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THE STORY OF VALENCIA, CALIFORNIA

AND

ITS RANCHO BACKGROUND

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The Story of Valencia, California,
and its rancho background

By
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1769

Spanish occupation of California is begun,
and Spain's first land expedition -- on its
journey north from San Diego -- crosses the
area that became Rancho San Francisco,
which today includes within its boundaries
the community of Valencia

Lingering clouds of dust hovered over the cavalcade that made up this first expedition--the Portola Party, so called because it was headed by Gaspar de Portola of the Spanish Army. Leaders, scouts, two priests, mounted soldiers, muleteers, and a packtrain of a hundred loaded mules and spare animals, they had been taking a generally coastal route with Monterey as the objective. After leaving the Los Angeles, the Westwood, and the San Fernando Valley areas, the party had crossed painfully steep mountains at San Fernando Pass. Then they found themselves

in a small valley in which, off the trail, was a village of Indians.

The expedition now was actually in what was to be called Rancho San Francisco. The members spent August 8, 9, and 10 (of 1769) in and crossing this area of curving hills and oak-dotted valleys.

Fortunately several members of the Portola Party kept diaries or made descriptive notes, the most vivid and explicit of which are those of Father Juan Crespi, the priest, and of Miguel Costanso, the engineer.

From these accounts we learn that the white party enjoyed the hospitality and bounty of the Indians of this first village. These Indian hosts had sent messengers ahead to invite the visitors and had prepared a feast of "seeds, acorns and nuts." Then they provided guides to take them to a "charming valley" which Crespi named the "Santa Clara." Here was a river with plenty of water running through "moderately wide valley, well grown with willows and cottonwoods."

On the bank of the river the Portola Party found "a populous village in which the people lived without any cover" and "fenced in like a corral." The soldiers promptly named it "Rancheria del Corral."

Immediately on the party's arrival the villagers brought forth for the visitors "many baskets of different kinds of seeds, and a sort of sweet preserve like little raisins, and another resembling honeycomb, very sweet and purging and made of the dew which

sticks to the reed grass." Crespi commented that the area would make a suitable site for a mission, since there was good lands, two large arroyos of water, and five large villages close together.

Next day the white party rested but were visited again by a multitude of good-natured and affectionate Indians bringing presents of food. They passed along the information that the way to the coast "was level and easy of access," but that the road inland "was very mountainous and rough." The Indians happened to be celebrating a wedding and brought forth the bride--"the most dressed up among them all in the way she was painted and with her strings of beads."

The following day, August 10, the Portola Party took the Santa Clara Valley west-southwest--as advised by their Indian friends. They camped that night in the Camulos area, which was in the westerly part of Rancho San Francisco, and ultimately proceeded to the coast.

[The Indians they had met were of the Alliklik group of the Shoshoneans, according to ethnologist A. L. Kroeber. Ultimately, as the party continued down the valley and up the coast it would be in Chumash Indian territory.]

Mission San Fernando is founded, with a jurisdiction that would extend not only over the San Fernando Valley but to the north and northwest over the Indian villages and the land areas of Rancho San Francisco

Early in August of 1795 an exploring party set out from San Buenaventura Mission to find a new mission site on the road to San Gabriel. Seeking good land, abundant water, and Indians, the missionary fathers selected the present site of Mission San Fernando in the upper half of the San Fernando Valley or, as it was then called, Encino (Oak) Valley.

Founding ceremonies took place on September 8, 1797, with Father Fermín Francisco Lasuén in charge. The name "San Fernando Rey" was given the Mission after Ferdinand III of Spain.

To help the new establishment, other Southern California mission sent cattle, horses, mules and sheep. Crops were put in. A temporary church and other buildings were erected. As converts and cattle increased, the Mission's sway extended beyond San Fernando Valley and to the north and northwest. Indians baptised came, ultimately, from nearly 200 Indian rancherías or villages, including those in the Santa Clara Valley such as Sespe, Piru, Camulos, and Chaguayabit.

