

The Valley of Hearts Delight

The Santa Clara Valley is
To those who hold it dear
A veritable paradise
Each season of the year.

One loves it best in April
When the fruit trees are in bloom
And a mass of snowy blossoms
Yields a subtle sweet perfume.

When orchard after orchard
Is spread before the eye
With the whitest of white blossoms
'Neath the bluest of blue skies.

No brush can paint the picture
No pen describe the sight
That one can find in April
In the Valley of Heart's Delight.

-Clara Louise Lawrence

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*The Growth, Development, and Changes of
the Fruit and Nut Industries in
the Santa Clara Valley*

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California Pioneers of Santa
Clara County 1984 Essay Contest
First Place High School Category

Katherine A. Berntsen
Period 3 11
April 30th, 1984

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MILLERS FALLS
ERASE
COTTON CONTENT

Table of Contents

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	I
I. History - 1777 to present . . .	1
II. Fruit varieties	5
a. Apricots	
b. Prunes	
c. Cherries	
d. Pears	
e. Walnuts	
f. Grapes	
III. Diseases	13
a. Codling moth	
b. Phylloxera vitifolize	
c. Fire blight	
d. Stubborn disease	
e. Orange viral disease	
f. Smog	
IV. Labor	16
V. Settlers/Cities.	20
Conclusion	IX
Definitions	X
Bibliography	XI

Table of Charts and Pictures

<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
"Picture from the past"	II
"Prunes are good for you"	III
"Bearing, Non-Bearing Acreage and total Production of Cherries in Santa Clara County 1945-1977"	8
"Bearing Acreage and Gross Dollar Value of all varieties of Pears in Santa Clara County 1941-1977"	9
"Bearing Acreage and Gross Dollar Value of Walnuts in Santa Clara County 1941-1977"	10
"Wine labels of Santa Clara Valley wineries"	IV
"Acreage Trends 1950-1980"	V
"A Heap of Trouble"	VI
"Agricultural Trends in Santa Clara County 1950-1968"	VII
"Migrant Housing"	VIII

COTTON CONTENT

MILLERS FALLS

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Introduction

This report will explore the development and changes of the fruit and nut industry in Santa Clara Valley from 1777 to the present. It will show the impact of present day land development on this industry. It will identify the Valley's main fruit and nut crops and the major problems that are associated with them. The history of the agricultural labor force is also a key factor in the development of this industry and it will also be examined.

This report includes charts and pictures to provide a visual insight into the different periods discussed.

In January of 1777, Mission Santa Clara de Asis was established, and November of the same year Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe, now the city of San Jose, was also established. Today these two spots are considered the area in which Santa Clara Valley agriculture started. At that time, California settlers were dependent upon Mexico for foodstuffs. There was a great need to establish a local supply of grains, beef (hide), vegetables, and fruits, thus the main purpose of setting-up these plots was to promote agriculture in the province, so it would become more self-supporting and no longer dependent upon Mexico for supplies.

Early mission agriculture centered around planting staple crops that consisted of varying mixtures of wheat, maize, and barley. Pear, olive and other fruit trees, grape vines, garden vegetable seeds, and flowering plants were also brought up with the grains from Mexico to use in the missions and pueblos.

As early as 1792, Mission Santa Clara had a small orchard of apples, peaches, pears, apricots and olive trees. By 1800 an ample amount of fruit, of various kinds, was grown to supply the needs of the mission and pueblo settlements, and by 1805 more fruit was grown than could be disposed of in its natural state.¹

By 1815 most missions had completed an irrigation system in response to the semiarid climate and to a series of earlier devastating droughts. With an access to a constant water supply, missions were able to expand and intensify cultivation of fruit trees and vegetables, and substantially increase wheat and maize yields. The first widespread

¹Santa Clara County Agriculture Commissioner's Office, *The Development of Agriculture and Horticulture in Santa Clara County, California*, (file)

irrigation in the American period was in 1851, when a group of Mormon settlers bought 35,509 acres of land in what is now called San Bernardino. Within four years they had 4,000 acres under irrigation. However, in 1857, they sold the land and returned to Utah, but the irrigation system they constructed still remains in use to this day.

Around 1875, in the western hills of Los Gatos, growing fruit without irrigation was introduced in elevations ranging from 400 to 1200 feet. The rainfall was adequate and water drainage provided protection against all but the most severe killing frosts. (This "warmbelt" became one of the world's choicest orchard locations.)

In 1834, because of the secularization of church properties, the mission orchards were being neglected and were deteriorating very rapidly. However, Gringos here and there started to replant some of the mission's trees, thus saving Santa Clara Valley Agriculture.

The year 1856 could properly be assigned as the year in which the fruit industry on a commercial scale began in this valley.² In this year a Frenchman, Louis Pellier, asked his brother Pierre to bring a number of prune scions from his home district of Agen, France to his nursery near San Jose. Although, since that date quite a number of varieties of prunes have been introduced and propagated in California, the original Pellier Prune, later named the "Petit Prune D'Agen," has been and is today the great commercial prune of this state.

During the Gold Rush a vast migration of goldseekers created a state of miners, traders and businessmen, but not farmers. It also created instant cities, such as San Francisco, and as early as the 1850's

²Santa Clara County Agriculture Commissioner's Office, The Development of Agriculture and Horticulture in Santa Clara County, California, (file)

California's population was more heavily concentrated in cities and towns than was the case in most other states. During the Gold Rush, then agriculture grew not as a self-sufficient way of life, but as a prosperous, commercial enterprise to feed the increasing numbers of miners and city-dwellers. By the early 1870s, agriculture had surpassed mining as the state's biggest business, a position it has held ever since.

In the 1870's, grains gave way to the fruit and vegetable industry chiefly because it was found to be more profitable to grow these types of crops. By 1889, the county had 1,590,860 bearing fruit trees. It became the leading county in the production of prunes, apricots, pears, cherries, and grapes.

Because of rich soils, mild climates, and an abundance of water, agriculture continued to expand and prosper. By the second World War, Santa Clara Valley became known as the "Prune Bowl" of the nation and largest fruit producing and canning center in the world.

Following World War II, people from all parts of the United States moved west into California in unprecedented numbers. These people increased the demand for fruits and vegetables, however at the same time demanded homes for shelter and accelerated the growth of different industries, agricultural land was sold to meet these demands. Unfortunately, the development of the land was not an orderly scheme and farmers often found themselves facing housing projects on one or more sides. Because of this, complications soon arose such as rising taxes and an inability to properly treat some acreages against agricultural pests.

