded to the county a right of way for a road that is not that part of third street, from the railway crossing, along the eastern line of Section 26, township 6, to connect with the present B Street corner at Virgo's drug store. It was made to straighten out the Hills Ferry road, which came into town from the Merced River bluffs. This was the starter for the road that later ran due south to connect with the Central Camp road six miles farther, on the J. W. Mitchell farm, now a part of the Crane ranch.

On September 23, 1892, Bliven deeded to the county the right of way for the continuation of the present Third street, due south from the B street corner, on past his new house and on as far as his land extended, This was called the Livingston and Central Campo county road, Prior to this last date travel southward was by private lane, as far as the Bliven residence, It was on the right side of this private lane that Bliven planted the row of old locust trees, which, odor and a bit of gay color to the scene each springtime,

While not intended at the time, these new roads south and west were the cause of the present jog in the railway crossing, and the reason it does not connect with any street on the north side platting except on Front Street, no re



named Court street. At the time the crossing was remade nobody but Bliven lived on the south side in what is now the larger part of town.

### **The Bliven Mansion**

In the meantime, while Cyrus Bliven was farming and waxing fat in prosperity, he built his mansion-so-called. This was in the spring and summer of 1889, 55 years ago this year. That was not such a long time after all when one considers this is an age of "quick results." Yet the house stands now apparently as strong and solid as when Bliven first reared it, which soon was to be dubbed "the haunted house."

Bliven and his family were spiritualists, and thereby hangs this tale of dubious reputation. I know little about spiritualism, yet I do know that it is said that its devotees can: hold what is called a séance "a spiritualists' meeting to receive spirit messages." A medium, especially selected, can contact the spirits of souls of friends gone before.

Being so, many a séance , specially arranged, had been often held in this Bliven residence during the few short years the owner occupied it. On big occasions votaries came from "far and near," so I have been informed. Many came from San Francisco, from Los Angeles and from nearby points. These were great events then for the spiritualists of this state, as there was a big membership to the cult.

At any rate, a séance, at any time, usually attracted large crowds of both the sincere and the curious at such gatherings. This man Bliven had large attendances of friends at his meetings, many just to watch the mediums perform. The moving of tables , the writing of names by invisible hand's, the alarming sounds reverberating through the house, and all, created a great deal of awe and honest interest.

It was thus by such "goings on" that this house acquired its evil repute, if it can be called such. For seven years Bliven occupied his mansion, to hold many a spirit-séance to add to its fame. When he went out of it in 1896 he left the "haunts" he possessed it with to rustle for themselves. They have been rustling ever since to the dread and wonder of the passing world.

Since Bliven's day the house has had many a new owner and occupant, all of whom are now mostly forgotten. Let us hope the present owner will be more permanent. He is Everet Ulrich, the substitute mail carrier, with numerous

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other occupations. He bought it last winter, together with 22 acres lying to the south of the house. He is now occupying it with his good wife and small family of children.

Today this house might be outmoded as to style, but it was built strong and most substantial of frame material. It rests on a brick foundation, with a cellar under all. Has four rooms up and four rooms down, with 12-foot ceilings. Has two big hallways up and down, and a central stairway a little fanciful but not ornate. It has all modern conveniences, such as city water and sewer, toilets, baths, electric lights-and everything.

This big house is on Third Street running south out of town, opposite the city park.

### **The Dalton Gang**

The already ill reputation acquired by this house was further heightened by exaggerated rumors of its being a hide-out for the famous, or infamous, Dalton gang of highwaymen of Oklahoma. After investigation I find that only parts of the stories are based on facts. There is an old saying that an oft told tale, true or false, becomes, in time, a "truth in fiction."

The chief factor in all those rumors was Bill Dalton, who married Jane Bliven, the comely daughter of Cyrus and Katie Bliven.

The Daltons came to this valley in the middle of the 1880's. There were four other brothers besides Bill, namely: Cole, Bob, Grat and Littleton. Bill first lived at Paso Robles, where he was elected to the state legislature to serve out an unexpired term. After completing his term Bill came to Livingston to join his brothers, who had preceded him here, in growing grain on the John W. Mitchell holdings, seven miles south of Livingston near Central Camp. I have been unable to learn what year Bill came here.

It was soon after his arrival that he met Jane Bliven. He became a frequent visitor to the Bliven home, and soon they were married. It was not till after this marriage, I was told, that the brothers made calls at the Bliven residence, always on social duties. Being now kinsmen, by marriage, such visits naturally fallowed. Often they were all dined (whether together or separately I don't know) · at the Bliven house. How often is not now known.

Among those around here who remembered the Dalton boys was the late Franklin E. Crowell. He told me that

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they all at one time or another patronized the Hammatt & Crowell store. He said they were all hard workers, generous, kindly to their workmen. They conducted themselves in the best manner and never failed to meet an obligation. Some of them attended local parties with other young men of the countryside; and, all in all, their conduct was unquestioned.

I was told by Ed Weaver, son of John Weaver, the Merced riverside rancher, that Bill was the fun maker at all parties. He could sing, dance and play the piano. He radiated wholesome cheer wherever he went. He provided much of the music for nearly all the goings-on among the young people. And, it is singular to say, t ever caroused around nor got drunk.

With all the favorable impressions left here by these brothers, rumors still persisted that all was not well with their reputation. In the case of Bill, however, these rumors did not apply. Being now married Bill was considered a family man, a home builder. So far as known his reputation, up to that time, had never been in doubt; for he was never missed from home.

The spell of secrecy that hung over the four Dalton brothers was broken when the trouble the Southern Pacific railway had with the land settlers in the area around Alila, near Visalia. A passenger train had been held up and robbed. The Daltons were blamed for this crime. Bob escaped and returned immediately to the east. Grat and Bill were arrested and held prisoners in the Visalia jail. At the trial in Fresno Grat was convicted and Bill acquitted.

Bill returned to Livingston to join his family, having been completely exonerated from the charge by the trial court. But with Grat it was different. A short time before sentence was to be pronounced he escaped jail. At a designated point a saddled and bridled horse was in waiting. Escaping the posse, Grat reached the horse and got away. Without let-up or hindrance Grat rode back to his old stamping grounds in Oklahoma, He had been provided food for himself, but his horse had to forage by the way.

In Oklahoma the Dalton gang was reformed for further depredations against the common good, the gang was now composed of Grat, Bob and Emmet Dalton, Dick Broadwell and Bill Powers, five in number. Grat was the leader, as he had always been in previous raids. After committing other holdups in Oklahoma the gang met its waterloo at Coffeyville, Kansas, on the morning of October 5, 1982. The plan

was to rob the First National Bank and the Condon Bank of Coffeyville, both at the same time. What happened there is now history.

Both banks were robbed simultaneously. But in trying to get away with their loot every member of the gang was killed, except Emmett, by the posse of citizens who had prepared for just such an emergency. Emmet was so badly shot up that he lay in a hospital 17 months before recovery. After spending 17 years in the penitentiary he was released to come to Hollywood to exploit his crimes in books and on the screen.

### **Dalton's Death**

Now as to Bill Dalton's death. The bank at Longview, Texas, was robbed early in June, 1894. It so happened that Bill and his wife were visiting a family named Wallace on a farm near Ardmore, Oklahoma, Mrs. Dalton had gone with Mrs. Wallace to Ardmore to shop, leaving Bill at home to care for the two children, While Bill was sitting on the front porch playing with his youngest child Grace three shots came from a posse hiding among the bushes across the road. The posse ran into the yard, The shots proved fatal. Bill was killed instantly.

The body of Bill Dalton was placed in a lead coffin and shipped by train direct to Livingston, to his late home in the Bliven residence. A grave was dug beneath on of the palm trees in the front yard. Those palms were planted there by Bliven himself after he built his house in 1889. It was here that Bill Dalton was laid to rest.

Vern Hammatt, son of Robert Hammatt, the merchant, remembers the day of the funeral very well. He was 11 years old and present when the train arrived with the body and family. He also attended the funeral.

Later, after the Bliven's had moved to Turlock, the body of Bill Dalton was moved to the Turlock cemetery, where it lies beside that of Cyrus Bliven and his wife, Bill has no marker, but on the tombstone of Bliven is engraved the following words:

CYRUS BLIVEN

Born Jan. 18, 1832

Died May 12, 1902

Whether Bill Dalton was guilty of robbing the bank at Longview, Texas, is doubtful. At least Emmet Dalton, Bill's youngest Brother, told me once that the charge against

Bill was later proven: untrue. Bill was unfortunate in being present at the wrong time-when the posse sought the robbers. For what was he there for, they asked, if not to rob a bank? Emmet, the youngest brother, told me that Bill had arrived on the scene just after the robbery. He may be correct. I don't know.

As to Littleton Dalton, the eldest brother, he died two years ago at his home in Woodland, California, aged 82 years. I am told he was honored and respected by all who knew him. He claimed he never took part in any of his brothers' evil escapades.

### **Mrs. Jane Dalton**

In concluding this story of the association of the Daltons with the Bliven family it follows that I should give a few brief facts applicable to Mrs. Jane Dalton, the widow. Later Mrs. Dalton married Frank Adams, date unknown by me; after his death she moved to Richmond.

On Memorial Day, 1933, while paying memorial respects to friends in the Turlock cemetery, I met Mrs. Dalton by chance. She also was there decorating graves. I saw her standing by a tall tombstone in the southwest corner of the cemetery. Of course I didn't know her, but on seeing the name "Bliven" on the tombstone I at once approached and made myself known. Then I began to ask questions.

My sudden interview disconcerted her. But it bore no fruit worth mentioning. She was adamant to all queries as to her life before and after she left Livingston. She did, however, admit she was the widow of Bill Dalton, but refused to talk further. She did tell me that she made her home with a niece at Richmond.

Earlier in the spring of the same year (1933) I went to the little post office of Modano, due east of Chowchilla, on the Santa Fe railway, to see the postmaster and storekeeper there. His name was Charles Dalton, son of Bill and Jane (Bliven) Dalton. He knew little, if anything, about his father, as he was a small child when his father met his untimely death. All he knew was hearsay, and that wasn't much.

However, I found him very gracious, very talkative on other subjects, and a little gloomy over prospects as to business in his then location. He told me the post office department was about to close his office on account of lack of business. I left him in a pleasant mood, to return to my own duties in the post office at Livingston. Since then I

have often wondered how he has fared, hoping all has gone well with him.

### **The Various Booms**

During its history Livingston has had much experience in what is termed "booming." These have happened in four different phases of its existence from the day of founding by Edward J. Olds back in 1871. I am not sure that any of the booms could have been avoided. Perhaps not, for such risings and failings of the barometer of progress are a big part of almost every community.

The first phasic condition started when William J. Little presented his town site called Livingstone to be voted on December 12, 1872, in a contest for the new county seat of Merced. For the moment this meant an incipient boom. Losing the fight, the town remained static for 30 years, or up to, the time it was planned to irrigate the adjacent lands.

Such a scheme for putting water on the land had been the "big talk" of the land owners ever since William G. Collier, 38 years before, developed his irrigation system, the Robla Canal Company, March 30, 1870, with its first office on the Collier ranch. This first canal opened the eyes of everybody in the state to the possibility of irrigation, and what it would eventually mean to the vast area of tillable land then devoted to growing of grain, or cattle grazing, in the San Joaquin valley.

Since early in the 1850's all this scope of land had been used for grain growing and the feeding of cattle on it in winter, after the rains began. It was not until 1908, or 38 years later, that the well-known Crocker-Huffman system began to materialize hereabouts, thus transforming the grain lands into small irrigated farms, all subjected to a high state of efficient cultivation, like the kind one now sees here in this year of 1944.

### **The Second Phase**

The promotion of the Crocker-Huffman system and the development of lands under it was the second phase of Livingston's uplift into a more energetic and growing community. Land sales were numerous, and developments could be seen on all sides. It was in the beginning of this second phase that Ed-

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Ward J. Thomas and William J. Curtner came from San Jose and lent impetus to the community's growth. These two promoters had been preceded by Otto Grunsky of Stockton. Working independently of each other, these two firms began early to put their plans into execution. Otto Grunsky filed the first map in the platting of the south side of town. His was called The Livingston Land & Colony Company's, and was placed on record on April 10, 1909. His tract lay on the west side of Third Street. In the beginning this Third Street was called Bliven Avenue; but it was not put down on the maps as such.

Although Thomas & Curtner began to operate here early in 1909, they did not file their map until December 6, 1910. Their map bears the title of Livingston Realty Company's addition to the town of Livingston. It covers all that area now within the present city limits on the east side of Third Street.

Following the filing of these two plats, speculators and home makers began coming in to make investments. After the Grunsky filings land sales were more than ordinarily heavy. In 1908 rights of way had been granted through what was known as the Bliven lands for irrigation purposes. By 1909 water was on the land. It was brought from the first diversion dam built on the Merced River below Merced Falls, flowing through artificial and natural courses until it reached the district, the overflow went back into the river a mile north of town.

The water rate then was advertised at \$1 per acre.

All this planning, platting and watering started another boom. It was a mild boom, though, with many promises of being for the benefit of all concerned. Many buildings had been planned and constructed. In 1910 the Idanha Hotel was erected, The Hoehn-Isham building was built at the corner of Third and C Streets. All around the town and in the country new residences went up. It was during this year of 1909 that the Methodist church, the first place of worship in town, was organized and plans laid for a new church building. The telephone office was built on the corner of Third and B streets and a telephone system established. This telephone building was later moved a mile south of town to the M.B. Bell farm, and is now the residence of James A. Chase on his 40-acre dairy farm. This same year of 1910 the said Mr. Bell also built his two little store rooms- one of which is now used by

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George Burt, the barber.

And that was about all for the first year of this second boom. It was a fairly good start, lasting but about three years. With such boosting and booming it was evident the foundation was not well set. From now on a downward trend developed, but the status quo position continued for an indefinite time.

During this period some very good improvements were made. The First Bank of Livingston building (now housing the Bank of America) was erected in 1914. In 1917 the Cooperatives warehouse was built by the Japanese, and the new Court Theater was finished. The Livingston Chronicle was started in 1909-35 years ago and is still going strong.

In 1916 the American vineyard, southwest, was planned by Franklin P, Nutting of Fresno., The vines were set out early in 1917. The area covered contains about 1100 acres all in Thompson seedless, the largest single tract of this variety of grapes in the state, Now 27 years later, it is still one of the best and most productive vineyards in the San Joaquin Valley.

Many new residences were built in and about the town in 1917. The Watson addition was laid out and filed for record April 24, 1912 – too late for the first rush of buyers.

### **The Third Phase**

The third phase was ushered in at the close of the First World War, in 1918. This was an incipient inflation of town and county values. New people had come along looking for home sites and business locations. Many pieces of property were sold. Some new residences were built and a number of needed business blocks were erected. Such business blocks included the two story Crowell building on the north side; the two story of the John Groom building; the Ottmann building; the Saunders store rooms, and the Ward building. The Standard Oil Company and the Union Oil Company distributing stations were located here in this period, including their respective service stations.

In this era of progress many new residences were erected in all parts of the town and throughout the countryside. In truth, more residences were erected than at any other period following the depressions – all by the owners. The water and sewer systems were planned for the town soon after the close of the war. This today is considered the best investment the people ever made in civic improvements. The highways in and out of town were begun and finished



in this period.

It was soon after the close of the First World War that the Arakelian family came to develop its many grape farms and to establish the only packing plant within the city limits now in operation. Besides developing and making improvements on a number of grape farms, all Thomson seedless, this family built its present plant in town. It now operates under the firm name of Consolidated Packing Company. It is here that raisins are processed for the general market of the world, with John Arakelian as manager. This family also owns valuable town property, showing their faith in the future of the community.

#### **Phase Four**

Phase four began soon after the beginning of the panic of 1930. It remained in hand up to the time coincident with the Pearl Harbor world-wide affair of December 7, 1941. This attack by the japs gave another boost to the slowly rising values in all properties here, following the turmoil of our entrance into the last World War.

At first the demand for local property was gradual, but finally it reached a competitive stage of activity. During the year 1943 hundreds of tax-lots went on the market, all with potential building qualities. But owing to the war and priorities no buildings could be contracted for. So, when the war is over, look for general building boom for Livingston that will, no doubt, climax all previous booms. At least that is what the wise business man predicts.

At one time during the late depression 42 vacant properties were counted within the town area. Now, it is likely, that 42 applications are in line for living space. Such is war. Aside from that the signs never were better for a big expansion in both buildings and population here for the near future.

In line with improved conditions here through the years, the Merced Lumber company has kept pace, by supplying practically all the necessary building material. It has been harder pressed since the war began than at any time in its history. The demand for building material has been more than the supply. This is a part of the world-wide war conditions. The people are only waiting now to be supplied as never before.

## CHAPTER 8

### The Schools

The wider and deeper social questions of the pioneers were bred in a little red school house. Such schools were the frontiers of culture, the incentive to the higher institutions of learning. In a work they opened the windows to the present free public school system-the best in the world. The schools teach the affirmative and not the negative side of life. We are prone to take them as a matter of course, losing sight of their origin, so primitive in the rudimentary sense.

When the first settlers came to this area there were no schools, the child had to be coached by a private tutor or go with knowing its abc's. Sometimes the child went without learning, except what it obtained in contact with the simple life. At least such frontier methods lifted the child above the savage in habits, if not to the more lofty heights of learning.

It is probable the first formal school here was that held in the adobe building on the Robert A. Weaver farm, one mile below the railway and county bridges, in the autumn of 1868. Any signs that such a school house existed have disappeared. Near it grew a warped fig tree. It also has vanished. Here is a description of this school as given me by the late Benner Simpson, one of the first pupils.

"The Teacher" he said, "was a sheep herder named John A. Kendrick, who worked for George Belt, a farmer living nearby. Later Kendrick became a deputy sheriff of Merced County under Sam Brown, moving to Snelling, the then county seat. Among the children attending this first school was myself. William, John and Mary McConnell, Jeff and Sarah Gibson; two pupils named Stepp and two named Brooks from the old Henry ranch.

"One room of this adobe house, which had been a private residence, was a crude affair when adapted for use as a school. The furniture was meagre. It consisted of one long bench for the children in recitations, and one smaller bench for the teacher. One wall was painted black for a blackboard, In teaching, the teacher sat on his crude bench at one end of the room by the side of a similarly handmade table, Heating in winter was by a stove fed with wood as fuel. What else there was I don't now remember, but everything was primitive enough.

"Sessions in this school were held for six months of the

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Years 1868 and 1869. The following session was on the Henry ranch, The next was opened in 1870 in a little frame building on the brow of the hill overlooking the Merced river, about one-half mile downstream from the bridges. The next and final move was into the more pretentious school house, on the McConnell flat, which was moved into Livingston in the 1880's."

### **Other Schools**

Owing to the incomplete records kept at the beginning of the establishment of schools in Merced County, it is hard now to determine just where and when the pioneer schools were held. We must depend on oral information, handed down, for facts, The William C Turner ranch, 10 miles down the Merced River, seems to have been the center of cultural advancement, It was the most prosperous and progressive part of this area.

Turner's settlement was named Brickville, from the fact that bricks used in the construction of his fine residence, his two-story barn, and his pre-cooled milk house, were all made of the ground in 1868. Originally the Turners built a lived in a log house. After erecting their new residence the old log house was converted into a school quarters. I am told the first session in this school was held in 1872, with Miss Birdie Ash as teacher. That would be 72 years ago.

Like others of its kind, the facilities in this Turner school were crude and meager. Gadgets were things of the future and free text books were as remote as the Sierras. The complement of pupils were necessarily small; yet, considering the time, they would be ample to support such an institution. The Turners alone had enough children to keep school. But many others came from distant parts. It is probable that the first session had near 15 as the limit of attendance.

It is not given when the first school was held in the settlement of Livingston, The records for 1881 show that "E.J. Olds of Livingstone" was the first school director for Cressey. This is a little confusing at this distant day. While the post office was Livingston the railway station and the school district were named Cressey.

### **Later Schools**

Under date of May 26, 1944 county Superintendent of School, C.S. Weaver, writes me as follows:

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"I started to school in 1884 (60 years ago), at which time school was held in an old school house that had been moved to Livingston from the top of the hill near the McConnell Flat, some distance west of the Joe Wolf farm."

This old building, now used by the Livingston Chronicle as its office, was constructed by Mr., Weaver's father, William L. Weaver, who was both a farmer and a carpenter, sometime shortly after 1876, the year the father came here. At the time of constructing the building he was a school director of this district. The exact date of its removal to Livingston, has not been ascertained.

"At the turn of the century," (44 years ago), continues Mr, Weaver, "there were only a few schools in your part of the county, each one employing but one teacher, One was in Livingston; one was the Jefferson school on the Turner ranch, and the San Joaquin school on what is now the Howard Ranch. These three one-teacher schools were the only ones west of the Mitchell school of Atwater, also a one-teacher school."

During the years of 1942-43 the following grammar schools occupied the same district mentioned above:

Merquin Union, composed of three districts- San Joaquin, Jefferson and Stevinson-employs 5 teachers, with an average daily attendance of 121 pupils.

Whitmer, with 2 teachers, and an average daily attendance of 42 pupils.

Livingston, employing 13 teachers, with an average daily attendance of 359 pupils.

Cressey, employing 3 teachers, with an average attendance of 36 pupils.

Arena, employing 2 teachers, with an average daily attendance of 65 pupils.

Jordan, employing 2 teachers, with an average daily attendance of 47 pupils

Parts of the Jordan and Arena schools were taken from the Mitchell districts; otherwise the districts of all the present schools, except Merquin Union, were made from the Livingston district.

### **Old Time Teachers**

As previously mentioned, the early school records are not complete. The earliest date begins with the year 1878-79. By such records it is shown that Mary A. Collier received pay as a teacher in the Livingston district for the years 1878-79-80. She was the daughter of William G. Col

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Lier of the Stevinson district.

In Miss Collier's time there was no school house on the Livingston town site. She must have taught her terms in the new building on the McConnell Flat west of town. This is the school house moved into town in the year 1884. At least it must be presumed that this was the year, for that was the date of purchase of the school site of the present school house on the north side of town, But there is nothing in the records to indicate when this removal took place.

The board of trustees for the year 1884 was composed of the J.F.Ward, T.F. Smith and W.L. Weaver, Cyrus Bliven, owner of the town site, made a deed of conveyance for Block 19, northside, to the above named school trustees, dated February 11, 1884. The first school opened in the fall of that year in the "newly" moved building. It appears that Miss Maggie Bixby was the first teacher employed to start the term, and as she did not finish Miss Anna M Litchford completed the year.

So far as the county records show other early day teachers here were as follows: for 1880-81 J.A. Anderson was the teacher, In 1881-82 Miss Emma Turner was employed, Apparently three teachers were engaged at three different times during the year 1882-83. First is the name of J. A. Norvell, former owner and publisher of the Merced Express. He was also the father of Miss Louise Norvell, vice-principal of the Merced Union High school, and a teacher in that school for many years. Later the same year J.H. Austin was chosen as teacher, As he did not finish the term Miss Amelia Jacobsen was employed to complete the session.

Miss Clara Healy taught during he term of 1883-84. For the term of 1885-86 Miss Etta Nixon was the teacher, For the two year terms of 1886-88 J.C. Courtney filled the position.

### **Grammar Schools**

It has been asked to the date of erecting the present schoolhouse on the northside. The records show that in 1910 bonds in the sum of \$10,000 were voted for the construction of a four room building to take the place of the old one moved to the site. This building was completed in time for school to open in the fall of that year. Thus, it has been in use 34 years. It is now used for primary grades, with four teachers in charge.

I wish here to reiterate that the old original building

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displaced by the new school house is the one previously mentioned as being built on the McConnell flat, a mile west of town, in about the year 1876. It was moved to town in 1884, and then in 1910 was sold and moved to its present location as the office of the Livingston Chronicle. E.G. Adams bought it in 1915 from Hal Shaffer and moved his office into it in August of that same year.

### **A Letter**

In an effort to establish the identity of the original schoolhouse in Livingston, I here quote a letter to me from County Superintendent of Schools Weaver, under date of November 14, 1944, as follows:

Dear Mr. Farquhar:

The building which the present primary building replaced was built in 1884, and is now the Livingston Chronicle office, The building which was removed from the McConnell Flat, as indicated by you in your story (I had submitted to him this school article for okay), was moved from the top of the hill just east of McConnell Flat: there was an old locust tree there. This Building was moved to Livingston site a year or two previous to 1884.

I entered school in 1884, at that time the school was opened in the old building while the new building was under construction, As soon as completed the old buildings was discarded.

C.S. Weaver.

### **The Last School**

In 19221 the Livingston school district voted bonds in the sum of \$36,000 for the grammar school on the south side of the railway tracks. This included six rooms and an auditorium, The building was completed in time for the term to begin in the fall of that year.

So fast did the district grow that by 1923 another bond election was held, voting the sum of \$10,000 for additional rooms to be added. By 1929 the district has so outgrown its capacity that another \$10,000 was voted for additional school space. All growth and improvements were made in the space of nine years.

Since then nothing had been added to either school building, except additional teachers to handle the increased attendance. There are now 14 instructors operating in the primary schools of this city

### **The High School**

The Livingston High is a branch of the Merced High school. The corner-stone-laying exercises were conducted on the site May 24, 1924, under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Masons of California. The total cost of the building was close to \$150,000, with a capacity for holding 250 pupils.

For the first year 7 teachers were employed, with an average daily attendance of 131 pupils. In the year 1942-43, 18 teachers were employed, with an average daily attendance of 237 pupils.

The first principal was Wilmer M. Scott, who opened the session in September 1924, with a corps of 6 assistance as follows:

Miss Norene Campbell, chemistry, biology, general science.

Miss Zella Dickinson, domestic science, domestic art.

Julius Harris, Spanish, 1st and 2nd years, Latin, 1st year physical training.

Miss Lonja Krenz, English, 1st and 2nd years.

Miss Ethel Stubblefield – elementary and intermediate algebra, plane geometry, English, 3rd year.

Miss Rachel Whitaker – bookkeeping, stenography, typing.

Mr. Scott taught ancient and modern history, US history and civics.

### **High School Teachers**

The following is a complete list of teachers of the Livingston Union high school for the term beginning in September 1944:

Leon Lee, principal, tennis.

Miss Adella Barnard, typing, office practice.

Miss Betty Brown, English.

Eldon J. Callister, coach, physical education

Miss Virginia Canale, homemaking, boys food.

c. J. Carpenter, mathematics.

Miss Jean Dahncke, freshman and social studies

Miss Claudia F. Gale, art, physical education

Russell J. Hoyle, science and mathematics

Miss Grace M. Kay, English, Library publication

Mrs. Elizabeth Kanen, shorthand, bookkeeping, mathematics.

Thomas P. Lloyd, English, physical education.:

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Mrs. Margerite MacFarlane, music.

Russell S. Miller, agriculture

T.A. Rose, civics, history.

Mrs. Monica D. Stage, science.

Henry W. Struckman, auto mechanic, mechanical drawing, woodwork.

### **Grammar School Teachers**

For the term of 1944-45 the Livingston grammar school opened Monday, September 25, with a full corps of teachers and an increased attendance. Bus service for the pupil will run over the same course and at the same time as at the close of the term in May. Owing to the large number of resignation at the close of the last term seven new instructors have been added, which, with the old ones retained, makes a total of 15 members of the teaching staff. The line-up follows:

Charles H Kanen, superintendent

Carl Berrhohm, 7th and 8th grades, boys physical training.

Frank Schrieber 7th and 8th grade and band music.

Mrs. Dovie Winters, 5th and 6th grades.

Mrs Barbara (Stewart) Jones, 5th grade and vocal Music in 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

Mrs. Irene Struckman, 3rd and 4th grades. Her husband, Henry W. Struckman, is a shop teacher at the Livingston High.

Mrs. Lucille Johnson, 3rd grade and vocal music in 3rd and 4th grades.

Mrs. Louise M. Rupp, 2nd grade and music in 1st and 2nd grades.

Assignment of six teachers who have been teaching several years are as follows:

Mrs. Beatrice Sheesley, vice principal, 8th grade, assistant librarian and director of girls' physical education 7th and 8th grades.

Mrs. Edna Kemper, 6th grade.

Mrs. Florence E Gleason added later to take care of Whitmer pupils transferred to town schools.

Mrs. Elise Matignon, 4th grade and librarian.

Mrs. Selma Herndon, 2nd grade.

Mrs. Hulda Williams, 1st grade, and 2nd grade music.

Mrs. Margaret Sheesley, 1st grade.



### **School Trustees**

The elected members of the local board of school trustees are Chris Nobbe, Roy Carson and Homer Wucher. All are farmers living adjacent to the town of Livingston.

## **CHAPTER 9 THE CHURCHES**

### **Methodist**

The church being the infallible guide to heaven it must be on the agenda in promoting and developing the countryside. What established faith would come to pioneer in this work? It was the Methodist church that accepted the challenge. They came, they saw, they conquered, so to speak, and in doing so they were the first to establish a church in this district.

Founded' by John Wesley two hundred years ago they were called "Methodists" from the regularity and strict method of their lives and studies.

They were only a handful, but they were strong in the faith. Being so they were not long in organizing. Thus the First Methodist Church of Livingston was set up in the autumn of 1909, with the following charter members:

Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Sheesley, Mr. and Mrs. K. Naka,  
Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Nixon, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Wilson.

There were members of other faiths around here, but the above four families were the only Methodists to be lined up for carrying on religious work in this field. To this list must be added the pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. J. S. Walton, who effected the organization. Rev. Mr. Walton held services also at Atwater, Livingston and Stevinson.

Prior to the organization Rev. H. I. Farr of the Turlock Methodist church held services here. In the fall of 1908 Rev. George Steed was appointed to the charge by the Southern California Conference. He served the above circuit for one year, but did not help to organize the church.

Some of the first meetings here were held in private homes. Later they were conducted in the old schoolhouse (now the Chronicle office) on the north side. Of the eight original members only two remain to carry on. They are Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Sheesley, the others having passed from

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the scene.

The membership soon increasing a new church building was planned. Work on it began in 1910, It was slow work, but eventually the thing was an accomplished fact. When it was finished it was paid for. The big help in financing it was the gift of the site by Edward J. Thomas and William J. Curtner of the Livingston Realty Company.

In the meantime, the church organization was completed. The Ladies Aid Society was created March 11, 1910. The building of the first parsonage was completed in 1911. After the building of the new parsonage the old one was dedicated "Elizabeth Cottage" in honor of the late Mrs. Elizabeth Rhinehart a long and faithful member of the church. It served as a social hall.

The present ample parsonage was built in 1922. Elizabeth Cottage was sold in 1941. On its site the same year was erected the new social hall, named Eiland Hall, honoring Rev. Enoch Eiland, the energetic pastor serving the charge here in 1940-42. He planned and promoted the hall to its financial success.

A complete list of the pastors serving here follows:

1908-09-George Steed.

1909-10-J. S. Walton.

1910-11-H. A. Carpenter.

1911-13-J. P. Livoni.

1913-15-Burton Hamlin.

1915-16-Ralph Chaffee.

1916-18-George Skaggs.

1918-22- F. W. Howlett.

1922-24-Edgar Haigh. After one and a half years Haigh went to England and P. Trotter, Sr., supplied.

1924-27-H. R. Salisbury.

1927-29-W. A. Matson.

1929-32-M. W. Bennett.

1932-33-S. A. Danford.

1933-34-W. B. Kramer.

1934-36-Paul Sherwood.

1936-37-Harry Smith and Celia Smith. Wm. P. Taylor supplied in the first three months.

1937-39-H. C. Mullin.

1939-40-W. H. Kaufman served with Atwater. 1940-42-Enoch Eiland.

1942-44-S. C. Schaeffer.

1944--Alfred Chandler.

The following compose the Board of Trustees:

A. N. Sheesley

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G. H. Winton, William Lehfeltdt, J.F. Liles, Luther Farajian.

Superintendent of Sunday School, A.N. Sheesley

Superintendent of primary, Mrs. Marjorie Wucher.

Leader of the Women's Society of Christian Service, Mrs. Floyd E. Dent.