Church historian Zephyrin Engelhardt, writing the Mission's story and drawing upon earliest official reports, records that in

1804 "at the Rancho de San Francisco Javier or Chaguayabit" a building was erected to provide for a granary and other necessary rooms. This entry indicates that wheat-growing on the rancho began at an early date. Furthermore, it reveals an early use of "San Francisco" as the rancho's name. Engelhardt finds the rancho called variously by the priests, over the years, "Rancho de San Francisco Javier," "Rancho de San Francisco," "Rancho San Francisco," or merely "San Francisco."

Probably the key to the origin of the rancho's name is contained in the testimony of a one-time mayordomo of the Mission, Pedro Lopez, given before the United States Land Commission on April 12, 1854. He had known the area since he was a child, when the rancho was in the possession of the Mission of San Fernando. He described its location and referred to the boundary "Arroyo Píru which comes out of the mountains on the north and runs to the River San Francisco which is also called Santa Clara.". Like so many other mission-held ranchos, the necessary naming of rivers by the priests gave adjoining lands their names. If the river was "San Francisco," the adjoining rancho would naturally take that name. So, too, a smaller canyon or stream emptying into it would logically receive the name of "San Francisquito" (the Little San Francisco) --as happened in this case.

Depending on the availability of water, crops of wheat, beans, and corn were grown. The fertile land of Rancho San Francisco was early coveted by non-Mission whites, for in 1804 the priests

"protested vigorously and successfully against the granting of Camulos Rancho to one Francisco Avila."

Soldiers at the Presidio of Santa Barbara were in the habit of asking Mission San Fernando for various kinds of supplies. On September of 1821 Father Ibarra at San Fernando gave the reply to Captain José de la Guerra of Santa Barbara when he asked for corn: "I just came from the Rancho de San Francisco. Things are as I said. There are only sixty or seventy fanégas. Rabbits and hares and worms have done damage to the crop." Later in the month he notified de la Guerra that fifteen pack mules would leave the Rancho de San Francisco with thirty fanégas of corn for San Buenaventura, to be forwarded to the Santa Barbara presidio. When asked in 1822 for twenty-five pairs of shoes, Father Ibarra replied that they would be made. To a request in 1825 for \$300 worth of soap, he said they had only thirty or forty dollars worth, for none had been made during the year. The good father felt that the soldiers at Santa Barbara ought to work and raise grain and not live on the toil of the neophytes, especially when there was a shortage of Indian labor, the Indians coming and going as they pleased.

1822

Spanish rule in California gives way to Mexican

While Mexico was revolting against Spain, life at Mission San Fernando continued its pastoral way. In 1822, the year that California was notified of Mexico's successful revolt, there were 1001 neophytes living at the Mission.

On April 11, 1822 the capital city of Monterey swore allegiance to the new government. The banner of Spain gave way to the Mexican imperial flag. The Mexican Empire, however, was short-lived, and in the following year Emperor Iturbide abdicated and a federal republic was established. California land that, under the provisions of the Laws of the Indies, had been vested in the King of Spain was now owned by the Mexican Nation.

Presently, under Mexican Governor Exheandia, Father Ibarra was asked to swear allegiance to the new government and to make a report on the extent of Mission San Fernando's lands and of its holdings in livestock. Father Ibarra complied and presented a report that showed something of the Mission's activities in Rancho San Francisco.

1834

Secularization comes to Mission San San Fernando; Lieutenant Antonio del Valle is asked to take charge of the Mission estates and, in the following year, is named as mayordomo or administrator.

The movement to secularize California missions -- that is, to transfer them from Church to lay administration -- had been long under way. It reached San Fernando in October of 1834.

Antonio del Valle had come to California in 1819 as a soldier and continued to carry on both a military and controversial political career. He went to Los Angeles in 1832 and to San Fernando upon secularization. As mayordomo of the Mission, at an annual salary of \$800, he served three years. He inventoried the Mission's property. He enumerated the Mission's Indian population in 1835 as 541 persons, a large decrease. He also became well acquainted with Rancho San Francisco, for in the year of the inventory he wrote to Governor Figueroa that, to prevent the stealing of cattle and horses by Christian Indians, it would be necessary to install a corporal in Rancho San Francisco. Meanwhile, Farther Ibarra, dissatisfied with life at a secularized mission, left for Sonora.