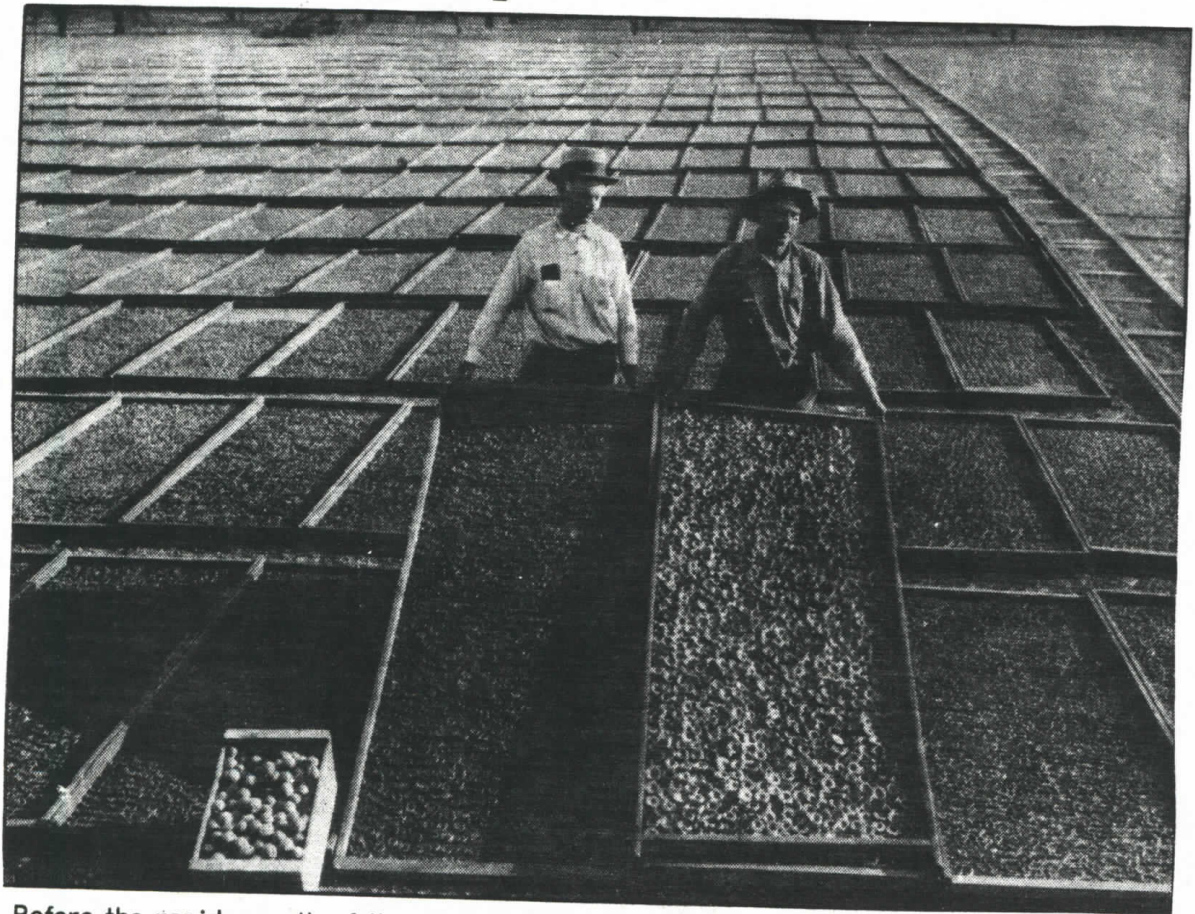
Today, only 270,000 acres in Santa Clara County are planted in fruits (and vegetables or grazed by cows and horses). That's only 33 percent of a county that 30 years ago used to be agricultural land as far as the

the eye could see.³

MILRES BALLS
ERASE
COTTON CONTENT

³Alicia C. Shepard, "Farming in an Urban Valley," The Mercury News, (February 22, 1984), (file)

Picture from the past



Before the rapid growth of the defense and electronics industries in the Santa Clara Valley, the growing, drying and packing of fruit was a major business. Cupertino's John Leonard Family, whose son Burrell is one of the major partners in Vallco Park, owned

approximately 100 acres near Homestead and Wolfe roads. The Leonard dehydrating operation eventually became one of the most flexible in the valley. This photo circa 1930, courtesy of the California History Center at De Anza College.

An ideal climate, rich deep alluvia soils, water and a growing local market led to intensive utilization of agricultural lands. But as crop volume skyrocketed so did production costs. This led to close crop management, which continued smaller land holdings.⁴ As a result, certain crops were favored by the growers in this area: prunes, pears, apricots, walnuts and grapes, in addition to vegetables and seeds. By 1930, 65 percent of the crop land in Santa Clara Valley was orchards and the valley had become world famous. Apricots and prunes were the dominant crop, however, there were several other crops that prospered: cherries, pears, grapes, walnuts, almonds, peaches, and oranges.

It is thought that apricots originated in an Eurasian area near the Caucasus Mountains and easterly into China. However, the state's present commercial varieties came from France and England. Apricots thrive best in deep soil of the Santa Clara Valley, where they are irrigated. In the lighter soils of the foothills, apricots are grown without the aid of irrigation. Dry land orchards annually produce an average of three to four tons per acre; irrigated orchards will produce on the average of eight to twelve tons per acre. There are several varieties of apricots that are grown: Moorpark, Alameda, Hemskirk, Blenheim, and Tilton. The Moorpark, Alameda, and Hemskirk were grown for their large size and golden color as a dried fruit. The Tilton variety has never been grown extensively in the county. It is generally considered of

⁴Jim Choate, "Our 'Valley of Heart's Delight'", (file)

poorer quality than the Blenheim. It has been used more extensively in the interior valleys. Orchardists prefer to grow the Blenheim variety of apricot because of its prolific bearing qualities and because it is considered the best for canning purposes and fresh shipment. By far the greatest acreage is planted to the Blenheim variety. Being a delicate fruit, apricots are susceptible to frosts and to rains when the fruit is just starting to form or has recently formed. Almost every season there is some damage to the crop from one or both of these causes. The fruit is also subject to severe damage from excess cold or heat. In general, the trees come into bearing around the fifth year, but full production will not be reached until around the tenth year. When cannery prices were good and there was a demand for the fruit, it was sold to the canneries. When cannery prices were low, a large percentage of the fruit was dried. Before the apricots hit the market they were first cut in half, pitted, spread on trays, then sulfured and placed in the drying yard to sun dry. Usually the orchardists hired school children along with a few elders placed in strategic positions to make sure apricots went on the trays not in stomachs. The workers were paid 8¢ a box. The industry in Santa Clara County reached its peak during the mid 1940s with nearly 20,000 acres devoted to these delectable fruits. Today, California leads the nation in production of apricots, by supplying 97 percent of the total apricot output.

The Gold Rush period saw the arrival of prunes. Louis Pellier, a French miner found selling fruit more profitable than mining gold. In 1856 the later famous Prune D'Agen, a variety grown in the Agen district of southwest France, was brought over by Louis' brother, Pierre. Here Louis selected the best root stock, mainly wild plum, to produce the first California-grown prunes. This marked the beginning of the

Prunes Are Good For You

Picking prunes, as this family is doing in a Santa Clara Valley orchard in 1936, was credited with preventing a lot of juvenile delinquency. It taught thousands of youngsters how to get money honestly, and the labor involved in earning it made them reluctant to part with it frivolously.

In fact, many a youngster picked prunes to earn money for school clothes—or to help the family exchequer. Long before school let out in June, youngsters bragged to one another about the kind of fruit work they had lined up for summer vacation.

Large families were assets to parents then. Father, mother and kids all worked together in prune orchards, pooling their resources and making for family solidarity.