In reply to my request for a brief account of his life, Rev. Alfred T. Chandler, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Livingston, writes me the following:

"I was born in Cleveland, Ohio first son of a Y. M. C. A. secretary, Will L Chandler, and his wife, Beulah Throop Chandler. Both parents held the degree of A. B. granted them by Syracuse University in 1906. My grandfather Chandler was a Methodist minister in the Wilmington Conference of Delaware and Maryland. Grandfather Throop was a farmer near Port Gibson, New York. He also served as a railway mail clerk between Buffalo and New York, and once taught school.

"My schooling, after a kindergarten start in Cleveland, commenced with the first and part of the second grades in that city: the third in Nashville, Tennessee; the fourth in Decatur, Georgia; the fifth in western New York; the sixth and seventh in Croton-on-Hudson; the eighth in Hester school, San Jose, California. I attended the San Jose High, graduated from the state teacher's college there in 1933, with the degree of B.A. I went to the Pacific School of Religion, receiving the degree of M.A. in the department Philosophy of Religion and Christian Theology in 1935. In 1936 I attended the Union Theological Seminary in New York, where I majored in the department of New Testament, leading to the Bachelor of Divinity degree.

In 1936 Rev. Chandler was called to the Union Congregational church at Shafter, California where he was ordained and served until January, 1943, when he was appointed to fill the pulpit in the Sierra Vesta Methodist Church in east Fresno, In June, 1944 he came to the Livingston charge.

It was at Shafter that the Reverend Mr. Chandler met his fate. She was Miss Madolyn Moody, a teacher at the semitropic school, ten miles west of Wasco, and a daughter of Lieut-Commander and Mrs. Joseph A. Moody of San Pedro, church. As a result they were married on September 20, 1941, at the First Methodist church in San Pedro by Rev. Fred H. Ross. On July 10, 1943 their son Stephen Moody

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Chandler was born in Fresno.

While Mrs. Chandler was born in Oakland, California, she spent her growing-up years in San Pedro, where her father was in the Marine Inspection service, now under the U.S. Coast Guard. After attending various schools she graduated in 1940 from the Santa Barbara State College, where she got her teacher's credentials. She took voice culture and possesses a large library of sacred and secular music. She belongs to Kappa Delta Pi and the Eastern Star.

Rev. Chandler has a younger brother, Dr. Kennard T. Chandler of the Navy Reserve, aboard the destroyer of the Sumner class. A sister, seven years younger, is Mrs. Beatrice Brown of San Jose, California. Her husband, Guy E. Brown, Jr. is on the faculty of the psychology department of Tuft's College.

### **The Episcopal Church**

Episcopal is the name popularly given to the Anglican church, in a broad sense, in the United States and elsewhere. It is an offshoot of the Church of England, the established church of Great Britain and her colonies, At one time in Livingston this church was a strong organization. Its members consisted of many of the best families of the community, It flourished for a few years then gradually faded out of the scene.

The local church was named St. Mark. It was organized here in 1911. The lot being donated by Edward Thomas and W.J. Curtner of the Livingston Reality Company, at the corner of Fourth and D Streets, The church was completed by 1912, It is a neat little structure, after the Gothic style of architecture. The carpenter work was contributed by three of the leading members-John Groom, Albert Court and Finch Wilcock, contractors and builders of the town, The edifice was soon ready for services, the first pastor being Rev. Greenwood of this district, As near as can now be obtained the following made up the original members:

Mrs. Anna (Williams) Groom, her son John and daughter Bessie; Mr. and Mrs. Finch Wilcock and three children; Mr. and Mrs. W. T. White. This was a fairly large congregation for this district in those early days. A number of other families living here at the time, though not members attended the Episcopal church.

Out of this church grew the well-known local Guild society, noted for the fine quality of its social events among the ladies of the town and countryside. Its chief aim was to promote good-will and a gracious fellowship among its members and friends. Its activities have long since ceased, leaving a void hard to fill by any other society.

After Rev. Greenwood came Rev. W. H. Hawken to fill the charge to the last day of the church's existence. The Rev. Mr. Hawken met a tragic end. While crossing a street in San Francisco he was run down by an automobile and killed.

### **The Seventh-Day Adventists**

The Episcopal Church building is now owned by the Seventh-Day Adventists, who hold services regularly every Sabbath day. This society bought the edifice from the local Methodist church, acquired it from the Episcopal society, later selling it to its present owners. The Adventists had used the building since their organization here in 1919. It is now rented to the First Southern Baptist Church which holds Sunday services in it, at 10am for Sunday school and at 11am for the regular Sunday sermon preached by a pastor from Turlock.

Of the original charter members of the Adventist here only one person remains. She is Mrs. Bertye Dawson, superintendent and secretary of the Sabbath school. The church was organized in November 1919, by Elders Frank Weeks and D. Walker, Sabbath school superintendent; Chester Jones, secretary.

The new pastor is Elder Lengerfelter, who lives in Merced. The hours of services 11am each Saturday.

The building is now being repainted and remodeled to some extent, and dedication is anticipated later.

### **The Lutheran Church**

Martin Luther is classed as the world's greatest reformer. He is credited with taking the "abominations" out of the church original. From his doctrinal thesis he

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founded an institution that goes back to the fundamentals of Christian simplicity. Luther's trials and tribulations following his break with the higher church officials were numerous and varied. Although his opponents were strong, he succeeded in wresting from their power the right to worship God according to the dictates of one's conscience. That was 400 years ago. Today his faith goes marching on into and along the walks of all men.

Here in Livingston is one of Martin Luther's strong descendants-the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer of the South, or Missouri, synod. This local church was founded in Winton in 1919 by Rev. W. O. Grunow of the Modesto church. In 1922 they decided to come to Livingston to plan for an edifice in which to worship. A site was obtained at the corner of Fourth and E streets. The financing being satisfactorily arranged, the contract was let to Leo Heid, local contractor and builder, at a cost of \$6,500. The cornerstone was laid on June 1, 1924, and by Sunday, August 31, 1924, the building was ready for dedication.

This was a big event in church circles here. The church was filled to capacity with local and visiting members, including many higher dignitaries of the organization. At 10 :30 a. m. Rev. W. O. Grunow formally opened the services. He was followed by Rev. Arthur Brohm of San Francisco with a dedicatory address highly appreciated. A short additional sermon was made by Rev. H.J. Von Renner of Newman. Rev. George C. Jacobsen of Stockton a visitor to the circuit, preached on the subject, "Your Sanctuary a Holy Place". A musical program was presented by the Grace Lutheran church of Modesto, with Mrs. J. Reitz of that city as soloist.

The church building is ample for all present member purposes. The main structure is 26x52 feet, with a cement basement under all for social work and other meetings. The bell was presented to the local church by the Trinity Lutherans of Stockton, and placed in the bell-tower. The seating capacity of the auditorium is about 200. The pastor's residence was constructed soon after the church was finished. The present pastor in residence is Rev. Waldemar B. Streufert, M.S.T. He conducts services every Sunday at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 10 a. m.

The Board of Deacons is made up of the following :

P. O. Hille, chairman; Carl Vieker, J. H. Cordes. William Vieker is secretary of the Church Council;

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William Hoffman, treasurer; Carl Beerbohm, Superintendent of Sunday school.

C. W. Nobbe is chairman of the board of Church Education.

The Ladies Aid and Young People's society are strong branches of the local church.

The first resident pastor was Rev. R.J. Jagels, who came shortly after the church was dedicated and did not leave until 1940, when he was transferred to Bakersfield at his own request, after a call from there.

### **The Catholic Church**

The Catholic church is a big institution. It looks after its votaries with a zealous understanding that is a part of its strong foundation. It is 14 years now since it built its edifice of worship in Livingston, but in that time it has grown large and effective. At one time this field was a mission attached to the parish of Stevinson, but after establishing the church here this order was reversed, with the result that Stevinson became a mission attached to the parish church at Livingston

On February 29, 1929, a few members of the faith met here and talked over the matter of a church for Livingston. A month later another meeting was held and a committee was appointed to further the question, After considering everything relative to finances and possible membership a site was selected and by December 9, 1929, a deed was filed for lots at the corner of Adams and Simpson streets, north side, on which to build. Since then the re-routing of Highway No. 99 was completed, thus eliminating Adams Street.

Plans for the new church were prepared and bids called for, ON April 11, 1930, bids were opened and the contract was let to Leo Heid, local contractor and builder, at a total cost of \$6,000. Work was soon completed and turned over to the building committee for all services to begin September 21, 1930. But the dedication did not take place until Sunday, October 4, 1931. St Jude, the patron saint, was selected for a name.

Working in hearty cooperation with Father Triana the following composed the building committee: John Pereira, president; Joe P Mendonca, secretary; Frank Goulart, treasurer; Manuel Fontes, John S. Bettencourt.

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An interesting factor in this long delay in the dedicatory services was caused by the fact that Pastor Triana had a classmate whom he wished to take part. He was John Maiztegui, who formerly filled the pulpit at Stevinson under the title of Father John, and who was at that date (1931) Bishop of Panama. His coming lent honor and dignity to the occasion. He was an amiable and very kindly man and was liked by everybody.

He arrived at San Francisco by steamer and in the course of his journey caught a cold. Yet that did not hinder him from taking the leading part in the program outlined for him. He began the day's exercises at 7am and did not cease until 8pm, except for short periods for luncheon, during the day he confirmed 180 members.

While here he was the guest of Rev. Triana at Stevinson, to him some excuses had been made for the limited accommodations offered-such as no running water, no bath, and no other handy conveniences. The Bishop's comment as to this was: "Where a priest sleeps a bishop may sleep!" He was equal to any emergency.

Since its completion the new Livingston Church has had put three priests. The first was RE. Pantaleon Triana, with residence at Stevinson, He died at St. Mary's Hospital, Modesto, in 1936. Rev. James O'Doherty was appointed in 1937, and in 1939 a fund was started for a parish rectory at Livingston. The rectory at Stevinson was sold in 1940. In 1941 Rev. John Higgins was appointed to succeed Father O'Doherty, who went to Fresno. In 1942 the new rectory was built at a cost of \$2400.

Father Higgins, present pastor, was born at Denaly, Main, Yorkshire, England in 1907. He studied for the priesthood at St. Mary's Baltimore, Maryland, graduating May 24, 1934.

### **The Stevinson Church**

The first Catholic services were held in Stevinson upstairs in the old Joy building (burned), which stood on the site of the present Frank Salles store. Oscar L. Fregeau and Eugenia, his wife, had leased the Joy building and conducted the post office in it for 31 years, besides handling the county library branch. They gave the use of the second floor for church purposes. Joseph Baumgart was the mainstay of the church as long as he lived.

The new Catholic Church was built in 1916-17. Edna Baumgart was married to Val Hathaway at the first mass



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Held before the church was completed. Archbishop Edward J Hanna of San Francisco dedicated the church in 1917, He died in Rome July 10, 1944, aged 82 years. He had retired and had gone to Rome to be near the Holy See.

Among the former pastors before Rev. Triana were Fathers Serano, Diego, Thummel, franco, and Father John, later Bishop of Panama.

Lo Bovin and Billy Fregeau were the first altar boys. Mrs. Rodney Russell was the first organist, the first organ still being used. The window in the front of the church was given by the Fregeaus in memory of Mrs. Fregeau's father and mother. Frank Rosa gave the bell. The stained glass window came from Newman as a gift.

### **Silver Anniversary**

The 25th anniversary of the organization of Livingston Council No. 120 S.P.R.S.I. was celebrated Sunday, July 2, 1944. High mass was conducted by Rev. Father John P. Higgins at 10 :15 a. m\_ in St. Jude's Catholic church.

A luncheon was held at noon and a regular meeting and an unitary ceremony was conducted at the Livingston Pentecost hall, starting at 2 p. m.

Among the guests were Supreme President Mrs. Mary Camelli of Oakland, District Inspector Mrs. Pauline Freitas of Oakland, and other supreme officers.

Among the members working with Mrs. Mary Lemos, president, were Mrs. Mary Garcia as secretary, and Mrs. Mary Mendonca the treasurer.

The Livingston Council was organized July 10, 1919, with 17 members, six of whom still held their membership here on this anniversary event. They are:

Mrs. Mary Mendonca and Mrs. Mary Sousa of Livingston, Mrs. Mary Chibante and Mrs. Marie Whited of Antioch, Mrs. Rose Silva and Mrs. Helen Frago of Merced. Mrs. Chibante was the first president, Mrs. Mary Silveira the first secretary, and Mrs. Marie L. Perry the first treasurer.

### **Assembly of God Church**

The New Assembly of God Church and parsonage were both completed early in the year 1944. This society is not new here. It began its services in the little old building at the corner of Third and F streets, which was erected early in the 1920s.

Rev. J. c. Gaither and wife are the pastors. Sunday

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school services are at 10 a. m., and morning worship is at 11 a. m. Evangelistic meetings are at 7 o'clock each Sunday evening. Young People's meetings are held Wednesday evenings at 7:30.

### First Pentecostal Church

The First. Pentecostal church of Livingston was organized in June, 1943, by Rev. Odell Cagle, then of Lodi, Calif. First services were held in a tent several weeks when the Veterans of Foreign Wars building was obtained. Here services were conducted until the completion of an edifice which was moved from Merced Falls to a lot on Davis street.

The dedication of the church was held on August 31st, 1944, with Rev. Odell Cagle delivering the dedicatory address. The church was affiliated with the Pentecostal Church Inc., Houston, Texas, on October 5, 1943. Howard A. Goss is the general superintendent and W. E. Kidson is general secretary of the organization. Following are the charter members of this new church:

Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas and family, Mr. and Mrs. Webb Wilhite and family, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Seibold and family, Mr. and Mrs. G. Derryberry and family, Pvt. and Mrs. Guy Johnson, Cpl. and Mrs. James Goldston, Mrs. Clarence Reese and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wilhite and family. Mrs. Eunice Reed, Mrs. Eileen Wilhite, Mrs. Ruby Stauers, Pauline Carter, Mrs. Roy Ledbetter.

The local church officials are: Carl Seibold, deacon and secretary-treasury; James Thomas and Webb Wilhite, deacons.

The resident pastor is Johnny Eugene Klemin:, who was born at El Paso, Texas, June 20, 1926, and came to Lodi with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Klemin, when but two years old. It could be said of him that he is almost a native Californian, but not quite. He spent all his childhood in and about Lodi. He was schooled at Lodi and Exeter. Being practically raised in the Pentecostal church, his training for the ministry has been chiefly active in the cause, and private instruction under older ministers.

## **CHAPTER 10 BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

### **The Livingston Line-up**

Coming now to the arresting immediacy of the present I shall name all those who compose the business life of the

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City. I have already referred to many of their predecessors specifically, and to some incidentally, according to the part each played in local affairs.

The focal points of every community are the places of business in well defined areas. Such areas are the centers of specific activities, to which the people gravitate to trade, or to gossip, as the case may be. In this respect Livingston has not been exempt in the try-out of men., retaining only those with staying qualities.

In the 73 years of the trial-and-error process many businessmen have come into this field, to drop by the way as time worked for or against them. Some make good, filling their niche in local matters, and then passed on, perhaps to better conditions, those who failed have gone out of the scene forever.

It is by immemorial usage that men try their hand, succeed or fail as they progress toward certain goals. Those reaching the goal pass it on to their successors, who, in turn, succeed or fail according to ability. It would be too difficult a task for me now to run down every person who has come here and tried out in the field, eventually to fade out. I know the story of each would be interesting. But I must give it up. My aim here is to deal with the living present.

### **Oldest Business Concern**

The oldest continuous business in town is that of the Ecclefields. Started as a general store on November 4, 1871, by Edward J. Olds, it has continued through different owners and managements until its present large size and extensive retail business has reached its maximum strength. Olds had partner named Barfield. In 1883 they sold to M. Goldman, who, the same year, sold to Zirker & Hammatt. In 1898 Zirker sold his interest to Frank E. Crowell, the firm name becoming Hammatt & Crowell. In 1909 Hammatt dropped out by selling his interest to William T. White, the firm name being changed to White & Crowell.

In 1923 the grocery department was sold to the Ecclefield Brothers, who occupied the old quarters. White & Crowell retained the dry goods and hardware departments and occupied the newly built store room, still under the trade name of White & Crowell, with Mr. Crowell as sole owner, Mr. White having dropped out of the business.

Mr. Crowell died on the last day of the year 1930. Disposing of the dry goods department, the hardware department was eventually acquired by the Ecclefields, who

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An additional room in the Crowell block, and now conduct the hardware store in connection with the grocery department.

### **The Warehouse**

The oldest and continuous warehouse was originally built in 1868 by William J. Little, before the coming of the railway. At first it was used as a grain storage room before hauling that a product to Dover, on the San Joaquin, to be shipped by steamboat to Bay points. Later it handled all kinds of feeds for stock, and was also used as a storage room for farm machinery.

In 1883 Little sold the building to Cyrus Bliven, who later sold to Zirker & Hammatt. And still later Mr. Crowell became sole owner and at times its operator. It is now owned by his widow, Mrs. Pearl Crowell. After replacing the old structure by a new fireproof warehouse, it was leased to Fred H. Henneman, who transacts business in it under the name of the Livingston Warehouse.

### **The Newspaper**

Another continuous business concern in the town is the Livingston Chronicle, owned and operated by Elbert G. Adams. It was established here October 2, 1909, by Peter Higgins. Adams took it over in March, 1915, and has never missed an issue since. Under its present management the Chronicle has been a substantial asset to the community. (See special article on this business.)

### **The Drug Store**

The local drug store is classified with the age of the Chronicle. It was established by Alfred A Hoehn in the autumn of 1910 and has been in continuous operation since. Hoehn sold to O. Glanville in about the year 1922. Other owners followed Glanville in, but in 1929 W. V. Armstrong became the owner and operator. He improved on its capacity as a going drug store. In 1943 Armstrong sold to Ellis Virgo, the present owner.

Ellis Virgo, the new proprietor, came to Livingston direct from Van Nuys. He took over the drug store on March 1, 1943, imbued with the idea of giving his many patrons the best in his line of business. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Virgo SR., a farmer in the Winton district. He is a graduate pharmacist of the University of Southern California, is married and has two small sons. His wife is

A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Morgan in business here. Soon after his arrival here he bought the residence of the late Ralph Love on South Third Street, where he and his family are installed as a big part of the social and civic life of Livingston.

### **Court Theater**

Court theater is the pioneer and only show house in town. It is really older than the date of construction on the front of the building, on Third street, indicates-1917. Albert Court Sr., founder, came here with a big part of his family in 1909, and lived on a farm north of town in the Japanese colony.

Not long after his arrival he held a silent movie-shows in the old town hall, on the north side. Later he bought his present corner at third and B Streets. Here he conducted his shows in temporary quarters until he built his new theater at the time above mentioned. In this work he had as a companion and associate his son, A. Stanley Court, who still conducts the business.

At first shows were held in the large hall upstairs, which, later, was improved with the back extension. In 1929 sound-movies were introduced capable of giving any feature estant tot eh cinema world.

After the father died in 1930 Stanley took over the entire management of the institution, and, in connection, owns and operates the Atwater Theater.

### **Telephone System**

The Livingston telephone system is owned and operated by Arnold A. Harrington as a private institution. He bought it in 1919 from G.H. Winton and W.T. White, who had bought it from the Bank of Italy, Merced, which obtained it through a mortgage foreclosure against the original builder and owner, Edward Thomas.

The local exchange was established here shortly after Thomas came into the field with his expansion plans-1909. The first office was in the building at corner of Third and B Streets, now called the Band Stand Corner and owned by the Arakelian interests. The original building was moved by M.A. Bell to his 40-acre farm about a mile due south of town, and is now owned and occupied by James A. Chase as his farm-dairy residence.

When Harrington took it over the exchange was conducted in the old land office building of Thomas' at the

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corner of Third and Front streets. In 1922 Harrington bought the brick building erected by E. A. O'Donnell for his own business, that of well drilling and general plumbing, at the corner of Second and B streets.

At first Harrington had a partner, operating under the firm name of Lentz and Harrington, both from Modesto. They were electricians and plumbers, doing all kinds of such work in and about Livingston. Later Lentz withdrew from the partnership, leaving Harrington sole owner.

The telephone system operates on a 24-hour plan, with long distance connections to all points.  
The Bank

Perhaps the local bank (Bank of America) is the most substantial business institution here. It began early in 1914 under the name of First Bank of Livingston. With the exception of an interim of about two years (1926 to 1928) it has been a big part of the community's assets. (See special article on this subject.)

### **Trigueiro's Store**

Before America's entrance into the present war there were five grocery stores in town, all doing a good business. Soon after the war began three dropped out. The two remaining Ecclefields and Trigueiro now do all the business of the five originals.

Joe F. Trigueiro is one of the late comers to this field. He opened his first store here January 17, 1928, as manager of the branch store of J. L. Freitas of Turlock. Later he bought the store and took possession on January 1, 1939. His location is the Ward building at the north end of Third street. He is married and has one son, Weldon, still a student in school.

### **Bennight's 5, 10 and 15**

A newcomer to the city is the "5, 10 and 15c" store of Joseph F. Bennight. He came here with his family from Chehalis, Wash., and opened his popular store in the Ottman building in 1938. Later in the year 1943 he bought from Charles Ottman the old bakery building on Third street. This was rejuvenated in time to move in on the first of the year 1944.

### **Beauty Parlors**

Adjoining to the Bennight store on the south is the beauty

Parlor of Miss Esther Ruth Stevins. She has been operating here for about three years.

Upstairs in the back part of Virgo's drug store is another beauty parlor, now conducted by Mrs. Rita Powell.

### **Morgan's Appliance Shop**

On the east side of Third street, in the Carlson building, built by the late Dr. G. C. Saunders, is the store of A. L. Morgan, operating under the name of "Morgan's Appliance Shop". He is the successor of the late B. G. Ramsey's hardware, paint supplies and furniture store. He took possession October 1, 1943. Besides keeping hardware, etc., he is now handling athletic clothing and other supplies. He bought the fine residence of Henry Knutson the electric light man, and moved into it same time he took over the store.

### **The Jewelryman**

Adjoining the bank, in the Kohler building, is the watch and clock repair shop of J. H. Hoeppner. He makes a specialty of fixing timepieces and repairing jewelry. He has been in the business about 13 years. (Recently he bought the Kohler building.)

### **Roy's Store**

On June 1st last Edward Roy bought the supplies and fixtures of the old Stanley court store and soft drink emporium in the Court Building, at the corner of Third and B streets. He has leased the room for a business to be known as "Roy's", a very plain and catchy slogan. He added some tables, counters and now handles lunches, soft drinks, milk and hot coffee, and a partial line of groceries.

Before entering the new business, Ed Roy was the Livingston agent of the Merced Ice and Dairy Company for the past nine years. His chief helper in this new adventure is his wife formerly Udell Adams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Adams. A specialty of this store is a full line of school supplies and magazines.

### **Drink Emporiums**

At present there are five drinking places in the city, "Gene's Place", with Eugene F. Cole as proprietor, is in the Pete Kallaris building, adjoining the Carlson building on the south.

The next on Third street, going north and on the west

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side, is Tony Simas, operating in his own building.

On the same side of the street, but a half block farther north, is "La Fuente", owned and conducted by Peter Sapien, a Mexican.

On the ground floor in the west end of the Crowell block is the place designated as "Alves cage". It is owned and operated by candida and Joe Alves.

In the middle of the Crowell block is the "Eight Ball Inn", once owned and conducted by Charles Hocker and wife- for 15 years. Recently the Hockers sold to U. S. Dobie, who took possession on September 4, 1944. The Dobies are newcomers, having spent some time at Mohave, California. The Hockers left here on October 10th for Hot Springs, Arkansas, where he will take treatment for a longstanding ailment.

### **Jack Gilbert's**

On Cressey Way, opposite the north end of the Crowell block, is the Fix-it Shop" of Jack Gilbert, who fixes everything fixable. He own and occupies for his home and business the building erected and owned by the late George K Simpson, who once operated a restaurant in it, and made it his place of residence. Later George moved with his family to Merced, where he was killed in a railway crossing accident on Highway No. 99 north of that city.

### **The Shoe Shop**

Near the west end and in the Crowell, block is the shoe repair shop of Joe Machado, His is the only business of the kind now operating in Livingston and is kept so busy that he help that he can't get. He fixes the foot-wearing gear of all the population in and around the town.

### **The Restaurants**

During its lifetime Livingston has had numerous restaurants serving the public generally they have come through the years like flies around a sugar barrel. At one time as many as four were operating here for a short period after the first world war. But conditions are different now from then. Owing to the present war restrictions, the rule in every line of business, whereas four were conducted here at one time in years gone by, only two now seem to be able to serve the general public.

The "Subway Café" is the biggest, open night and day, on Highway No. 99. It was started by Mr. and Mrs. E. H.



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Brattin in 1938, following the rerouting of the highway through the city. The Brattin's had been in business here for many years. Recently they sold the lot, the building and business to Robert Abraham of Turlock. He took possession on August 1, 1944.

The other eating house is the old Gib Court stand at the corner of Cressey Way and Court Street. For many years Gib Court held forth here with his fuel and ice supply business. Later he added his restaurant, finally dispensing with his supply department. Recently he sold his cafe to Jim and Rae Fry. Gib has now retired to his small farm near Cressey to spend the rest of his days to do as he pleases away from public haunts.

### **The Packing Houses**

Of the two large packing houses that once operated here the Japanese cooperative is now conducted by G. A. Momberg for the owners. This was built in 1917.

The other packing house, operated here for many years by Frank Konno, is the Pacific Fruit Exchange, in a building on D Street, owned by Southern Pacific railway company.

### **Department Store**

Maler's Department Store, situate in the Crowell block, is the follow-up of the dry goods department of the old White & Crowell general store that operated here for so many years. Mr. Crowell sold the dry goods branch of his business to Leslie A. Reid of Atwater in 1939. Reid continued it here as a branch of his Atwater store. In 1942 Reid sold his entire business, including his building at Atwater, of both places to J. Maler of Los Angeles. Reid is now retired to his present home at Los Gatos.

### **The Barbers**

Clarence M, Baker is not only a native son but he is the pioneer barber of the city. He has been in business here a total of 35 years, occupying the same location in the Crowell building since 1909. Owing to his inability to get help he must conduct his business lone-handed, and he is kept very busy. He was born January 31, 1887 son of William M Baker, a native of Tennessee, who came to California and located near the Fairview school, close to the mouth of the Merced river. He is married and has two children, a son, Walter, who is foreman of a big farm near Escalon, and Georgia, wife of Carlos Beatty of Vallejo.

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George Burt is practically a new barber. He came here from mid-California in 1939, having come into the state from Oklahoma in 1936. With the help of his wife, licensed barber, he operates his shop in the old Bell building on Third Street. He has one son, Bob, now in the service of his country.

A new barber shop has been opened in the city lately. It is located on West F Street and is conducted under the name of "Patzer's". John Patzer is the proprietor.

### **Real Estate Agents**

Two more business concerns remain to be mentioned in these brief sketches. They are the well known real estate agents now called realtors. Two such agents now operate here.

Gordon H Winton is an old hand at the business, He came here in 1914 to work in the new First Bank of Livingston, Real estate sales was a side issue with him then, but now he operates more extensively from his office in the Carlson building on Third street, in connection with which he conducts the city's business as City Clerk.

The other realtor is Warren F. McConnell, who has an office in the alcove-room, fronting on Court Street, in the Crowell block, He is the successor of Baker Bros., Harold and Harvey, who early in the 1920's, did an extensive business hereabouts.

### **The Lumber Yard**

The local lumber yard is an old-timer here. It is a branch yard of the Merced Lumber Company of Merced, and has been serving the public here for more than 40 years. M. F. Faria is the local manager.

### **The Professions**

As to the professions, they have been well represented in the past. According to population there have been as many lawyers, dentists and doctors here as any city in the state. None of them stayed permanently until late years. At present two doctors and one dentist represent the professions.

The late Dr. G. C. Saunders was the first to locate here and hang out his M.D. sign. He came from Turlock in 1916, built himself a residence at the corner of Third and D streets, now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. A.N. Sheesley.

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Dr. P. L. Rookledge came here at the close of the first world war in 1918, or soon thereafter. At first, he had offices in the old Hoehn drug store building at the corner of Third and C streets. Later he practiced and lived in the two-story part of the Crowell block. He now lives a mile and a half south of town at Rookledge Gardens, but doesn't practice except in emergencies. He does however, fit eyeglasses, in which he specializes.

Dr. C. L. Garvin is also a pioneer. He came at the close of the First World War, after serving a medical man. His office is located in the rear of the Ottman building (now Armstrong's), at the corner of Third and B streets. He is the sole medical practitioner in the city.

Dr. James Logan is the dentist He came in 1935 and is a native son. His first office was in the Saunders building at the corner of Third and D streets. Later, 1937, he had a first class dental office fitted up on the ground floor of the groom building, on Third street, at the rear of which was a late model doctor's office arranged for Dr. Andrews, who closed it to go to war, Dr. Logan's practice has increased enormously of late years, and he still enjoys a big patronage, On June 15th, he and Miss Lucille Ballard were married, and make their home in one of Prusso houses at the west end of C street.

### Governmental Concerns

From the beginning Livingston has always done its part in everything of local and national benefit. In this respect it has not lagged in helping to carry-on to bring this Great War to a victorious conclusion.

When the selective service came into operation two years before Pearl Harbor, Board No. 115 at Merced, serving the east side of the county, appointed Advisory Board members in various communities, For Livingston where Elbert G. Adams, Gordon H. Winton and Mrs. Etta B. Hochleitner. They assisted prospective Draftees by the hundreds in filling out questionnaires. This board still continues to serve the boys attaining the age of 18. This is a voluntary and free service.

When rationing first came in the Office of Price Administration established an office in Livingston and the city Council asked to nominate three persons to serve as members of the local board, The names chosen were E.G. Adams, S.H. Swan and Mrs. Lillian J. McConnell. They were sworn in and went to work with Adams as chairman,

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Swan as vice chairman and Mrs. McConnell secretary.

After a year, this three-member board was increased from time to time as gasoline, food, tires, bicycles and other things were rationed. Boards were set up and new work in panel divisions for food, tires and gasoline. At present there are nine board members, Judge John H. Mahoney heads the food panel, Judge H. L. Schultz the gasoline panel and Swan the tire panel.

The O.P.A. now has its office in the Kemper building on Third Street with three full-time clerks, Mrs. Elsie Galloway being the chief, Adams is still chairman and Swan vice chairman of the board.

The Federal-State Farm Labor office was established in Livingston on June 1, 1943. Eugene B. Kemper is manager and Mrs., Nora O'Brien is full-time clerk. They operate from the Pete Guerra old store room, at the east end of town on Highway No. 99. This office had many calls for help during this year from farmers. The demand was ever greater than the supply.

### **Other Concerns**

As to blacksmith shops, garages and service stations, they are mentioned in special articles covering each (which see),

### **The Commercial Club**

The Livingston commercial Club was created about the year 1912 under the name of Board of Trade. Both mean the same thing, with slight differences as to purpose. They represent the business interests of every community; the aim is to present to the "outside world" the better qualities of a town or city.

The Board of Trade was conducted here up to about the close of the First World War, at which time the name was changed to Chamber of Commerce, a more suitable name. The president is Earl Arnold, and the secretary is G. H. Winton.

### **New Packing Plant**

Since writing the foregoing, a new business concern has entered the Livingston field. The new firm is composed of George B Schneideman and L.D. Tonn, of Lodi, California, who this year bought the Charles H. Edwards farm, adjoining the city on the west, consisting of 178 acres, of which 100 acres are in grapes, 40 acres in almonds and the balance in open land.

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This new firm has bought the old Pioneer packing plant, once owned and operated by Ward B, Minturn in connection with his big farm holdings here. The new owners will recondition the shipping shed in time for the 1945 crops.

The new owners are also building a new shed near the old Edwards residence. In this they will install a new almond huller in time for next year's use.

Earl Headings is the new resident manager for these new people.

### **New Blacksmith**

Lee Chase has sold his Blacksmithing business to L.E. Shaw who comes here from Irwin. The new smithy has taken possession. He and Mrs. Shaw have rented one of the Court apartments, and are already residents of Livingston.

