

Fairrhead



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Madera County
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Fairmead

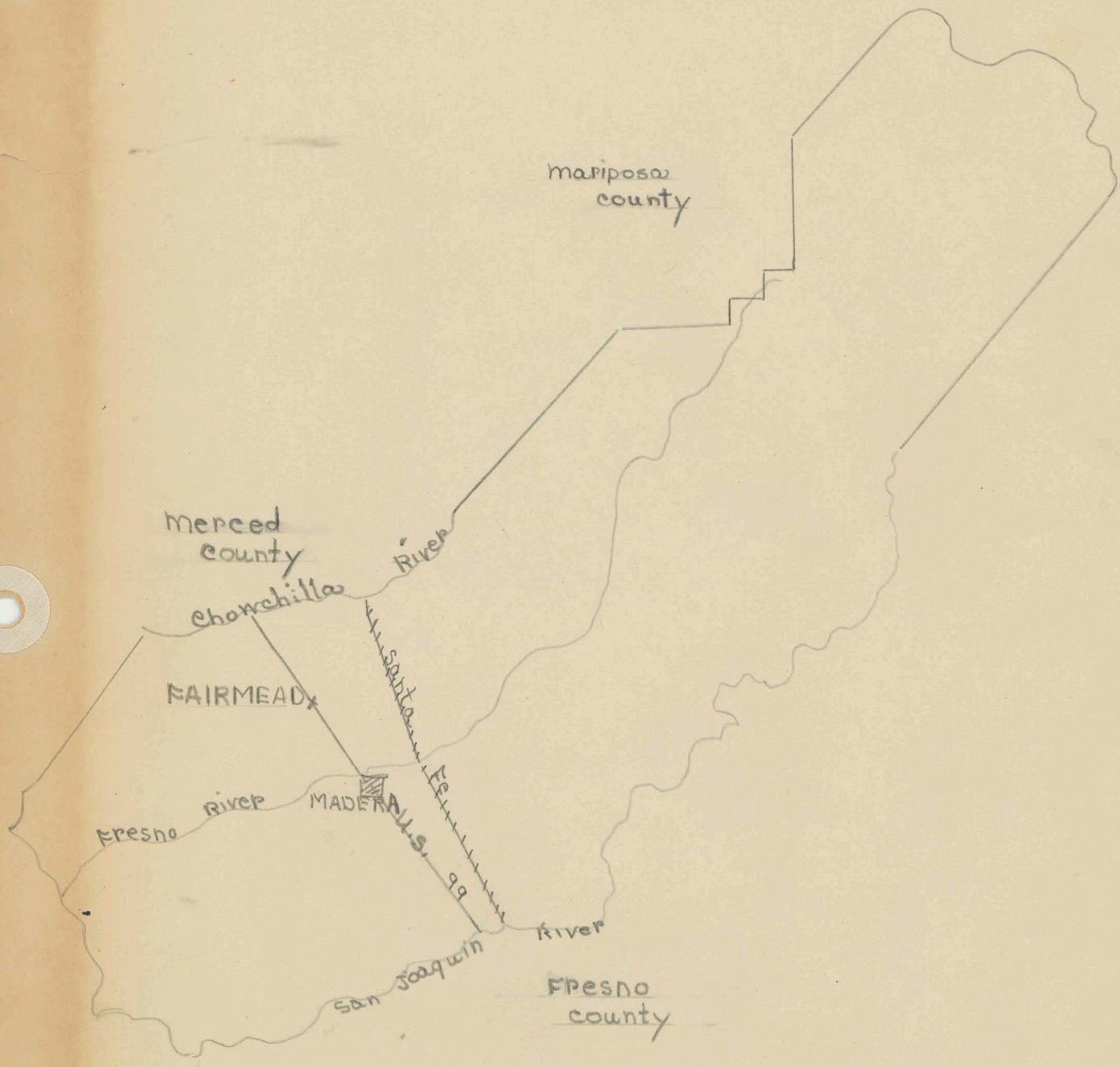
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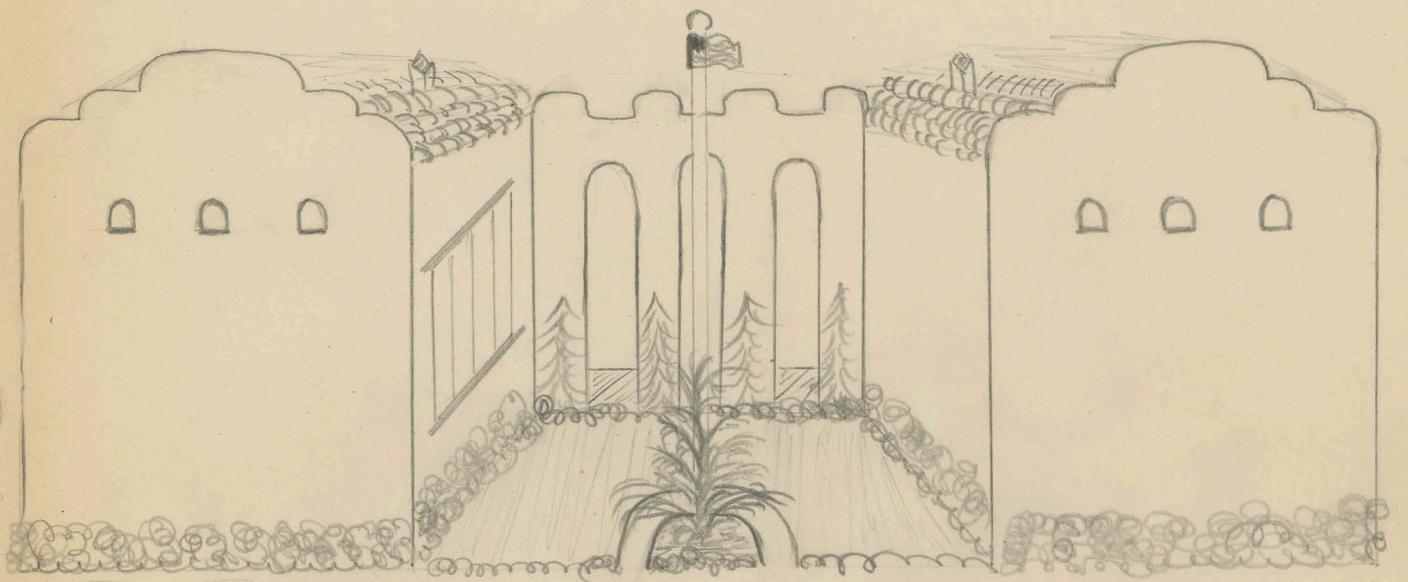
DEDICATION