1839

Rancho San Francisco is granted to
Antonio del Valle

Secularization of mission-held estates in California caused a land rush.

One of the successful seekers of a grant from the Mexican Nation was Don Antonio who had looked with longing eyes on Rancho San Francisco while he was the Mission's mayordomo. He petitioned the Governor and, in compliance with one of the several requirements of the land laws of 1828, submitted a diseño or map of the eleven-square league area he wanted. It was made by his friend Pablo de la Guerra of Santa Barbara. Don Pablo, called on in later years to indentify this map, said he made it in 1837 or 1838 at Don Antonio's request.

On January 22, 1839, Governor Juan B. Alvarado granted the rancho to Citizen Antonio del Valle. He signed the document at Santa Barbara. It was in the usual formality and, like the other grants, was the gift of the Government.

The New owner in the same year took up residence in Rancho San Francisco, with his wife, Doña Jacoba Feliz -- who was the daughter of Don Pedro López -- and his children, except Ygnacio. Ygnacio, son by an earlier marriage, was in his early thirties and since 1825 had been active in military, political, and civic affairs.

Don Antonio adapted to his use the adobe structure built

as a granary in 1804. It was at the foot of a low range of hills and close to and on the southside of the Santa Clara River. He cultivated portions of his land and stocked others with his cattle.

Don Antonio had only two and a half years to enjoy this rancho. He died on June 1, 1841, intestate, with the estate going to the widow and children.

Two years later Doña Jacoba, who owned one third of the estate, was living in the ranch house with a new husband, Don Jose Salazar.

Don Ygnacio, greatly excited about Rancho San Francisco, set about to acquire a major share in the rancho and the right to build a ranch home of his own -- the famed "Camulos," in the west end of the rancho. For many years he maintained his Los Angeles activities, however, where his home on the east side of the Plaza was a social and political center. Don Ygnacio held a series of public offices, in both Mexican and American regimes. He was Los Angeles County's first recorder and a representative in the California legislature. Not until 1861 would he move permanently to Camulos.

1842

California's first gold rush takes place on
Rancho San Francisco

Francisco López of Los Angeles, the uncle of Doña Jacoba, often spent a week or more at his niece's Rancho San Francisco where he rented a section for his own stock. He was a man of varied interests and had taken a course at a mining college in Mexico City, according to one of his lineal descendants, Francisca López Belderrain (writing in the November, 1930, issue of Touring Topics.)

One day, March 9, 1842, Don Francisco was riding up one of Rancho San Francisco's canyons, now called Placerita Canyon. He was either on a hunting trip or was rounding up stock -- the stories vary. At noon-time he and his companion stopped beneath an oak for lunch and to rest. While doing so, López took his knife and dug up some wild onions. Attached to the roots was a nugget of gold. Further digging revealed other nuggets.

There was great excitement that night in the del Valle ranch house. The next morning the family rode to Mission San Fernando to tell the good news. Francisco's brother, Don Pedro, was then mayordomo at the Mission. The following day the two brothers and some friends rode into Los Angeles to notify governmental authorities.

In such manner California's first gold rush was launched.

For several years prospectors worked successfully in Placerita Canyon and in near-by Feliciano Canyon. Many of the miners came from Sonora. Don Abel Stearns, Southern California merchant and rancho, sent a sampling of gold (via Alfred Robinson) to the United States mint in Philadelphia where it was coined, with a value of over \$19 an ounce. The first Placerita gold sent to Monterey was made into earrings for the wife of Governor Alvarado and into a ring for the Governor's daughter. The greatgranddaughter of Antonio del Valle -- the actress Lucretia del Valle Grady, and wife of diplomat Henry Francis Grady, -- many years later wore proudly a bracelet of Rancho San Francisco gold.

The Placerita gold fever died out in the 1850s, and California's first gold rush -- though not the first gold discovery -- became a golden memory. (There have been many reports of gold being found at various places in California prior to 1842, and the records of the United States Mint at Philadelphia, show gold bullion from California deposited there January 30, 1838 by the New York brokerage firm of Hussey & Mackay.)