### **Cold Storage Plant**

The newest business to be established in Livingston is the cold storage plant of Arnold Anderson of Hilmar, to be known as the Anderson Locker Service. It will be located at the corner of Third and Front streets. Preliminary plans for construction of this plant began soon after the first of the year 1945.

### **Insurance Agents**

In looking for insurance one must not lose sight of the fact that there are two such agents operating in Livingston not connected with the handling of real estate. Each handles his own business from his residence, both living on Third Street.

A.N. Sheesley is the oldest in this independent work. He represents the Merced County Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Hilmar. He insures all kinds of farm buildings, farm machinery, household goods and whatever else is insurable the farm contains.

Allen Stark, the other agent, represents the State Mutual Insurance Company. He specializes in automobiles and issues fire and life insurance. Allen has been at work here for over ten years.

## CHAPTER 11

### The Newspaper

Livingston has had but one newspaper-The Chronicle.  
Vol. 1, No. 1, was issued out of its own office here on October 2, 1909.

Peter H. Higgins was the owner, editor and publisher. He came here from Merced, having formerly been in the newspaper business in Mariposa, and is said to have issued the first newspaper at Los Banos. In coming to Livingston Editor Higgins brought his own plant, and established it in a newly erected frame structure opposite the present Chronicle office. By the side of his plant, on the south, he built his own residence.

This plant consisted of a quantity of job and news type, one small job press, and one Washington hand press, on which he printed his newspaper. Primitive, one may call this plant in comparing it with the present outfit for issuing the Chronicle, yet it fully met the demands of the time and place. In his first issue Editor Higgins says:

"The initial number of the Chronicle is more of a boom paper than a newspaper, but in the future we will devote more space to local happenings."

The sheet is hand-set in 10-point type, is eight-page, six-column, "patent" inside, and, notwithstanding its "boomy" qualities, really is full of local news, and many advertisements of business men from here and outside points.

Higgins died in the early summer of 1912, and Edward Stanton Ellis, who had married his niece, came from the Merced Evening Sun to take over the management of the Chronicle for the Higgins estate. A few months later Ellis prevailed upon the widow, Mrs. Higgins, to permit him to organize a stock company and sell the paper to local business men. When this was completed Ellis became the editor and manager, which position he held until the spring of 1915.

In November, 1914, Ellis was elected to the California legislature. He attended the regular session, serving up to the time he disappeared in the spring of 1915. He has never been heard from since. Later it was proven that Ellis, in reality, was one Frank Warner, formerly of the state of Washington. He left behind him a wife, two children, and the Livingston Chronicle in a floundering condition, aggravated by a lot of bad debts.

The local businessmen who had bought the paper then

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ENTERED INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH Elbert G. Adams to buy the property. Adams came to Livingston from Merced in late March of 1915, and got out his first issue of the Chronicle on April 3rd. He purchased all the outstanding stock of the Livingston Chronicle Company, which was then allowed to die a natural death.

Mr. Adams had been in daily newspaper work in various northern California cities prior to acquiring the Chronicle and, incidentally, ten years after Ellis had been elected to the legislature. Adams is now in his 30th year as editor, publisher and owner of the Chronicle.

For four months after Adams took over he used the old location for his printing plant and publication office in August 1915, having bought his present building from Hal Shaffer, he moved into the new quarters, where he has prevailed ever since. It may be well here to mention that this old building occupied by the Chronicle was the first school house built in Livingston in 1884. It stood on the site of the present grammar school on the north side of town.

Mr. Adams was born at Elizabeth, Colorado, on August 11, 1889, a grandson of Charles W. Adams who settled in Sacramento in 1849. At Stockton on October 25, 1911, he was married to Miss Mayme H. Hamlett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs., E. W. Hamlett. She was born at Plainsburg, California, October 31, 1889. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Adams are Vernon H. died while postmaster of Livingston on November 17, 1942, of heart attack; one child, Carol. Udell (Adams) Roy; two children, Laverne and Delwin. During three terms from 1925 to 1931-Mr. Adams represented Merced county in the State Legislature as an assemblyman.

### **Quotations from the Chronicle**

Returning now to the first copy of the Chronicle (October 2, 1909) I make some comments and quotations, The first page is taken up with "boom stuff" reading matter, explaining the many reasons why investors should buy land anywhere in Merced County, particularly in the Livingston area. The back page is filled with advertisements, mostly from Merced. For their local historical value I mention the following;

The biggest space is devoted to the ad of the Livingston

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Land & colony Company. No name is mentioned in it, but I presume it was featured by Otto Grunsky, the land promoter here, other ads were: "Hammatt & Crowell, dealers in general merchandise, dry goods, clothing, ladies' and gentlemen's furnishing goods, groceries, tin ware, and hardware."

J.N. Hitchcock advertised as "Justice of the Peace, 5th township fire, life and accident insurance, real estate large and small, trades, improved and unimproved, No charge to residents of Township 5 for acknowledgements."

"Livingston Hotel, George Simpson proprietor, board by day, week or month."

"A. Court, building contractor, plans and estimates furnished; painting, papering and repairing given prompt attention."

"Livingston Saloon, wines, liqueurs, cigars; first class barbershop in connection, G.K. Simpson, proprietor."

W. J. Curtner offers "choice alfalfa lands with water right for sale."

"Meat Market, Miller & Lessley proprietor, Livingston, California; delivery wagon to Irwin City and Stevinson Colony."

### News Items

Following are some of the many news items in the first issue:

"While returning from Stevinson in a buggy J.P. Abell, manager of the Merced Lumber Company of Livingston, shot and killed a rattlesnake, coiled by his side of the road ready to strike, while it was only 3 feet long it was inches thick and had 8 rattles."

"Finch Wilcock, building contractor, is erecting a new barn on his south of the railway, and soon will commence, building a fine six room residence." This residence is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Marion Ecclefield.

"George H. Daniels of Livingston warehouse reports about ten thousand sacks of grain on hand, the better half of it belonging to John Rhodes," the grain grower,

"Miss Mary Halteman of Atwater opened the Livingston school with an enrollment of 40 pupils, an increase of 15 over the year previous."

"Ecclefield Brothers have moved 2400 turkeys from the Shaffer ranch on the Oakdale road to the home place a mile west of Livingston."

"Zeph Ecclefield and wife have moved from their sum-



mer camp into the Frank Green cottage south of town."

"Station Agent L.J. Chase won a 35-40 Marlin rifle in a raffle conducted by Bert Davis and sold it promptly to Walter Elam for \$5."

"Hustling Dan Bennett, the blacksmith, is being kept more than busy with new and repair work for Contactor Hauser building the big steel bridge over the river at Cressey for the Santa Fe railway."

"Mrs. Will McConnell was agreeable surprised Wednesday by a number of her immediate friends, the occasion being her birthday."

"The health of R.W. Hammatt has improve so much recently that he is expected home shortly."

"H.E. Carmichael and wife and three children arrived in Livingston this week from Ashland, Oregon, and is now engaged in building a temporary residence."

#### **From Another Issue**

It is unfortunate that no files of the Chronicle were kept by Editor Higgins, nor by his successor Ed Ellis, during their operation of the newspaper, The next issue I have at hand is that of July 8, 1911. After that date up to the time Adams took over there are no issues at hand. From the July 8th copy I quote:

"W.T. White, J.J. Boyle, Finch Wilcock and F.E. Crowell journeyed to Madera Thursday, making the trip in Mr. Crowell's car."

"The Ladies Improvement Club held its regular meeting Thursday afternoon July 6th. Owing to warm weather the society adjourned for the summer, to meet first Thursday in September."

"Max Landrum assumed management of the local branch of the Merced Lumber company, in place of J. P. Abell resigned."

"Mr. and Mrs. Joe Choisser and children of Mariposa have been visiting relatives in Livingston."

"The concrete sidewalk in front of the F. E. Crowell block was finished this week."

"The 4th of July celebration on the Merced River was attended by the following from Livingston; Mrs. Dave Bennett and children, Mrs. Eve Brown and children; Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Crowell, W. T. White, Robert Pollock and sisters,, Inez and Hazel McConnell, G. S. Court and Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Wilson."

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### **New Ads**

The following new advertisers appear in this issue: "Livingston Drug Store, now open, Hoehn & Isham building near Idan-ha hotel."

"Ecclefield Livery Feed & Sales stables, F. M. Ecclefield, proprietor; stock cared for by day, week or month; good rigs; prices right."

"John Groom, contractor and builder; plans and specifications furnished."

"John W. Hall, agent for De Laval separators, Stickney gasoline engines, American centrifugal pumps; prices reasonable; terms easy."

### **A Sour Note**

Evidently the paper was not paying, for notice this one sour note:

"The Chronicle for nearly two years has been boosting for Livingston and the Livingston district, every week, and has never missed an opportunity to boost it. We have worked late and early at all times, holidays and Sundays included, being forced to do all the work ourself owing to meagre patronage extended by the business men of Livingston, those we mean who are trying to do business blindfolded, is it not about time for you to open your eyes and see the light.\_"

### **Oldest Employee**

James B. Lyon, foreman of the Chronicle office, is credited with being the oldest employee in continuous service in the city of Livingston. He has been the right-hand man of E. G. Adams, editor and owner, since Oct. 7, 1918. This gives him 26 years of unremitting service unequalled by any one else in the community.

He came here from Stevinson, where he conducted the Weekly Colonist, to fill the place on the Chronicle vacated by F. S. Farquhar after the latter was appointed post master. Mr. Lyon is not only an efficient printer, but he has been a capable member of the city council for 18- years.

Jimmy Lyon was born in New York City July 30, 1879. Early he learned the printing trade, and as a young man in the following years worked in many states of the Union, including Mexico for a brief time. He came from Kansas City to California in 1913. On October 4, 1918, he was married to Miss Pearl Fox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Fox. He has two daughters.

In coming to Livingston he suspended publication of the Stevinson Colonist.

### **The Garden Club**

The one salient cultural organization functioning well here is the Livingston Garden Club. The Club promotes interest in growing flowers, both native and exotic. Organized in August, 1934, by Mrs. Homer Wucher (Marjorie Hall), it has grown to influential proportions in things locally.

The Club's meeting date is the last Tuesday of each month. On a specified day each spring in harmony with the season, the club holds a flower show—a display of flowers, any color, grown in the community. These are big events, well attended.

The original membership contained the following:

Mrs. Marjorie Wucher	Mrs. M. Pinheiro
Miss Beth Fleshman	Mrs. W. C. Law
Mrs. Chris Nobbe	Mrs. Wm. Boesch
Mrs. Emily Court	Mrs. M. D. Pierce
Mrs. Harlan Brown	Mrs. Mollie Love
Mrs. Leona Clark	Mrs. Carl Vicker
Miss Margaret Galbraith	Mrs. F. S. Farquhar
Mrs. O. Frague	Mrs. E. G. Adams
Mrs. Maude Fleshman	Mrs. Homer Eleems
Mrs. Klinkenhofer	Mrs. Austin Chase
Mrs. Frank Emerich	Mrs. C. J. Cassell
Mrs. Mary Dunlap	Mrs. Charles Gorby
Mrs. Annie Fleshman	
Mrs. Wm. Lehfeltd	

## **CHAPTER 12**

### **The Automobile**

Along about the turn of the century the automobile as motive power was a great curiosity. It was an oddity, a thing of wonderment and a thing to conjure with. It scared cattle, horses, chickens and other creatures it passed on the roadways, It was not only ordained against by city and county law-men, but it proved itself to be a very great nuisance by the courts, In truth it was much “prohibited” by the public generally.

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the past 40 years! This thing that was once not much tolerated is now a part of every household. It is not only a luxury but a necessity, depending on the purpose to which it is put. To the automobile the credit must go for the many miles of good roads in the nation, roads that once were almost unusable in bad weather are now like glorified pavements of glass, suitable for all kinds of traffic in any and all seasons.

The first automobile in Merced County, I am told, was brought in along about the year 1905 by President Carlton of the First National Bank of Merced that was before road paving was introduced. Many were the trial and tribulations of those first autoists when they started out on a cross country run I am told that every time Carlton came down Livingston way his machine could be heard a mile off "puffing and blowing." It was a hard pull. Every time Carlton got stuck in the sand, every time Zeph Ecclefield had to pull him out, at about \$5 per pull. But such was only a part of the bad luck that accompanied the adventurous motorist in those days.

I am informed that Ben Berry, owner of the Livingston hotel, brought the first automobile to Livingston along about 1909. His model was a Reo, one of the most popular cars of the day. It had a wonderful energy in pulling through the sandy roads, It was very shiny and could be heard a mile away, et, with all its power, Ben had to be pulled out occasionally by the Ecclefields who kept an up-to-date livery barn in town, I am told that Ben Berry still lives past 80 years of age in Stockton, He left here in the year 1915.

Frank E. Crowell, the merchant, was next in line to get an auto. He was a Jackson model, noted for its beauty of construction. Like all other makes the Jackson was open to the sky above. It was a double seater and had a wind-shield in the front; and was as shiny as a newly minted silver dollar. It had the enviable reputation of negotiating roads that other cars couldn't budge on.

Any kind of roads were good enough in the horse-and-buggy days. But the auto change all such notions. For this newfangled machine the public highways must be improved, starting with the oiled roads to subdue the sand and dust, it took years to build them up to their present fine condition.

The state finished the first asphalt highway up the San Joaquin valley in time for the San Francisco fair in 1915, this is No. 99, a part of the great highway system

Running from Vancouver, B. C. to the Mexican border, a distance of over 2,000 miles. This being an experimental road it had to be rebuilt, it is now in prime condition, and is supporting a heavy traffic.

### **The Garages**

In the introduction of the automobile to this county, the garage did not follow as soon as might have been expected. From the coming of the first auto in 1905 to Merced eight year had elapsed before a garage was established in Livingston, before that date blacksmiths and other mechanics made repairs, else the auto owner had to do without. While the transition was slow, eventually the garage met the new demand,

The first garage in Livingston was built by the late R.H. Corbett for James Watson and called the Pioneer. It was begun in 1912 and was first occupied by Corbett himself as a garage early in 1913. In 1915 William W. Abbott took over and operated it until 1918, when, his lease having expired, Abbott established himself in the big garage built by W.J. Curtner at the corner of Third and Front streets. Corbett operated the Pioneer from 1918 up to the time of his death in an automobile accident while returning from the Yosemite in the later part of March, 1928, Corbett died April 7, 1928. The present operator of the present Pioneer (Highway) is Harold McCoun, who bought the business from George Thein a year ago. Owner of the building is C.R. Davis.

The second and next garage is the present blacksmith shop of Lee A. Chase, who built it in 1915 to be used by August Warn as a garage. Warn operated it until his death in May, 1919, when Evans Brothers took possession. It was conducted as a garage up to the time Chase moved into it with his blacksmith shop in 1938.

The present Crowell garage building was erected in 1921. It was first occupied by Lounsbury & Shaffer, who opened their garage in it on July 1, 1921. In 1927 the firm name was change to wood & Shaffer. The Wood being the well-known George Wood who had his residence in Livingston. The partner was Dick Shaffer of Merced. In 1930 Shaffer withdrew from the firm, Wood becoming the sole owner of the business. Later Wood ceased operating here, going to Hemet, where he conducted a garage. Leaving Hemet after a few years Wood went to the Yosemite to manage a garage, and where he died but a few years ago. The

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Crowell garage is now being operated by G. A. Momberg in connection with his management of the Japanese farm properties in this area.

The Terminal garage, now conducted by Albert Baptista, was built in 1928 by George Thein and Vern Magnuson. They held forth here as partners until 1933, when they dissolved. Magnuson quit the business and Thein buying the old Pioneer stand.

The Skov garage and service station at the corner of Third and C streets was built in 1926 by Chris Skov and son. The Skovs sold to Charles Ottmann, who leased it to Earl Arnold in 1932 for garage purposes. In 1936 Arnold bought the entire property, lots and buildings. He now operates it under the name of Arnold's Garage.

### Jim Evans Garage

James J. Evans, better known as "Jim," has returned to Livingston, and has reopened his garage repair shop, after an absence since the beginning of the war. He is of the old firm of Evans Bros., who operated a garage in the Chase blacksmith shop, after the death of August Warn in 1919, until it closed in 1938. Jim's place of business adjoins the Chase shop on the east, fronting on Court street', with his shop on the rear of the lot.

### Service Stations

Like the garages, the service stations have grown with the progress and development of the automobile. At present (1944) there are nine such stations serving the traveling public in town. Six of them are on the newly routed state highway No. 99. Beginning at the eastern end they are as follows:

Albert Baptista,  
Court Oil Co., Arthur Court, Sr., owner,  
Shell Service, Bob Stafford, manager,  
Associated, J. A. Penrod, manager,  
Standard, Arthur Ricketts, manager,  
Gilmore, Remus Jones, manager,  
Pioneer, Court Street, Harold McCoun, manager,  
Union, Court Street, Calvin Lamb, manager  
Arnold's at Third and B Street, Earl Arnold, owner  
Court's, at Rookledge Gardens, A. Court, Jr., manager.

### Distributing Plants

There are two oil and gasoline distributing plants in town. The first to be established here is the Standard Oil

Company, with its receiving and disbursing sheds and tanks at the railway crossing in the east end, within city limits, C. F. Baker is manager.

The Union Oil Company has its plant at the west end of Court Street, within city limits, it is managed by Robin H. Corbett.

These two plants serve the town and country round for several miles, they supply oil, fuel, gasoline and other material used by patrons generally.

## **CHAPTER 13**

### **In Other Days**

To the pioneers of this neighborhood it was not all work and no play. While life was serious and work hard, the play hour often came to the men and women to change their normal mode of living, the land was still in its primitive stage of development, yet everybody had a "good time," and life flowed on in the tome of a newly sounding wedding bell, to the enjoyment of all concerned. The tedium of the days of ordinary activities was offset by the trivia of the social side of this grand adventure of just being and making good.

As a corollary to the above it behooves me to say something of the pleasures the early inhabitants once fostered in their diversionary hours. I am speaking of a time a half a century back, Time in our history was you then, yet it illustrates completely the point I here wish to advance; namely, that man's aims and ambitions have been the same through the ages. He aspired to work, to get ahead, to have pleasures, to sing and to dance, and, maybe, to "make merry, for tomorrow ye may die."

Life in this land in the primitive days was not as hard as has been pictured by moderns. The people lived more naturally by remaining next to the soil. They were individualists, they raised mostly what they lived on, and if they didn't have it in hand they did without like the Indian. It was a matter of "roothog or die." Their staff of life was wheat, and it grew in abundance. They raised cattle and sheep to fortify their chief staple. They grew gardens on the low lands and on the uplands too when irrigation could be had. They caught fish in the streams and shot the wild goose in the swamps. At first they lived in shacks, and more prosperous times built veritable palaces as a reward for honest endeavors.

True, they were on the edge of civilization, with an

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Eye ever glanced toward whence they came for the better things. Theirs's was a case of men's manifest destiny coming to a final accomplishment, In looking back we note only "the more in the sunbeams" of their lives, losing sight of the bigger specks that have adorned their way.

With them life flowed on, with minor changes daily, to the present. If a man and a woman got married they sent for a minister of the gospel or justice of the peace to perform the ceremony; or they didn't have any official at all. If they had children, a mid-wife was called, doctors being a remote necessity. If they got sick they used simples to brews their own medicines, and either go well or died. In case of funerals,, they buried their own dead in home-made coffins in their own private cemeteries on their own little plot of land set aside for such purposes by the homestead. Funerals were held in the homes, or in churches, if the latter were handy, everybody "for miles around" attended the funerals.

Social life was unusual, if no glamorous. The people generally possessed a fine spirit of friendship. Hospitality was the chief characteristic of all the settlers. At every home the latch string was out to the wayfarer, if one wished to stop for cheer. Strangers as dinner guests were common in the pioneer household. While the struggle went on to acquire lands and a livings, the social side was not overlooked.

### **The Hall Association**

In and around the Livingston area was a set of people who believed in the best entertainment possible. At first those people met in the homes, but as the population increased the demand for a social center grew with the years. Eventually this demand was realized in the building of the first town hall. This was a structure built, (in 1892), owned and operated by the Livingston Hall Association, composed practically of all the families living here. Rich and poor alike shared in the social venture, Cast was not a virtue to worry over.

In this old hall the people of long ago foregathered to entertain and to be entertained, the itinerant preacher, or circuit-rider, came on Sundays to sermonize. I have been told such services were largely attended, On Saturday night, when work was slack on the farms, public and private dances were held, all being well patronized. Those dances were purely a social function for youth and the aged to come together for a "talk-feast," the while indulging the



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Old fashion dances, now foresworn as the mode proper.

Here public gatherings were held,. Both political and otherwise. Here the ladies gathered fo afternoon teas, and held festivals to raise funds for worthy causes, Traveling shows often came to delight the children and incidentally to entertain the old ones who accompanied them,. Also to this hall came lecturers of the Chautauqua type, to be listened to by a large audience. And finally, let me say, that the first cinema, or moving picture, was shown in this hall by the late Albert Court before he built his new theatre.

Indeed, those were the "good ole days" on which the old-timers wish to dwell as a part of their inheritance.

And so they were, it seems, without restriction by law or tradition,

The Livingston Hall Association was an incorporated body organized by the local people for their own entertainment, the articles of incorporation were filed at Sacramento on September 6, 1892 -52 years ago. For more than a quarter of a century it served well in this district. It had a good dance floor, a fine large stage with side wings, and what has been described to me as a "magnificent" curtain, which delighted the eye and stirred the imagination.

The old hall association continued to function until it was allowed to die legally on February 28, 1925, for non-payment of the state license tax. The old building revamped is now owned by the county as a meeting place for the Veteran of Foreign Wars.

The names of the original subscribers to the capital stock of the Livingston Hall Association follow:

Abbott, G. W., farmer living a mile up river from the railway bridge.

Abbott, William, son of the above.

Adams Bros., Robert and William, farmers, living 10 miles down Merced River.

Anderson, W. S., occupation not known.

Berry, Ben, owner of the second Livingston Hotel.

Blewett, Al and Clarence, farmers.

Bliven, Cyrus, C. H. and Susie, son and daughter, farmers.

Buttermore, E. E., farmer.

Cressey Bros., grain grower's northeast of town, owners of 7500 acres of land.

Crowell, Frank E., clerk in Zirker & Hammatt store.

Gilhan, L. M., farmer.

Hartley, W. H., farmer.

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Hessey, Wm. H., farm worker.  
Huffman, C. H., occupation unknown.  
Hammatt, Mrs. R. W., wife of the storekeeper.  
Jensen, Julius, farmer on lower Merced River.  
Kolley, C.H., occupation not known. -  
Marsten, F. M., brother-in-law of E. H. Wakefield, the farmer. -  
Mitchell, John W., owner of 110,000 acre farm.  
McConnell, J. C., farmer. ·  
Munsey, Miss May, a dressmaker and a resident of Turlock who often came to Livingston to do work, living in private families.  
Simpson, George, farm worker.  
Smithlin, J. C., town blacksmith.  
Stevinson, J. J., farmer on lower Merced.  
Swan, J. S. and nephew, S. R. Swan, farmers.  
Turner, J. C., farmer.  
Wakefield, P., E. H. and C. L., farmers, on Cressey ranch.  
Weaver, Robert A., farmer on Merced River.  
Zirker & Hammatt, general merchandisers.

### **The Older Places**

Some people like old villages and small towns best, their ancient monuments and unrefined customs. In a village or town everybody knows one another. When small places take off their swaddling clothes, they lose their personalities. There is a sort of primitive antiquity about old places, particularly old buildings-be they shack or palace. An air of mythology hangs over such places hard to fathom usually. They all hold that secret of "where a man has been and is not" problem one wishes to investigate. Livingston has had its share of old buildings that once shared the prospect hereabout in the early days. Many of them are now gone, yet a few remain as a reminder of the past.

In chapter two of this history, I quote a letter from Charles F. Livingston in which he says his grandfather, the first telegrapher of the Central Pacific railway here, built the first residence in the settlement; that "his first place of residence was a box car near the railroad. He built the first house in the town. He later moved to Merced, where he lived for some time." It must have been located on the right of way of the railway company. But what became of it nobody now seems to know. At the same time of the building of this residence, so it appears, Olds built an addition to his makeshift store-

## HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON

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room and used it for his residence until he fitted up temporary quarters in the east end of the Little warehouse for living purposes.

In the early part of the years of 1880s there were very few building on the Livingston of such structures I find the following:

The Little frame warehouse, on the site of the present big fireproof building owned by Crowell estate.

The storeroom of Zirker & Hammatt, and later of Hammatt & Crowell, on the west end of the present Crowell block, this structure was destroyed by fire in 1894.

The second hotel named "Livingston," built by Ben Berry, at the corner of White and Court Streets It was destroyed by fire in 1922.

The other hotel also named "Livingston," owned and operated by Albert Hummeltenberg, who was postmaster from 1886 to 1888, and had the office in his hotel. It was situated on the site of the present Ecclefield store, on the east end of the Crowell block. This old hotel burned sometime in the early 1890's.

After all that a part of the original town site, as laid down by William J. Little in 1872, was vacated in 1886, John W. Mitchell of Central Camp fame, built grain loading warehouse for the shipment of grain by railway, This building was directly south of the present railway station and company water tank, Some say it was also destroyed by fire, while others say it was torn down, but what year its destruction was wrought I have been unable to learn, Mitchell died November 26, 1893, aged 65 years.

One small frame house, owned and occupied by Dan Bennett, the blacksmith, stood on the present site of R. Quilici's residence, built by W. T. White in 1913.

Another old house stood at the corner of Cressey Way and Adams Street, and was occupied by George Crowell, father of Frank E. Crowell. This was among the Hammatt & Crowell large holdings of property in town, The occupant maintained "bachelor" quarters in it all the few short years he lived here after the death of his wife, The old building site is now held by the A. Azevdo residence built in 1918 by a son of the late John Reininghaus.

The first real residence of any pretension in the town was the constructed by Cyrus Bliven soon after his arrival here in the summer of 1883. It still is used as a family residence and is situate at the corner of Court and Stefani streets. The second Bliven residence was built in 1889 on

The south side of town, now occupied and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Everet Ulrich.

One building stood on the site adjoining the present Lee A. Chase blacksmith shop. It also was used as a blacksmith shop by C. J. Smithlin, then by Dan Bennett. It is said to have been used once by Albert Hummeltenberg as a saloon. Later the old building was bought by Chase, who came here in 1912, and used by him as a blacksmith into his present quarters, which he owns and operates as a blacksmith shop-loaded with business.

The Frank Green house, mentioned in the Livingston Chronicle article about Zeph Ecclefield and wife moving into it in 1909, stood at the corner of Third and Front streets. It was built by green to be used as a "green grocery" store. But, it is said, he never used it for such purposes. This was the second house built close-in on the south side, the first one being the residence of Henry Plaster, built by A Mussano, who owned that area of land containing about 7 acres lying west of Third street and between Front street on the north and B Street on the south, with the Edwards ranch on the west. Mussano sold his land to the Otto Grunsky interests in Stockton, who later platted it into town lots. The Green house was destroyed by fire in the later part of 1916. Frank Green had a brother, Elmer, and together they grew grain on a section of land southeast of the city.

### **The First Well**

The First well to be drilled in the Livingston community was that of the Central Pacific railway, which was completed to this place by November 5, 1871. This well supplied water not only to the railway company's employees and its engines, but it provided it for others of the populace who chanced to live here.

In those early days there was not a water will between Turlock on the north and Merced on the south, a distance of 24 miles. Of course the Merced River was between, but it was unsafe as a drinking water supply. There was not another will in all the county round except on the grain farms at what was called Central Camos, from which points the land owners and grain growers operated.

An old pioneer told me once that in traveling from Turlock to near Merced, before the coming of the railway, there was not a well dotting the landscape enroute of travel. One had to carry drinking water with him, he said, or die from thirst on the way.

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The next well sunk on the town site, I was told, was that of Zirker & Hammatt, general merchandise, to the rear of their big store room. At first they supplied water by hand-pump and later by windmill to a tank on the grounds, and was used for many years.

Getting a supply of water on to the dry uplands in this valley in the early days was a big problem, even after the railway came. It was easy enough for the settlers living along the river. For those going inland water had to be conveyed by water-sack, water-barrel, or water-wagon, until such supply could be displaced by bored wells, with pumps or windmills. There was an ample supply underneath the ground anywhere. All the settler had to do was to go after it.

And he did that very thing. For the old-timers were fertile in expedience, if anything. They throve without complaint, so it seems to me at this late day.

### **CHAPTER 14**

#### **Flag Day**

The one outstanding public social event with a serious mien in the history of Livingston was perhaps Flag Day- the day when all the people, as of one mind, gathered together to honor the 44 young men of this area who had joined the colors in the First World War

This event took place on Sunday, April 7, 1918. The center of activity, or rallying point, was the junction of the Third street crossing with the old highway No. 99, in front of the Crowell block, on what is now called Court Street. The town was then small, yet more than 1500 people gathered here that day to pay their respects to the honored few who had gone to war.

A special flag was made for the occasion, on it 44 blue stars were attached, one for each son representing Livingston, Two special poles were set in the ground at the foot of Third street. Between the poles the flag was hung on a rope, to remain during the war.

The idea of Flag Day originated with the ladies of the local Red Cross, with the hearty cooperation of the local Board of Trade, and the people generally to help make it a big success. The speakers stand was a truck lined up in the center of Third Street. The scene was brightened by small flags and gay bunting.

Promptly at 1pm headed by the Livingston brass band playing "Marching through Georgia," the school children led by Principal Robert A. Hill, aided by Miss Hazel

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Carson, primary teacher, and Mrs. W. T. White, representing the Red Cross, marched from the school house to place in front of the stand. Preceding the children was Lloyd Warn, their standard bearer, dressed in a Boy Scout suit and carrying an American Flag. (A delay followed here by the speaker of the day, Judge Langdon of Modesto, failing to arrive on time, because of a blow-out enroute.)

With his flag Master Warn ascended the platform, and, facing the children, he gave the command to salute the flag. This being done the band followed by playing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Then the children, led by little Marion Choisser, dressed in a sailor suit, marched away and dispersed.

Rev. W. H. Hawken of the Episcopal Church opened the exercises to follow with prayer.

Then came the raising of the service flag by John Groom and Frank E. Crowell, assisted by Judge J. N. Hitchcock. The flag being out in position for hoisting the following took part in this feature: William T. Little, whose son Lester E., was on his way to France; Hiram E. Carmichael, whose son, Charles, was on his way to France; T.J. Soenseley, whose son, William, was in the medical corps in Liverpool, and Albert Court, whose son Arthur, had spent three years on the front. Andrew A. Jones, who had a son on his way overseas, was absent on account of illness.

By now everything was in readiness to proceed with the planned program. Elbert G. Adams, publisher of the Livingston Chronicle, was chairman of the gathering. In a short speech he explained the purpose of Flag Day. He asserted that Livingston was proud of its war record at the end of the first year. Following his remarks Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Stewart of Merced sang the "Star Spangled Banner," in a clear ringing voice, enthusing the crowd that stood with the bared heads.

The honor roll was then read by Mr. Adams. As each name was called Mr. White answered by giving the known place of duty of the honored son-a name being called for each star on the flag, which held a total of 44.

As soon as this part of the exercises was finished Gordon H Winton announced that William H. Langdon of Modesto had arrived and would address the gathering. Mr. Langdon's speech was very patriotic and was enthusiastically received. In closing the speaker said he concurred with President Wilson, who, in opening the third liberty

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loan campaign, said that he accepted the challenge of the Kaiser of Germany and would meet with force.

Mrs. Brown followed with a solo, "Keep the Home Fires Burning," the latest popular war song.

A. W. Meany, principal of the Merced High School, made a brief talk on thrift stamps.

After the singing of "America" but the crowd, Rev. G. E. Skaggs of the local M.E. Church pronounced the benediction.

### **Side Lights**

A delegation of 20 members of the Native Sons of California of Merced, each carrying a service flag of the order, took part in the proceedings. At the conclusion of the regular program the delegation, led by D. K. Stoddard of Merced, carrying a flag, marched before the speaker, Judge Langdon, a Native Son, who made a few remarks of appreciation.