As San Jose printer Leonard McKay observed some time ago, prune orchards were the best friends of the schools. After a youngster picked prunes a couple of seasons, he concluded that there must be an easier way to earn a living. So he stayed in school to find it.

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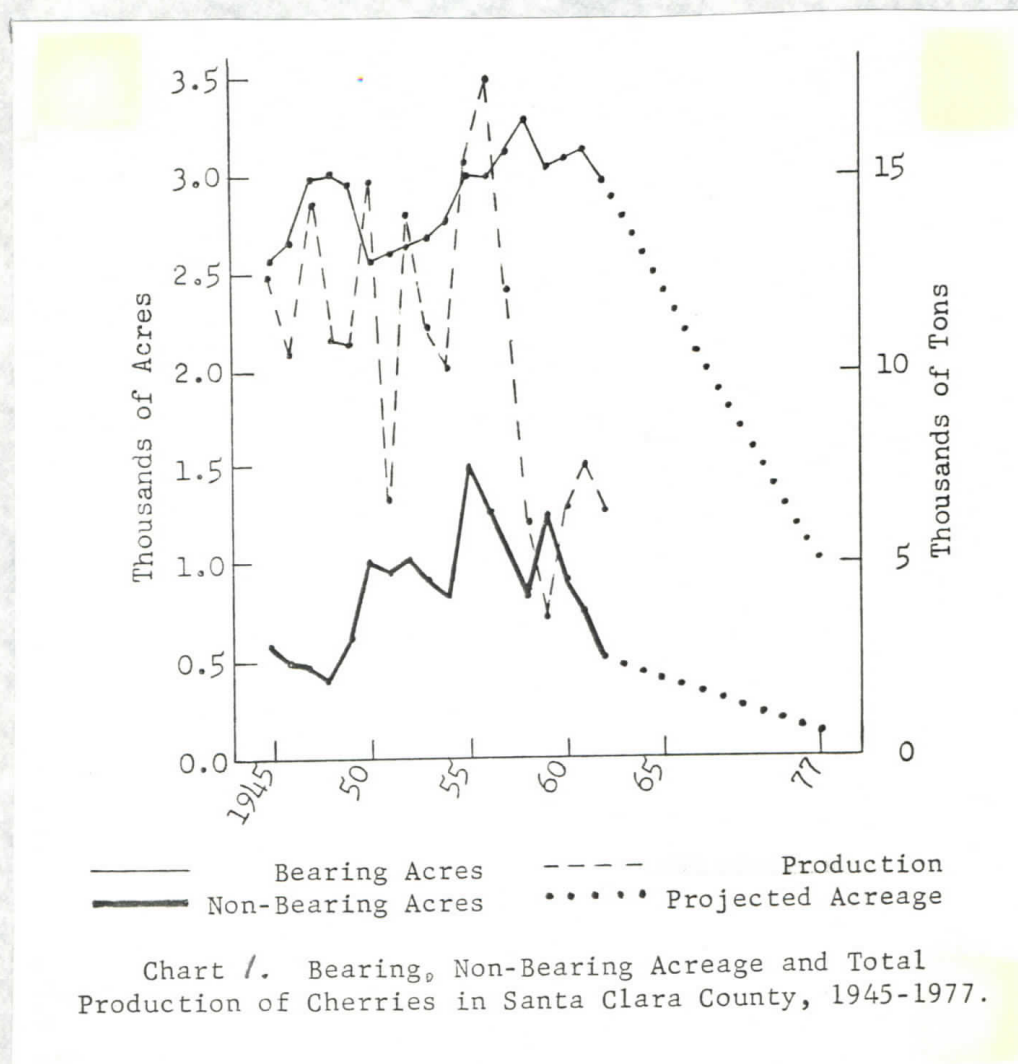
Clyde Arbuckle Collection

prune industry of the Santa Clara Valley. At first, all of the prunes were sold fresh, however, by 1868 the commercial potential of prune drying in California was realized by pioneer orchardists Ballou and Tarleton. By 1890, prunes were growing on 90,000 acres. It is believed that most of the trees in Santa Clara Valley are from Pellier's original cuttings. In the 1930s, 83 percent of the 4,791 farms in the valley were raising prunes and the county made up 42 percent of the state's total prune acreage. In 1945 the total state prune acreage was 140,175 of which 57,835 acres or about 40 percent were in Santa Clara County. In 1961 the total value was \$15,013,000; this amount was received from a total of 45,010 tons of dried prunes which was produced on only 33,000 acres.⁵ Today, California provides all the nations supply of the prune output. In 1977, a living memorial to the Santa Clara Valley prune and to the man who brought it here was completed. The Pellier Park contains twenty-one prune trees and five pear trees in a small orchard setting surrounded by an adobe brick and wrought iron fence. The site of the park is also the site where Louis Pellier's nursery once stood.

In the Santa Clara Valley, the soil and climate conditions for the cherry tree were almost perfect making this area one of two centers for California's cherry industry. Cherries became one of the major crops grown in Santa Clara County because they generally brought the greatest gross returns to the growers. As late as 1954, cherries were the third largest production industry valued at \$4,929,100. Although, by 1980, there were only 734 acres still being harvested which brought in only \$1,017,500 in revenue.⁶

⁵-----, California University, Agriculture Extension Service- 200 years of Agriculture in Santa Clara County, 1777-1977,