1847

American soldiers, under John C. Fremont, pass through Rancho San Francisco on their way to Los Angeles -- in the closing California phase of the war with Mexico.

Fremont's buckskin battalion of mounted and bearded riflemen, with Indian allies, had set out from Monterey, had ridden south early in January, 1847, had paid Mission San Buenaventura a visit, and then followed the Santa Clara River valley inland.

On January 9 and 10, at least, the battalion was in Rancho San Francisco. Edwin Bryant, a volunteer with the Fremont party, writes in his What I Saw in California, that we encamped this afternoon (January 9) at a rancho, situated on the edge of a fertile and finely-watered plain of considerable extent, where we found corn, wheat, and frijoles in great abundance. The rancho was owned by an aged Californian of commanding and respectable appearance. Does young Bryant refer to 45-year-old Don Jose Salazar, husband of Doña Jacoba? On January 10, crossing the plain "we encamped, about two o'clock, p.m., in the mouth of a cañada, through which we ascend over a difficult pass in a range of elevated hills between us and the plain of San Fernando. A large number of cattle were collected in the plain and corralled, to be driven along tomorrow for subsistence." On January 11 the party was at the Mission of San Fernando. On January 13 Fremont

went on to Cahuenga to sign the treaty between the Americans and the Californians -- the latter represented by their military commander, Andres Pico -- which ended the war in California.

In the following year, at Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico, the treaty between the governments of the United States and Mexico was signed, ratified, and proclaimed. By it, a huge territory, including California, became a part of the United States. So ended a war, begun in 1846, that had been fought and won largely south of the Rio Grande.

1850

In the year of California's admission to the Union as a state, a great drama climaxes in Rancho San Francisco

California became a state on September 9, 1850, following the adoption of a constitution in 1849.

Very early in 1850 the hospitality provided by the owners of Rancho San Francisco saved one group of Forty-niner gold-seekers -- marooned in Death Valley -- from death itself.

W. L. Manly tells the story in his classic Death Valley in '49. He was a member of one of several small groups of wagon-party immigrants who, seeking a short-cut to California, had landed in Death Valley, place of "dreadful sands," "bitter lakes," and "sunken desolation." Manly and John Rogers were the two strongest members of the Bennett-Arcane party. Attempting to get relief for the women, children, and others of their companions, who were in a weakened and starving condition, Manly and Rogers left the group, crossed two hundred and fifty miles of forbidding deserts and mountains, coming finally down Soledad Canyon to a spur of hills that overlooked Rancho San Francisco. As described later by Manly:

"There before us was a beautiful meadow of a thousand acres, green as a thick carpet of grass could make it, and shaded with oaks, wide branching and symmetrical, equal to those of an old English park; while all over the low mountains that bordered it on the south and

over the broad acres of luxuriant grass was a herd of cattle numbering many hundred if not thousands ... such a scene of abundance and rich plenty and comfort bursting thus upon our eyes, which for months had seen only the desolation and sadness of the desert, was like getting a glimpse of Paradise, and tears of joy ran down our faces."

At the del Valle ranch house they were given a friendly reception and obtained horses and food, together with a few oranges for the children. They retraced their way, re-entered Death Valley, and heroically brought out their starving companions.

1853

A revealing appraisal of the real and
personal property of Rancho San
Francisco is made

It became necessary in 1853 to appraise the property belonging to two of Antonio del Valle's children who were then minors, and who had a fractional interest in the estate left by Don Antonio. The results are most interesting, showing current values of land and of cattle, horses, and sheep.

The appraisal was undertaken by two Angeleons, Antonio F. Coronel and Manuel C. Rojo. The former was a scholarly man and Los Angeles County's first assessor. The latter was a Peruvian who combined law practice with editorial work and the writing of poetry for the Los Angeles Star.

The average value of an acre of land in Rancho San Francisco, the appraisers found, was 25 cents -- after "taking into account the fact that a great portion of it consists in hills that are absolutely useless due to their sterility, and some of it containing good pasture."

In contrast, a Los Angeles city lot, with its improvements, was valued then by the appraisers at \$4000.