One of the touching and impressive incidents of Flag Day was the heroic manner Billy White sustained his emotions for the time being. He, as well as others, had seen a list of those killed in action on the front in France in a city paper of the day before.. Among those thus listed was the name "Lester C. White, cook." Naturally friends here thought the letter "C" was an error and that Lester E. White of our town was the one mentioned, But Mrs. White was sure that it was not meant for our "Lester." Her "Lester" was not a cook by any stretch of the imagination, she said. And so it turned out to be true. Lester E, White was an engineer in the famous "Sunshine Division."

The members of the committee of arrangements were as follows: Mrs. William T. White, Mrs. Fritz Olson and Mrs. Frank S Farquhar, representing the Red Cross; Elbert G Adams, John Groom and Albert Court, representing the Board of Trade, Mr. Winton, president of the Board of Trade, was master of ceremonies.

W. J. Hunt, A. E. Warn, J. D. Tracy, M. DeSilva C. R. Davis and L.D. Love composed a general committee to look after and care for the automobiles, arranging for the stand, and assisting in looking after the crowd,

It was a noble effort and big success. The honor roll contained the following names:

Branch, Freeman

Campodonica, Frank

Campodonica, James

Hicks, Edward J.

Jones, Lester

Martinelli, Adolph

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Campodonica, John	McDonough, Austin
Carlyle, Halbert	Moreland, S. M.
Carmichael, Charles	Nelander, David
Carmichael, Eugene	Noble, Walter
Carmichael, Howard	Olson, Ales
Casemito, Joseph	Parr, Samuel
Carson, Irvin	Pollock, Robert
Chance, Bruce	Rhinehart, Claude
Chase, Lewis E.	Snead, R. C.
Clary, Clarence M.	Spenseley, Lloyd
Cornell, Orville	Spenseley, William
Dill, Carl	Swan, Eldridge
Finister, Chester	Teal, Howard
Finister, Lester	Thomas, Capt. M. E.
Fessler, Reuben D.	Thomas, Manuel
Gillis, Daniel	Trotti, Mike
Goodwell, Cecil	White, Lester E.
Goodwell, Lawrence	
Gonzales, Frank	
McConnell, Cecil	
McConnell, Royal	

So far as obtainable those entering the service after Flag Day were as follows:

Stanley Court, Arnold Olson, Harvey McDonough. Warren F. McConnell. Joe Sorenson entered from Stevinson. We note that the most of the above 44 of the Flag Day list no longer are here. Some have died and many have moved away, The Campodonica brothers still live in the Cressey area. Austin McDonough still lives down on the Merced River where he raises turkeys by the thousands.

Lester E White is a grape and peach grower in the Winton district, Edward Hicks is a mail carrier for Merced. Eugene Carmichael died in England during the First World War. David Nelander was a farmer near Arena, but died recently on his farm near Hilmar, Eldridge Swan is a highway patrolman at San Francisco. Mike Trotti is still in the fruit business at Atwater, royal and Cecil McConnell are in Modesto. Lloyd Spenseley is at Turlock, Reuben Fessler of Cressey is again in the Second World War.

### The Brass Band

It would be unfair not to mention the brass band that proceeded the "marital music that stirs the blood" on Flag Day. It was an improvised band, gotten together by Albert Court, the local theater man. On the spur of the moment he had been asked by the committee to organize one. Rustling around he dragged into it all the available men who



had ever played in a band. I would like to know the names of the instrument each player used, but, not having same, here is a line-up of each member:

Albert Court, Albert A. Hoehn, August Warn, Charley Warn, Dave Warn, all cornetists, and Elbert G. Adams with his snare drum. One other member should be included but who it was I just cannot now recall. It seems to me he was an "extra" druggist who worked his farm south of Town, and pinch-bitted occasionally for Druggist Hoehn. The only real band suits were worn by the Warn brothers who were members of the Turlock brass band. As an accompanying piece for the lady singers the old organ of the Methodist church was used.

Not being a connoisseur on music I am reluctant to judge the quality of the harmony rendered by this impromptu band. That it was patriotic and resounding you may be assured. I know there was Dixie, Marching through Georgia and Yankee Doodle, and perhaps some pulse-stir-ring Sousa marches. At any rate this hand-made band stirred the feelings of the crowd as much as any of the imported kind, and was appreciated by the home-folks more.

### **World War 2 Soldiers**

I have made an effort to secure a complete list of the young men in the Livingston area who have been drafted into the service of the country to go with this history. Writing to the War Department at Washington, D. C., on this matter, I received the following reply, under date of September 25, 1944:

"The records of persons who are either serving in or who have been discharged from the army have never been classified according to the states, counties or cities in which they resided at the date of entrance into service. Consequently, in order to comply with your request would be a task of such magnitude as to be plainly out of the question at this time, owing to the exigencies of the military situation."

### **CHAPTER 15**

#### **The Library**

Believing that a free public library was essential to the moral and intellectual uplift of a community, a few Livingston women in 1910 began to plan for such an institution. So well was this planning done that on February 10, 1911, the Livingston Branch of the Merced County Free Library was established.

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Those given credit for this quick work were Mrs. Jeannette Hitchcock, wife of Judge J. N. Hitchcock; Mrs. Marian Court, wife of Albert Court, contractor and builder, and Mrs. Peterson, wife of Roy Peterson, the farmer. The meetings were attended by Miss Antoinette Humphrey (later Mrs. Hollabaugh), first county librarian, as an adviser. As the County Library was created in July, 1910, the application for the branch here was soon acted on, and the library opened on the date above stated.

Mrs. Hitchcock was, the first custodian. She opened office and set up her meager library in a room in the east end of the old frame warehouse built by William J. Little, owned by Mr. Crowell. A total of 166 books were in hand the first day. One can hardly believe it, but it is true, that the collection of books in this branch library mounts up to 4,700, with the big supply at the head office of 205,000 books to draw on as required.

At the close of the second year for this branch the total volumes on hand increased from 166 to 306, with 255 borrowers signed. Today the number of borrowers signed is 490. The low number of borrowers at present is accounted for by reason of the war.

After a brief time in the warehouse the library was moved into the Crowell block, on the ground level, where it remained until the two-story building was erected on the corner of the same block. Here it remained to serve the public until it was moved into the present commodious quarters at the corner of Third and C streets. This last removal was in August, 1922, and is permanent.

The custodian following Mrs. Hitchcock was Mrs. John D. Tracy, who was succeeded by Mrs. Emily Court in October, 1919. Mrs. Court served almost 23 years, resigning in January, 1942, on account of illness. Mrs. Edna Lehfeltdt, serving as a substitute for Mrs. Court became the custodian in August, 1941, and is giving efficient service.

During the year of 1921 and prior proposals had been made to the County Board of Supervisors for a new library building, with a court room combined, for Livingston. All the plans for this new structure were so complete by March 22, 1922, that "pre-dedicatory services" were held on the site, with Governor William D. Stephens as the chief speaker. He was followed with remarks by Supervisor Pebley and Miss Winifred H. Bigley, county librarian at the time. Services followed as the district so much needed, not alone for library purposes but for

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judicial ends as well. The attendance of these dedication exercises was large, greeting the governor's speech enthusiastically. He was so well pleased that he wrote the following appreciative letter, under date of March 24, 1922, to the county Librarian, to-wit:  
Dear Madam-I have just returned to Sacramento from the trip which included the meeting at Livingston. "I take this early opportunity of expressing to you my appreciation of the splendid audience present and for the many courtesies extended me throughout the occasion.

(signed) WM. D. STEPHENS

Governor

John Groom was the contractor and builder; cost \$9,888.49 complete, the job was finished in time for the library to take possession in August, 1922 with Mrs. Emily court as custodian. During the early spring of 1943 the interior of the library was re-furbished for the first time since completion. It was given a new coat of tinting and the woodwork painted and floors lacquered till they shone like a newly-minted silver dollar. As to keeping the room clean, Miss Minette Stoddard, present county Librarian. In a letter to me under date of June 7, 1944, says:  
"I am very proud the way the library looks these days. It is clean, neat and polished."

I am sure I make no mistake in also saying that the Livingston patrons are proud of their good looking library, and the high class service that has been rendered by its courteous custodians.

### **The Librarian**

It is an educative job, that of a librarian, the person filling the position has a chance to contact all the master minds of the world of literature. Here one may broaden his or her culture to its fullest extent; here one also may touch the pulse of the reading public on matters of habit and thought. In so doing the person receives the good will of a community ready for edification.

the present local librarian is Edna E. Lehfeltdt, wife of William, the mother of six children with five grandchildren to carry on the family name, Mrs. Lehfeltdt, is cheerful in her work, gracious and efficient, She fills her post well.

The subject of this sketch was born on a farm in Knox County, Illinois, the eldest of three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Eiker. At the age of eleven she moved with

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her parents and sisters to Helena, Montana, where the father followed railroading with the Northern Pacific Company for a number of years.

Her early education was obtained in the little red school house near her father's farm in Illinois. Later she attended grammar school at Galesburg, Illinois, and at her new home in Helena, She was graduated from high school at Livingston, Montana. Passing the state teachers' examination she taught a county school at Pompey's Pillar, Montana for two terms.

Here she met her husband, William Lehfeltdt. After their marriage they established their home first near Pompey's Pillar, and later at Broadview, where they engaged in dry farming, with the emphasis on the "dry."

Seeking a better place in which to rear their growing family they came to California in 1917. Locating Livingston they have been here ever since. Six children were born to them, four in Montana and two at Livingston. Five children are living. All are graduates of the Livingston elementary and high schools. The three older sons are graduates of the University of California.

Conrad is married, and is agricultural instructor in the Gustine High School.

Eldor is married, and is instructor of chemistry and physics of the Selma high school.

Julius is married, and is an insurance adjuster in Stockton.

Mary Jean was a senior in the University of California recently married to Leroy C. Bird of Oakland.

William Lesley, the youngest and Pfc., is with the armed forces in France.

Since coming to Livingston Mrs. Lehfeltdt's activities have been many. She was the first chairman of the Livingston home department; served several years as president of the Ladies Aid of the Methodist church, and was president again when the society was reorganized as the Women's society of Christian Service. Her hobby is growing fine flowers. She is a charter member of the Livingston Garden Club. In August, 1941 she became custodian of the Livingston branch of the Merced County Free Library.

## CHAPTER 16

### City of Livingston

A city must organize else it might grow up to be outclassed before its time. That of course should not happen

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to Livingston which was crying to kick off its swaddling clothes. Wishing to aid this growing child of theirs, the fathers of the city got together in the summer of 1922 and talked the matter over.

A petition for organization and incorporation was filed with the state on August 7, 1922, the election to vote on the question being held on September 6th. The resulting vote was 135 for and 51 against. At the same election the following officials were elected:

Charles Ottman, 154 votes.

G. H. Winton, 135 votes.

S. R. Swan, 94 votes.

A. Court, 94 votes.

C. R. Davis, 74 votes.

All Board Trustees.

L. E. White, clerk, 131 votes.

C. E. Brooks, treasurer, 77 votes.

The first meeting was held on September 11, 1922, at which time Charles Ottman, having received the largest individual vote, was elected mayor.

Ever since that first meeting the various boards of trustees have worked honestly and faithfully for the best interest of the community. Only one of the original members of the first board is serving the city, namely Mr. Winton, being appointed as city clerk in 1932, has been reelected each term since, and is still serving.

Among the essential improvements made by the city since its incorporation 22 years ago was the building of the water and sewer system in 1928, this of itself was a great achievement. And besides, it reorganized the fire department, converting it from a volunteer system into a more and better workable institution.

In the meantime the city established street grades, laid new sidewalks and improved city streets generally where possible. Following is a complete list of city officials in mid-summer of 1944:

A. Stanley Court, mayor; John Groom, Earl Arnold, J. B. Lyon, E.B. Kemper, trustees.

G. H. Winton, city clerk.

Mable C. Mayes, treasurer. (Mrs. Mayes died September 19, 1944, Clifford J. Cassell appointed October 2, 1944)

Horace Gilbert, chief of police.

H. L. Shultz, police judge.

Harold Gilbert, chief, fire department.

S. H. Swan, superintendent of streets.

### **The City Park**

A city park when properly created and orderly maintained is not only a pleasure ground for a community, but it should be a center for one to gaze upon with altruistic thoughts. Hammatt Park, adjoining the high school grounds, is the nucleus of just what is needed here for park purposes. While it cannot yet be called a beauty spot, it is the fore-runner of things to come as playgrounds for the people seeking recreation close at home. It is named in honor of Robert W. Hammatt of the firm conducting the general merchandising store here from 1883 to 1909.

The credit for creating this park should go to William W. Abbott, Gordon H. Winton, William E. Rasor and William T. White. They composed a committee that solicited funds for buying the land embraced in the park area-six acres. The price paid is not given in the deeds of conveyance, but it is said the amount was \$600 per acre, a total of \$3,600. The lots contained in the tract are Nos. 32, 33, 34, 49, 50, 51 of the Livingston Realty Company's subdivision. The first conveyance was made by the realty company to the following persons:

W.W. Abbott, trustee of the Livingston Merchants Association.

G. H. Winton, as trustee of the Livingston Board of Trade.

W. E. Rasor, trustee of the Livingston Farm Center.

Under date of Dec. 17, 1924, the above named three trustees conveyed by deed the said tracts of land to the city of Livingston "to have and to hold the said premises to be kept and maintained as a public park, camping grounds, athletic field, and 'for other public purposes, to be known as the R. W. Hammatt park."

The original improvements made on this park were paid for from funds collected by public subscription, including the tree planting, fencing the baseball grounds, the grandstand, etc. Some of the later improvements were made at city expense.

So far the park has been used mostly by ball fans in providing sports. Besides the annual Fourth of July events, many fairs and shows have been given for the benefit of the people as a whole.

### **The Local Bank**

The slogan of the active business world is "Money in the bank." It is modern in all its significance. Being so, Livingston had come to the time when "money in the bank

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must be an actuality. This was when the town was small and the adjacent area of farm land was having "growing pains" in various stages of development.

To meet the financial needs here the First Bank of Livingston was planned and organized in the summer and fall of 1913. For this bank articles of incorporation were filed at Sacramento on November 1, that year, with the following subscribers to the capital stock listed, and named the board of directors:

H. P. Spencer, 120 shares .....	\$12,000
G. H. Winton, 72 shares .....	\$7,200
L. G. Worden, 5 shares .....	\$500
Fred E. Pierce, 5 shares .....	\$500
C. S. Morse, 25 shares .....	\$2,500
F. E. Crowell, 13 shares .....	\$1,300
S. R. Swan, 10 shares .....	\$1,000
Total capital stock .....	\$25,000

Of the seven subscribers, Spencer and Pierce were of Los Angeles, Winton and Worden of Merced, Morse of Oakland, Crowell and Swan of Livingston, For six years the bank did a thriving business, This was during the period of great land development, and much money was needed for such expansion. On October 23, 1919, the capital stock was raised from \$25,000 to \$75,000. This was to meet the demands of an increased volume of business.

At first the management of the new bank was under Mr. Spencer. In 1914 Mr. Winton became its head, continuing until 1923 when he resigned, Nellis Mathews took charge as manager, and this was during the most critical financial depression in the valley. As a result the First Bank of Livingston closed its doors in May, 1926.

Later the Bank of America came upon the scene and bought the original bank building from the receiver of the defunct institution. Soon it was open for business, with the backing of the biggest banking system in the west.

The Bank of America opened for business in Livingston on December 8 1928. M. M. Hunter was its first manager and V. S. Court it pro-manager. The following citizens composed its advisory board: F. M. Ecclefield, Dallas Bache, W. J. Grady, and Joe P. Mendonca. On November 1, 1930, Mr. Hunter resigned, He was succeeded by W. R. Lutz, being sent here from the Turlock branch bank, It was in the middle or later part of Mr. Lutz's tenure that the advisory board was dispensed with. In the fore part of January 1943.

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Mr. Lutz resigned and was sent to the branch bank in Merced.

The present manager is R.B. McNutt. He came here on January 1, 1943, from the branch bank in Woodlake, California, Lloyd W. Butler, the assistant cashier, came here on February 15, 1943, from the branch bank in Paso Robles. The bank now maintains a force of three local young ladies to assist as clerks in the constantly growing business.

### **The New Bank**

The Livingston branch Bank of America is but one of 494 similar banks scattered over the State of California, the parent head bank being in San Francisco. From an ad printed in the Livingston Chronicle on July 3, 1930, I learn that the total resources were given as a little over one billion dollars. Today a similar add gives the resources as \$4,599,124,132.68, third largest bank in America. This is an immense sum of wealth gathered together to promote commercial and other interests of this great State, whose resources have yet been barely touched.

To control such a gigantic financial institution requites a genius at it head. A. P. Giannini found the bank in 1904, and has actively been at its helm since then in one capacity or another, at present he is chairman of the board directors. L.M. Giannini, his son, is president of the bank.

## **CHAPTER 17**

### **The Fire Department**

Charles Robert Davis, better known as Bert to his many friends, was the father of the Livingston Fire Department, He came to California and stopped at this way station in the desert in 1905, looking for a job. The first year he spent developing a 40 acre fruit farm, close in, north of the town, In 1906 he went to work in the general store of Hammatt & Crowell; then White & Crowell in 1909. He stayed on the job with these two firms for close on to 32 years, and he is still here operating a farm close to the one he originally began developing.

In 1911 he helped organize the Livingston Volunteer Fire Department, becoming its first chief. This was a bucket brigade fir fighting outfit. It had one chemical engine on a two-wheeled cart pushed by hand and 100 feet of hose. Fortunately fires were few and far between in the community, else the country might have burned up before



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better firefighting material could be had. But this new department was ever ready and fought valiantly every fire that developed.

Bert tells me there were 15 members of this first fire brigade. But he now can only recall the following names: Finch Wilcock, Billy White, Frank Crowell, George Simpson, Tom Turner, Marion Ecclefield, Judge Hitchcock, and himself as chief. What with his store employment-waiting on the post office patrons, conducting the warehouse, running as drayman to the trains, and doing a thousand and one other things, he was indeed a busy man about town. Yet he was young and active, and put in all his wakeful hours of being "Johnny on the spot" for everybody and everything.

When the town was incorporated in 1922 the fire department was reorganized as a paid institution. Bert was continued as its chief until 1930, serving a total of 19 years. In 1939 when the county fire department was created here Bert was made its chief and is still serving.

Charles Robert Davis was born at Stubenville, Ohio, on January 12, 1880. His father was Edward C. Davis of Welch descent. His mother was Laura (Kettlewood) Davis of English descent. Bert attended the common schools of his native city, and as a young man worked there in the steel mills. At the age of 25 he came to this state.

On December 20, 1900, he was married to Miss Erla Thompson, a native of that city. Willet was the first child born to this union, all the rest being Californians. They are Ralph M., Robert E., and Dorothy. In recent years (1935) Bert bought the old Jim Watson house, together with the Pioneer garage, on Court Street. And here he, with his good wife, are spending their declining years, all his children having married and gone to themselves. Willet died in 1942.

### New Setup

Under the new setup the reorganized fire department has a membership of 25, all of whom are paid 50c an hour only while fighting fires. So far there have been no fires worthy of mention to engage the members. But they are ready for all emergencies. There is a new fire engine and ample hose with which to work. Headquarters are in the city hall (on the ground floor) at the corner of 4th and C streets. Babe Gilbert is now chief.

Following is a complete roster in alphabetical order of the present fire department members:

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Adams, E.G.	Downey, Joe
Alves, Joe	Faria, Bud
Boesch, Wm.	Gilbert, Babe, Chief
Butler, Lloyd	Lee, Leon
Callister, Eldon	Ness, Charles
Cardella, Frank	Roy, Ed.
Cassell, C. J.	Simas, Tony
Corbett, Robin	Stark, Allen
Court, Gib.	Thein, George
Crews, Wm.	Trigueiro, Joe
Crockett, Ralph	Ulrich, Everett
Davis, C. R.	Virgo, Ellis
Winton, G. H.	

In commenting on the part he played as a member of the first city council and as chief of the fire department, Bert Davis said to me:

"We all worked free for the city. Payed our own expenses when we went any place to get information regarding city duties and ordinances; and we were willing to do it. Had lots of fun working together with the members of the city council."

### **The Railway Station**

The present Southern Pacific railway station at Livingston is a revamped product of three different building changes.

The first station house was a box car, on a siding, used as a telegraph office, put in use in November, 1871, the month the line was completed to this place. The railway was opened for traffic as far as Merced on January 25, 1872. The exact date of building the first station house is not known, but it was soon after the opening of the line for public business. The box car-office was moved along the line coincident with the construction.

The original station was a small affair, enlarged with a platform in 1884. In 1905 the company bought some additional ground and a new station was built. Under date of July 25, 1944, the executive office of the Southern Pacific, writes me from San Francisco that "we have no record of the station building having been moved to Livingston" from Athlone.

But local tradition says differently. Old-timers here tell me that the present two story part of the station was brought here in a knock-down condition on flat cars, and that the small station built here in 1884 was removed to

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Athlone in exchange, and is still in use there.

The above statement is not out of harmony with the company's records. Perhaps such exchanges were common and no records were kept. It is sufficient here to say that the station was reconstructed in its present form in 1905, including the big freight warehouse, Except for minor changes and many repainting's the structure is as it was originally modeled.

### **The Station Agent**

Many station agent has come and gone since the line was opened for traffic 72 years ago. Such agents are the sole connecting links between the people and the corporation working behind the scenes, So far as known they all have served well and efficiently. But it is my unbiased opinion that no one has been so fortified and backed by a heartier trust in his line of work than our mutual friend Lewis H. Picton, present agent.

Mr. Picton came here from Oakdale, California, February 15, 1927. He has worked hard and faithfully fulfilling his job. That he has done well is attested by his many friends. He has spent his entire life in the work as a telegraph operator and general agent, if he makes mistakes nobody proclaims the facts to the world, while he owns his own residence on the north side of town, he keeps house in quarters above the station office.

Everybody in town knows Mrs. Picton, who was Miss Mary Eiker, and a sister of Mrs. William Lehfeldt, for a few years Mary taught the kindergarten school in Livingston. She has been a good church woman and a capable leader of the Red Cross here. He is a prominent Mason in the local lodge.

### **The Tank House**

As to water tanks, three have been erected here by the railway company, the first was a small affair, but it answered its purpose up to the time the second one was built in 1905 at the time of rebuilding the station house. Both tanks were made of wood, water was pumped into them from deep wells by steam engines fueled by sawed up railway ties. The second tank was shaken down by the earthquake of April 18, 1906- the one that afflicted San Francisco so badly.

The present iron tank was installed immediately after the earthquake, or so soon as material could be gotten on the ground. Water is still pumped from the same old wells,

but by automatic electric power, and there is never a shortage of water.

The following report is received from the office of the western division superintendent of the S. P. Company, under date of October 4, 1944:

“We have checked our records with regard to these two stations but have been unable to develop anything further on them.

“We have got a reference to exchanging depots at Livingston and Athlone, However, we do not have any definite file available on the subject, and our old drawings do not show the situation referred to.”

### **The Whist Club**

The Livingston Whist Club was only a minor incident in the development of the community, yet it rated high for a time in its life. The social stratification was searched for players and the best available material obtained for the club. These few members banded together for a brief few years seeking some diverse pleasure that was for a better living.

The club was organized on February 14m 1917, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Adams on Crowell street, with the following members:

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Adams

Dr. and Mrs. G. C. Saunders

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Tracy

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Hill

Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Farquhar

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Crowell

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. White

Mr. and Mrs. John Groom

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Chase

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Winton

Meetings were held the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from October to June. Playing and serving were at the home of the members. The closing date of the first partial season was on the evening of June 6, 1917, at the Chase home.

At the end of the first season it was a cheerful boast that many records had been broken. But the most remarkable of all the playing was that of the last night at the home of the Chases. Her it was that Mrs. Adams and Mr. Farquhar played ten consecutive games together, all but one at the head table, winning every game. What their total

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Score was is not now important.

Sometime early in the beginning of the next season the Grooms, Chases and the Tracy's dropped out, leaving but four tables to play henceforth through the season until the close of the spring of 1924. To fill the vacancy Mr. and Mrs. Albert A. Hoehn were accepted as full members.

Among the new members taking part in the Whist Club were Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Robson, He was manager of the American Vineyard, and many a pleasant evening was spent by all the members at the big residence on this farm. Another well-known family who fitted in well during part of the club's life were Mr. and Mrs. Clell close, the latter being a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. White.

Let it go down in history that the one big event of the club was the Box Social held for the benefit of the Red Cross in the M. E. Church on March 22, 1918. The church was crowded to its limits to hear and see the big program, in which nearly everybody in town took part. The Total sum realized was \$438.55. It must be said that everyone present contributed his or her mite toward the worthy cause.

This was the Whist Club's contribution toward winning the First World War

### **The Rotary Club**

In the stress of war it requires courage to be different from the common way of thinking and acting. When this happens, in spite of "wars and rumors of wars." It is the result of a heart combination of the every-day things. This is when the spiritual tide rises to overcome the higher tide of "blood, sweat and tears" that a monstrous war breed.

In writing the above I have in mind the planning and organization of the rotary club of Livingston, instituted in 1943-to continue with as much enthusiasm as in its beginning,

The Rotary club is an international association of business and professional men. But that is not all. It is, besides, a society of promoting good will and harmony among all men. Its jurisdiction is not confined to its locale, but to the world in general.

Rotary originated in Chicago on February 23, 1905. Paul H. Harris, a lawyer and stranger in the city, was the founder. Starting with a dozen members it now has over 200,000 associates in more than 50 countries. Each member selected is engaged in a different vocation, representing all shades and character of business and professional life.

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The word Rotary is the adjective of the noun rotation. It means action. It puts into practice the following principles of conduct:

"The development of friendship; betterment of the community; high ideals in business and the professions; thoughtfulness and helpfulness to others; advancement of international understanding, good will and peace."

The Livingston Rotary Club was officially instituted on Thursday evening, September 9, 1943, in Eiland Community Hall. The occasion was called Charter Night, the night when the charter was received and displayed. Livingston was the baby club of the valley, with the Club No. 5651. More than 150 friends and members were present from many points.

A dinner was served at 8 o'clock by the Women's Society of Christian Service of the Methodist church.

This group was probably the largest gathering of business and professional men from the largest number of towns ever assembled in Livingston.

E. B. Leduc, president of the Turlock Rotary Club, which sponsored the Livingston Club, served as toastmaster. A. Stanley Court, mayor of Livingston, welcomed the visitors and expressed the Club's appreciation for their coming.

The Club holds its luncheon meeting in Eiland Hall every Friday at 12:15 noon.

Following is a list of the charter members: .f

R. B. McNutt, President

G. H. Winton, Secretary-Treasurer Allen Stark, Sergeant-at Arms

Adams, E. G.	Harrington, A. A.
Arakelian, John H.	Kemper, E. B.
Arnold, Earl	Kidd, Douglas S.
Biggers, Howard L.	Lee, Leon
Cochrane Wm. R.	Mahoney, J. H.
Cole, Eugene F.	McConnell, Warren F.
Corbett, Robin	Ricketts, A. D.
Court, A. Stanley	Sheesley, N. G.
Faria, M. F.	Silva, M. F.
Virgo, Ellis	

A year has passed, and it is time to elect new officers. Accordingly this was done at a Meeting of Rotary on Friday, July 7, 1944. William Garlough of the Turlock Club Presided at the ceremonies. E. Glen Drake also of the same Club was installing officer. Here are the new officers to serve for a year: Stanley Court, President; G.H. Winton Secretary-Treasurer; Ed. Roy, Sergeant –at-arms.

## CHAPTER 18

### The Boy Scouts

“AT the center of every successful educational process is a human personality,” is a truism often overlooked in local affairs, Such a personality is the power behind the Boy Scout movement as sponsored by the late Dan Beard, famous as its forceful leader in the United States. He was the lone personage than lent strength to the doctrinal virtues that Boy Scouting is one of the best preventives of youthful delinquency.

Not wishing to interfere with the home and the church as the proper mediums for training the youth in the finer qualities of citizenship, the founders of the Boy Scouts sought only to lend help by precept and action. Courage and honor compose the password to membership. “Do a good turn daily” is the slogan, and the “Salute to the Flag” is the theme in patriotism.

Believing in the tenets of the institution, a boy Scout Troop was organized in Livingston in the spring of 1918, with Max Landram, manager of the Merced Lubmber company here, , as Scoutmaster, G. H. Winton and E. G. Adams composed the first advisory council. The first membership included the following boys:

Casad, Gerald	Newton, Benjamin
Choiser Lester	Pregno, John
Court, Vincent	Pregno, Stillman
DeSilva, Donald	Priddy, Otis
Herndon, James	Sheesley, Cayton
Hunt, Eldrige	Warn, Lawrence
Kishi, Minour	Warn Lloyd
Kishi, Roy	

It took two months to get the charter from the parent organization in New York. By the time the charter arrived the boys had talked the scoutmaster into a camping trip, to be held on the lower reaches of the Merced River.

Accordingly, when the time had arrived to go upon this trip, I was appealed to accompany the boys as temporary scoutmaster. Through the courtesy of William W. Abbott and August E. Warn and in charge of myself(F.S. Farquhar) as substitute leader, and Vincent Court as captain, the party left town, in two trucks early on the morning of June 10, 1918,

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for the scene of the encampment, on the Aaron Anderson farm, close by the river.

What I remember of that trip is that June 10th was on Monday, and that we stayed the full week out, coming home on the Saturday following, that the event was a big success there is no question. The weather was fine and warm, and gentle winds blew all the time, We had plenty to eat, ate three well-cooked meals a day, tramped miles without end, went swimming, fished, fought off mosquitoes and big ants with enthusiasm, and enjoyed the simple exercises as laid down by the organization.

Wednesday being guest day, Scoutmaster Sheridan of Merced, with 33 of his troops, came as visitors. In the evening a feast was prepared and served around a big camp fire. Among the visitors were Mr., and Mrs. A. E. and Charles Warn, E. G. Adams, A. N. Sheesley and son Glenwood.

This camping adventure was a big event in the lives of all the boys-an event they never ceased talking about. It had much to do in shaping their after lives in following the "straight and narrow path", so I have been told.

As a result of this trip I was induced to assume the duties of full-time scoutmaster. Eventually the membership went up to 36 at one time. I continued in the work up to the summer of 1924, which I was compelled to relinquish on account of illness. As the result of such illness I was hospitalized for two months the following spring.

For four years the Boy Scouts here ceased to function, On April 10, 1928, it was reorganized with Joseph C. Carpenter, coach in the high school, as scoutmaster. At one time the membership ran up to 65 under his leadership, His work has been remarkably successful during the 16 years he has had charge.

After writing the above Mr. Carpenter resigned as Scoutmaster. On December 14, 1944, Lloyd T. Morgan, was selected Scoutmaster, with the local Rotary Club acting as sponsor of the troop. Mr. Morgan set about to reorganize and restore the troop to a better functioning body. On February 1st last the membership had increased to 20, with regular weekly meetings being held in Eiland Hall on Tuesday Evenings, following is a line-up of the members as of that date:

Aguilar, Arthur – tenderfoot, Balazs, Ernest-2nd class, Bennight, Donald-star, Davis, Bobby-first class



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Dement, Raymond-tenderfoot	Pinheiro, Eddie-recruit
Eidson, Donald-tenderfoot	Rodrigues, Rodney-tenderfoot
Elms, Stanley-second class	Terry, Harold-tenderfoot
Freeze, Ronnie-tenderfoot	Thompson, Oscar-second class
Gebbie, William-first class	Trigueiro, Weldon-star
Jueneman, Luther-life	Valdez, Jesse-tenderfoot
Lee, Eugene-life	Valdez, Robert-tenderfoot
Nelson, Lawrence-life	

### **The Rabbit Drive**

Livingston has a long-time reputation of putting things over without prejudice. It still holds good for any project laid down for it to act on. Take the old-fashioned rabbit drives for instance. They have always been put on and carried to a complete success as the result of the combined efforts of the people. They were called "the biggest ever" as the slogan of a day well spent.

In this connection let me say that this might be a good time to put on another big drive; it would help mightily for the duration of the war in the conservation of food. The jumping jack was never less molested than now. He lopes over the landscape like a miniature mule, and his numbers are growing apace day and night, Yea, kill him off; he can eat more in a day than a soldier can in a week.

