



DOWNTOWN FRESNO

WHILE HISTORY is not the subject of our brochure, oldtime residents of, and visitors to, the City of Fresno, California, will relish the striking contrast between the above photograph and the one on the cover.

In both instances the Mariposa Street of the late 1870's

... FROM THIS

TO THIS ... IN 90 YEARS



FROM THIS . . .

TO THIS . . . IN 6 MONTHS



THE FRESNO MALL



MANY NATIONAL MAGAZINES have devoted pages of space to the transformation of Fulton Street into the Fulton Mall. It was a bold stroke calculated to revive and revitalize the decaying Downtown business district; to add beauty, comfort, and convenience to both shopping and sightseeing.

Above you see the first stages of groundbreaking in March 1964. In September of the same year the area once clogged with traffic and noxious with gas fumes had achieved the startling change depicted at left. Now the "Fulton Drag Strip" is just an unpleasant

For six lengthwise blocks crisscrossed with "Mini Malls," you stroll among lush trees and flower gardens, fountains and waterways, arbored benches, a wealth of modern sculpture and ceramics. Here and there elfin playgrounds invite the children to linger while their mothers are in the stores.

Mall-visitors who like may ride the little electric trams, but automobiles are strictly verboten. As Bernard Taper wrote in McCall's (April, 1966), "In Fresno's transformed downtown center, there is, naturally, no longer such a crime as jaywalking."

and the Mariposa Mall of today were the camera's vantage point. But the Old County Courthouse, seen at right center in the black-and-white print, has given place to the magnificent contemporary building which now serves Fresno County. And the street approaching this structure from the south has also vanished. Where it once gathered dust and trash, leisurely sightseers, shoppers, and office workers wander among such masterpieces of art as "La Grande Laveuse" by that paragon of modern French sculptors, Auguste Renoir. No less impressive is the growth of Fresno itself from the desert railway station (founded in 1872 as "The Sinks of Dry Creek") to the present metropolis of San Joaquin Valley. The aerial panorama at right indicates how it has reached skyward as well as outward in all directions.