In 1853 Southern California cattle were bringing high prices because of the demand created by Gold Rush miners. At an auction ordered by the Probate Court, it was reported by the appraisers that steers on Rancho San Francisco brought \$20, \$25,

and \$30, each; cows \$26 each; bulls \$25 and \$30 each; oxen \$40 each. Full grown horses were sold for \$40 a piece. Sheep brought \$4 each and lambs \$1 each.

"Perhaps in the future," added the appraisers, "there may be some change, either increasing or reducing the said prices, for in this respect there is nothing really stable in our County."

1855

The United States Land Commission approves
the del Valle title to Rancho San Francisco

In 1851 a board of land commissioners had been created by the United States to pass upon land titles granted under Spanish and Mexican regimes and to segregate privately owned land from public domain.

The heirs of Antonio del Valle filed their petition in

September of 1852, claiming confirmation of title to land in the Valley of the Santa Clara River known by the name of San Francisco. Along with it went pertinent selections from the Mexican archives, including a copy of the Mexican grant itself and of the diseño or map of the rancho. Later the depositions of eminent Californians were taken and filed with the board -- those of Agustin Olvera, Pablo de la Guerra, Marino G. Vallejo, Antonio María Lugo, Pedro López, José María Covarrubias, Alexis Godey, Miguel de la Guerra, and Manuel Feliz. These gentlemen told of their knowledge of the rancho and of its occupation and use by the Mission and by the del Valle family.

Sample comments:

From venerable, 80-year-old Lugo: "I have visited it a great many times. There was a corral there placed by the Mission. It was about the year 1813 or 1814."

From famed frontiersman Godey, hunter for John C. Fremont, and friend of the Indians: "I am acquainted with this tract of land by riding over it at different times... I first knew the Rancho in 1849 when I stopped at the house and purchased cattle there... I am also well acquainted with most of the Indian tribes."

From Mayordomo Feliz: "Don Antonio del Valle placed on the Rancho... some head of cattle and in the same year [1839] he went there to live with his family."

[The significant remarks of Pedro López and of Pablo de la Guerra have already been referred to.]

The board approved the del Valle title, and the automatic appeal to the United States Court was dismissed. Many years passed before the Surveyor General of the United States got around to making a final survey of the rancho. That was in June, 1874. This survey showed it to contain 48,611.88 acres. The survey plat was advertised in San Francisco's Alta California for four weeks and in the Los Angeles Star for the same period. Finally on February 12, 1875, the United States issued its patent to Jacoba Felis, et al, to be recorded in the Office of the County Recorder of Los Angeles County.

Butterfield stages roll through Rancho
San Francisco

Swinging, twisting, and jolting, the first overland stage passed through the Newhall area in October of 1858. The pounding hoofs of the six horses kept to the rough, rain-warped road through San Francisquito Canyon, the road that had been used since earliest days in getting to and through the San Joaquin Valley from San Pedro and Los Angeles. It had been sent out from St. Louis, Missouri, by John Butterfield, president of the Overland Mail Company, and it was on its way to Fort Tejon and points north, via King's Station, Widow Smith's, and, out of the canyon, Elizabeth Lake.

"Eight miles from San Fernando we changed horses again," wrote Waterman L. Ormsby, special correspondent of the New York Herald who traveled as the only through passenger on this epochal trip ... "From this point the road leads through the San Francisco [Francisquito] Cañon, twelve miles long, the small jagged peaks of the mountains on either side looking much like rows of upturned human profiles." (Quotation from The Butterfield Mail, edited by Lyle H. Wright and Josephine M. Bynum, published by The Huntington Library, 1942).

The life of Butterfield's overland stages was only from 1858 to 1861, but the stages were significant in opening the way for later staging operations including the mule freight teams of

Phineas Banning. Most interesting is the fact that the stages followed in part "El Camino Viejo," used since at least 1800 by saddle animals and for freighting by ox-drawn carretas between San Pedro Bay and the San Francisco Bay area by way of the San Joaquin Valley. This statement comes from Don Jesus López, cattle boss of the Tejon Ranch for fifty years, whose grandfather engaged in this freighting by carretas--as quoted by F. F. Latta in his El Camino Viejo A Los Angeles, 1936.