I am reminded to write the above letter to me received on May 26, 1944 from C. S. Weaver, county superintendent of public schools in which he says:

"No Doubt you have gotten from some of the old timers information regarding the rabbit drives that were held in the community during the period from about 1895 on. Thousands of people turned out to form lines 8 to 10 miles long, and drive the rabbits over the land to a designated spot where a pen, with long wings on the sides, was established, into which the rabbits were driven and killed with clubs.

"I remember in particular the first rabbit drive of its kind was held sometime in the 1890's. The line began forming below Livingston and extended as far south as Atwater. A pen was located near what was then Central Camp, on what is now the Merced-Gustine road, almost due south of

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Livingston. It was estimated that between 5,000 and 6,000 rabbits were killed in one drive.

“We had a number of similar rabbit drives held after that time but none, I believe, which were participated in by such a great number of people, nor in which so many rabbits were killed. A number of coyotes were also driven into the pens and killed during these rabbit drives.”

Perhaps the drives referred to by Mr. Weaver were exceeded by the one held here on March 18, 1918, with that master of all boosters, Lou Love, in charge. It had been advertised for February 22, but a heavy wind and rain swept the valley the night before, causing a postponement. It was a big event. I was present, and recall the bright day, the large crowds, with many participants from nearby valley points and San Francisco, all to come for “the sport of the thing”. To heighten the excitement for the moment a movie outfit was sent from Hollywood to take pictures.

Gordon H. Winton was secretary-treasurer and Lou D. Love was chairman, with a general committee made up of everybody in town and surrounding country. Here is the ad, in display type that appeared on the envelope sent out by the chairman:

“Second Annual Event of Livingston’s Famous Rabbit Hunt, Merced County, California. Washington’s Birthday Friday, February 22, 1918. Free beef barbecue-a day of real sport. Come and bring the ladies-see Livingston’s beautiful vineyard country-5,000 men in line-shotguns, no rifles a line of hunters ten miles long.”

As the rain spoiled the day, Monday, March 18, was set and the event was pulled off as scheduled. It proved the outstanding success of all the rabbit drives ever held in this district.

No actual count of the rabbits was made that day, but it was estimated that between eight and ten thousand were slain. The carcasses were sold to a city firm, which used the meat in making of hot tamales for the trade.

The drivers started directly south of Livingston, not stopping until they had reached the Frank Crane ranch, where a big barbecue awaited the crowd of over 1,000 and their assistances.

### **The Idanha Hotel**

In the ancient days they were called caravansaries-inns where caravans of the deserts stopped for rest and refreshments, In England they were called inns, or taverns. In early America they were called inns, after the English

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fashion. Today they are generally the French word: a place to rest and to refresh oneself. To keep up with the times Livingston has had its share of hotels. Unfortunately all but one has been razed by fire. The one escaping such a calamity is the well know Idanha, now owned and operated by Mrs. Annie Brown. "Idanha" is an Indian word meaning "pleasant valley," or a "valley between hills," so I have been told an ideal place to abide.

The first Livingston hotel, built by Olds & Barfield, was burned in the year 1886. The second Livingston hotel was built by Ben Berry and was destroyed by fire in 1924. The rooming house- the Alton-owned and operated by Mrs. Shannon, was almost totally destroyed by fire in August, 1929. Whether there were any other hostelries I have been unable to learn.

So far the Idanha has escaped such a fate. Today it is a better hotel than when it was built by Edward Thomas and William J. Curtner in the summer of 1910. That was the year of the "big boom"-the year of promotion and exploitation of this area. At first the Idanha was conducted as strictly a hotel with a bar to dispense drinks. Later it acquired the reputation of being a "roadhouse". When the boom petered out the hotel lapsed into "vacancy". Really it was, or could be called, a first class hotel for the traveling public.

As times hardened it became tenantless, remaining so for a number of years. Sometime in the year of 1918 the owners-Bank of Italy branch Merced- sold it to Hal Shaffer of Merced, who, in turn, sold to Charles A. Ottman, who revamped it and put in a shape for use, In 1924 Ottman sold the grounds, building and contents to Mrs. Anna Brown, who now so efficiently conducts it, with the assistance of her able daughter, Mrs. Etta B. Hochleitner, as a combination hotel and rooming house. It is now a valuable business being centrally located at the corner of Third and C Streets.

Mrs. Anna Brown was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, Her husband died in 1899, and in 1918 she came to Livingston to visit friends. While here she worked for Mrs. Joe Choisser as a cook in the Choisser restaurant. Later she became cook at the American vineyard ranch house. After that she leased the Livingston hotel, from Charles Ottman. When the Livingston hotel burned she bought the Idanha from Mr. Ottman, in 1924.

In this transaction Mrs. Brown improved her situation here very much more than anticipated. Long since she paid

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For the hotel, and owns it individually, In 1941 she made many needed improvements, both inside and out. All the outside of the building was stucco, the woodwork repainted, new steps put in , and other repairs concluded, giving the whole exterior a more pleasant-happier aspect. There are a total of 33 rooms, all furnished and filled with good tenants.

Mrs. Anna Brown was married in the State of Nebraska, and moved to Bronson, Kansas, in the year 1895, where she lived until she came to California in 1918.

Mrs. Brown raised three children, one son and two daughters, Ethel was the wife of Gussie Booth, She died in 1919, and Mrs. Ettie B. Hochleitner is a widow and lives with her mother. The son, Clarence, was married to Elsie Bennett, daughter of Dave and Amanda Bennett of this place. Clarence is a state game warden, residing at Coalinga.

The Browns were a wholesome addition to the population of the city of Livingston.

### **CHAPTER 19**

#### **The Masonic Lodge**

According to tradition, Freemasonry is as old as the law of Media, It is strictly a masculine order founded on the mysteries of the ancient arts, their principles and practices. It dates from the building of King Solomon's temple under the championship of Hiram, King of Tyre, back yonder in the year one thousand B. C. Thus this society of free and accepted men is very old-so old in fact that no records date accurately its beginning.

Romantic history has it that Masonry dates from the beginning of the roman empire, from the Pharaohs, from the building of the tower of Babel, and even to the building of Noah's Ark. It is known, as a historic fact, that Freemasonry was practiced in the middle ages by the artisans to protect themselves in their work against imposters in the building trades. These workmen had secret rituals and were protected by the laws of the county in which they operated. Free and Accepted Masons, the name under which the lodge now operates, is handed down from those ancient workmen. This could be called the first "Labor Union," and be correct, "Free" meant a free mason, "accepted" meant the member was accepted by other workmen, The modern "society is founded on and practices social and moral virtues"-such as truth, charity, brotherly love and mutual assistance.

Many lodges of Free and Accepted Masons have been

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Instituted and operated since those ancient days throughout the bounds of the world., One among the latest to put its work on the operative table is Livingston Lodge No. 658.

The Livingston Lodge had its beginning in the formation of the Acacia club in 1926. William W. Abbott, is a member of the Turlock Lodge No. 295, and inspector of the district, and living here, was largely instrumental in forming this club. Meetings were held in the Justice court room, back of the library. In the spring of 1927 a petition was signed and sent to the grand Master at San Francisco asking for the creation of a lodge here. Those petitioners were:

W.M. Bailey

Joseph Barnett

Elgin Evans

J.E. Herndon

E.B. Kemper

J.W. Landram

W.F. McConnell

M.R. Nicholas

P.L. Rookledge

S.H. Swann

G. H. Winton

The dispensation was dated May 14, 1927. Immediately following the meeting of the Grand Lodge in San Francisco, Grand Maser William Fisher instituted the Livingston Lodge on October 13, 1927, at a ceremony held in the Masonic Temple at Turlock.

From May 1, 1927, to November 1, 1933, the Livingston Lodge held its meetings in the upper story of the Groom Building on Third Street. Here it acquired the distinction of having the smallest Masonic lodge room in the state of California.

A wish for a larger and better quarters often came up for long and friendly discussion. Through the efforts of Worshipful Master F.M. Ecclefield, with the hearty cooperation of Frank E. Crowell, assisted by many other members the present meeting place in the two-story Crowell building was developed and completed in time for its dedication Wednesday night, November 15, 1933.

The dedicatory exercises was a notable event. The hall was crowded to capacity with members and invited friends. The occasion presented a limited opportunity to see how Masonry operates. The scene was pleasing one. The bright lights, the bright faces, the sparkle of gilded emblems-all contributed without stint such beauty hard to be seen anywhere.

Many of the things one observed with attention were contributed by individual members. Some of the gifts may be here named as the brazen pillars, officers' gavel, Bible

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Altar lights, ballot box, deacons' and stewards' rods, tilers' sword and belt, and many other things-such as officers' pedestals, officers' station paneling, secretary's' desk, tiler's desk, piano, heating stove for the lodge room, and cook stove for the kitchen, etc.

The elective officers of the lodge have been as follows:

### Worshipful Masters:

1927 – Joseph Barnett  
1928 - G. H. Winton  
1929 – Elgin Evans  
1930 – W. F. McConnell  
1931 – Elgin Evans  
1932 – E. F. Chance  
1933 – F. M. Ecclefield  
1934 – I. M. Bailey  
1935 – S. H. Swan  
1936 – George W. Sheesley  
1937 - J. L. Carson  
1938 – W. D. Crosby  
1939 – L. H. Picton  
1940 – W. H. Morton  
1941 - E. E. Arnold  
1942-3 – C. J, Carpenter  
1944 - E. E. Arnold

### Secretaries:

W.F. McConnell, 1927  
Joseph Barnett, 1928-1933  
G. H. Winton, 1933-1944

### Treasurers:

A.A. Harrington, 1927-1941  
F.M. Ecclefield, 1942-1944

### **The Eastern Star**

From the issue of the Livingston Chronicle of January 4, 1934, I quote the following:  
A Chapter of the Eastern Star was instituted and officers installed in Livingston Friday night, December 29(1933). The event was one of the most outstanding of its nature in the history of this city, marked as it was by the presences here for the ceremony of many of the Grand Chapter officers of the state, and near sixty visitors from other star chapters.

Masonic hall was filled to capacity, A dinner at Perry's Cage, attended by visiting and local officers-elect, preceded the ceremony in the hall.

Despite the inclement weather, grand officers were here as follows: Wallace T. Rutherford, worthy grand patron, of Napa; Minnie V. Collins, assistant grand matron, of San Francisco; Stella M, Linscott, grand secretary, of San Francisco; Dr. Maude E. Fleutsch, grand chaplain, of Merced; Willa J. Hellwig, past grand matron, of Alvarado; Hazel T. lane, grand Esther, of Los Angeles; Ernest A. Taylor, grand sentinel, of Los Angeles.

The above grand officers put on the instructional, the installation and initiatory work, and naturally, their efficiency was an inspiration to the officers and members of the new chapter.

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Visitors were present from Riverbank, Turlock, Merced, Patterson, Newman, Fresno, Vallejo, Los Angeles, Chowchilla, Modesto, Knights Ferry, Napa, Escalon, Oakland and San Francisco. These visitors included Deputy Grand Matron Polly M Bertram of district 17 and Lulu H. Marrs of district 33. Worthy matrons were present from chapters at Turlock, Los Angeles, Newman, Merced and Riverbank.

Officers of Livingston Chapter No. 531 installed were:

Minnie Ecclefield, worthy matron  
F.M. Ecclefield, worthy patron  
Harriet Lee, associate matron  
Dr. C. L. Garvin, associate patron  
Lillian McConnell, secretary  
Blanche Harrington, treasurer  
Fern Cooper, conductress  
Beatrice Sheesley, associate conductress  
Margaret Sheesley, chaplain  
Bernice Armstrong, marshal  
Mildred S. Winton, organist  
Carrie Jones, Adah  
Naoma Court, Ruth  
Amy Magnuson, Esther  
Mayme Adams, Martha  
Mary Picton, Electra  
Anna McConnell, warder  
George W. Sheesley, sentinel

The above 18 officers and the following 12 make up the 30 charter members of the chapter: A. A. Harrington, E. G. Adams, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Christian, Floy Arnold, Robert Lee, Minnie Swan, N. G. Sheesley, G. H. Winton, Hulda Williams and Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Kemper. Several of the officers and members of this chapter had demitted from other Eastern Star lodges.

The chapter meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

1944 officers are as follows:

Ettie B. Hochleitner, worthy matron  
G.H. Winton, worthy patron  
Elizabeth Kanaen, associate matron  
C.H. Kanen, associate patron  
Blanche Harrington, secretary  
Margaret Sheesley, treasurer  
Selma Christian, conductress  
Ethel Bates, associate conductress

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Minnie Ecclefield, chaplain

Leona Brown, marshal

Mildred Winton, organist

Floy Arnold, Adah

Magaret Christian, Ruth

Hilda Creamer, Esther

Doris Ryan, Martha

Lovey Orr, Electra

Hazel Carpenter, warder

Earl Arnold, sentinel

Earl Ryan, flag bearer

The Motto of the chapter is: "Success comes not from standing apart, but standing together."

### **The Job's Daughters**

The Job's Daughters is an auxiliary of Masonic Lodge, created for the purpose of teaching moral rectitude for young girls and to instruct them in "Lessons by patience in trial" like the famous hero of the Bible. To be eligible a member must be a kin to a member of the Masonic order. The age limit is between 12 and 20 years, when, at the later age, the member may join the Eastern Star, being otherwise eligible.

The local lodge of Job's Daughters was organized and instituted in Masonic hall, Crowell block, Saturday evening, December 10, 1938. Mrs. Emily Champreau of the Stockton lodge instituted and installed the new officers, as follows:

Betty McConnell, honored queen

Virginia Sidebotham, senior princess

Marion Scott, junior princess

Zelma Grant, guide

Elenor Rae, marshal

Helen Cassell, recorder

Margaret Larimer, treasurer

Lillian Hansen, chaplain

Mary Lehfeltdt, senior custodian

Norma Sturges, junior custodian

Edna Fessler, librarian

Margaret Carpenter, music

Marey Janes, inner guard

Eudora Janes, outer guard

Jane Buzzard, 1st messenger

Elizabeth Cassell, 2nd messenger

Alice Larimer, 4th messenger



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Majorie Jons, 5th messenger

All the foregoin officers with Alice Turner and other unnamed members constituted the charter members.

Mrs Blance Harrington was installed as guardian and Wilber D. Crosby, associate guardian; Lillian McConnell, recording guardian; Lena Brown, treasurer guardian; Beatrice Sheesley, director of music.

Officers for Job's Daughters (Bethel No. 123) are elected and installed every six months. For the term beginning June and ending December, 1944, they are as follows:

Sally Matignon, honored queen

Pat Carpenter, senior princess

Sally Jaynes, junior princess

Bonnie Meyers, guide

Jancie McNutt, marshal

Bertha Buckhotz, senior custodian

Dorothy Adams, junior custodian

Margie Sidebotham, inner guard

Lorraine Dooley, outer guard

Leta Walters, treasurer

Doris Dameron, recorder

Marjorie Hardie, librarian

Marion Fox, musician

Wilma Bynum, chaplain

Joanna Allard, 1st messenger

Edith Downey, 2nd messenger

Bonnie Pitts, 3rd messenger

Lanora King, 4th messenger

Marjie Cline, 5th messenger

Guardian Council:

Margaret Baker, guardian

Warren Brown, associate guardian

Lovey Orr, guardian secretary

Alfred Morgan, guardian treasurer

Ruth Razor, director of music

Ruth Vandergriff, custodian of paraphernalia

"And in all the land were no women found so fair as the Daughters of Job." Job 42:15

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The scientist tell us that it is by the combination of heat, water and sunshine that life is sustained on earth, In no place can such a theory be better exemplified than in this great Sn Joaquin valley, For it is here that all three elements exist to bring to perfection the scheme of irrigation. This is an enhanced by a soil ideal for intensive cultivation,

It is well known that this valley is decidedly semi-arid. Without water its use was and is still of little value for general agricultural purposes. But with water it has been made to "bloom as the rose."

The honor of being the Father of Irrigation goes to that progressive pioneer William G. Collier, who died in 1883, aged 56 years. To him was first given the vision of knowing the value of water on arid land, if properly applied. With this vision supreme in his mind, Collier organized the first irrigation company in California on March 1, 1870, naming it the Robla Canal Company. By this canal he conveyed water from the Merced River to his own land, and adjoining properties in what is now known as Stevinson colony.

This was an experimental canal, but it proved so successful that in 1873 the Farmer's Canal Company was organized to build on a bigger and better scale. This plan called for construction and operation of nearly 5- miles of canals, to take water from the Merced River at almost the same place used at present. The subscribers to the capital stock of the company is given as follows:

H.J. Ostrander, 50 shares, \$5,000  
W.W. Gray, 50 shares, \$5,000  
M.B. Atwater, 60 shares, \$6,000  
Thomas Upton, 60 Shares, \$6,000  
Wm. P. Fowler, 60 shares, \$6,000  
W. E. Elliott, 60 shares, \$6,000  
Norval Douglas, 30 shares, \$3,000  
R. H. Morrison, 15 shares, \$1,500  
H.B. Jolley, 20 shares, \$2,000  
Stephen Fitzgerald, 5 shares, \$500  
Total Stock subscribed - \$41,000.

The canal was not constructed as planned, nor was it finished until sometime in 1879. Work was done on it at intervals from the beginning. The main canal was 30 feet wide, and followed almost the same course as that of the present Merced Irrigation system. It ended at the present Livingston outlet a mile north of town. Another short

Branch served the Atwater area. Water was to be taken to the land northeast of Central Camp. The earlier plans never were fully realized. The work was too expensive for the finances in hand.

### **New Interests Take Over**

It was along in the year 1871 that C. H. Huffman came upon the scene as the right-of way man for the Central Pacific railway. He helped to promote the new towns of Merced and Fresno. Seeing the value of irrigation in Merced County, he began to accumulate considerable farm acreage.

In 1882 Huffman organized the Merced Canal & Irrigation company, and bought the Farmers' Canal Company. Note being able to fully finance his own company Huffman induced Charles Crocker of the "Big Four" of San Francisco to become his partner in this part of his work. The Big Four, so-called, was composed of Crocker, Stanford, Huntington and Hopkins, builders of the Central Pacific railway. This new financing put the canal company on its "financial feet" for unlimited expansion.

Early in the promotion and construction of the irrigation+ system in the 1880's, much banking was necessary, In 1887 the First National Bank of Merced was organized, with Huffman as its first president, This bank was carried on successfully until merged with the Bank of America.

It is to Huffman that the final success of irrigation in Merced is credited. He stayed with it until his retirement in the 1900's. This canal company was later reorganized and merged into the Crocker-Huffman Land & Water Company, which was later taken over by the bigger concern, the Merced Irrigation District, as a still greater operating body.

### **The Price Paid**

As to the Merced Irrigation District, this was begun and consummated after long preliminaries had been complete. The plan to take over was begun early in 1916, and was not completed until December 8, 1919. The total sum paid Crocker-Huffman for their irrigation system covering near 50,000 acres of land was \$2,250,000, concluded in January, 1922.

The final total cost of the entire system, including the building of Exchequer dam, the rebuilding of the Yosemite railway around the said dam, extensions and many improvements, run the sum up to a little over \$16,000,000. This sum was refinanced through the United States Reconstruction finance Corporation at the rate of .50 on the dollar, or a

## HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON

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Little over \$8,000,000. The area now embraced in the Merced Irrigation System is 175,000 acres, all subject to intensive irrigation.

The committee making this deal included C.H. Edwards, F.E. Crowell, E.G. Adams, Ward Minturn, H.E. Carmichael of Livingston; H.G. Kelsey of Merced Falls; G.T. Parr of Atwater; John H. Graham and J. B. Wood of Merced.

The names of the directors who have represented division 5 of the district, which includes Livingston, are as follows:

L.D. Love, elected November 25, 1919

L.E. Danley elected February 7, 1921

L.E. Danley recalled December 18, 1922

C.L. Garvin, elected December 18, 1922

C.L. Garven reelected February 7, 1923

M.M. Hunter, elected February 2, 1927

M.M. Hunter, resigned March 5, 1928

J.A. Wolf, appointed to fill vacancy.

J.A. Wolf elected February 4, 1931; reelected February 6, 1935 and on February 3, 1943. Still in office.(1944)

### **Women's Improvement Club**

As unusual and pleasing feature in the social and civic life of Livingston was the Women's Improvement club. Its membership was composed wholly of women of the town and countryside. Its purpose was to promote anything for the good of the community. Organized in 1909, it functioned until 1918, when it was disbanded to take up Red Cross work for the First World War.

Among its many accomplishments was that of bringing to town the first silent-movie projector, to be used at its meetings held twice a month in the old town hall. The time for this innovation was along about the year 1914. Not having anyone available to operate the machine, the late Albert Court was asked to lend a hand. He then knew nothing about movies, but he lent his services in giving the Club its first show of the kind in town. This was the beginning of Mr. Court's theater business here. It was the start of the present court facilities for giving the town its splendid entertainment house.

Another accomplishment worthy of mention is that of buying a new piano for community use. This instrument was used at all public functions-at dances given in the town hall, at Christmas tree events given on the commons at the railway station. After the Club ceased to operate, the piano was placed in the home of the late Mrs. Ida Chase,

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Where it remained until it was turned over to the Easter Star at the time of its organization here for use in the Masonic lodge room; and there it is today as sound and musical as ever.

Mrs. Sadie White, wife of William T. White, was the first president of the Club, and Mrs. Dora McConnell, wife of William McConnell, was the first secretary, serving many years. Mrs. White served as president for a term of years. The last president was Mrs. Minnie Ecclefield, wife of F. Marion Ecclefield, who took office in 1917, serving until the termination of the Club's activities. The following composed the Club's membership (as near as it is now possible to obtain it):

Mrs. Finch Wilcox	Mrs. Dora McConnell
Mrs. Edna Harris	Mrs. Anna McConnell
Mrs. Sadie White	Mrs. James Watson
Mrs. Pearl Crowell	Mrs. James Hicks
Mrs. Minnie Ecclefield	Mrs. J. N. Hitchcock
Mrs. Charles A. Ottman	Edith Hitchcock
Mrs. Ida Chase	Flossie Hitchcock
Mrs. Mary Anderson	Mrs. Harriet Crutcher
Mrs. Susan Carmichael	Mrs. Adaline James
Mrs. A. Court	Mrs. Dora Hoehn
Mrs. Erla Davis	
Mrs. John Groom	

## CHAPTER 21

### Judicial Township No. 5

Law and order are the salient principles of civilization. They are the primary components of justice, and justice must prevail among men else mankind would revert to barbarism. To have justice there must be courts to protect men against one another. Such courts are based upon the theory that all men are equal before the law. Courts have been created in various degrees of power and authority. Beginning at the top with the Supreme Court of last resort for litigants, they percolate down through the many stages of society to that of "the court of first resort." Commonly designated as Justice -of-the-peace.

Livingston has had many a Justice of the Peace in its time, It has had so many in fact that the job of listing them all in chronological order has been a big task, In this work I have been given first hand service by my friend Robert W. Cothran, Clerk of the Merced County Court. Without his aid I could not her give the information to follow.

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The Livingston district comes under the heading of "Judicial Township No. 5," created May 10, 1872. The area covered is almost half the size of Merced county. Its boundaries are given as follows:

"Beginning at the northwest corner of Merced county; thence along line between Merced and Stanislaus counties to the San Joaquin River; thence up said river to line between Merced and Fresno counties; thence southwest along said boundary line to southwest corner of Merced county; thence along line between Merced and Monterey counties to place of beginning."

According to the records W. W. Parlin was appointed the first Justice-of-the Peace. But where he lived I have been unable to learn. The first election was held on October 15, 1873, when C. Talbott and W.F. Clark were elected Justices-of-the-Peace. Two such officials were then elected. This would indicate that the district was divided with two such courts functioning.

The first constables mentioned is shown when in September, 1875, G.F. Laurence and Charles S. Johnson were elected.

On October 20, 1875, S.A. Smith and Ira True were elected to the office of Justice-of-the Peace.

In September, 1877, J.A. Worthington and Ira J. True were elected justices. By reason of Worthington leaving the state of California S. A. Smith was appointed in his place in August, 1878.

In September, 1879, W.R. Riggs and W.F. Clark were elected justices, and on the same date Charles S. Johnson and L.C. Davis were elected constables. In November, 1880, all four of the above were re-elected.

In November, 1881, W.F. Clark resigned and J.A. Langan was appointed to serve out his term.

Sometime between 1881 and 1893 Judicial Township No. 5 faded out of the scene. Between those years the records contain no mention of any election or appointment of justices or constables. But in January, 1893, the boundaries of the district were re-established to its present alignments.

In March, 1893, L.M. Gillham was appointed justice, and in January, 1895, C.F. Blewett was appointed to succeed him.

At the election held in November, 1894, Ben Berry and Robert Weaver were elected justices, and on the same date W.W. Abbott and C.S. McSwain were elected constables.

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It now appears that the number of justices were reduced from two to one, for in the November election of 1898 Ben Berry was elected justice and John George constable.

In November 1902, J.H. Svensen was elected justice and W.F. Blewett constable.

In November, 1906, J.N. Hitchcock and Watson were re-elected to their respective offices.

At the election in 1910 both Hitchcock and Watson were re-elected to their respective offices.

Judge Hitchcock was re-elected in 1914 with August Warn as the new constable, both were re-elected in 1918, but neither one served out the full term. Warn died in May, 1919, and Judge Hitchcock died in August, 1921.

John W. Hall was appointed September 6, 1921, to fill out the unexpired term of his predecessor, Hitchcock, and Lester White had been appointed to succeed Warn.

At the election in November, 1922, T.W. Pedigo was elected justice and Dave Bennett constable.

In November, 1926, J.R. Wherity was elected justice and Dave Bennett constable. On October 22, 1928, Wherity resigned and Frank A. McConnell was appointed in his place.

In the November election of 1930, Lewis D. Love was elected to the office of justice and Dave Bennett was re-elected constable. Love died in October 1933, and A. W. Caldwell was appointed in his place on Oct. 17th.

At the November 1934 A. W. Caldwell was elected justice and Dave Bennett was re-elected constable.

At the November election in 1938, L.E. Pruso was elected justice and Bennett was re-elected constable.. Pruso died in 1941, J.H. Mahoney was appointed justice. In November 1942, J.H. Mahoney was elected to the office of justice and George Moore was elected constable. They are both still serving.

Originally Judicial Township No. 5 covered about all of the West Side, together with this part of the county. What the population then has not been revealed by the records. According to a special census taken in May, 1907, the population was given as 1275, and in November, 1910 it was 2227. Later figures are not available. For many years court was held in an office in the eastern end of the old William J. Little warehouse, where rooms had been fitted for that purpose. After completion of the new court room to the rear of the Library building in 1922, all legal transactions since have been held in it.

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### **Old-Timers Meet**

From the Thursday, November 25, 1943, issue of the Livingston Chronicle I quote the following:

Zeph Ecclefield brought a couple of visitors to the office on Tuesday (Nov. 23) whom we were delighted to meet and to chat with. One of them, Bernard Sears of Stockton, was a school boy in the Chronicle building when it was a village school house on the north side of town in the nineties'. The other was his son, Bradford Sears, U.S. navy, who was in the thick of the attack on Pearly Harbor, December 7, 1941.

Bernard Sears, now a traveling mechanical superintendent of the California State Division of Highways, had brought his son to Livingston to show him the site of his childhood home, his old school house (this office) and to meet what few remaining old-timers are still here.

The Sears home place was a grain ranch, part of what is now the American vineyard. The Sears home stood on the site of the vineyard headquarters building. There, yet, stands an old fig tree on which BernardSears carved a picture of an Indian's face (so he called it) with a 15 cent pocket knife, when he was eight years old, or 46 years ago.

Jimmy Svensen, bookkeeper at the American vineyard, was a young fellow in that general neighborhood when Sears was a small boy and he and Sears together found the evidence of the Indian head carving.

In 1910 the Sears family sold out and moved to San Jose. Later Bernard Sears lived for several years in Santa Rosa.

Bernard Sears was full of interesting reminiscences Tuesday. He recalled, for instance, how Jimmy Svensen came to lose his leg. A new hand came to the Svensen ranch. As was the custom of the boys, in those days, they all went to the bunk house to hear what tales the traveler could tell. Jimmy was sitting across the room when the new man rolled out his blankets. A revolver of the old type, not protected by a trigger guard, went off and shot Jimmy in the ankle, two operations followed, in which the leg was taken off above the knee.

Minnie Ecclefield and Mayme Davis and their dog, which followed them to school every day; the building of the ante-rooms to the school house; shooting coyotes; running the first Best tractor in this neighborhood, and a hundred other things were recounted by Mr. Sears.

Stories about Bob and Vern Hammatt, of school days



With the McConnell's, of the fire which destroyed the Hammatt & Zirker store, of the escapades of Lee Lyons who lives with Arch Turner down on the Merced River, and many events went into the conversation of Mr. Sears.

The son, Bradford, named after his grandfather, was wounded in the Pearl Harbor attack. He has been home on the mend for some time and enjoyed his dad's boyhood scenes very much.

In the Chronicle office Mr. Sears pointed out to us where he sat, where the blackboards were, the teacher's desk, and the dunce's stool.

## **CHAPTER 22**

### **Merced County**

Mariposa was one of the original counties of California, and was the largest in the state, As provided by a special act of the Legislature Merced was carved out of it in 1855. The bill was signed by Governor Bigler April 19, 1855, which named the following Board of Commissioners:

Charles V. Snelling, Samuel Lovejoy, Charles F. Bludworth, William N. Neill, William J. Barfield, A. Stevinson.

The commissioners arranged for an election to be held on the second Monday in May 1855. According to the nautical almanac the date fell on the 14th of the month. It has been estimated that the total population of the area to be embraced in the new county could not have been over 500, scattered miles apart. This election was for the purpose of organizing the county and electing its new officials, with the following result:

John W. Fitzhugh, county judge

E.G. Rector, county clerk

C.F. Bludworth, sheriff

J.W. Smith, district attorney

G.W. Halstead, treasurer

J.W. Robertson, assessor

Erastus Kelsey, county surveyor

Gordon H. Murray, W.J. Barfield, Samuel D. Kelly, board of supervisors;

Samuel H.P. Ross and J.A. Vance, associate justices

The first county seat was established on the Turner & Osborne ranch, eight miles east of the present city of Merced, where the first court was held in June, 1855. In September of the same year Snelling was selected by popular vote as more suitable and handy, it being on the only main

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Traveled highway up the valley, the Millerton Road, running from Stockton to the mines, and on to Millerton,, on the San Joaquin river, near Fresno.

By 1857 the new county court house was built at a cost of \$13,000. This building did duty for the county until the election of December 12, 1872, when the voters decided to move the seat of government to the town of Merced, on the Central Pacific railway which had been completed to that point in March, 1872.

The cornerstone of the present court house and jail was laid on July 8, 1874. The total cost of the two buildings was \$75,000. The costs have long since been fully liquidated.

Following is a complete list of the county officials for the year 1944:

Superior Judge, H. S. Shaffer  
Superior Judge, Ranse R. Sischo  
Sheriff, Lucius Cornell  
County Clerk, R. W. Cothran  
Assessor, J. E. McNamara  
Auditor, S. E. Acker  
District Attorney, C. H. Adams  
County Recorder, W. T. White  
Treasurer, E. D. Barrett  
Tax collector, James Smith  
Surveyor, W. E. Bedesen  
Superintendent of Schools, C. S. Weaver  
Coroner, J. C. Brooks  
Librarian, Miss Minette Stoddard  
Veteran Service, Reuben King  
Agricultural Commissioner, C. H. Kinsley  
Farm Advisor, Wm. H. Alison

### **Supervisors**

First District, Glen Fountain  
Second District, Frank Phinney  
Third District, E. A. Griffin  
Fourth District, W. E. Bunker  
Fifth District, J. L. Toscano

### **Township 5**

Justice of the Peace, J. H. Mahoney  
Constable, George Moore

### **The Oldest Buildings**

The oldest buildings in town consist of one business house and two residences. All three were built in the 1880's.

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The first importance is the office of the Livingston Chronical, the original school house built in the summer of 1884 on block 19, north side, now the site of the present elementary school building built in 1910.