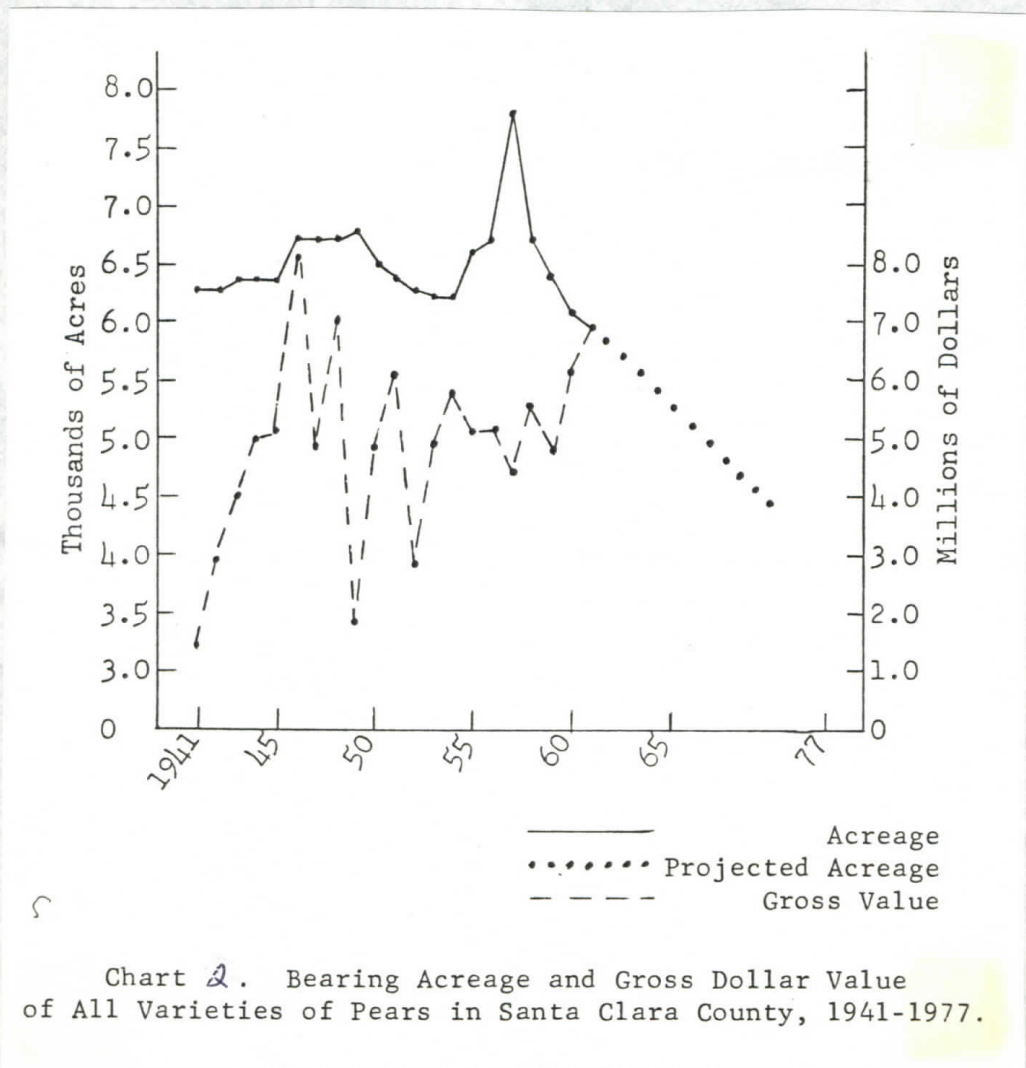
⁶C.O. Howe (Agricultural Commissioner), 1980 Agricultural Crop Report: County of Santa Clara, (file)



It is thought that the pear tree was brought to the missions shortly after 1769. Some of the original trees can still be seen at mission sites. Santa Clara County was often called the "cradle" of California's large pear industry.⁷ Most of the industry was located in the northern section of the county. At first, the industry imported a hodge podge of root stocks from the eastern part of the United States. Then later, the industry turned toward rootstock from France and the dwarf quince rootstock.

⁷----, California University, Agriculture Extension Service-200 years of Agriculture in Santa Clara County, 1777-1977

By 1915, the industry was well established when a newer oriental or Serotina rootstock was available. Since the late 1920s, the industry has used the Domestic French rootstock. The Santa Clara County has both winter and fall varieties. In the fall, the Bartlett and the Hardy are grown. These two varieties go almost exclusively to processing firms. The winter varieties (Comice, Bosc, D'Anjou, and Nelis) are sent to fresh market or are utilized for seasonal gift packages. Over a six-year period (1956-1961) all pears in the valley showed an average production of 11.9 tons per acre; some will average 18 tons per acre, and a few will exceed 30 tons. In 1980, there were only 939 acres harvested in Santa Clara County, where as in 1961 there was 6,803. Today, the pear industry brings in less than \$872,000 in revenue, a year.



Walnuts were introduced to the missions during the Spanish period. A few groves were established during the 19th century, but it was not until 1912 when the California Walnut Grower's Association was organized that the industry began to expand. The walnut requires good, deep, well drained soils, favorable climates and an abundance of water. The main variety that is grown in California is the Persian Walnut. It has been grown in nearly every county in the state. However, the main walnut grown in Santa Clara County is the English Walnut and the Black Walnut. In 1980, there were 2,051 acres harvested, which brought in a total revenue of \$1,640,800.⁸

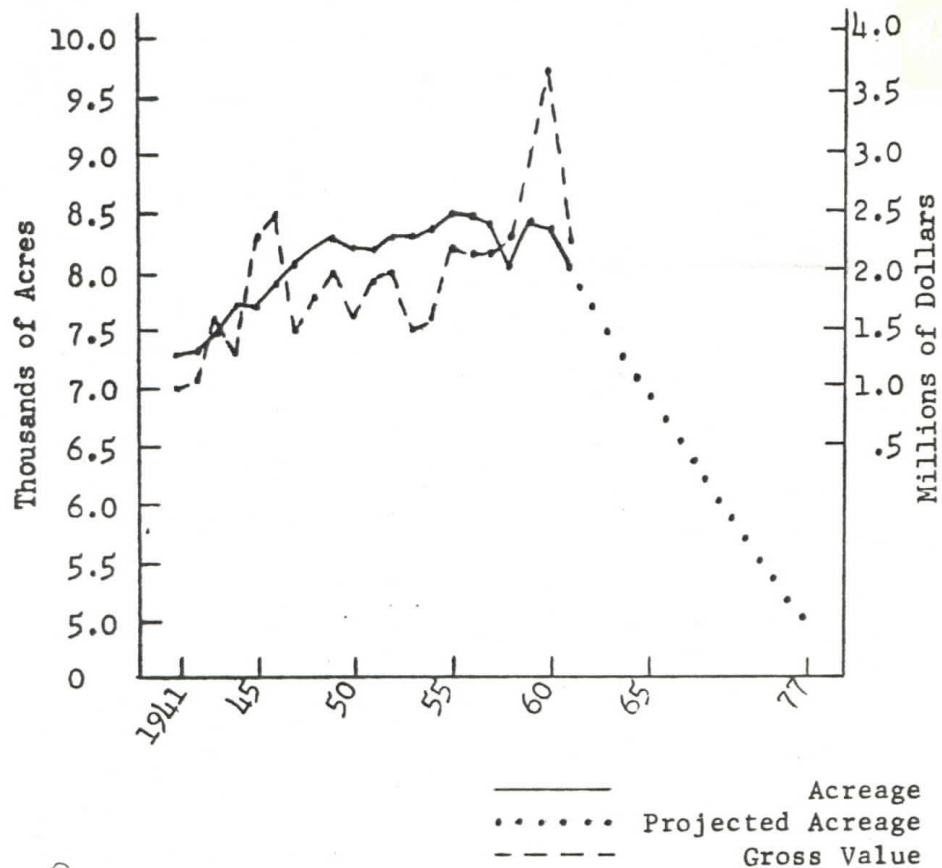


Chart 3. Bearing Acreage and Gross Dollar Value of Walnuts in Santa Clara County, 1941-1977.

⁸C. O. Howe (Agricultural Commissioner), 1980 Agricultural Crop Report: County of Santa Clara, (file)



The Wine

THE WORLD'S FINEST white wine grape is vinified at Congress Springs in oak barrels and in stainless steel tanks. Varietally fragrant in its youth with the scent of ripe fruit, it is fresh and zesty. Chardonnay will mellow with age into the soft, buttery, and multi-flavored wine prized by generations of wine lovers. Allow two years in the bottle for peak development.