1861

Ygnacio del Valle completes the building of a hacienda at Camulos, after salvaging his interest in Rancho San Francisco.

For a few brief years following the Gold Rush of 1849, cattleowning rancheros prospered, including the owners of Rancho San Francisco. The boom ended in 1857, however, with the demand and prices for Southern California beef dropping drastically. Most rancheros had overspent themselves and were in debt. The del Valle family, which held undivided interests in Rancho San Francisco, was in financial trouble. Doña Jacoba and her husband Jose Salazar had begun borrowing money and signing mortgages at the current high rates of interest. Ygnacio del Valle, a cautious man, could not prevent other members of the family and their undivided interests from becoming entangled.

The upshot of these difficulties was foreclosure by William Wolfskill, the principal creditor, who generously worked out a plan with Don Ygnacio to save the latter's interest. At the foreclosure sale Wolfskill, who had agreed to pay off the other creditors, bid the amount owned him and got title to the whole rancho. Immediately, as agreed, he deeded, a five-elevenths interest to Ygnacio and included a small parcel that had belonged to the latter's brother Jose. The Salazars were now out of the picture, and Ygnacio was free of the burden of their debts -- all as explained in careful detail by Ruth Waldo Newhall in her The

Newhall Ranch (1958).

Don Ygnacio could not go ahead with his Camulos plan, which he had started in 1854 with a four-room house for the foreman, surrounded by vineyards and orchards. The name Camulos was derived from an Indian rancheria of that name. Don Ygnacio and his wife, Isabel frequently stayed at the main ranch house while establishing their own.

As completed in 1861, the hacienda was a twenty-room adobe structure -- home and ranch headquarters -- with wide verandas around a central patio. Destined to remain in the del Valle family, several generations of them, until 1924, Camulos is referred to usually as "Rancho Camulos". though it is part of Rancho San Francisco. Its 1340-acre area was retained by Ygnacio when the rest of the rancho was being sold in the 1860s.

Camulos remains to this day one of the most distinctive and best preserved haciendas of rancho days in California, complete with a charming family chapel. The del Valles took zealous pride not only in the productivity of the land but in preserving the traditions, customs, and hospitality of the rancho period. A light burned continuously on the altar of the chapel, and once a month a priest came to celebrate Mass. The establishment served Helen Hunt Jackson well in research for her novel Ramona. In its heyday about a hundred people lived at Camulos. Today the present owner, Mrs. Mary Rubel Burger, maintains the ranch house as her home. It has a citrus setting, and the buildings are almost hidden by trees.

1865

Oil excitement hits Rancho San Francisco

Rancho San Francisco became Thomas R. Bard's in 1865, when William Wolfskill, Ygnacio del Valle, and Jose' del Valle executed a deed to this energetic young newcomer to California. Bard was the nephew and representative of Thomas A. Scott, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad. Scott wished to expand his oil interests into the promising oil territory of which a Yale geologist, Professor Benjamin Silliman, Jr., had made glowing reports. In that year most California ranchos could be bought at bargain prices for the cattle business had been wrecked by three rainless years, beginning in 1862. Rancho San Francisco, a sufferer like other ranchos, was bought by Bard for \$53,320 cash, in a deal in which Camulos was sold back to Don Ygnacio for a small sum.

Bard was not buying for himself, but for one of his uncle's corporations -- Philadelphia & California Petroleum Company -- which almost immediately took title. Bard himself was later to play a leading role in Ventura County (which was carved out of Santa Barbara County in 1873) and to serve the states as a United States senator.

The oil excitement in the Santa Clara Valley was premature and by the early 1870s the Philadelphia and California Petroleum Company was heavily mortgaged and up for sale or foreclosure.

When purchasers Charles Fernald and J. F. Richards of Santa Barbara failed to make payment under a foreclosure sale, a new buyer by the name of Newhall appeared on the scene.