This old Chronicle building supplanted the older school building moved to town from McConnell Flats, west of the city, which was built in 1876. The exact date of its removal to town has not been definitely established, but it is said to have been in the year 1882. If so, it then took a squatter's right on block 19, which was bought by the district in February of 1884. It is now 60 years old.

The oldest residence is that at the corner of Court and Stefani streets, north side, built by Cyrus Bliven in 1882. It is now owned and occupied by a Filipino.

The next oldest residence is that built by Cyrus Bliven in 1889, now owned and occupied by Everett Ulrich and family. Its location is on the west side of Third Street opposite Hammatt Park.

With the exception of a part of the Crowell block (that part erected after the fire of June, 1894) all the rest of the buildings in town, except the railway station, have been built since 1900.



HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON pages 114 -116 in original were blanks and corrections which have been made.

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## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Robert W. Hammatt**

Tradition has it that Robert W. Hammatt, coequal with his partner, Frank E. Crowell, was the most sagacious and energetic man who ever came to Livingston,. He arrived here in 1883, and left here in 1909, leaving a small fortune after 26 years of general merchandizing, growing grain, land developing, and a vineyardist. He was born at Hyams Mass., Nov. 11, 1857; came to California in 1876, aged 19, and died at his home in San Jose, Calif., on Dec. 28, 1909, aged 52 years. His span of business activates was 33 years, and while he lived he lived actively as a successful business man.

From a newspaper obituary notice at the time of his passing I quote the following:

“One of Merced County’s best citizens, an active and prominent business man, has been called by death. Robert W. Hammatt of Livingston died Tuesday morning (Dec. 28, 1909) in San Jose, where he had moved with his family about two weeks ago intending to make his permanent home in that city. He had been confined to his bed only a few days, although he had been in very bad health for a year past.

“Mr. Hammatt was a native of Massachusetts, and his age was 52 years. Coming to California in 1876 he lived for a while with his father at Bear Valley, the late R.W. Hammatt. He then came to Merced and was here for ten or twelve years filling various positions, including that of clerk of the Wells Fargo Express office. He was also a clerk in the post office under the late Samuel C. Bates.

“He moved to Livingston over 20 years ago, where he engaged in general merchandizing, and where until recently, he was a member of the well-known firm of Hammatt & Crowell. Being a bright and energetic man he acquired a fortune. He owned a great deal of land in the Livingston neighborhood, a considerable part of which he sold within the past few years.

“Mr. Hammatt was an honest and upright man, pos-

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sessing the confidence and esteem of all who knew him. He was social and genial by nature and agreeable companion,. He had many warm and devoted friends. In fraternal orders he took an active part; was a member of the Masonic lodge, of the Elks and Woodmen. The widow and three sons survive.

“The funeral will be held at 10 o’clock today from the residence at No. 264 North Whitney street, San Jose, under the auspices of the Masonic lodge. Cremation at Cypress Lawn Cemetery, San Francisco.”

To the foregoing let me add that I have been informed that when Robert W. Hammatt, Senior went to Bear Valley it was to manage the Fremont holdings there. Later he operated a gold mine of his own-the Juniper, which is still owned by his family.

### **FRANKLIN E. CROWELL**

When Franklin Eugene Crowell “sounded all the depths and shoals of honor” he made for himself a made more envied than that of any other man in the civic life of Livingston. Coming here from Chico at the age of 15 he was possessed with an honesty of purpose that was the guiding star of all his active life. His first job was a “sweeper-out,” an errand boy, and as a clerk in the general merchandise store of Zirker & Hammatt. Then later he became the confidential friend and business associate of the man for whom he came to work. His rise to this position was rapid-based wholly upon his industry, cordiality and integrity.

Mr. Crowell was born in Stockton June 16, 1869; died at Livingston Dec. 31, 1938; aged 69 years. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Byron and Sarah (Warfield) Crowell. The father was born in Maine; the mother in Baltimore, Md. Both parents were early California settlers.

Mr. Crowell was my friend. Being my friend I often went to him for advice and information about the past and present in writing of Livingston and its people. He was ever ready to sit down with me for an interview. In all such conversations he was particular about the accuracy of data. Above all else he wished to be correct. He was a slow, precise talker, never in a hurry to dismiss a subject, nor did he indulge in generalities. Under all situations he was calm, conservative, and confident.

Perhaps my best tribute to him is in that friendly write-

## HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON

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Up I have him and printed in the Livingston Chronicle on June 15, 1933. I here quote it in revamped form as follows:

“On June 6, 1884, Mr. Crowell arrived here as a boy to work in the general store of Zirker & Hammatt. His story is an interesting one. Here it is as told me by him in one of his happy moods. His mother was a sister of Charles Warfield, who in those early days, was manager for the Miller & Lux interests on the West Side, and who later was sheriff of Merced County for many years.

“One day while this Uncle Charley, as the boy Crowell called him was visiting in Merced the first man he met was A. Zirker of Livingston. After greetings Zirker said to Warfield; “Say Charley, I’m looking for an honest boy to work in my store at Livingston. Can you recommend one for the job?”

Without hesitating, Charley said: “Sure; I can get you a good boy. I have a nephew livings with his grandfather at Chico. I’ll write him at once.’

“Uncle Charley kept his promise. Young Franklin Crowell, the boy in question, was prepared and put aboard a train bound for Merced, carrying a letter of introduction to ‘A. Girker,’ from the grandfather. This mistake in name was almost the boy’s undoing. The mistake was in sending the boy to Merced instead of to Livingston, and in the name ‘A. Girker.’

“Anyhow, young Crowell arrived in due time at Merced and went to a hotel to wait deliverance. After waiting a week nobody showed up to claim him, and he was about ready to return home to Chico when A. Zirker did appear to make inquiry. So it was that the lad got to this town to immediately begin work.”

Having no business training on starting to work for Zirker & Hammatt, Mr. Crowell attended Heald’s business college in San Francisco for a six months’ term. This is how he became so proficient and so methodical in all his later career as a financier.

He told me that when he came to Zirker & Hammatt the business was conducted in a remodeled warehouse, done over into a store room for general merchandising purposes. This was the only building then in the present Crowell block. The old warehouse stood on the center of the block about where C.M. Baker’s barber shop is situate. The structure had been built by A. Goleman who used it as a storage room for harvesting machinery and small quantities of farm products as grown around the infant town.

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I am told that this warehouse was built substantial enough. The posts supporting its foundation were cut out of the small oak trees on the Merced River flats below the present railway and highway bridges. Each post was on foot in diameter and stood five feet above the level of the ground. The front was protected by a large covered porch, this being the entrance to the store.

It was in such a building that Mr. Crowell started, and from such a ramshackle affair has grown the present brick structure covering the entire block, now occupied by many different interests as tenants doing a normal business.

When Mr. Hammatt became postmaster in 1888 Mr. Crowell became his chief postal clerk and assistant postmaster. In this job alone he held forth in the same environment for 22 years, when upon Hammatt's resignation in 1909 Crowell became postmaster for one term of four years. Thus he spent 26 years operating the post office himself. Then, after W.T. White's appointment as postmaster, Mr. Crowell assisted for four more years. Following this he helped me one year. This gives him the record of 31 years of service in handling the mails of the Livingston post office patrons.

In the meantime he was busy doing many other things, all of which added to his multitude of activities in promoting the interests of the community. He was not what is called a promotor, but a builder and developer. His efforts were to do that which helped the community as a whole. If he had any faults he kept them under his own bushel. When he died he left not an enemy.

### **The Big Fire**

On the night of June 26, 1894, the warehouse-storeroom of Zirker & Hammatt was burned to the ground, together with all its contents, including the post office supplies. At least I judge this date to be correct, for the last money order (No. 106) was issued on June 26, and the next one issued was on July 12<sup>th</sup> following, the serial number starting again with No. 1.

Immediately following the fire the firm set up an improvised store in the first Bliven residence nearby, occupied by Robert W. Hammatt. These temporary quarters sufficed until the new brick building was completed on the site of the one destroyed.

Mr. Crowell had now been working for Zirker & Ham-



## HISTORY OF LIVINGSTON

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matt for 11 years as their chief clerk and general all-around man. He was in his 26<sup>th</sup> year of age, a sturdy and reliable employee who could be trusted in all things pertaining to the firm's business. Zirker offered to sell Crowell his interests in the business. Thus it was that in September, 1895, Mr. Crowell consummated the deal that made him a partner with Mr. Hammatt, the firm name becoming Hammatt & Crowell.

From its beginning in 1883 the firm of Zirker & Hammatt had done a prosperous business. It was the only concern that had survived the tragedies of the business world in this area. This new firm of Hammatt & Crowell was entering upon a new era. They enlarged their business.

This firm handled everything from a 1-cent postage stamp to a combine-harvester of the 36-mule team variety. A patron could buy a yard of muslin or a hundred, a spool of boss or a darning needle, a pint of vinegar or a linen duster, with all kinds of groceries on the side-meats, hams and eggs-or a washboard and soap to do the Monday wash. Their trade was drawn from the country for miles around.

The firm of Hammatt & Crowell flourished up to the time Mr. Hammatt's health began to fail in 1909, when Mr. Crowell brought his brother-in-law Mr. White here from Los Banos to buy Mr. Hammatt's interest. Crowell had now been in the store since 1884-25 years, and he needed a partner such as White to help relieve him of some of the work the firm's expanding business.

When Hammatt retired the firm became White & Crowell to continue as such until the grocery department was sold to the Ecclefields in 1923. Later the Ecclefields bought the hardware department.

Mr. Crowell may be summed up as the "First Citizen" of Livingston and the community's foremost builder. He built the Crowell block in three different sections at three different times until how it fills the entire frontage on Court Street. He built shipping sheds rebuilt the old Little frame warehouse by erecting the fireproof structure on its site, and the big garage on the railway at the Third street crossing.

Besides all his building efforts he served in many other capacities as a progressive citizen. Besides helping to organize the old First Bank of Livingston, he was a member of the City council served as a director of the local schools, and helped to promote the building of the high school here. Also he was one of the promoters of the irrigation system and the town water and sewer systems.

His fraternal associations were with the Elks of Merced and the local lodge of Masons.

### **His Marriage**

On May 8, 1900, Mr. Crowell and Miss Pearl Shaffer were united in marriage at the bride's home in Berkeley. Mrs. Crowell was born February 6, 1876, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shaffer of the Merced River district north of Cressey. For a long period of time her father served as County Supervisor of District No. 3. She is a sister of Judge Hal Shaffer of Merced County and of Charles and Richard Shaffer of Merced.

After a wedding trip to the Bay region the couple returned to Livingston and went to housekeeping in the Bliven house in town which they occupied until they built their new residence in 1907. For many years this new home was the best in town. It is still occupied by Mrs. Crowell as her home. The two lived an ideal married life through the years. Having a substantial house and ample room Mr. and Mrs. Crowell entertained their many friends in magnificent style, handsomely but not gaudily.

Mr. Crowell left one son and three grandchildren.

### **WILLIAM T. WHITE**

In writing of Mr. White I consider that I am paying him quite a compliment by calling him Billy. To me and all the rest of his host of friends here he is just plain Billy. I first met him on March 6, 1916. The impression he made on me then still holds good. I found him amiable then and I still find him possessed with that wholesome trait of character. It is his nature to be kind and generous. To be otherwise he would not be Billy White.

Mr. White was born at Paris, Ky., May 27, 1868. His father died before he was a year old, and his mother came with him to California, where she died ten years later. His early schooling was obtained in San Jose and Merced. At the age of 12 he went to work for Miller & Lux at Los Banos. There he was treated as a son and was given every advantage for promotion and advancement until finally he became the manager of Miller's big store. With the exception of seven years Mr. White spent his entire life in Merced County. Of these seven years he spent two years operating the Jamestown hotel, Willow, two years merchandising at Coulterville, one year at Madera as manager of the dry

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goods department of Rosenthal & Kutner, and two years as construction foreman in old Mexico.

On returning to California he re-entered the employment of Miller & Lux, making him one of the trusted men for 20 years in all.

On Dec. 20, 1909, he came to Livingston and bought the interest of Robert W. Hammatt in the Hammatt & Crowell store. In this transaction he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, F.E. Crowell, the firm being known as White & Crowell. Their partnership continued until 1919 when the business was incorporated under the firm name of White-Crowell Company Inc. The officers were W.T. White, president; J.J. Boyle, vice president; L.E. White, Secretary-treasurer Mr. Boyle had charge of the dry goods department and C.R. Davis was head of the hardware department. On January 1, 1923, the firm sold its big grocery department to Ecclefields. The hardware, dry goods and clothing was formed into a new store in the new building erected by Mr. Crowell on the east end of the same Crowell block. This later was continued until Mr. White sold all his interests in the business to Mr. Crowell, the later continuing till his death in December, 1938, eventually to be merged into the Ecclefield interests.

In the November election of 1926 Mr. White was elected to the office of sheriff; was re-elected in 1930. He was elected the second time without opposition, but on the 3<sup>rd</sup> venture (in 1934) was defeated by Sheriff Cornell, who is still serving.

After the death of County Recorder J.C. Ivers, Mr. White was appointed on Nov. 19, 1940 to fill out the unexpired term of this office. In 1941 he was elected without opposition to serve a term of four years.

During the time Mr. White was a resident of Livingston he was interested in all the social and civic affairs of the community. He was one of the organizers of the First Bank of Livingston, was an extensive rancher, landowner and vineyardist. During the First World War was head of the Red Cross, and all the bond drives to put Livingston "over the top." He served two terms as president of the Merchants Association. He was president of the Boosters Club, and was active in having the town incorporated into a city of the 6<sup>th</sup> class in 1922. He also, served as vice president of the Merced Union High School and for seven years served as a trustee. He was also a member of the highway advisory committee of the Board of Supervisors, to build the many cement highways in the county. He was a mem-

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ber of the Elks, Moose and Knights of Pythias in Merced and the Odd Fellows and Woodmen of the World in Los Banos.

On November 4, 1891, Mr. White was married to Miss Sadie M. Crowell, a sister of his later partner in business here, F.E. Crowell. They have two children, namely: Lester E. White and Mrs. Ethel Matthews. Lester White is now owner and operator of a ranch in Winton-Atwater area, and Ethel's husband is state bank examiner, located in San Francisco.

Mrs. Sadie (Crowell) White died of heart attack on Friday morning July 31, 1942, at Mercy hospital, Merced after a brief illness. This was a great shock to Mr. White, for he and his wife had just moved into a new house in Merced and his election to the office of County Recorder had been assured.

After coming to Livingston in 1909 the Whites (in 1913) built one of the finest residences in Livingston where they made their home and entertained their many friends up to the time he was elected Sheriff of Merced county and he had to go there to live. Later he sold this residence to R. Quilici, manager of the big Crowell farm interests.

During the First World War Mr. and Mrs. White took active parts in every event of importance pertaining to the activities of the local people in aiding the war effort. We recall two such events of the kind here. The first was "Service Flag Day," held on Sunday, April 7, 1918, at which everybody in the community attended. The scene was at the junction of Third Street with No. 99 Highway, in front of the Crowell block on the north side. It was in memory of the 44 men going into the service from this district.

The next big event in the home town was the "Pie Social," held in the M.E. Church on Tuesday night, April 16, 1918, under the auspices of the Livingston War Savings Society. Billy White was the auctioneer. And, believe it or not, he sold pies and cakes totaling the sum of \$1,213.75. The bidders got stamps for their money. Tom Turner was the highest bidder in the sum of \$125 for one pie. John Groom was second, paying \$50 for the chicken pie. Lou Love paid \$25 for the next and third highest.

Mr. and Mrs. White were also very active in promoting the Red Cross work here.

### **CHARLES H. EDWARDS**

We are told that it takes a clever man to succeed. But that often depends on the avocation one follows, and the location one selects in which to achieve success. Take Charles H. Edwards for instance. He was a natural Chamber of Commerce fellow who always looked forward with confidence to the rosy near-future. He was an optimist and very energetic. He had that good knack of making friends and retaining them. His impressive and unfeigned cordiality never slackened. Being a good speaker in local assemblies he gave dignity to any position he held in such bodies that stood for the good of a community.

Mr. Edwards came to California from Idaho, where he had engaged in newspaper work. For a while after arriving here in 1909 he did some land developing around Livingston. Later, recognizing his ability he was offered and accepted the post of Secretary of the Merced Chamber of Commerce. While performing such services at Merced he did not overlook his Livingston interests.

By a unanimous vote in 1915 he was selected as general manager of the San Joaquin Valley Counties' association to gather together and make a display of valley products at the San Francisco Panama Pacific exposition. In selecting Mr. Edwards for this position his sponsor said of his qualifications:

“He has general experience along promotional lines, especially in relation to exposition work and administrative talent. His sane and even temper inspires confidence in his ability on the part of all with whom he is called upon to deal.”

Livingston visitors to the San Francisco exposition will remember Mr. Edwards and his display of representative farm and other products of this valley, in the summer of 1915. It was the best of its kind made. He also later managed the valley display at the San Diego exposition. Both of these were big successes.

On September 1, 1913, he married Ella B. Hammatt, widow of Robert W. Hammatt, to whom she had been married April 13, 1898. The couple joined interests and bought the Clark hotel in San Francisco in 1920, and later the Herald hotel, same city. In 1928 they sold the two San Francisco hotels and moved to Pasadena, buying the Green hotel, which they operated until March, 1943. Selling this big hotel they retired to their new home in San Jose.

In the meantime, while operating the hotels and look-

ing after other interests away from here, they conducted their 179 acre farm adjoining Livingston on the west. This farm consisted of 100 of grapes on the north side of the railway tracks, and 40 acre almond grove on the south side. People will now recall with pleasure the annual visits, through the years, of Mr. and Mrs. Edwards in cropping time. After all their staying away they insisted in calling this place home.

But they will come no more. They have sold their farm and will hereafter live in retirement, free from business cares. They hope to pass their remaining years in a well-earned rest. (Note-Mr. Edwards died Nov. 13, 1944). (Mrs. Edwards died March 13, 1945).

### **THE WEAVER FAMILY**

One of the well-known names that once was a big part of the early Livingston scene is that of the Weaver family. Whence they came and whither they went is still of interest in this story. Because while here this family loomed large in the horizon of activities. As many another family has done they sowed and reaped, like the Pharaohs of old, in this new Land of Promise. And now no mention of them may be had locally except through county records. Being pioneers they worked and lived accordingly. All four of the brothers were born in Wesmoreland County, Penn.

Robert A Weaver, who was born in 1840, came to California in 1859, sailing from New York to Panama on a steamer; thence crossed the Isthmus on foot and by mule back; thence by steamer to San Francisco. The journey was made in 21 days from New York. Arriving in this state he worked eight years on farms in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties.

In 1867 Robert came to this area and worked for a year as a farmer. In 1868 he bought a section and a half of land southeast of Livingston. Here he made his home, farming for many years. This farm lay to the southwest of Arena, adjoining the railway on the north. The site of Robert Weaver's home may now be recognized only by the remnants of his once more spacious place of abode, known lately as that of S. Noda, the Japanese.

It was here that Robert Weaver made experiments in the developments of plants other than the growing of grain. He drilled a well, erected a windmill and built a cooler-house.

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and a fairly good dwelling house; around which he planted the rapidly growing locust trees for shade. This may be classified as the first experimental farm, for the smaller products, in Merced County. What success he obtained is problematical. But I have been told, Robert forged ahead until he had achieved substantial results in testing out new crops for this district. Later Robert sold this farm southeast of Livingston and moved to a new farm on the Merced River, which later became a part of the John Rheininghaus lands. Here he died of the flu in 1919. He was a bachelor.

### **WILLIAM L. WEAVER**

William L. Weaver, the father of Christian Weaver, the County Superintendent of Schools, was born in 1847. He came to California in 1870, just after the railway was finished to the coast. Here he remained for two years, and returned to Pennsylvania and Married Miss Anna Stoner. In 1876, he returned to this district with his wife and two children. Being a carpenter by trade he built many of the buildings, hereabouts, including the old school house.

In 1879 he bought a half section of land from his brother Robert southeast of Livingston. Here he built his family residence and raised his large family of children. This old residence may now be identified as being directly to the south of the A.N. Sheesley dairy farm, known but a few years back as the Altemus house. A sure identification of this old house is that it is two story, built with weather boarding running up-and-down, and by the outside brick chimney on the west end extending to the full height.

Mr. and Mrs. Weaver raised a family of nine children all but one of whom are still living. In 1900 Mr. Weaver moved with his family to British colony, near Merced, where he was killed in 1907 in a railway accident. His wife passed away in 1928.

While a resident of Livingston Mr. Weaver was a member of the local school board. Besides being a carpenter he was also a farmer. He grew grain and did carpentry for the community. Being a member of the school board, of which J.F. Ward and T.F. Smith were also his co-members, he negotiated the deal for the whole block of land in the present school site on the Northside of town. The title was conveyed by Cyrus Bliven in 1884.

**JOHN L. AND ABRAM WEAVER**

John L. Weaver, who was born in 1845, came to California with his wife and children in 1884. He farmed for a number of years either by himself or in partnership with his brother Robert on the Merced river. In 1918 he sold his farm and retired to his own home at Manteca, where he passed away in 1936, aged 91 years, his wife have died 10 years previously.

Abram Weaver, youngest of the Weaver brothers, came to the state in 1889. He farmed with his brothers Robert and John on the Merced river. Returning to Pennsylvania in 1910, he died there a few years later.

**CHRISTIAN S. WEAVER**

C.S. Weaver, County Superintendent of Schools and son of William L. Weaver, was born on the Turner ranch, on the Lower Merced river, in 1878. He was the 4<sup>th</sup> child of the family. An older brother and sister were born in Pennsylvania, and a sister in Stockton, Calif. All the rest on the Weaver ranch southeast of Livingston. All the children of this family received their early education in the Livingston grammar school.

Mr. Weaver, the County Superintendent of Schools, was elected to that position in 1922, and still serves. He was educated in the Merced schools. His public school studies were supplemented with studies at the University of California, they Stockton Normal School, the Stockton Business College and the Fresno Teachers' College. He taught in various schools of Merced County before being elected to his present position.

He married Miss Anna Peden a native of Kentucky, and this marriage has been blessed with four children. Fraternaly Mr. Weaver is a Mason, and I. O. O. F., and a Woodman of the World.

**JOHN H. ARAKELIAN**

Though the Arakelian family never lived in the Livingston district, their faith in it through the years has never wavered. Their holdings of city property are among the



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largest and their farm developments put them in the lead of others. Besides they own and operate the Consolidated Packing Company, producers and dealers in dried fruits, particularly raisins, with head office in San Francisco and branch offices at Fresno, Sanger, Turlock and Livingston. And besides the Arakelian family owns and operates a total of 1200 acres of land devoted to the culture of grapes and peaches, the largest portion being planted to Thompson seedless in the Livingston area.

The raisin packing business was started here by this family in 1923 under the firm name of Harry Arakelian & Son. The father was the late Harry Arakelian and the son was the present John H. Arakelian who heads the Consolidated Packing Company, and looks after all the other family property in this community.

In 1928 the firm of Harry Arakelian & Son was reorganized by taking in as co-partners the firm of Catzs Brothers of Holland, the name being changed to Consolidated Parking Company, with an operating plant in Livingston. This merger was to widen the operating field of operations and to facilitate the handing of its products. This is the only concern of its kind in Livingston.

In coming to Livingston in 1916 Harry Arakelian was looking for an ideal raisin growing area. Here he found everything to his liking. He said to me one time that the Livingston district produces as fine raisins as that part of the valley adjacent to Fresno. The firm's first planting the family now has over 700 acres of producing vineyards, all being subjected to the highest state of cultivation, resulting in very heavy yields.

At the time of their promotional work around here and the buying and selling of other products of their fellow growers, it was noted as unusual the close companionship of father and son. As a business man the father was clever but honest in his transactions. Ditto the son John. Where one was the other was nearby, it used to be said of them. A better co-partnership between father and son is seldom found. Each trusted the other to do the right thing. In dealings with others their answers were yes or no, and always to the point without reservation.

In paying the above tribute to the Arakelian twain I do so after long years of acquaintance. Harry Arakelian, the father, was born at Marsavan,

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Armenia, in February, 1867, and died at his home in Turlock, California, in 1930. At the age of 24, in 1891, he was married to Miss Lucy Germain, in Constantinople. Shortly afterwards he and his wife came to America, and to Fresno to make their home.

It was at Fresno that John was born in 1893. Here he spent his childhood and his schooling days, and here it was that he learned the avocation of his father-that of developing lands, growing crops and marketing the same, together with some products of other growers of the famous San Joaquin Valley.

The Arakelian town property was bought in 1920. The family owns three choice pieces, all fronting on Third Street. One is at the corner of D Street, one is the old A. A. Hoehn building at C Street, and the other is the well-known band stand corner at B Street.

In November, 1917, John Arakelian was married to Miss Louise Adams. To them have been born two sons and one daughter. Their home life in Turlock is ideal.

John is a very likeable fellow. His kind is seldom met with. He is imperturbable under all situations. He is always mild and patient, generous and kind to a fault. It is said of him he never says a cross word to any of his large number of employees. His greetings are ever cordial, his smile a happy one. And so he goes through life.

As to fraternities, he is a prominent Mason and a member of the Livingston Rotary Club.

### **LEE A. CHASE**

The village blacksmith has been the theme of many a song and story. The most notable of them all is Longfellow's "Village Blacksmith," written about one hundred years ago. The poet immortalized him as a superman of the ages. A glamorous man he was "with large and sinewy hands." What an apotheosis he heaped upon his head. He endowed him with god-like virtues, distinguishing him above all other artisans.

In writing the above brief dissertation I have in mind our own well-known and renowned blacksmith, Lee A. Chase. As he has been wielding the sledge hammer here since 1912 he deserves more than the ordinary notice one usually gets for so long a service in the ranks of business.

Lee Austin Chase was born in the town of Woodriver,

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Nebraska, on May 18, 1883, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lindal Chase, late of Livingston. When eight years of age Lee Chase went with his parents from his native town to his father's native town of Clairmont, New Hampshire, where he attended school, and began the trade of blacksmithing. Ten years later (1901) he moved with his parents to Casper, Wyoming. Here he practiced his trade until he came to Livingston.

On June 1, 1907 he was married to Miss Ida Pardy of Cornish, N. H. Three children were the result of this union James, Ina and Francis all of whom are married and have families of their own.

Coming to Livingston in 1912 Lee Chase first rented the building he later bought (in 1915) from John Rhodes. Here he established his shop, operating is successfully until he abandoned the building in 1923. Having bought the old building in 1915 and four 25-foot lots, he, in the latter year, built his present shop as a garage for use by August Warn. Warn died in 1919 and the garage was rented to Evans Bros, who conducted a garage in it up to 1938. The old shop was a mere shack built in the 1880's by W. L. Weaver, and was finally torn down. It was here that Hummeltenberg had his saloon and the post office from 1886 to 1888. Into the garage Chase removed his blacksmith shop and tools. The old shop site in now used as a storage ground for derelict machinery, etc.

All old-timers here will readily recall the parents of Lee A. Chase. They came to this town in 1912. At one time, it is said, the Chase family constituted a large part of the population. The Chases had a family of five sons and two daughters. One daughter (Lulu Link) remained behind in Casper, Wyoming. The rest of the family were: Lee, Leslie, Lon, Lewis, Lynn, and Lettie. All of the children are still living, but in other parts of the country, Lee being the only one left here. Lynn and his brother Lon are on Whidby Island, state of Washington. Leslie now resides at Santa Cruz; Lewis in in Oakland, and Lettie now lives at Casper.

The father died in 1926; the mother in April, 1937. Mrs. Lee Chase died June 18, 1942, the contributing cause being an automobile accident.

When the father, Lindal Chase decided to move here it was not for him a new land to which he was coming. One time he told the writer that he passed this way in 1870, the year before the railway was built up the valley. He was driving cattle from a point near what is now Fresno

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to market in the cities to the north. He said he crossed the Merced river with his herd close to the present site of the railway bridge. In that early day the land was devoted to raising cattle and sheep and growing grain.

He also said that he was so favorably impressed with this district that should he ever come to California here is where he would locate. It was 42 years later that he came. His crippled condition was the result of a runaway-team accident at Casper, Wyoming, when he was engaged to hauling heavy machinery to the oil fields. From this accident he never fully recovered so as to be able to work except in a minor way.

The daughter Lettie, above referred to was for a one time a clerk in the dry goods department here of White & Crowell store.

NOTE:- After writing the foregoing I was handed the following: "The first blacksmith shop was in back of what is now known as the Subway Café (on highway No. 99) from 1912 to 1915, rented from Dave Bennett." Who the blacksmith was is not given. In the list of the original subscribers to the capital stock of the Livingston Hall association filed at Sacramento, Calif., Sept. 6, 1892, is the name of J. C. Smithlin, put down as the town blacksmith. He must have been the first member of the craft here.

### **HIRAM E. CARMICHAEL**

Hiram Ellsworth Carmichael was born in Mercer County, Pa., on Nov. 5, 1862; died at his home in Livingston Calif., on Jan. 20, 1923. He was one of a family 12 children, 5 sons and 7 daughters, all of whom grew to maturity. When his parents celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at Table Rock, Nebr., on September 4, 1901, he was present with the rest of the children. That was a rare occasion in which the whole countryside took part.

In 1882 Mr. Carmichael came to Pawnee City, Neb., where he taught school for several years, and where he was united to the Christian church.

He was married to Susan A. Howard of Pawnee City on Jan. 6, 1887 and later took up his residence on a ranch near Burlington, Colo. For several years he was identified with the schools of Colorado, filling the office of a county superintendent for a term of years. While conducting the schools of his district he operated a farm of 1000 acres.

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In 1905 he moved with his family to Ashland, Oregon, where he was engaged as principal of the schools. In 1909 he came with his family to Livingston, where he remained until his death on a farm one and one-half miles south of the town. Here he built the big concrete house now so imposing in the landscape of the countryside. This house is still owned by Mr. Carmichael's heirs and is occupied by Franklin S. Farquhar and wife. The house was built in 1911.

Besides building his own house and improving his farm of 40 acres he taught school in the first school house built in Livingston. This building may now be identified as the present office of the Livingston Chronicle. It was replaced by the present fine edifice on the north side of town, used as a primary school. His last school work was at Delhi, where he served three terms; then he quit to resume farming.

Mr. Carmichael was a well-read man, perhaps the most outstanding in the community. He was a likeable man, very generous, kind, and had a sharp sense of humor. He took an active part in all community, county and state affairs. His practice was virtue and honor in all his deals with his fellowmen. When he passed on his place in society has remained unfilled.

Mrs. Susan A. Carmichael, the widow carried on the home place until her death June 1, 1936. Both were buried in a cement vault in the Turlock cemetery. The children are: Howard E., an accountant of the Pacific Coast Bell Telephone system, now a major in the service of his country.

Charles H., mining engineer at Wallace, Idaho.

Mrs. Irene Jaderquist (widow) Dean of Girls at Brown's School for Girls at Glendora, Calif.

Lucille, Wife of Olof Lundberg, Chief Accounting officer of the University of California.

Eugene F., a teacher in the San Francisco schools, died of the flu in England on Oct. 17, 1918, while in the service of his country.

### **WILMER M. SCOTT**

An ancient Hebrew sage once affirmed that "Where there is no vision the people perish." As a thesis this is supported by modern school authorities in its adaption to teaching. Had he not have had a special vision shaping his ideals perhaps Wilmer M. Scott never would have come to Livingston as the first principal of the high school.

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It took a lot of vision to carry on where nobody had before carried on and to pave the way for others to follow. Here he planted the seed of higher educational progress, and here the seed still grows in a garden for a fuller fruition, though he is not now one of the tenders. It is the timeless application of thought and action that teaches the youth to become the all-around men and women of tomorrow. Mr. Scott possessed both of these salient virtues-thought and action.

Wilmer Morton Scott was born at Vermillion, Kansas, August 20, 1884. His father was Warner J. Scott, born at Pottsdam, N. Y., January 3, 1852. His mother was Ida May Larned, born at the village of Pleasant Valley, northern Vermont, May 5, 1860. The date of their marriage was May 5, 1878. When Wilmer was one year old his parents moved to Fairbury, Nebraska, where the family lived until 1896, when they moved to the pioneer town of Dos Palos, Calif.