The class of 1938 dedicates this book
to the Old Timers of Fairmead, partic-
ularly to Mr. J. C. Arnott, who so
willingly and ably has helped with
this publication.

Fairmead
1938



MAP OF MADERA COUNTY



FAIRMEAD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

A HISTORY OF FAIRMEAD GRAMMAR SCHOOL DISTRICT

Prior to the year of 1912 the present Fairmead Grammar School didtrict consisted of several large grain ranches. That year the Co-Operative Land and Trust Company, formed by Palo Alto capital, purchased some 18,000 acres from the then owners of the Sharon Estate: Orval Garlinghouse and the Starr Land Company of Petaluma, of which George McNear was the largest owner. Fairmead Townsite was developed. It was very beautifully laid out, with many parks, liquor restrictions in the deeds, and a very pretty three room school constructed. The year 1912 found the school being held in a newly constructed store building, now used as a store and postoffice by Mrs. C. H. Coleman. The following school found the new building completed and the first teacher was Miss Mabel

Schultz who taught all eight grades. The second year two teachers were required; they were Miss Marguerite Storrns and Miss Ellen Logan. The school faculty has fluctuated up and down since then and at times three teachers have been required, especially during the period from 1923 to 1929. Some of the early teachers were Florance Latham, now Mrs. Ed. Fleming of Madera; Ida I. Hill, and Miss Mary Campbell, now Mrs. Mary Peemoeller.

Among the first pupils were Miss Fern Lakin, now Mrs. Leroy Bailey of Madera; Roscoe Lakin, a prominent cotton farmer of Chowchilla; Genevra Lakin; Roy Ritchie, now of Visalia and Ray Ritchie of Fairmead, who operates the Copper Bell short wave radio station; Willard Sinclair of Los Angeles and Alice Sinclair, now

Mrs. Carleton Swanson of Fresno, and Lucille Graham, now
Mrs. John Stenovitch of Madera.

In 1917 the Chowchilla Union High School district
was formed and Fairmead became a unit of that High School,
withdrawing from the Madera High School District. In 1920
a bond issue was voted to build the present Fairmead
Auditorium, which for many years has rated as the finest
school auditorium in Madera County.

At one time Fairmead Townsite boasted a fine
Hotel, a newspaper edited by Mr. Charles I. Mosteller,
now of Madera, a Co-Operative General Merchandise Store,
a Co-Operative Drug Store, a Cheese Factory, and other
mercantile establishments. J. S. Cone was the first
manager of the Land Company. For a time Mr. J. C. Arnott,
today one of Fairmead's prominent residents, was

Map. 1

associated with the Company. Due to the 1929 depression and the changing of the State Highway in 1930, which dropped Fairmead off its main traverse, the school has dropped to a two teacher school. During the year 1937-38 Miss Mary Young has been principal and teacher of the upper grades and Miss Mildred Goth has been the primary teacher. Mr. W. F. Cunningham is the present clerk of the board of trustees. He is assisted by Mrs. Ethel Lange and Mrs. Mary Orio.