Congress Springs

1982

Santa Clara County

CHARDONNAY

The Winery

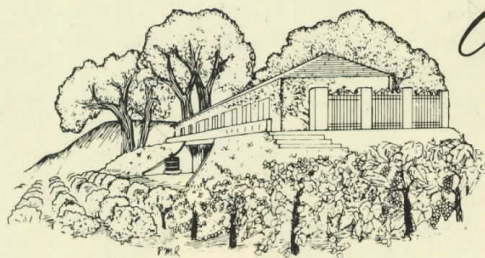
CONGRESS SPRINGS is a small premium winery dedicated to quality. It is located 50 miles south of San Francisco and 30 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean in the beautiful redwood-forested Santa Cruz Mountains. Originally established in the 1890s, the winery specializes in fine wines which will complement food. Visitors are welcome for tours, tastings and sales on weekends from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

PRODUCED & BOTTLED BY CONGRESS SPRINGS VINEYARDS, SARATOGA, CA

BW 4766

ALC. 12.7% BY VOL.

Martin Ray



1980 SANTA CRUZ MTNS
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

PRODUCED AND BOTTLED BY
MARTIN RAY, SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA
BONDED WINERY NO. 4399 ALCOHOL 13½%

*wine labels
of
Santa Clara
wineries*

CHENIN BLANC

MONTEREY COUNTY

1982

SARATOGA CELLARS

PRODUCED AND BOTTLED IN SARATOGA CA.
BY KATHRYN KENNEDY WINERY • ALC. 12.5% BY VOL.

California Viticulture first started in 1769, when Spanish Conquistadores planted the first vines in the newly founded San Diego Mission. Vines were also planted at the Santa Clara Mission after its founding in 1777. Private commercial planting started before the Gold Rush, but it gained popularity during that time. Although Pierre Pellier is well known for bringing the first French prune to this area he is also known for bringing over the first commercial grape vines from France in 1849. Grapes can be grown in a wide variety of soils and under a wide variety of moisture conditions. There are many vineyards in this area which were planted at the turn of the century and are still producing. Although, under most situations the economic productive life of a vineyard is estimated at around thirty years. Among the oldest vineyards in Santa Clara County are the Almaden Vineyards founded by Etienne Thee and the Mirassou Vineyards in the Evergreen District. The Mirassou Vineyards are operated by E. A. and N. C. Mirassou, fourth generation wine growers; their great-grandfather, Pierre Pellier, started the vineyard in 1853. Because vineyard tasks are widely separated in time, it is difficult for grape growers to have enough permanent trained help on hand when needed. In early years, vineyardists required "outside" labor at pruning and at the time of harvest. Today, many of the grape growers are using machines to do most of the picking; it is cutting down on labor expenses and saving work-time. One of the largest areas of production of grapes and the manufacture of wines in the late 1800s was Cupertino. However, grape acreage gradually tapered off after 1900, when prune, apricot, cherry and peach orchards began to supersede viticulture. Today Napa and Sonoma are known as prize wine-producing areas, however, more wine is made from grapes grown in Santa Clara County than in Napa and Sonoma combined. Even including Mendocine County and the Livermore

Valley with Napa and Sonoma, the San Jose area wineries still out produce them all.⁹ Another branch of the grape business parallels the wine industry. In 1872, for the first time "dried grapes" or raisins as they are now called, were produced in commercial quantities. The raisin production was only at six tons in 1872. By 1880, it was up to 750 tons. In 1890, 19,000 tons were produced, and at the turn of the century 47,000 tons were produced. By 1900, 43 percent of all grapes produced in the state were made into raisins while only 53 percent were converted into wine and brandy. Today, California leads the nation in production of grapes by supplying 91 percent of the total grape output.

Although Santa Clara Valley is not an "apple valley" there were some varieties that made their way into the orchards. One of these was called the "Skinner", named after Judge Henry Skinner, who in 1850 brought the seeds across the plains to this valley. Today Skinner stock is very scarce, however, it can still be located in some of the large nurseries in the area.

In 1978, California's total production revenue for fruits and nuts was \$1,540,212,987; the largest total of any state in the nation. Santa Clara County contributed \$106,678,800 of the total.¹⁰

⁹Paul Gillette, "Santa Clara Valley is unheralded Home of Big Wineries", San Jose Mercury News, (February 15, 1984), pg 17F

¹⁰-----, "Agriculture Production of the 32 County Area in Northern California served by the **Stockton Agriculture Expo." (1978), (file)

Santa Clara County
Dept. of Agriculture

Acres Trends

Total Bearing and Non
Bearing acreage of
principal crops

	1950	1960	1970	1979	1980	1980 + or -
1. Apricots	16,511	12,096	5,276	1,625	1,582	- 43
2. Cherries	3,544	3,994	1,942	1,169	1,027	- 142
3. Grapes	5,626	3,859	2,694	2,032	1,724	- 299
4. Pears	7,160	6,912	4,202	1,258	1,000	- 258
5. Prunes	47,708	33,940	19,408	4,047	3,604	- 443
6. Walnuts (English)	9,619	8,918	5,498	2,254	2,070	- 184
7. Misc. Tree Crops (apples, peaches, plums, black walnuts and others)		578	706	245	190	- 55
8. Totals	90,168	70,297	39,726	12,621	11,197	- 1424

The largest causes of loss in the fruit and nut industry are insects and a large assortment of diseases. These cause millions of dollars in losses each year.

One of the many insects that can destroy an orchard is the codling moth. This European emigrant first appeared in the United States in 1819 and 53 years later in 1872 it had apparently immigrated to California. The moth larvae affect apples, pears, and walnuts, by entering the fruit usually through the calyx end of the apple or pear. On walnuts, they prefer the spot where two walnuts touch. Damage comes when the larvae make entry and exit holes in the fruit. Fresh entries can be identified by a light tan-color pile of frass. If a larva dies after penetrating the skin a short distance, this shallow injury is called a sting. A larva that matures will leave the fruit through an exit hole in the side. A full grown larva will spend the winter in a tough silk cocoon under the loose bark on the trunk and limbs, tree crotches and sheltered places on the ground. In the past, packing houses and cannery storehouses were good sources of infestations; the larvae would spin their cocoons in the fruit boxes. In mid-spring, the overwintering larva changes into a brown pupa, and the first moth emerges in April and May, depending on weather and locality. The forewings are brown, crossed with predominantly wavy gray bands. At the tip of each forewing is a coppery tinged dark brown band. This band readily serves to distinguish the codling moth from other moths found in the orchard.

An insect, that nearly killed most of the grape vines in the late 1880s and early 1890s, was the *Phylloxera vitifolize* on the Grape

phylloxera. This small insect has a greenish tint, and is classed with aphids or closely related groups. The fertilized eggs are laid on leaves and hatch into wingless parthenogenetic stem mothers. These then develop in the leaf, and produce galls. The stem mothers produce a generation of winged parthenogentic females, which in turn produce a generation of sexually perfect males and females. These mate and produce a generation of stem mothers, and the system starts over again.

Fire blight is a bacterial disease caused by *Erwinia amylovora*. This disease affects pears, pyracantha, and loquats. Branches may be killed so quickly that the dead leaves fail to drop off and soon become tan-colored, thus appearing as though a fire had scorched them. This appearance of injury by fire gave the disease its name of fire blight. It is difficult to eradicate or even control this disease because it is highly contagious. It can be spread not only by insects but also by the tools used to cut off the diseased branches. Fire blight became an epidemic in the San Joaquin Valley in 1900 and within two years had destroyed the pear industry in that area.

