

When San Jose Was Young

A Series of Interesting Articles of An Historical Nature Prepared Especially for The News by a Well Known Author and Journalist.

NO. 65

CURIOUS DOCUMENTS

One of the most curious documents of the early days shows that during the time that Charles White was Alcalde of San Jose there was something like slavery or tithing. It is known that the Indians were seldom paid much for the first paper reproduced has attracted much attention. It is as follows:

"JUZGADO DEL PUEBLO DE SAN JOSE DE GUADALUPE: These presents witness that Charles White, first Alcalde of the Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe, has this day bound in apprenticeship an Indian boy, named Bisentil, said boy being an orphan, for the term of three years from this date, to Gabriel Castro, said Gabriel Castro being obligated to feed properly, and clothe said Indian boy, and at the end of said term of three years the said Gabriel Castro shall give to the said Indian boy a horse and saddle, worth thirty dollars, besides which the said Gabriel Castro shall instruct said Indian boy in the Christian religion, and in all kinds of work."

The other speaks for itself.

"This indenture made and entered into on the tenth day of March, 1818, by and between John Pyle, of the Pueblo de San Jose de Guadalupe, of the first part, and Juan Bernal, of the same place, of the second part: WITNESSETH, That the said John Pyle agrees, on his part, to take charge of the cattle of said Juan Bernal, on his rancho en el Arroyo del Valle de San Jose; and said Pyle further agrees to superintend and take care of them for and during the period of three years, six months from the date of this instrument, from the date he receives the full complement, as hereafter agreed upon, and will deliver to said Bernal, at the end of the above period, the number of cattle received, with one-half the increase, excepting those that may die, or be missing by casualty, or otherwise. He, the said Pyle, agrees to use every diligence in protecting, and taking care, as far as possible, of the cattle under his charge. The said John Pyle further obligates himself to build on said rancho, for said Bernal, an adobe house, twenty varas long, and eight varas wide, and

to put an under and upper floor of plank in said house, likewise to put in the necessary doors and window, and as soon as possible to build a corral on said rancho, for the use of said cattle, and to be at one-half of the expense in marking and branding the increase. The aforesaid house has to be covered with three-foot boards, and have corridors in front. The aforesaid Juan Bernal of the second part agrees and obligates himself to deliver, on the aforesaid rancho, and in the corral, at least one thousand head of cattle in the month of April or May of this year, two-thirds of said cattle to be of the she kind, such as cows and heifers, he, the said Bernal, also agrees to give one-half of this, with the one-half of the three succeeding years' increase of the aforesaid cattle, as also one-half of all the increase of any kind which may be put upon said rancho or farm, in charge of said John Pyle, for the aforesaid term of three years; he, the said Bernal, further agrees to give to said Pyle two beeves per month for his use on said rancho, reserving, however, the hides; he, the said Bernal, further agrees to furnish one-half of all the horses needed to take care of the cattle at the rodeos. Each person, Pyle and Bernal, marks with his own brand, and marks their respective one-half of the increase; and it is understood that the house, when built, is to be for the use of said Pyle during the aforesaid term of three years and six months." Signed by "Juan Bernal" and "J. F. Pyle," and witnessed by "James F. Reed."