In speaking of his childhood Mr. Scott tells of an interesting and adventurous angle when he was but five years old. He journeyed with his parents in a covered wagon to a homestead on the plains of eastern Colorado. Once such trip was enough to "dry up" the family enthusiasm, which resulted in returning to the Nebraska home. In the following summer the Scott family visited on pleasure and business the ancestral home in the Green Mountains of Vermont. The beautiful landscape has been a lifelong memory for the children of the family. He had but one sister, Bernice, and no brothers. His sister was born April 21, 1879, is married to E. L. Watson and lives at Pacific Grove, Calif.

Being 12 years of age when his parents moved to California, Mr. Scott finished his elementary schooling at Dos Palos, and then attended the West Side High School at Los Banos. Entering the University of California in 1906 he graduated in 1910. His college year of 1910-11 was spent in working for his general secondary credentials.

Mr. Scott's first teaching position was in the Fresno High School, which then had 1,000 students. Subsequent years were spent in administrative positions in Lone, Fillmore, Dos Palos (1919-1923). He came to the Livingston High School as its first principal in August, 1924. After closing his services here February 1, 1943, he retired by moving with his family to Pomona, Calif., Feb. 9, 1943.

He married Edith Harriman of Oakdale, Calif., August 4, 1912. Both were members of the University class of 1910. To this union were born three daughters. Jean, Margaret

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and Marian, all graduates of the Livingston High School and University of California.

When 16 years old Mr. Scott was apprenticed in the printing office of the Dos Palos Star, under the editorship of Walter W. Wilson. Here he served two years, but he never followed the trade of printing. This training, however, along with six college summers in varied engineering tasks with Miller & Lux, were of great life value and permanent interest.

### **LEON LEE**

Leon Lee, successor to Wilmer M. Scott as principal of the Livingston Union High School, came here in the autumn of 1931 to teach English, public speaking and social science. His good work shows how well he has fulfilled the faith imposed in him by the Board of Education. In the spring of 1938 he was elevated to the principal ship, assuming full charge at the beginning of the fall term of that year. Though his health has not been the best for the year past. He still holds forth, hoping for final recovery. His affliction is rare-sleeping sickness, hard to shake off.

Mr. Lee was born December 18, 1905, at Almo, Kentucky, son of Marvin and Alta (Burkeen) Lee. He attended the schools of his native town. When his parents died he came to southern California to live with an uncle. In 1922 he entered the Excelsior High School, from which, he graduated in 1926. Then entering the Whittier College he graduated in 1930, receiving his B. A. degree. He took a year's post-graduate course at the University of California, from which he received his Certificate for teaching. During the summer of 1935 and 1940 he attended the Stanford University.

Mr. Lee's specialty is athletics, being an adept in football and basketball. After coming to Livingston he took up tennis. Becoming highly proficient in this game he coaches it in the Livingston High, producing a number of first class players.

The only organization to which Mr. Lee belongs are the National Educational and the California Teachers' Association. His wife was Miss Esther Davenport of Hollywood. They have three children, Doris, Robert Lion Lee and Mary Ann.

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### **JOSEPH C. CARPENTER**

Born at Lone, Calif., June 25, 1889, Joseph C. Carpenter came to Livingston in August, 1928, to take up his duties as a coach and teacher of history at the High School. He has remained ever since on the local faculty, and now teaches mathematics.

Since his first day here Joe Carpenter has had many irons in the fire of his efforts, and has succeeded fairly well in all of them. He has not only done duty as a school teacher, but he has built one of the finest country homes in this area-built in 1933, about a mile west of town. He operates a dairy on the Merced river, with 40 head of stock. Besides he handles two grape farms in the Japanese colony north of town. Of course he manages to obtain good help else he could not get by with all the work such operations entail.

But he has a good wife as a factor in his efforts to succeed, and three husky daughters to go along with her. They are Margaret, Barbara and Patricia, all adept at taking on learning in school work. They especially inclined toward helping the folks at home.

But how may one account for this efficiency in one man's family? Perhaps it is heritage. It is so that Joe's family life has been about as idealistic as many be found anywhere in this hard-shelled age of scoffing at good intentions.

Joe's father was a Rhode Islander, born at Peacedale, that state April 27, 1855. He came to California in 1873, settling at Lone. It was here he married Margaret Fairchild, and it was here all his children were born-six girls and one boy. Joe is that one lone boy. What a life he must have let with six sisters! Maybe that accounts for Joe's combative proclivities.

His wife was Hazel Ornberg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Ornberg of Turlock, Calif. They were married on June 20, 1920. After living around for four years they came to Livingston, where he has followed his multiple avocations with signal success. He received his preliminary schooling at Lone, where he graduated from both the grammar and high schools with high honors. Entering the University of California at Berkeley, he graduated in 1912. Since then he spent all his efforts in school work-32 years. That is a long time to consecrate oneself to teaching the youth how to navigate the rolling ship of life.



### **A. STANLEY COURT**

Beginning his career here as a lad, in co-operation with his father, the late Albert Court, he has reached the status of middle life and the pinnacle of local success, as became his right by reason of close application to that which he first set out to do, and doing it very well.

With the above I salute Albert Stanley Court, city mayor and manager of two theaters-one in Livingston and one in Atwater.

Stanley came here as a boy in 1909, and has progressively risen to the top of business success. With all his energetic endeavors to make good he is still hale and hearty. And in this respect, shows no signs of a let-up. But let us see just how it was he became one of the leading men of the community.

He was born in Wapello, Saskatchewan, Canada, February 4, 1897. He is therefore in his 48<sup>th</sup> year. This is the age when life has really begun for most people. When he was ten years old his parents moved to San Francisco. Since then he has become thoroughly acclimated and translated into a good American citizen, of which he is very proud.

His father died January 21, 1930. His mother Marian Court, who resides in her own apartment in the Court Building. Mrs. Court's maiden name was Leeding. She had one brother who was a clergyman of the Church of England. Her father was a professor of mathematics at Cambridge. The letter "S" in all the Court family names is for her maternal grandmother on the father's side-an Elizabeth Stanley, a well-known and distinguished name in England.

There were nine children in the Court family seven of whom are still living. In order of age they are: Mrs. S. Holley, widow of the late Bert Holley; Arthur S. Court, Gilbert S. Court, Harold S. Court, who died in San Francisco in 1909, aged 20 years; Eleanor S. Allen (now Mrs. Grist) of San Jose; Edwin S. Court of Wapello, Canada; Albert S. Court (subject of this sketch) of Livingston; Dorothy S. Choisser, who died in 1932; Vincent S. Court, the youngest child.

The father was a contractor and builder in his native district, Croydon, England. In his younger days he worked in and about the famous Crystal Palace. With his wife and family he came to Canada in 1892, where he continued the practice of his trade. In 1907 he moved to San Francisco, continuing the same work.

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While still in the city he met an agent of the Stevinson Colony lands, which resulted in him buying ten acres. But soon afterwards he lost all interest in such a land deal. While coming from Turlock to Stevinson on a lumber wagon a well-known dust storm came up out of a blue sky. As a result of this big blow he abandoned his plans, and instead came, later, to Livingston where he bought 10 acres due north of town in the Japanese Colony. It was to this farm he moved in 1909.

Soon after he formed a partnership with Finch Wilcox and together they built the Northside elementary school, and in 1911 constructed part of the Crowell block. Having sold his farm he built a residence at the corner of Cressey Way and Crowell Street and moved into it in the spring of 1916.

At the time the Court family moved to town Stanley was 19 years old. He attended the local grammar school and graduated in 1912. His first teacher was Miss Mary Halterman, now Mrs. Stanfield, who taught later at Atwater. His second teacher was the late H. E. Carmichael.

The manner of his getting into the theater business was by chance. It was this way: In 1914 the Women's Improvement Club bought a silent-movie projector. None of the club members knew how to operate it. They called on Stanley and his father for help. Neither one knew a thing about the instrument; but soon they learned, and ere long they had a business of their own going on a paying basis. The business grew so fast the old facilities were outmoded.

In the fall of 1916 they began the construction of the present Court building on Third street with a theater attached. Not having enough work for two Stanley became an employee of the Merced Lumber Company yard here. There he worked by day and helped his father run the show business at night. In 1918 he joined service for World War one. He saw duty on the S. S. Nan Shan at San Diego and other coastal points. Soon as the war was over he returned home.

Like all sailors and soldiers he left a girl behind him. She was Miss Norma Herndon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Herndon, then of this place. On March 21, 1919, they were married. They have but one child Stanley Jr., who is now in the Merical Corps of World War two.

After the father's death in 1930 Stanley took over the theater business, and still continues it himself, adding

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the Atwater theater since then. He was the first to introduce the sound machines with all standard equipment. He provides movie amusement equal to any in the larger cities. Stanley Court has been a member of the city council for 12 years, serving as mayor since 1942. He has been a Mason since that lodge was organized here.

Note-Fire at the early hour of July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1945, damaged the Court's theater to such an extent that it was made useless for further operations. As a result a theater building is planned by the Courts for Livingston on a new site on Third Street adjoining the library on the south. The Court building is to be repaired and remodeled for use by Roy's store and as an apartment above. Construction of the new theater is already under way.

### **GORDON H. WINTON**

For 30 years Gordon Harvey Winton has served his district comparable by no one else. Coming here from Merced in 1914 as manager of the first Bank of Livingston, he has been a constant booster for every community good. What he is not is hard to say. Being city clerk and the collector of city bills, he comes in contact with every household in town. Besides, he is the law-giver, the advisor, the good scout, the friend of everybody, with a good-will offering for everyone seeking information, no matter what the subject.

He is a member of the local Methodist church and its treasurer, secretary of the Livingston Lodge of Masons, the Rotary Club, the Livingston Chamber of Commerce, conducts a real estate and insurance office; and aside from being city clerk he is a notary public. Yes, he is busy morning noon and night-in truth he is the busiest man in town.

Mr. Winton is a native of California. He was born at Lakeport, Lake County, on January 22, 1885. His father was Rev. James B. Winton, a Methodist minister and a native of Springfield, Missouri. His mother was Jessie Williams, native of Booneville, Missouri. His mother was a direct descendant of the Great Roger Williams, Puritan dissenter, who arrived in Boston in 1631, and founded Rhode Island in 1636. Later he organized the first Baptist Church of America.

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The parent moved to California in 1883, with Healdsburg as their first home, and where the father had a charge. Three years later the parents moved to Plainsburg, Merced County, where the father held the Methodist charge. In May, 1892, while on a trip in the foothills, the father had an attack of ptomaine poisoning, from the effects of which he died. The mother bought a ten-acre farm in the McSwain school district. Here she lived ten years while bringing up her family of small children. For better school advantages the mother moved with her family to the city of Merced in 1902.

Mr. Winton graduated from the McSwain grammar school in 1899; from the Merced High commercial course in 1901, finishing the Merced academic course in 1904, at the age of 19.

His first job was a clerkship in the Yosemite Transportation Company in the summer of 1905. From 1905 to 1907 he worked for the Commercial Bank of Merced, and for seven more years he was with the Commercial Savings Bank of Merced.

In 1914 the First Bank of Livingston wanted a manager. Mr. Winton was recommended for the position. Thus he made his first advent into the Livingston field. He remained with the bank until 1923. During those years he was prominent in every land development. It was easy to get money and easy to lend it for anything worthwhile.

In October, 1912 Mr. Winton and Miss Mildred Stoddard were united in marriage. She is a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Dower K. Stoddard of Merced. They have three sons, all in the services of their country. Gordon H., Jr. is married. His home is at San Bruno, but his wife and two children are with him at Lakehurst, N. J., with the military title of Lieutenant Commander. He is a graduate of the University of California and has taken two terms at law, which he was still pursuing at the time of his entrance into the service. Stoddard, the second son, is a radio man in the United States Navy, serving in the North Pacific area. He is married, but his wife works at home in Mr. Winton's office as a clerk. Keith, the third son is married. He is in the Navy stationed at Norfolk, Va.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Winton are active members of the Methodist church and the Eastern Star. Mr. Winton was a member of the first city council. He served as mayor in 1926 to 1928. He has been city clerk

since 1931, which position makes him the outstanding member of the civic body.

#### **F. MARION ECCLEFIELD**

The Ecclefields, Marion and his wife Minnie, have been established for so long as fixtures in this community that it is hard to reckon time with their progress in local affairs. They have advanced and prospered mostly through their own efforts. In other words they have made good on their own initiative. They possessed the starting power required to begin or date new undertakings and the energy to carry them through.

The subject of this sketch, Francis Marion Ecclefield, was born Feb. 14, 1873, on a 90-acre farm, near Charleston, Greenwood County, Kansas, in the southeastern part of the state. His father was the late Frank Ecclefield of Livingston, and his mother was Cordelia Slutz, of Pennsylvania Dutch extraction, who was raised at Lima, Ohio.

Frank Ecclefield, the father, was a native of Scarborough, England. There is a town named Ecclefield in the same district. Marion says that once while talking with an Englishman from that town he the remark, "Ah, a mere village of forty thousand." That would be a good-sized city in the U. S. A.

His parents having died when he was a small boy, Frank Ecclefield, came at the age of eight years, with an aunt and uncle to the United States, His early years were spent at Lima, Ohio. As a young man he migrated, with others, to Kansas, where he became a farmer. Marion had no sisters and but one brother Zeph, still living in Livingston.

Marion's childhood, as well as that of Zeph's was spent on his father's farm. He learned to grow wheat and corn and oats, besides chickens, turkeys and cattle.

It was on that farm that his mother died in 1893. Three years later Marion (aged 23 years) and Zeph (aged 21) decided to come to California. On Sept. 27, 1896, they landed in Livingston, to follow, any work that might develop. That was 48 years ago. So this is how the Ecclefields may be classed as real pioneers. During the intervening years Marion has had many business and other adventures, with farming as the mainstay of his earlier operations. With it all he has had his ups and downs.

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Marion's first employer, as well as that of Zeph, was with the large grain farmers. First with Henry Blewett in the Whitmer district, then later with Cal and Orin Wakefield, who grain-farmed a large part of the Cressey holdings northeast of town; then with John and Stillman Swan, also grain growers on the Cressey lands. Stillman Swan was the father of Herb Swan, city water superintendent.

His health not being the best he took up work at the Livingston hotel, owned by Ben Berry. Being economical he had saved enough money that when Berry was ready to leave here in 1904 Marion bought the hotel and business.

On May 20, 1903, he and Miss Minnie Morton were married. She is the daughter of William H. Morton, who lived on the Simpson ranch, then owned by Frank Suter, a well-known resident here for many years. In the Morton family were three children-Minnie, Mayme and William. Minnie and William are best known here. The latter is chief man in the large grocery, meat and hardware store operated under the firm name of "Ecclefields." The Morton children attended school here in the original school house, now the office of the Livingston Chronicle.

After four years in the hotel business Marion sold his interest to a man named Hilden. He and his brother bought the Simpson farm, situated by the Merced River at the railway bridge crossing. Here the brothers specialized in turkey raising, with cattle and hogs as a side line. Their turkey raising was in the days before hatcheries and brooders. Of a flock of 2,500 or more every turkey was hatched by brooding hens. In feeding turkey's at fall-fattening time the Ecclefields say it was gay sport herding them by horseback over the immense grain fields after harvest time. In this work Minnie Ecclefield joined with much pleasure.

In 1918 Marion and Zeph sold their farm. Of it Charles H. Edwards bought 80 acres, or that part west of and south of the railway line, which he planted to grapes and almonds. That part north of the railway was sold to other interests.

Soon after selling out here Marion bought a 200-acre farm on Arwood Island, at the mouth of the San Joaquin River. He held this until the end of 1922 when he came to Livingston, and on January 1, 1923, bought the grocery department of the old White & Crowell store. This store he operated in the middle of the Crowell block until July 28, 1939, when he moved to the present quarters. Later he acquired the hardware department of F. E. Crowell.

The father, Frank Ecclefield, after selling his farm in

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Kansas, came to Livingston in 1907. Here he spent the last 25 years of his life, dying January 17, 1932.

Aside from once filling the office of city councilman, Marion is a member of the Lodge of Elks of Merced, is a member of and was worshipful master of the Livingston Lodge of Masons, and a member of the local Eastern Star. He and his wife are charter members and have the distinction of being-she as the first worthy matron and he as the first worth patron of the Star here.

The Ecclefield home is in the southwestern part of the city, in the house build and lived in by Finch Wilcox, the contractor and builder for a few years after 1910.

A laudable hobby of the Ecclefields is the large flower garden in the spacious grounds of their home. The scene delights the eye of every passer-by.

### **MATTHEW C. JENKINS**

Among the men who have made good in Livingston and of the San Joaquin valley is Matthew Comstock Jenkins. He is a farmer and is happy to say he likes it. He now owns and operates the 360 acres of the L. D. Van Horn lands northeast of town, with some small acreage added later, and is interested with Walter Batterman in 300 acres in the Delhi district.

Mr. Jenkins first came to California in 1921 to visit a sister, Mrs. Laura Snyder of San Rafael. Following that trip he got a job as foreman on the big farm of the California Packing Company at Tuttle. Here he got his first experience in growing peaches and apricots. It was on the Van Horn lands he later learned about the culture of grapes, especially the Thompson seedless.

He was born in the city of New York June 9, 1898. He is now in his 46<sup>th</sup> year of age-a little past the time when life begins and wisdom is at its fullest. "I like farming," he says, "because it offers the best one may wish for."

His father was Matthew C. Jenkins and his mother was Isodore Ely, both of whom died when he was 14, and both at the age of 46 years. After his parents' death he made his home with an aunt. His first schooling was in Moses Brown's Quaker school at Providence, Rhode Island. At the age of 17 he entered Williams College at Williamstown, Mass. He did not graduate, for the reason that as soon as the First World War broke he entered the services. At the close of

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the war he was in the foreign exchange department of the Union Trust Company of New York, where he worked until he came to this state.

In 1926 he came to the Livingston district and bought his first farm, which had already been planted to peaches and grapes. On that part of his lands nearest to Arena he built a fine residence, in which he since has made his home. This is a home that would distinguish any occupant. It could well be called "Country Squire's Estate."

The farm at Delhi was later adventure. This land he acquired in 1937 in co-partnership with Walter Batterman. On it he built a dehydrator, by the use of which he was enabled to handle all his own big peach and grape crop. He claims that it was by this plant he was saved from the "red" in the low-price days.

So, in brief, this is how the city man became a farmer on lands where others before had failed. While it took money to make all his improvements and experiments, in the end he has won to a creditable degree what he first set out to accomplish-make good.

In his operations Vic Pia is his right hand man on the home farm. Of him Mr. Jenkins says: "Vic is a good man for the job-none better anywhere." His regular force of employees through the year is 14 men. During the peak in harvest time from 40 to 50 are added.

Mr. Jenkins is a trustee for Livingston on the Merced Union High School board-the first public office he has ever held. He has served this district for five years, and gives general satisfaction. He has a wife and three children.

### **GEORGE W. STEWART**

George W. Stewart came to Livingston in 1911 for the purpose of inspecting land under the Crocker-Huffman water system, with the view of buying a farm. Being satisfied he bought 20 acres-the site of his home, due east of the high school about a mile-for which he paid \$125 per acre, undeveloped.

At the time he was employed in an oil field near Bakersfield. Later he went to Tampico, Mexico, where he remained for ten years, while waiting for this district to development, as it was bound to do under then then expanding irrigation system. Now, after 33 years, he is a permanent fixture in the community, tending his own little farm faithfully and with



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high hopes.

Grapes being the most profitable crop grown here, he had 18 acres planted Thompsons and Malaga's, equally divided. This left him two acres for his house, barn, stable, garage, garden, etc. It cost him \$700 per acre to get those grapes started, with no end to the additional expense. He started those improvements in 1921, while still absent, with a total actual outlay of over twenty thousand dollars.

George is a farmer both by inheritance and through necessity. He spent the first 21 years of his life on his father's 400-acre farm near Shelbyville, Tenn. This estate is still in the family name, with his mother in possession, and operated by a brother. George is but one of eight children. He is descended from the Stewarts-notable Episcopalian divines of Virginia more than 200 years ago. His grandfather migrated to Tennessee over one hundred years ago. It was on the farm that Mr. Stewart got his farming experience.

Why he is a farmer by necessity is another story. On a foggy February night in 1929, while traveling by auto from work to his home in Huntington Beach Calif., he was run into by another auto at a cross street. Both cars were wrecked. As a result George was unconscious for 21 days with an injured neck and partly paralyzed on the left side. It was six months before he recovered sufficiently to get out of the hospital. He was never afterwards able to follow his work in the oil fields.

Returning to Livingston with all his cash gone for hospital and other bills, he set about to retrieve his lost fortune and incidentally, his health. With the help of his good wife and his daughter Barbara results have been beyond expectation. Since that day he has built a modern six room cottage, a garage, barn, chicken houses, planted peaches, pears, plums, almonds, walnuts pecans, and filled a large yard with vegetable, flowers, trees and blooming shrubs-all in that part of the 20 original acres reserved for his dwelling house.

George Steward and family have interesting backgrounds, supported by genealogical facts. He is descended from the royal house of Steward (some spell the name Stuart), created in Scotland in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and ending with defeat at the battle of Culloden, under the leadership of Prince Charles, on April 16, 1746. Prince Charles pretender to the throne of England. But George know little about those hectic days, What he is now mostly concerned about is his little farm and family.

He was born in Alabama August 8, 1884. His father was

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Daniel Stewart, coal land operator in Alabama. Acquiring quite a competence from the coal the father went to Shelbyville, where he bought the Tillman mansion, built by the father of Senator Tillman of South Carolina in 1862. Here George spent his boyhood, and then went into the oil fields to work becoming an expert driller.

Mrs. George Stewart also has no less an interesting family history. Her father was Capt. Barlow L. Walker, descendant of Col. John Walker, who came from Ireland in 1671, settling on the Rapidan in Virginia. Her father was born at Eufalfa, Georgia, Nov. 30, 1860; died at Porters, Texas, August 28, 1904. His wife was Ella B. Heise descendant of the Heise Families one of the founders of Lancaster, Pa. As a youth Barlow Walker was appointed a cadet to West Point, but later joined the U. S. Signal Corps, located at Ft. Myer, Washington D. C. His commission as captain was signed by President Benjamin Harrison.

After their marriage Capt. And Mrs. Walker moved to Texas, where he became a well-known land surveyor, and where, at Porter, Josephine was born on Dec. 7, 1898.

On Dec. 22, 1916, she and George were married. To them were born (in Texas) two children, Barbara and George. The latter died in July 14, 1936. With the exception of a few years Barbara spent all her adult life in Livingston. She is a graduate of the local grammar school, of the Livingston high school, and of the College of the Pacific, at Stockton.

On June 20, 1940, Barbara was married to Clyde V. Jones Jr., also a graduate of the College of the Pacific, in civil engineering. To them have been born two children Joey and Clyde Jr. III. The father now is in the service of the country in the "C.B.'s"-Construction Battalion, U.S.N., located in Rhode Island. For the duration Barbara and children are staying home with her parents, and filling a teacher's position in local schools.

### **GLENWOOD SHEESLEY**

Glenwood Sheesley has spent almost all his working days in the dairy business in the Livingston district. He has milked cows, fed them curried the, cured them, and even bathed them ever since he was old enough to know the nature of a cow. Dairying has been his special ambition since he came into the world at Burlingame, Kansas, on New Year 's Day, 1901. He was Christened Norman Glen-

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wood Sheesley, but has always been known as "Glen."

Norman is from his father's middle name-Andrew Norman Sheesley: Glenwood is from one of his mother's ancestors-the Wood family. A George Wood, one of her ancestors, came to New England in one of the first ships following Mayflower. He wrote the first boom story for the Puritan settlement. Printed in book form in 1639 this became the best extant history of early New England.

The Wood family, together with the Hosmer's, became noted in the development of the towns and country around Concord, Mass. About such matters, however, Glenwood is modest enough to say little. I got such information by reading "ancient" history. It is good enough to know that he is descended from pure Puritan stock, on his mother's side.

In the fall of 1908 Glenwood came with his parents to the Livingston District, and has stayed right on the job. His father was born on a farm near Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, where he spent his younger years. Early his father moved to Ohio, and later Andrew migrated to Kansas.

The primary purpose of the elder Sheesley in coming here was to start a dairy. His wife's brother, Clayton G. Wood, a traveling auditor of the Santa Fe railway, sold him his first 40 acres of land, to which he later added 20 acres. Here he built his house and began his dairy, which was taken over by Glenwood in 1924.

Glenwood attended the Arena elementary school, then the Livingston grammar school, graduating from the Merced high in 1919. He attended the state agricultural school at Davis, specializing in husbandry and dairying, graduating in 1922. While in school he took many prizes in judging livestock. Later he became an instructor at the college.

On August 1, 1924, he married Miss Beatrice Day of Winters. After which he returned home and assumed full charge of his father's dairy. During the 20 years he has increased his dairy herd at home to 70 cows, adding another 50-cow herd to a dairy he has established on a farm near Atwater.

Glenwood has an amiable disposition. He never gets ruffled, and is held in high esteem by all of his many friends. It is well that he is so, for in that lies much of his success. He never fails in giving advice when asked for by other dairymen. His farm is two miles southeast of Livingston, fronting the railway and No. 99 Highway.

He and his wife are active members of the Methodist church, the local lodge of Masons and Eastern Star. Mrs.

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Sheesley is on the teaching staff of the Livingston grammar school, where she has been for nearly 20 years. He has one brother, Clayton, and a sister, Mrs. Lois Moore.

### **JOE P. MENDONCA**

The Azores in a semi-tropical isle in the mid-Atlantic. Yet many a good son and daughter have come the long way from there to this San Joaquin Valley for spiritual and material betterment. Among the many who have made this journey is Joe Mendonca, a good representative of his nationality.

He was born May 25, 1889, on the Island of Flores, a land of small farms and big families, and is one of a family of 12 children. His parents and their forbears for many generations back were native to the Azores. There the soil is scanty but fertile. They till it as they did centuries ago. The farmers live in towns and go to their land to cultivate it.

Joe attended school in his native town, never reaching the higher institutions of learning. He learned farming on his father's estate, hence his life's calling.

At the age of 17 it was decided to send him with his sister, Miss Wilhelmina, to make their home with an uncle on Taylor Island, near Walnut Grove, west of Sacramento. They crossed the ocean in mid-winter, landing in New York on March 12, 1906; thence to the home of their uncle.

For six years Joe worked for his uncle and other farmers, while in the meantime he learned to read and write English. In 1912 he came to Atwater, farming the Drakely place. On December 30, 1912, he and Miss Mary, daughter of Manuel Mattos of Atwater, were married. The following year (1913) he moved to the Livingston district.

Two years later he bought the first 25 acres of his present farm of 69 acres. For years he cropped this land with sweet potatoes, having more than ordinary success. From sweets he gradually drifted into the dairy business, and now has a milking herd of 40 cows, in charge of a son. His ranch is about three miles southwest of town.

In the meantime he worked hard for everything that would advance the best interests of this district. He helped to organize the first sweet potato association (now defunct). For years he was elected to and served the office of trustee for the Whitmer School. During World War One he promoted the sale of many Liberty Bonds. In 1923 he was chiefly re-

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sponsible for having the rural mail delivery service extended from Livingston to the south and southwest. When the Bank of America established its branch here in 1928 he was a member of the advisory board. He also helped to organize and build the Catholic town church, of which he and his wife are members. In 1919 he became an American citizen-the proudest event of his life. And now he lives retired in his own home in town-the Scott residence at the south end of Second Street.

In doing all the above Joe has raised a family of four sons and two daughters as follows: Mary married to Joe Sacramento of Winton; Cecelia, at home; Joe Jr., the eldest son in the navy on the Cruiser Phoenix; Louie, at home on the farm; Edward and Gilbert in the service of the armed forces of the country.

### **WILLIAM C. LAW**

In August, 1933, William C. Law, the general farmer and successful dairyman, arrived in Livingston from San Francisco, with a young family on his hands to feed. He bought the old Herndon farm of 40 acres a mile southeast of town, later he added 50 acres. He had very little money but he had plenty of unrealized ambition. So he set to work to make good, and has done that very thing. He had spent four years in the city in an effort to succeed. In the end he failed. Hence his return to country life.

Mr. Law does not hesitate to say he has prospered beyond expectation. Like many such farms this new purchase of Law's was somewhat "run down at the heels." He had little money, but he wouldn't say QUIT. And he never has. He is in the prime of life-50 past. He is a hard worker, a good manager, and if his present good health continues, he will continue to thrive when others told him it couldn't be done.

He was born July 7, 1893, at Lafayette, near Nashville, Tenn. His great grandfather had come from Ireland more than a hundred years ago and settled near that village. There his grandfather and his father were born and reared. It was here that William grew up and went to the little red school house in Green Valley. He is one of a family of 12 children, nine of whom are still living.

He acquired his farming experience on his father's farm of 160 acres. In this work he spent his life with the excep-

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tion of four years he wasted in San Francisco. In the First World War he spent a year in France, without impairing he health.

Returning from France he was married to Miss Eva Jent on May 20, 1919. Having a farm of 100 acres of his own in Tennessee, he gathered further experience in agriculture, and was successful. In 1928 he sold his native state farm and moved with his family to San Francisco, where he had a brother living.

The purpose of this move was to better his financial condition. But the result is a part of his life he wishes most to say little about. Born and raised on a farm he never could overcome his distaste for city life. He did not come to Livingston because of any particular desire to be here; it was merely because he found a "good buy" and took advantage of it.

In his 11 years of residence here, he has restored his farm to normalcy, and raises sufficient alfalfa and other hay to feed his fast growing dairy herd of 42 cows. It was this herd with its constant additions that has made for his success.

Before the Second World War began he had three fine sons to help him in his work. But two of them have gone to war. Denton is on the fighting front in France, and Joe is serving in the South Pacific. Calvin the youngest is at home and in high school, and a great service to his father.

### **EUGENE B. KEMPER**

Eugene B. Kemper is a native Californian. He was born March 2, 1882, at Biggs, Butte County. He was christened Eugene, but what the "B" stand for he does not wish to state on account of its feminine implication. His father was Charles Kemper, born in Berlin, Germany, where he spent his childhood and attended school. In the year about 1864, at the age of 18, he came to the United States. Finally coming to Biggs, he learned the harness making business, and there he spent the rest of his life as a successful and prosperous citizen.

Mr. Kemper's mother was Nora Brightman, born and raised in Chicago. At an early age she came with her parents to Biggs, where her parents owned and operated the Biggs hotel. Later the Brightman's operated a hotel at Ashland, Oregon, but eventually returned to Biggs. Charles

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Kemper and Nora Brightman were married at Biggs, where they raised a family of three daughters and two sons.

Mr. Kemper's education was not of an academic kind, but gave him a good start in life. Graduating from the Biggs grammar school, he spent two years at the Sacramento high, then he got a job in the "Corner Drug Store." While thus working he studied at night on a business course.

Entering the College of Physicians and Surgeons at San Francisco for a course in pharmacy, he had no trouble in making the grades. After graduating from the school, he worked four years for the well-known Charles F. Fuller, who by the way later established the Modesto Gun Club grounds southwest of Livingston.

He was still in the city by the bay when the earthquake of 1906 knocked him out of a job. Then he went to Sacramento and opened his own drug store. He spent four years in the Capital City, sold out his business at a good figure and went to Winters. After four years there he again sold a successful business and came direct Livingston, where he still lives.

He arrived here on February 4, 1922. On the following March 11<sup>th</sup> he, with his partners, opened a dry goods store in the Ottman building. With him at the time came his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Stark, their son Allen and the latter's sister, Mrs. Edna Kemper. After a while the store became known as Kemper & Stark, general merchandise, etc. In the meantime he accumulated a stock of groceries, this later becoming his whole business, Allen Stark having sold his interests to Kemper.

In 1933 Mr. Kemper erected his own business block adjoining the Ottman building on the south. Owing to the war and difficulties in conducting any kind of an enterprise he closed his grocery store for the duration. Since June, 1943, Mr. Kemper has been the head of the government employment service here in an office on Highway No. 99.