The Stubborn disease in citrus is caused by the very minute bacterium *Spiroplasma citri*. The disease is carried from tree to tree by leaf hoppers, which feed on the sap of the tender young leaves and stems. This disease affects most commercial citrus including oranges and grapefruits, but it usually does not affect lemons. It stunts the trees and causes the fruit to be smaller in size and of poor flavor. The Stubborn disease was first discovered near Redlands in 1915.

A viral disease, long known in other countries, was first recognized as being in the United States in California in 1939. In its spectacular form, a tree may die during one hot day. In the other form of the disease, the tree may linger for years producing very little. This disease

affects mainly oranges, especially those that are budding into sour orange roots. Oranges budding into sweet orange roots show no symptoms of the disease, but may harbor the virus. The virus which carries the disease is carried from tree to tree by plant lice which feed on the sap of the tender young leaves and stems.

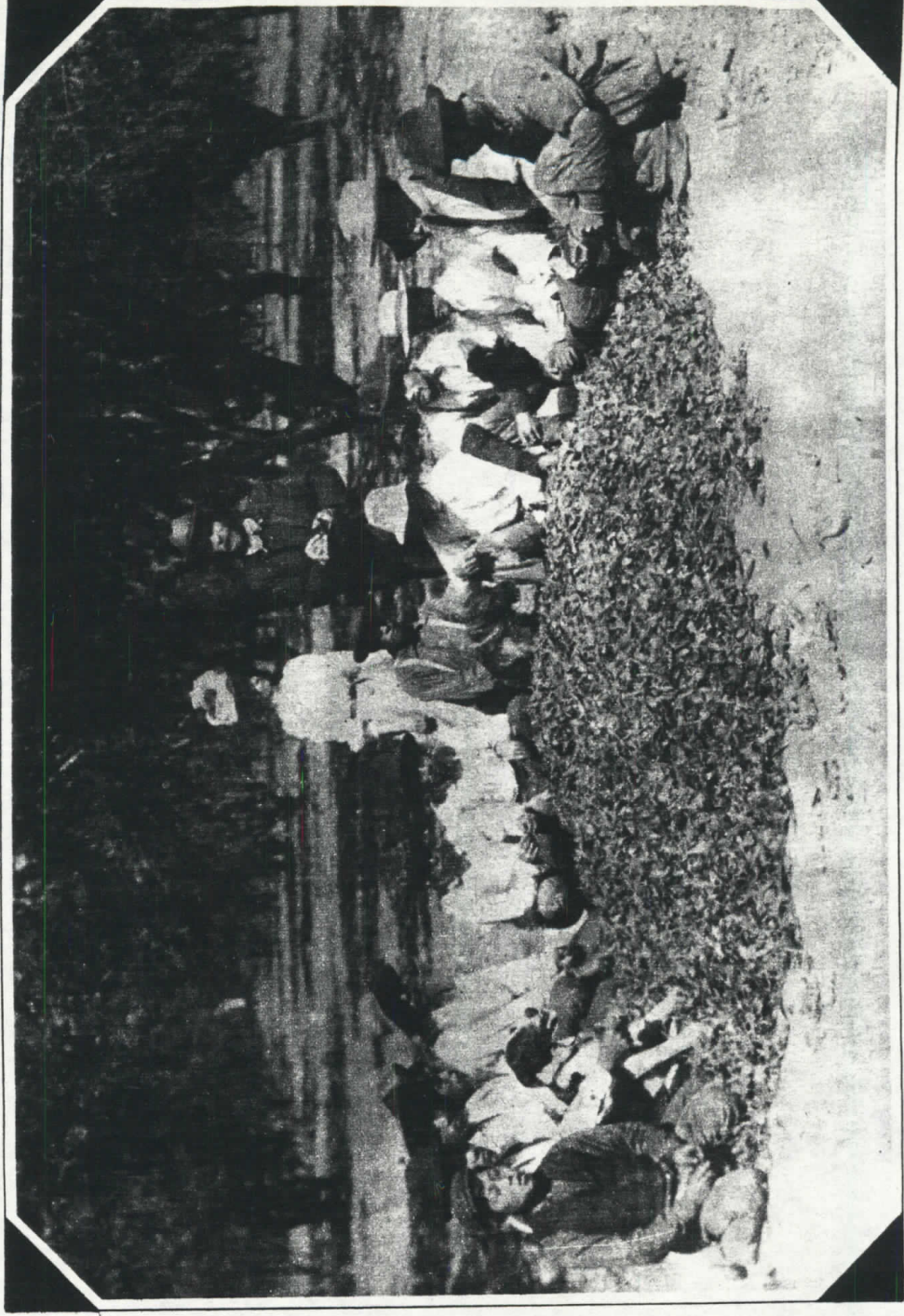
Although smog can not be labeled as a disease, it also causes much damage to all crops. Vines, for example, suffer leaf injury from photochemical smog and tend to produce grapes lower in quality and fewer in number. In 1960, the Statewide Air Pollution Research Center began a study on the effect of smog on the citrus industry. The results of using filtered air showed that one-third more lemons are produced in clean air than in smog conditions, and the study on navel oranges showed that twice as much fruit was produced in clean air.

A Heap Of Trouble

A Japanese crew proudly displays "trophies of the hunt" in an unidentified orchard near Santa Clara about 1903.

Such "safaris" were common sights in days before effective sprays ended the Tussock moth's foliage depredations in Santa Clara Valley prune orchards. Sharp-eyed oriental and occidental crews walked along row after row of trees, searching every twig and leaf for the Tussock's cocoons and caterpillars. In some districts, workmen tossed handfuls of dirt into the branches to knock the pests to the ground. Elsewhere, long poles or whips were used.

The crew in this photo has apparently used only bare hands, picking off every leaf with a cocoon attached to it. Their score is kept by the gentleman in the background, who will presently witness a fine bonfire of cocoons.



The need for labor varies from month to month, and year to year, because of the large variety of agriculture in the valley. During the peak periods, of harvesting, pruning and thinning, the labor can be drawn from four basic groups by the farms; (1) year-round on-farm personal, (2) local farm labor, (3) itinerant farm laborers, and (4) foreign contract workers.¹¹ Usually the farmers and their families do much of the year-round work, which consists of cultivating, irrigating, and spraying. In addition to the farmer, there are some year-round domestic workers who are skilled in specific tasks or in the operation of the farm equipment.

