

# 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. 72 THE FIRST SURVEY OF SAN JOSE

Governor Felipe de Neve issued a proclamation from Monterey in 1779 declaring that pueblos were to be founded in California to encourage the people in agriculture. Most especially, however, were the pueblos founded to be useful to the presidios.

Each settler was given two mares, two cows, one calf two sheep, two goats. They were all breeding animals. They they had a yoke of oxen, one plow-shite or point, one hoe, one ax, one sycle, one wood knife, one lance, one musket and one leather shield.

To the community was given for use in common one jack one boat, three sows, one forge, one anvil, six crow bars, six shovels and coopers' and carpenters' tools.

The lots were equal in size and were two hundred varas square. No lot could be divided, nor could any tax, mortgage or burden even for religious purposes be placed on the lot. If this law was violated the property might be taken from the colonist and given to another.

There was common land for wood and pasture, and irrigation ditches were used by all. Each colonist branded his own stock. For five years no taxes were to be paid. If colonists built houses and dug irrigation ditches they might be exempt from taxes.

After five years the stock as it multiplied was divided among the colonists.

After Neve was recalled P'ages became governor and Lieutenant Don Jose Moraga at the presidio gave the

colonists grants and also irons for branding cattle.

In 1781 the settlers wanted more land and sent this request through the governor to the King of Spain. After a long delay it was decided that no one should have more than fifty cattle. If the grants were outside the pueblo limits the colonists must employ herdsmen to keep the stock from injuring the settlers.

In 1824 when California came under the rule of Mexico, the Mexican citizens were always given preference, though foreigners were protected. No person could have more than one league square of irrigable land nor more than four leagues square of non-irrigable land for raising cattle. All owners of land must reside in the territory.

In 1837 Manuel Pinto, Jose Marie Flores, Leandro Itochin, Luis Chabolla, Jose Antonio Sepulveda and Anastacio Alviso appeared for the people and asked of the Mexican government suspension of land grants till it was determined where were the pueblo and where the mission lands. In 1838 the governor ordered three persons, William Gullnac, Guillermo Castro and Salvo Pacheco to make a map of lands. They surveyed but reported nothing to the government.

As the population increased the demand became greater for an accurate map. William Campbell and his brother in 1817, with surveyors' instruments, made the first survey of San Jose. It was also the first correct California survey.