1875

Henry Mayo Newhall acquires the greater
part of Rancho San Francisco

For \$90,000 Henry Mayo Newhall acquired all of Rancho San Francisco, excepting Don Ygnacio's Camulos and a few small parcels sold by the oil company. The deed was dated January 15, 1875. The smaller parcels (other than Camulos) would later be acquired as they became available.

Henry Mayo Newhall, a man of energy and of extraordinary business ability, had arrived in San Francisco in 1850 as a gold-seeker. After a few futile weeks in the mines, he was back in San Francisco, to cast his fortune with that city and to enter the auction business, which then was the foundation of trade. He began immediately to be successful in the buying and auctioning of shiploads of merchandise. Presently he was able to buy a lot in the fashionable South Park district on Rincon Hill, to build a two-story, New England style, brick house, and to bring out and install there his bride in the fall of 1852. Newhall branched into wholesaling, into insurance, into the railroad business, and--at the opportune time--into the buying of real estate. He bought San Francisco city lots and, beginning in 1871, when heavily burdened rancheros were everywhere giving up or losing their titles, he acquired his first rancho. In less than a decade he owned six ranches, the area totalling 143,000 acres.

Rancho San Francisco offered Newhall his greatest

interest, in part because the Southern Pacific was about to extend its tracks across its acreage. Early in 1874 train service had been available from Los Angeles to San Fernando. Sixteen months were required to complete a tunnel north through the San Fernando Mountains. Meanwhile gangs of men, building south through the San Joaquin Valley, had reached Soledad Canyon. On September 5, 1876 a golden spike was driven to celebrate the linking by rail of Northern and Southern California, the ceremony taking place at the station of Lang. Henceforth the markets of San Francisco and the east would be open to Southern California.

Henry Mayo Newhall built a station which became the nucleus of a town, appropriately named Newhall by the Southern Pacific. The station's original location was at the present site of the town of Saugus -- named for the birthplace in Massachusetts of founder Newhall. Later it was moved. At Newhall, town lots were put on the market, a hotel was built, and across from it a square was planted with trees. Passengers bound for Santa Barbara got off the train at Newhall and went by stage through the Santa Clara Valley to Ventura and points north.

"Newhall liked the ranch life and favored it for his sons," wrote Ruth Waldo Newhall in her definitive account of the Newhall family and activities, The Newhall Ranch, to which reference has already been made. "In the autumn of 1878 ranch work began in earnest when Newhall and his son [Henry Gregory] set up their headquarters in a frame house that had been built to replace the

del Valle's old adobe, destroyed by an earthquake...He hired a motley crew of Mexicans, Indians, and Chinese...The first year they plowed five hundred acres of openland...Encouraged by the result of the summer harvest, Newhall moved his men down the river to the west end of the ranch...There they planted corn, alfalfa, and flax, as well as tropical and subtropical plants such as sugar cane, bamboo, and citrus fruits..."

Speaking of the destroyed del Valle ranch house, Arthur Woodward, chief curator of history, Los Angeles County Museum, together with Arthur Perkins and others, excavated the adobe ruins in May, 1933. Woodward reported the building to be 107 feet long and approximately 23 feet wide, to have had a tiled roof and a tiled floor, and to have been "built on the south bank of the Santa Clara river in the year 1804 as a granary for Mission San Fernando." Later, after 1933, "vandals tore out the tile of the flooring and demolished the remaining fragments of the building; The site is about one mile from Castaic Junction and is on property owned by the Newhall Land and Farming Company." (Quotations are from The Jayhawkers' Oath and other Sketches, 1949; selected and edited by Woodward.)

The Newhall Land and Farming Company is organized, a corporation which ultimately develops an expansive program for Rancho San Francisco, the latter becoming "the Newhall Ranch"

While riding over Rancho San Francisco one March day in 1882, Henry Mayo Newhall suffered injury when his horse stumbled and fell. Newhall was taken to his home in San Francisco where he died on March 13 at the age of 56. Settlement of the estate took over a year, with 143,000 acres of California ranch land passing to the second generation of Newhalls.