There is a high proportion of local temporary farm workers. Many of these people depend upon the seasonal farm work, which is scarce in the winter months. Some will travel from one farm to another, living there until the work is finished. Local workers residing in the county make up about 40 percent of the domestic total in July and August.¹²

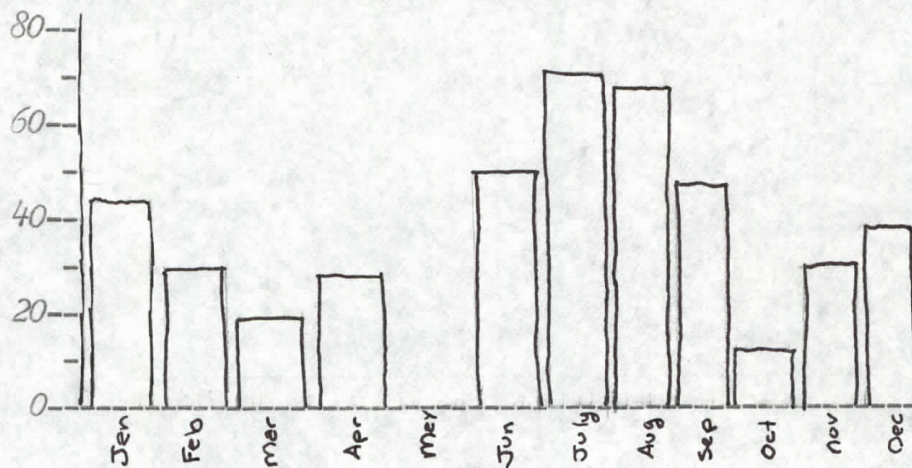
The itinerant farm labor force is comprised of both intrastate and interstate workers. Intrastate workers are residents elsewhere in the state who come to the county for seasonal work. Interstate workers are those that reside in another state and come to the county for seasonal work. Together they make-up 30 percent of the needed labor, particularly during the harvest months of July and August.

¹¹---, California University, Agriculture Extension Service- 200 years of Agriculture in Santa Clara County, 1777-1977, pg.12-13

¹²the year 1963

Foreign contract workers can only be used to supplement domestic workers, not to replace them. They make-up a very small percentage of the labor force.

Utilization of Agricultural Labor Force in Santa Clara Valley



The Majority of the labor force in the past was Hispanic. Between 1920 to 1930, the Mexican population in the state increased fourfold. However, when Mexican immigrants became limited on a quota basis, growers imported some 30,000 Filipino laborers. Besides these workers from the Philippine Islands and Mexico, workers from Japan, India, and China came here to start a new life and work in the fields.

In the early 1900's, because of the degrading living conditions of the farm workers who helped at harvest time, the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) began trying to organize labor unions for the farm hands.

One of the major aims of the I.W.W. was to reduce the long work hours, increase the low pay, and to improve the deplorable living conditions in the camps and to organize a union for the seasonal workers.

When the I.W.W. attempted to obtain these freedoms, it led to the Wheatland Hops riots of 1913 in the Sacramento Valley. Richard Durst, the largest employer of labor, had 2,800 hop pickers camped on a treeless

hill, housing and sanitation conditions were undescrivable, there was no water within a mile of camp, and only four small outdoor toilets were available for the group. When an I.W.W. organizer called a mass meeting to protest the conditions, the Yuba County Sheriff and District Attorney came with a posse to break it up. However, this led to a riot. Three people including the District Attorney were killed and the Sheriff was kicked unconscious. Soon the posse was forced to withdraw; the day after, Governor Hiram Johnson sent state troops in to restore order. This incident called attention to conditions under which California's agricultural laborers lived. Because of this, the state governor created a commission on Immigration and Housing for the sole purpose of regulating living conditions in the migratory work camps. Subsequently, conditions improved, however the commission was hampered because of "lack of power".

In 1917, at the time of the Russian Revolution, members of the I.W.W. were referred to as "wobblies" and were considered by some to be Communists. With the fear of Communism spreading throughout the United States, many I.W.W. organizers were tried; 264 were tried out of 504. There were 128 people who were sent to San Quentin for terms ranging from 1 year to 14 years.

Problems of the migratory farm workers became acute, following the Korean War. (1953) The demand for the migratory worker continued to be high in spite of the mechanization of agriculture. However, wages remained low. This caused other problems to grow; substandard housing, improper diet, and poor education for the children of the migrants. In the early 60's, the most publicized effort at unionizing farm workers was led by Cesar Chavez and his United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, (U.F.W.O.C.). He sought to organize grape growers of the Central Valley, particularly in the Delano area. In 1965, Chavez called a major strike

against the grape growers of the Delano area; the workers won some concessions. By 1968, the major growers recognized the union. However, despite the efforts being made on both sides, the problems of labor are far from over. Workers claim that they are underpaid and unable to maintain a reasonable standard of living in the face of constantly rising prices. At the same time, growers contend they are themselves caught up in a spiral of rising production, labor, and land costs while the income from their operations remains at a relatively unchanged level.¹³

For the first time in labor history, agriculture workers were being unionized; an important result of the farm worker's efforts. Since the problem of migratory farm workers are the same across the nation, the results achieved in California could be used as a base for solutions throughout the country.

Agriculture continues to employ far more workers than any other industry in the state, despite the attention that high technology, aircraft and missile industries are attracting. Over $\frac{1}{2}$ million people work on California farms. Another million and a half work on agriculture's allied industries.¹⁴ The industry employs more people and invests more money per job than any other.¹⁵

¹³---, Bicentennial Edition: California Yearbook, (La Verne, Ca.: California Almanac Company, 1975), pg 152.

¹⁴ & ¹⁵ Leonard Pitt, California Controversies; Major Issues in the History of the State, (Glenview, Illinois: Scott, Foresman, and Company, 1968), pg 220-232.