On June 13, 1913, he and Miss Edna Stark were united in marriage. To them were born two sons, Eugene and Jack. Eugene is married and has two children. Jack is married, and is now in the air service Lemoore, California.

Mr. Kemper is a member of the local lodge of Masons, the Eastern Star, a Scottish Rite, the city council, chamber of commerce, and the Farm Bureau. Mrs. Kemper is a member of the Eastern Star and of the grammar school teaching faculty.

**ANDREW ESCOLA**

Andrew Escola, the farmer living about one mile due west of town on the river road, was born in a little town, Merifarus, near Helsingfors, Finland, on July 21, 1880. His father was a sailor in the romantic day of wind-jammers. By application to work the father rose to be a ship carpenter. In 1883, while in the harbor of San Francisco, he took a contract for building the kind of ships he himself had sailed the Seven Seas. This, then, was the beginning of the end of his following the sea as a calling.

Mr. Escola tells me he has little remembrance of his childhood home in Finland. It all seems like a long-ago dream to him now. A reminder of it came over the radio awhile back when he heard a cradle-song like the one his mother sang to put him to sleep in his native land. That is his never-never land of childhood.

After the father became established in San Francisco he sent for his wife and family to join him. Andrew was about four years of age when he crossed Europe and the Atlantic Ocean and the United States with his mother for this family reunion. He recalls that while crossing the ocean he heard another little boy talking Finish. This later proved to be a brother of the girl who became his wife in later years, although she was not born until a year later. The family was also coming to San Francisco, though the two families did not get acquainted until the end of the journey. The name of that family was Nyman and the daughter was Miss Ida, who later became Mrs. Escola.

With many other children, Andrew first learned to talk English in the schools of Mendocino County. In 1889 the father went with his family to Mendocino County to take up a homestead. After finishing his school years Andrew got a job in a lumber camp, where he spent 34 years. He worked hard and saved his money with the purpose of buying a farm, to which he could later retire.

In 1923 he came to El Nido district, Merced County, and bought his farm on which to bring up his seven sons and one daughter. He spent eight years there in a grim struggle for existence. This venture proving a failure, on account of lack of water for irrigation he came to Livingston district with much faith and hope for a better future.

He bought 157 acres of the original tract of the late William McConnell and preceded at once to convert it into a model dairy farm. He first built a new house. It has



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the outward aspect of a Swiss chalet, and contains eleven rooms, with all modern conveniences. Given a touch of varnish inside and fitted with new furniture it presents a regal appearance. All this work he did himself with the help of his sons and the advice of his good wife.

In the meantime he built up a dairy herd of 34 cows to bring in the monthly income, with chickens, geese and pigs on the side.

Mrs. Escola was stricken with an incurable disease three years ago. All medical attention failed to give relief and she died January 8, 1945, at San Diego. The body was brought home and laid to rest in the Winton Cemetery.

The children are: Arthur of Fresno, Reynold of San Anselmo, Allen of Atwater, Mrs. Helen Wolfsen of Dos Palos, George and Richard at home; Staff Sergeant Jack Escola is in the service in the South Pacific; and Ted a Yeoman of the second class, in in charge of a Recruiting office in Chicago.

### **McDONOUGH BROTHERS**

While not partners in the farming business, they are operating in operative methods. Their occupation is the result of environment. Practically all their lives they have lived next to the soil. They know what it entails if followed intelligently.

Jay Austin McDonough is the oldest of these brothers. He was born August 19, 1893. James Harvey McDonough was born August 20, 1896. La Grange, Calif., is the town of their nativity. Josephus McDonough was their father, born and raised at South Bend, Indiana, where at the early age, he worked for Studebaker Bros., who made buggies and wagons.

In 1874, at the age of 21, the father came to California to follow farming near Stockton. It was there that he met Miss Harriet, daughter of Eli Amsbaugh, a well-known farmer of the Atlanta area, whose wife was a daughter of Judge Albert Brush, who had come to California with his parents in 1849 in a covered wagon, at the age of four years. The Brushes were from Maine and claimed kinship to the ancestors of Admiral Dewey of Manila fame. The mother of these two boys is still living at the age of 81 years.

In 1901 the McDonough family moved to the Merced district, where the boys attended the El Capitan school.

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Later the father moved with his family to the Bloss farm on the west side of the Merced River, a mile downstream from the present bridge of highway No. 99. After the father's death in 1925, the family moved to the east side of the Merced River, to the Henry farm, now the site of the home of Jay Austin, on the higher bluff overlooking the Merced River. This farm contains 30 acres.

On an 18 acre tract adjoining Austin on the west Harvey also built himself a residence. Thus they lived side by side as farmers on a small scale until eight years ago, when Harvey sold his house and acreage to his brother Austin. This transfer gave Austin 48 acres. Harvey then bought his present 59 acres-a part of the Copeland farm, the original of which was owned by Josiah Bink, who build a residence on it in the late 1860's, on the site of which Weaver Baily has his dwelling place.

Thus we find the brothers now conducting different farm institutions-one raising turkeys, the other milking cows. At one time a few years back both had from 3,000 to 4,000 turkeys each, but since the war Austin keeps only 1,000 laying turks to provide eggs for the hatching market. Harvey has dispensed with all his turks and devotes his time to caring for a dairy herd of 30 milking cows. This keeps him busy day and night, but he has milking machines to help in the work.

### **CHRISTIAN W. NOBBE**

Among the farmers who have succeeded here by reason of being devoted to the work is Christian W. Nobbe, better known by his friends as Chris. He is not only a farmer but one of the district elementary school trustees fully aware of his duties. He is a member of the American Legion, a member of the Lutheran church, holding the position of its regular organist for 20 years. Besides he is a friendly advocate of all the good things that go to make up a community.

Chris was born on a farm near Worden, Illinois, on May 18, 1897. His father was born and raised on a farm in the State of New York. In early life the father migrated to Illinois, settling on a farm. There he was married to Anna L. Vieker, a kinsman of Carl Vieker, a near neighbor of Chris. The original family farm of the Nobbe's in Illinois is still occupied and operated by a brother of Chris' father.

When Chris was ten years old his parents moved with him to a big farm near Pleasant Valley, Oklahoma, where he got his first farm experience. Reaching the age of manhood he went to Winfield, Kansas, where he worked while attending school. At the outbreak of World War one he joined the army, on August 30, 1918. He saw service at Ft. Riley, El Paso, Newport News, Norfolk, and Washington, D. C.

After recovering sufficiently to travel from a long siege of pneumonia he came to Livingston, Calif., on April 23, 1920. At first he accepted any kind of work he could find, and later bought 40 acres of land to develop. Selling 20 acres he retained and developed 20 acres, which is now his home place-a mile or so southwest of Livingston.

Chris had now arrived at the when it behooves a young man to take a wife. He was lucky his selection in the person Miss Vinnie Eshelman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Eshelman, a well-known family of this district, and farmers as well. They were married on January 1, 1923, and I am told they have lived happily together ever since. They have two sons, Harold and Charles, both graduates of Livingston high school, and in the service of the country. They also have two daughters, both in school.

To meet the needs of a growing family five years ago the Nobbes set about to build a new residence. It is situated on the northwest corner of the farm-on that part of the acreage not devoted to grapes. The house is modern in every detail, with all the essential gadgets for good housekeeping complete. It contain six large rooms, insulated and plaster-

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ed, with electric lights. Aside from grapes, the Nobbes keep a cow, some chickens, a pig or two and good garden plot for family use.

Mrs. Florence Isbel, Vinnie's maternal grandmother, living at the home of the Eshelman's, has the honor of being almost a covered wagon baby, She missed the event by only 24 hours, instead she is now a native daughter. In the spring of 1852 her father (Hansacker), a native of Georgia, started from Missouri with his young wife in an ox team for California. They landed at Atlanta (1852), near Stockton, where Mrs. Isbel was born 24 hours later. She still is living and enjoying good health.

Mr. Nobbe thinks that fate directed his course in life. Had he not been very ill during the winter of 1919-1920 he would not have come to California.

### **JOSEPH J. SMITH**

Joseph J. Smith is yet a young man. He will soon be 39 years old. In those 39 years he has seen a lot of the world and perhaps done more to improve his condition than any other man in the community. His has not been luck alone. His situation is the result of good management and hard work, enforced by a lot of energy and the will to do.

He was and still is, to some people, generally spoken of as "Joe Bang." But that is not his name. He was born in Chicago on March 6, 1906. His father died when he was a small child. Later his mother married Emil Bang, who on account of ill health, went to New Mexico for treatment. When Mr. Bang had recovered and Joe had reached the age of 16, the Bangs moved to Delhi, California. In 1923 the family moved to Livingston. Here the step-father died May 16, 1934, and here his mother still lives in her modest cottage on the north side of town.

Joe attended the schools in Chicago, and other places before coming to California-all meager enough, but it was the best to be had. In selecting an occupation, Joe first studied taxidermy. In this he became very proficient. It is the one time he had a large collection of the lesser fauna of California, and did a good business.

But he required a bigger field of operation-one that would be more prolific in returns. So he selected frogs. He studied them from every angle, commercial and otherwise.

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He built his first pond on the rear of his mother's lot in town. Here he got his practical experience, his know how of growing frogs for the special market in San Francisco. But his ground-space was limited. He needed more expanding room. To get this he bought the three and a half acres of the north east corner of the Adolf Zanker farm, close to the high school. This plot of land contains a house and some outbuildings, some walnut trees, some almonds, peaches and pears, a garden plat and so forth.

Here Joe expanded until he had used up his available area in the culture of frogs and minnows to keep pace with his ever growing trade. He maintained his groggery for six years until he had paid off all his obligations necessitated by this expansion. Then, in 1941 he bought the 10 acre Carmichael corner, giving a total of 13 ½ acres, just right for his purpose.

Then he quite raising frogs. They entailed too much work for the returns-too much night work and lack of continuous season. Gradually he developed chicken raising. In this he had more than average success. He keeps no breeding stock-just egg laying Leg horns of the white variety; the utility kind that keep on laying in and out of season. Of this breed he has been keeping an average of 2500 laying hens. From this year on he will increase his flock to 4,000 hens, for which he keeps on increasing the number of his sheds, both for growing chicks, laying hens, and cockerels, the latter of which he sells seasonally to the trade.

As a side line Joe still raises minnows as bait for the fishermen of this and other places of the state.

When he bought his frog farm he took himself a helpmate, the Mrs. Bobb of Turlock, whose maiden name was Eupheme E. Ostlund. She was born at Wolsey, S. D., May 12, 1911, and at the age 11 came to California with her parents, By her first marriage she had one child, Leonard, who now helps Joe in his many ranch duties.

Joe has one brother, Edward W. Smith, who enlisted in the U.S. Navy April 1, 1929, He now is a chief petty officer at San Diego, and has served on the Lexington, Langley and the Colorado.

### **JAMES F. LILES**

When James F. Liles and wife came to California it was on their extended honeymoon, They were married

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August 20, 1911, and two months later set out for this land of promise. They selected land and soon built a house. At once they began to cultivate. Sow and reap, and they have been at it ever since. How well they have succeeded it is a part of this story to tell.

Mr. Liles is a son of a pioneer who had come up from Texas to south western Missouri at the age of 20 to take up a homestead near Newtonia-now Stark City, home of Stark Brothers, the nurserymen. It was on that farm that James Franklin was born, October 25, 1890, one of a family of nine children, all of whom grew to maturity. His wife's maiden name was Miss Leona Grimes of the same district.

Mr. Liles spent his childhood on the "Liles Homestead".

While attending the local school he worked on his father's farm, receiving his original farm training. He also graduated from the Joplin (Mo.) Business College. As a boy and young man he ever had the notion that when he "grew up" he would come to California to make a home of his own. So he came.

The site of his present home 20 acres, he bought from the late James Watson. In later years he bought 20 acres of raw land across from his residence and planted it to a vineyard. Among the residents of his neighbors when he arrived were A.N. Sheesley, W. L. Raffensperger, Mrs. Jesse Moore, J. D. Johnson, Richard Maize, Louis Miller and the Eshelmans.

For 33 years the Liles have been faithful to their job of being farmers. Earlier they had a tough pull together. In the end they have succeeded. In 1934 he took a lay-off from farming here and went to Corvallis, Oregon, for the benefit of his health. Regaining his health he returned again to his farm (one and one-half miles due east of the high school) in 1936, and has been going it strong ever since, with better results than ever.

He keeps 14 cows a pair of Horses, a tractor, and seasonally raises a flock of 2600 turkeys. Besides, he raises his own alfalfa, garden truck, grows some apples, peaches, pears, apricots, walnuts and almonds, and lastly a lot of flowers, the latter is his wife's chief hobby, All these aside from a well-kept vineyard.

The Liles have two children-Fern and Dorothy both born on the farm, they both grew up here, went to school and have many friends. While attending the state teachers' college at Corvallis, Fern met her husband, Cecil H. Meeker, also a student there, in the engineering department. They have one daughter now seven years old. Owing

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To Mr. Liles; inability to get farm help the Meeker's have come to make their home with the parents-in-law.

Dorothy, the youngest, married Lowell Baker and lives at Santa Cruz. The husband is in the service, a member of the merchant marines.

Mr. and Mrs. Liles both belong to the Livingston Methodist church, in which they are active members.

### **WEAVER M. BAILEY**

Weaver McPherson Bailey was born on his father's farm near Stockton, Rooks county, Kansas, December 8, 1880, son of Jefferson A. Bailey who was born in Wisconsin, and when a young man went to Kansas.

The father had his eyes set on the gold mines of California, to get here he took up the occupation of a bullwhacker- that is, an ox-team driver. After a six months' journey behind his team he arrived in this land of promise in 1858. He must have acquired some of the precious metal, for he later returned to Rooks County, Kansas, and bought a large farm. There he met and married Miss Electo Burroughs, who had lately come with her parents from the state of Vermont.

On that farm he lived until 1883, when he sold it and moved with his young family to San Jose, California, where he established the city's first fire department. He was also a school teacher, From San Jose he moved to a 640 acre farm near Black Diamond, now Pittsburg, California . There the parents spent the rest of their lives.

It was at this farm that Weaver came at the age of three years, here he grew up, went to school, learned to farm, and then went out into the world for himself. This farm is still in the family name, now operated by a brother. After graduating from Port Chicago grammar school Weaver go a job with the Redwood Manufacturing Company of Pittsburg, with which he spent 16 years as a foreman.

In 1907 Weaver was married to Miss Edna Gore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Gore, formerly of Linn county, Kansas, then residing at Port Chicago. Mrs. Bailey died September 16, 1940. While the parents lived in Pittsburg, Dorothy, Donald and Margaret were born.

When Weaver Bailey came to Livingston in 1917 he bought a farm adjoining the Rookledge Gardens on the

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West. This venture proving a failure, he cropped-farmed, subjecting himself to the many ups and downs of such work. During those years Joe and Beverly were born.

Of late year's fortune has served Weaver Bailey better. He bought a 65 Acre Tract, part of the Olcese and Giribaldi property, due west of Livingston about four miles on the river road. His farm is a part of the original Josiah Bink estate, later owned by the Copeland family. Bink took up this land in 1868 as a preemption claim, on which he built a fine residence, the old house was burned down many years ago.

On this land Weaver's son keeps cows and some chickens, raises alfalfa, beans berries and has a garden. Joe and his wife Fern do the farming at present.

Dorothy, formerly married to Gail P. Buffington, resides in Modesto. Donald is married to Roberta Mitchell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Mitchell, a pioneer family of Merced County, living near Livingston. Donald now on leave of absence from the Bank of America at Merced, is serving as lieutenant with the Third Army in the European theater of operations. Margaret is married to Noble Wright, an employee of the Santa Fe at Hanford. Joe is married to Fern McDonough, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Austin McDonough of near Livingston. Beverly lives with her sister Dorothy and attends the Modesto high school.

According to the "List of Settlers" of the Maryland Historical Society, Weaver Bailey is a descendant of George Bailey, who arrive in Maryland in 1677, He is a member of the Masonic Lodge of Livingston and of the Knights of Pythias of Pittsburg.

### **JOHN GROOM**

As contractor and builder John Groom has been longer in business here than any other man. To his credit are many buildings that might not have been a part of this community. As a leading citizen he has no rivals. As to the length of his service his operation have extended over a period of 35 years. He came in on the tide of first arrivals in the beginning of the boom of 1909 and 1910, and has been constantly on the job of advancing the interests of Livingston.

John Groom was born at Muskoka, Canada, On May



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22, 1876. His parents were English whose families emigrated from England separately: His father was John Groom, Sr., and his mother was Anna Williams. When John Jr., was three years of age his parents moved to Chicago, where the father engaged in contracting and building in the stockyard district. The father passed away at Antigo, Wisconsin aged 65 years. The mother died in Livingston, February 9, 1924, aged 81 years, at the home of her son John.

The Grooms raised a family of six children, to-wit: Anna, wife of Angus Morrison of Philadelphia; Emma, wife of George Palmeter of Hood River, Oregon, formerly of this place; Thomas of Arcata, California ; James, deceased; Bessie, wife of Mark Austin of this city (he died recently;) and John, subject of this sketch.

John attended public school in Chicago and one year at Benton Harbor, Michigan. At the age of 14 he was apprentice to learn the carpenter trade. Leaving the family at Antigo, Wisconsin, he came to California in 1901. His first location was t Gonzales, Monterey County, where he worked for about eight months. Then he went to Eureka, where he remained until 1908 when he went to San Francisco. His last move was two years later, when he came to Livingston in 1910.

At this place, in June, 1914, John Groom and Miss Abigail Carson were united in marriage, She is a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Carson. To this union was born one child, John Carson Groom, now working in the Army Reserve Corps of a defense war plant.

For a number of years John Groom had averaged a building a month, many of them residences. He assisted on the construction of the Methodist and Episcopal Churches, the additions to the Crowell buildings; he built the old original telephone office, one of the school buildings, the Livingston bank building, the old pool hall, the Walter Ward building, his own business block, the new library building, and others. Among the residences of town are the E.G. Adams home, the David Caig house (now owned and occupied by Vic pia and family), the Dr. and Mrs. G. C. Saunders residence (now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Sheesley), including the fine residence of Mrs. Elsie Matignon at the corner of Third and F Streets. And many others too numerous to mention.

Fraternally John Groom belongs to only one lodge the I.O.O.F. In 1927 he was elected to the city council and has been serving ever since.

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Born in Illinois, Levi E. Danley migrated early in life with his parents to "Bleeding Kansas." There he grew up was educated, got a job, was married, and later fared forth to found a new home in sunny California. All of which was a long time ago. But the years have no in the least affected proverbial geniality, which is highly developed in his personality.

He was born in (Stoots Grove) Danvers, Illinois, November 12, 1871. His father was Colonel Hardin Danley. The "Colonel" is not a military title, it is the first part of his Christening name. Levi's grandfather was Levi Danley, who migrated from Kentucky with an ox-team caravan early enough to become acquainted with and have as a friend Abraham Lincoln of Springfield, Illinois. Those were interesting pioneering days during the settlement of Illinois and other Central states. In many of the great political upheavals of the era the grandfather of this subject became a man of much influence in the ranks of his party- the Republican (the Whigs).

When Gene was a child his parents moved with him to Newton, Kansas, to conduct a prairie farm. The boy attended the Newton grammar and high school. During this time he studied stenography and typewriting. At the age of 18 he got his first job as a typist with the trainmaster of the Santa Fe Railway company, In this capacity he traveled extensively with his employer on the lines Kansas and Colorado. Those are memorable days for Mr. Danley. He was young and growing up, and the world lay before him.

In due time he met the girl he was to marry. She was Miss Winifred Hughes, a sister of Walter Hughes, the right hand man of William Allen White of the Famous Emporia (Kansas) Gazette. They were married January 16, 1895, and have lived happily together ever since, with hosts of friends here and elsewhere.

In 1901 Mr. and Mrs. Danley moved to Fresno, California where he worked for the Santa Fe. In 1907 he became assistant manager of the Yosemite Valley Railway. Here he worked for ten years. In the meantime he bought a farm of 60 acres of land south of Livingston devoted to the culture of grapes, almonds and alfalfa. To this farm he moved in 1918, Livingston on it as a farmer, Later he moved into town. Conducting his farm at long range, In 1944 he sold his farm to Eldon J. Callister, the coach and physical instructor at

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Livingston high.

His father Hardin Danley had , moved to a farm, adjoining that which later became Levi's, in 1910. Here the father lived until he sold his farm and moved into his own house on West D Street in town, and where both parents died in 1929. Here the son makes his home. The Danley's have had three sons, all well remembered in Livingston. Lawrence and Walter both died after reaching full maturity. Robert, the youngest, was killed in an auto accident in 1923, at the railway crossing one mile east of town.

Mr. and Mrs. Danley have been active members of the Methodists since before leaving Kansas. He was a director of the Merced Irrigation District in its formative days. In the agricultural conservation program of 1937 he was one of the committeemen for Livingston, later becoming a supervisor in carrying out the program.

For years Mr. Danley has been connected with the County and District Farm Bureau. At one time he was connected with the Arena-Livingston National Farm Loan Association, being its second secretary-treasurer. Later he gave up the position, but remained a member and president of the board of directors. When the several associations of Merced County were merged into one association, the stockholders retained him as a director and vice president.

The leading social event of the year was the 50th wedding celebration of Mr. and Mrs. Danley, held January 16, 1945, in Eiland Hall, Livingston. The hall overflowed with many friends, bringing good cheer and tokens of remembrance. It was a big affair.

### **MRS. MARGARET CASSELL**

Bobby Burns once said: "A chile's among ye takin' notes an' faith he'll praint 'em."

The essence of the above quotation could well be applied to one of the most active and ubiquitous women in town. Her name is Lydia Margaret Clay Cassell. Her chief occupation is house wife. Her side issue is that of correspondent to both local and outside newspapers.

That she is alert to her duties no one may doubt. She is here, there and everywhere, among the home folks, taking notes and getting them printed in the Stockton Record, Modesto Bee, Turlock Journal, Merced Sun-Star and

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Fresno Bee-all to the lasting benefit of this busy and fast growing business and social center known to the world as Livingston, California.

And she gets all the news worthwhile-nothing big or sensational, but of the kind most people generally like. Now let us see how she obtained her enviable status in local affairs.

Mrs. Cassell was born at Paris, Kentucky, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Rice, both native Kentuckians, who later lived in Colorado from 1906 to 1911, and came to Winton, California, as pioneer farmers. She attended the common schools in her native town, and the high schools of Manzanola and Pueblo, Colorado, graduating from the latter in 1909. She taught two terms in the county schools of Pueblo.

Mrs. Cassell became interested in journalism when she became editor-in-chief of the Pueblo high school publication-The Centennial-which was issued as a magazine during the year, with a larger edition for the annual. While living at Winton she was the correspondent of the Atwater Signal and Merced Express. She served as postmaster at Winton from 1915 to 1918.

After moving to Livingston in 1927 she began writing for the Stockton Record, followed later by her other papers, including the Livingston chronicle, and she has been at the work since.

On January 28, 1915, she was married to Clifford Jay Cassell, at the home of her parents in Winton. Mr. Cassell is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Amos Cassell. Born at Lakeview Michigan, he came to Vallejo, California in 1910, later moving to Winton, where he bought a farm and improved it. After managing and operating farms near Winton for several years he moved to Livingston in 1927, filling various positions. In November, 1942, he began working in the hardware department in Ecclefield's store, and in September, 1944, was appointed City Treasurer to succeed the late Mrs. Mabel C. Mayes.

There are five children in the Cassell Family, all born in Merced, Clifford Joseph, the oldest, was graduated from the University of California, in 1939, with secondary and elementary teaching credentials. He is now special expediter and coordinator and production technician for Yard No. 2 for the Kaiser Permanent Metal Corporation.

Eleanor Margaret, eldest daughter, graduated from Fresno State Teachers College in 1942. Taught in Merced County

And Hollister schools, and was married August 5, 1944, to George W. Jean, Jr. of Hollister. He served 29 months in South Pacific and nine months at Kodiak, Alaska. He is now in the personnel office of the West Coast Sound School at San Diego, with rank of Yeoman 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

Helen June attended Modesto Junior College, and on September 1, 1940, was married to John W. Mitchell, associated with his father Robert W. Mitchell, in farming here. They have two children, Keith Warren and Julianne.

Elizabeth Clay, third daughter, graduated from U. C. in 1945, is a teacher in the Berkeley nursery school. She was married September 15, 1945, to Raymond C. Fisher of Stockton, recently discharged from the service after serving overseas.

Virginia Ruth, the youngest child, is a student of U. C. All of the children are graduates of Livingston high.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Cassell are active members of the Livingston Methodist Church, she is an Eastern Star and is actively connected with a number of other civic and social bodies of the community, such as the P.T.A., the Garden Club, the Farm Center, etc.

### **JOHN ANDERSON**

While John Anderson is not of the City of Livingston, he is a near-by neighbor who might be classed as one of "our own" and rightfully so. He is the only merchant in the way-station called Arena, two miles southeast on Highway No. 99, Here he has been since July 1, 1924, and here he has made good after many of his previous years spent in various occupations.

John is a native Californian. He was born at Newman on May 27, 1884. His parents were Danish, but here is how he comes to be an American. His father was Hans P. Anderson and his mother was Christiana Lornson, both of Sleswig-Holstein, Denmark, where they were married. In due time two daughters were born to them.

It so happened that by joining a company of 52 men the father had a chance to come to California to work for Miller & Lux in building the large irrigation canal then under construction. As all these men had experience in canal work in Denmark it was thought their coming would lend efficiency to the work of Miller & Lux. That was in 1876.

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The father liked this land so well that he eventually sent for his wife and two daughters to join him at Newman, where he bought land and built a house. And there they spent the rest of their lives. John is the only son. After graduation from the Newman grammar school in 1901 he got work as a "range rider" for Miller & Lux on the firm's big ranch west of Los Banos. After two years of "riding" he became the Wells Fargo express agent at Newman, where he worked until 1906. Then he became connected with the Simon Newman Company of Newman, Here he spent 16 years as foreman of the hardware department of that firm. While working here he was the first to introduce the Hold caterpillar to the west side.

Coming to Livingston in 1923 he worked for O'Donnell, the plumber and pump man of this district. Later he worked for George Tetreau, the plumber. It was while here that he met and married Mrs. Mary Hichcock, widow of the late Lon Hitchcock, one of the first victims here of the flu in 1919. They were married August 16, 1923, John worked in town until he bought his present store from the estate of the late Mrs. Dan White. In this work he has been very successful.

Mrs. Anderson is a native of Scotland. Her maiden name was Miss Mary Locke, born in Lanarkshire. At the age of 16 months she came with her parents to the United States, living first at McDonald, Pennsylvania. Her parents having died a few years later, she was sent to this district to make her home with her aunt, a Mrs. Maise, who died a few years later at Arena.

By her first husband Mrs. Anderson had two sons. Billy and Earl Hitchcock, both of whom are in the armed services of the country. By her second marriage she has one son, John, Jr., who is now in his 16<sup>th</sup> year and at home.

While John Anderson does not belong to any lodges he has the distinction of owning the oldest house in the country round. This is the old residence of William L. Weaver, who built it in 1876, it may be recognized as the up and down two story building, adjoining the Sheesley dairy on the south, with an exposed brick chimney at the wet end, and of late known as the Altamus house.

## LUTHER H. MOYER

Cressey is the nearest port of entry for Livingston to the Santa Fe railway system, It is four miles eastward.

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It maintains section hands' quarters, a post office, a garage, a school house, and one general store. Situate on the bluffs of the Merced River, it is a fine location for a city. That is all, with the exception that it is one-man town. And that one man is Luther H. Moyer, the subject of this sketch.

But let us begin at the beginning. Luther H. Moyer was born on his father's ancestral farm near Truxville, Snyder County, Pennsylvania, and October 13, 1882. Graduating from the town grammar school he remained home for a while. In the meantime he learned the carpenter trade. Thus, at the age of 18, he began life for himself. How he began and ended his career as a carpenter is the main part of this story.

In the beginning he built houses and barns near his native town, then he worked nine months for the Pennsylvania Railway Company. Returning home he built a new residence for his parents. In 1904 he lit out for California, arriving in Clovis on March 31. There he remained until June 22, 1904, when he went to Salem, Oregon, to see his father's brother whom he had never before seen. While there he worked for the city water company and helped build a school house and barn.

Returning to Clovis on November 13, same year, he built several houses. On October 19, 1905, he got a job helping to build a ten-span concrete bridge near the present Friant irrigation dam. On February 12, 1906, he went to Pittsburg, Calif., where he worked until April 23rd. Five days later came the earthquake, when the company sent him to work on the Ferry building. Some of those days he had as many as 40 men under him. Remaining there until August 4, 1907, he went to Corcoran, where he worked on the Santa Fe station and built several houses for the company.

From there he moved to Alameda County, then to Oakland, then to Sacramento. In August of 1909 he visited his folks at home, returning to California in October, 1909. He worked in San Diego, in San Francisco, Sacramento, in Tuolumne County, then returned to Clovis in 1911. He first came to Cressey December 20, 1911, when he bought 20 acres of land and the Cressey rooming house. The father and mother visited him then, remaining until their return home.

On October 13, 1914, he bought the Cressey store, and on March 2, 1915, became postmaster of Cressey. In 1919 he took his brother-in-law, Reuben D. Fessler, in as a

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partner. From 1915 to 1927 this was the sole business house in Cressey, and he was the postmaster.

In 1927, transferring his business to his brother-in-law, he moved to Sacramento, then to Oakland, then to San Francisco, then returned again to Cressey where he lived while working for the San Joaquin Light & Power Company at Planada, and later on the theater under construction in Merced.

On May 11, 1932, he returned to Cressey for good, took over the store, was appointed postmaster January 6, 1933. Thus he still carries on, the busiest man in all the land.

Mr. Moyer's wife's maiden name was Miss Lettie Ann Fessler, sister of Reuben D. Fessler. His father's name was John Yoast Henry Moyer, who died in 1917. His mother's maiden name was Sarah Jane Klose, who died in 1919. He has two brothers, Frank and Herbert, and one sister, Bessie, who still lives near the old ancestral farm.

He is a member of the Masonic lodge of Livingston, and he and his wife both belong to the Eastern Star.



## ADDENDUM

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### The Jolly Workers

After the History of Livingston had been all but printed yet not assembled for the bindery Mrs. Annie McConnell provides a story of the Jolly Workers for inclusion in this book. We wish to thank Mrs. McConnell for her cooperation. The story follows:

The first Ladies Club of Livingston was the Jolly Workers, organized on October 10th, 1905, by Mrs. Frank McConnell, at her home north of Livingston. It continued in operation until 1918, during the First World War the last meeting was held at the home of Mrs. G. C Saunders, when it was decided that on account of the war the meetings should be discontinued. The meetings were held twice a month until War interrupted.

The membership consisted of the following:

Mrs. Frank McConnell	Mrs. Frank Crowell
Mrs. Nina Gwin	Mrs. E.G. Adams
Mrs. Holdworth	Mrs. Bert Davis
Mrs. Frank Green	Mrs. John Anderson
Mrs. Robert Mitchell, Sr.	Mrs. John Weaver
Miss Ruby Mitchell	Mrs. Hicks
Mrs. Hi Grubb	Mrs. Ella Hammatt
Mrs. Pauline Reed	Mrs. Minnie Ecclefield
Mrs. Wilson	Mrs. Zeph Ecclefield
Mrs. Stillman Swan	Mrs. James Watson
Mrs. William Lamb	Mrs. Nickson
Mrs. Finch Wilcox	Mrs. Frank Farquhar
Mrs. Otto Cassell	Mrs. Lee Chase
Mrs. Marvin McConnell	Mrs. John Groom
Mrs. G.H. Winton	Mrs. William T. White
Mrs. Marian Court	Mrs. Anna Saunders
Mrs. J. N. Hitchcock	Mrs. Sarah J. Glover
Mrs. Will McConnell	

Mrs. Frank McConnell wishes to thank the following for their assistance in completing the above names for this record: Mrs. Pearl Crowell, Mrs. E.G. Adams, Mrs. Bert Davis, Mrs. John Anderson, and Mrs. Warren McConnell.