At this time The Newhall Land and Farming Company was formed, with title to Rancho San Francisco being transferred by the widow and the five sons to this corporation. Henry, the eldest son, was assigned active supervision over this ranch--to be succeeded in later years by Walter Newhall. Stock-raising became the principal activity when early ventures in wheat-raising proved unprofitable. Horses brought \$50 each in San Francisco and cattle \$20 to \$25 a head.

On the death in 1880 of Ygnacio del Valle, Camulos had been left to the widow, Doña Isabel del Valle and the six children, the ranch being encumbered by a \$15,000 mortgage in favor of Henry Mayo Newhall. Directors of the Newhall corporation agreed to tear up this overdue mortgage if the del Valles would survey the boundary between Camulos and the rest of Rancho San Francisco and

establish it as a straight line. This was done, the del Valles getting in the process more acreage and becoming free of the mortgage. R. F. del Valle, son of Don Ygnacio, became head of the family and was prominent in Los Angeles as an attorney and in social, business and political circles.

Rancho San Francisco had historic ups and downs. There were intervals of mismanagement, wars, squatterism, depression, and sometimes physical disaster. The greatest disaster was caused by the bursting on March 13, 1928 of the St. Francis Dam, located in San Francisquito Canyon. The waters released flooded the Santa Clara River, and brought about the loss of more than 400 lives, property damage estimated at \$30,000,000, with 1500 persons left homeless.

Rancho San Francisco became known as the Newhall Ranch, with the third generation of Newhalls taking charge. Atholl Mc Bean, an experienced executive, the grandson-in-law of the founder of the Newhall family fortunes, was elected president in 1935. Expert consultants and managers were called in, and new corporate policies adopted. Instead of undergoing slow liquidation, the family company became a corporation organized to produce, develop, and grow.

Oil leases and occasional crops began to bring in some income from the ranch, in addition to that from the raising of cattle. The Newhalls followed the del Valle example, and planted citrus orchards. Actually an enormous acreage came to be given over to irrigated crops. Ultimately, too, with deep-drilling

techniques perfected, there was a rush for oil leased on the Newhall Ranch, and each year oil production increased.

In 1963 Thomas L. Lowe, who had been executive vice president of Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Company, succeeded George Bushell as president. Bushell had been general manager and later president. Atholl McBean became and remains chairman of the board. Expansion, mechanization, and the development of water resources and agriculture continued. The Newhall Ranch became an empire of oil derricks, citrus groves, irrigated crops, and excellent rangeland.

The Newhall Land and Farming Company, owned principally by the descendants of Henry Mayo Newhall, assumed stature as one of the outstanding western corporations of its type. Its management was ready for a new program.

1967

California Land Company is created to develop and carry out plans for a new community; Valencia

Four thousand acres located in the easterly section of the 44,000-acre Newhall Ranch were selected for the development of a master-planned community, one to arise in a truly Californian setting of curving hills and oak-dotted valley.

This community, as planned, has as its nucleus a major city center, surrounded by villages with their own centers and neighborhood clusters, together with provision for educational, recreational, and industrial areas and usages.

Population pressure from all sides of the Newhall Ranch and the expansion of an impressive freeway system, with Valencia as the crossroad of automotive commerce, made this program logical.

Specialized consultants in the planning of Valencia--a name suggested by Valencia, Spain--had worked two years in collaboration with the architectural and urban planning firm of Victor Gruen Associates and with engineering experts.

The Newhall Ranch always has had tremendous supplies of underground water available for irrigation. Projected water needs for Valencia will be taken care of by the Valencia Water Company's present deep-well pumping capacity. Augmenting these resources, a storage reservoir at Castaic (part of the giant Feather River Project authorized by the California legislature in

1951) will be holding northerly waters streaming through an aqueduct into the area by 1971.

Scheduled for opening in September of 1969 on a 60-acre site just north of Valencia is the California Institute of the Arts. This school, conceived by Walt Disney, began with the merger in 1961 of the Chouinard Art Institute and the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music.

August 20, 1967

Valencia is dedicated

Highlighted by the ceremonial and symbolical passing of title to the land from the King of Spain, through the various ownerships to the residents of the new community, Valencia was given an auspicious and festive start on Sunday afternoon, August 20, 1967.