Migrant housing

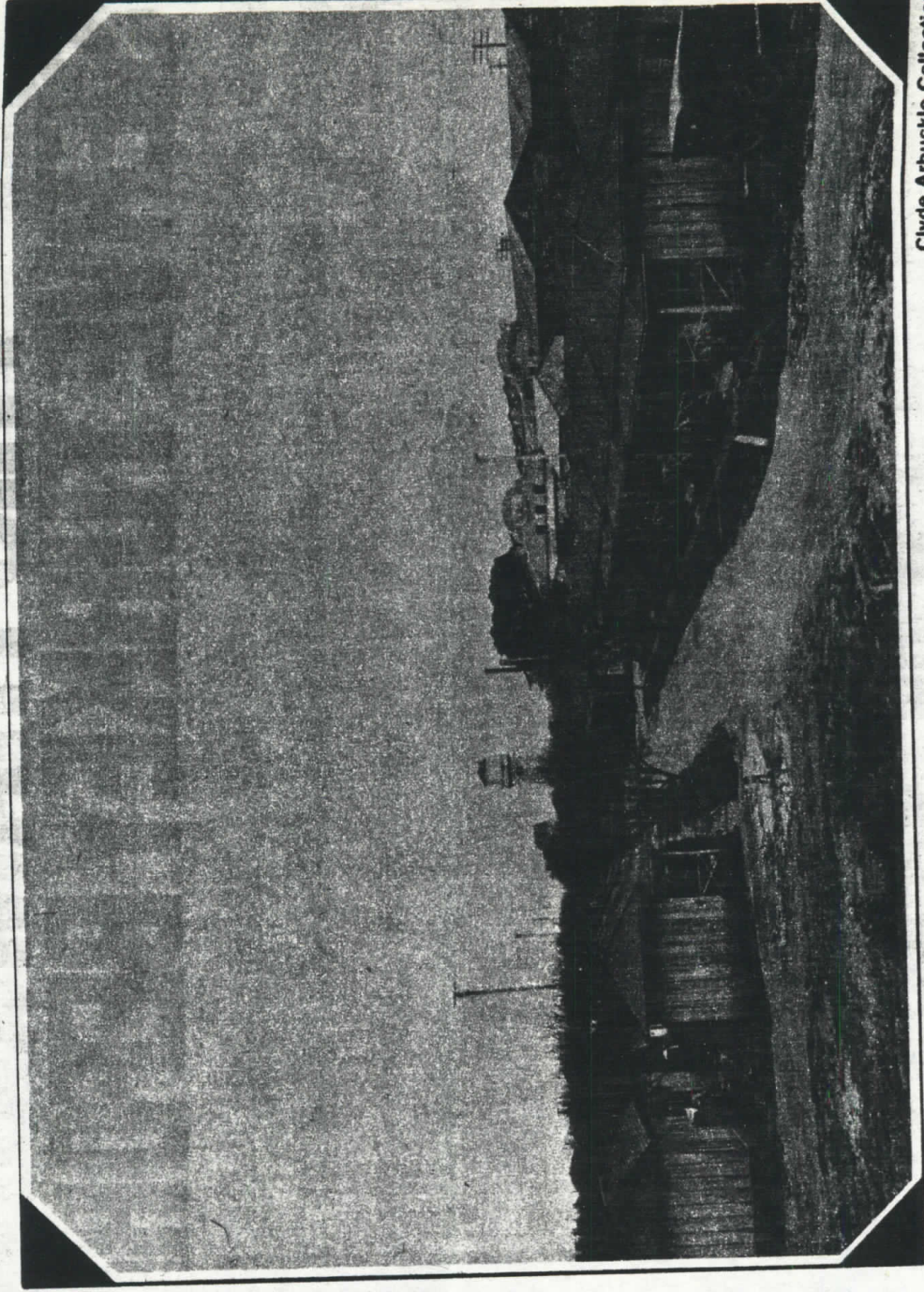
Long before cannery and farm workers' unions came into existence, transient employee housing was an established fact in Santa Clara County. Big canneries such as Libby, McNeill & Libby of Sunnyvale and Pratt-Low of Santa Clara furnished neat cottages for employees who returned summer after summer. Their modest rentals or fees varied from locality to locality and from company to company.

Occupants of the cottages shown in this winter photo, taken in the 1920's, worked for Libby, McNeill & Libby. Many of them had good homes elsewhere in the state, but on coming to Sunnyvale for the canning season, they stayed here until the last can of fruit came off the conveyor belt.

Note the neat window trim, porch railing and hip roof on each of these structures—also the abundant trees for summer shade.

Huge stacks of picking lugs, covered for winter, almost block from view the main cannery building in the background.

G



In 1842, Juan B. Alvarado granted Francisco Estrada a stretch of land north of El Camino Real, a good six miles from just north of Castro Station to the Lawrence Station Road. It took in most of today's Sunnyvale and Mountain View area. It was known to travelers as Pastoria De Las Borregas, (Pah-stoh-ree'-ah'day lah's Bohrray'-gahs), translated it means "Two Lambs Pasture". It was also known as Refugio, (Ray-foo'hee-o), meaning Refuge. It's claimants were Martin Murphy Jr. and Mariano Castro who owned 4,894 and 4,172 acres respectively. In the days of the Old San Francisco-San Jose Railroad Company, Martin Murphy Jr.'s portion was called Murphy's Station. From 1898 to 1901, it's post office was called Encinal and on March 24, 1901 it became Sunnyvale; it was incorporated under that name on December 24, 1912. Because of the rich fertile land, Sunnyvale was one the best areas to grow cherries, apricots, and prunes.

Between the mountains and the bay, eleven miles from San Jose, is situated the town of Mountain View. This city is within the thermal belt, which starts in the extreme northwestern corner of the county and covers a strip of land several miles in width from San Francisco Bay to the foothills near Saratoga, and then to the mouth of the canyon at Los Gatos. Within this belt, fruits seem to acquire a very rich flavor and ripen early. This is one of the reasons why apricots and peaches grew readily here. Some of the most profitable orchards are located in or near Mountain View, however most of the territory was largely devoted to viticulture; mostly in the foothills.

In 1849, Louis Pellier came to San Jose. He started out being a miner, but found it unprofitable, so he started a nursery on San Pedro Street called Pellier's Garden. In 1856, his brother, Pierre, brought, from his home in France, rootstock from wild plums. Here Louis planted and improved the quality of the prune. His prune was not accepted at first; it was later popularized by John Rock, also a pioneer nurseryman.

Santa Clara Valley's orchard era owed much to Luther Burbank for his improvement of many varieties of fruits and his development of new varieties. In 1875, Luther arrived in Santa Rosa where he decided this was "the chosen spot of all the earth" to continue his work of plant breeding. After two years of frugal living, he was able to establish his own nursery. It became known as the world-famed Luther Burbank Experimental Garden. If he had kept the nursery he would have become rich, however his first love was plant experimentation, so he sold the nursery in 1893. More than 600 hybridizations, the plumcot and the Santa Rosa plum, along with many varieties of apples, prunes, cherries, nuts, vegetables, roses, and other flowers, were developed in his Santa Rosa gardens. His experiments were said to have numbered well over 100,000. Luther Burbank lies buried under a cedar of Lebanon he had planted in the garden that surrounds his Santa Rosa home.

Captain Elisha Stephens, leader of the Martin Murphy party arrived in California in 1844. In the area which is now called Stevens Creek, Elisha planted mission grapes and blackberries in around 1852. Because of the rich, heavy soil, the area was one of the greatest fruit growing regions in the valley. Apricots, prunes, and cherries were the favorite among the orchardists in the area.

Vincenzo Picchetti arrived in the Cupertino district in 1872 and in time established his vineyards on the Montebello slopes overlooking the

Arroyo de San Joseph Cupertino. The wines he produced became world famous; he marketed them under the label "Montebello".

The Thompson brothers contributed to the industry by the proof they offered that fruit culture could succeed without irrigation. Also by trial and error, they discovered trees packed in charcoal died on long journeys, ones packed in wet moss rotted, and ones that were packed in dry moss would survive a trip.

Conclusion

This report has covered the growth, development, and changes in the fruit and nut industry to the author's best ability. It also has provided visual insight of different periods in the industries growth.

The author hopes the reader has learned something about the Santa Clara fruit and nut industry from this report, and shares the same thought as did Carey McWilliams, "There is no parallel for the State's agriculture either in this country or in the world". (1949)

WILKINS & SONS

ERASE

COTTON COTTON

Definitions

Foodstuff: material for food

Fourfold: four times as much or as many

Galls: lump or ball that forms on the leaves, stems or roots of plants where they have been injured by insects or fungi

Gingos: American settlers

Harvesting: gather in and bring home for use

Irrigation: supply land with water by using ditches

Parthenogenetic: reproduction without any male element

Propagated: reproduce, increase in number

Pruning: cut out useless or undesirable parts from

Viticulture: the cultivation of grapes

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