

MEMOIRS OF THE "RODRIGUEZ" FAMILY NAME.

History Of Our Ancestry In The "New World."

01.

Modern History reveals that the Spanish mariners became the first white people to lay eyes upon a "NEW WORLD" when Christopher Columbus made his famous discovery, for Spain, October 11, 1492.

02.

The defeat, and destruction, of the Aztec Indian Empire, by General Hernando Cortes September 14, 1521, made Spain the first "World-Wide" Empire known to mankind. And the destroyed empire became "The Territory of New Spain. Said in Spanish:—"El Territorio de Nueva España.

03.

When war ended, in 1521, 02 buddy-soldier-friends retired from the military ranks of Spain and settled down on the captured territory in an area located between the harbor San Blas and the small village of Compostela. Nothing more was heard from them for 21 years. But by 1542, Spain began to feel the need of a water-way-route to the Pacific Ocean. And as Faith would have it,— a canard reached the Royalty of Spain explaining that such an outlet existed so many hundreds of miles north of El Territorio de Nueva España:—"The Territory of New Spain."

Because of what took place, it becomes obvious that the 02 ex-soldiers had been contacted by the Spanish Royalty, prior to the founding of an expedition in the Harbor of San Blas. Never-the-less, it was done and placed in the hands of ex-soldier Alvarrado as Captain of the expedition. Ex-soldier, Juan de Rodriguez y Cabrillo became second in command.

As the expedition sailed north along the coast of Baja(lower) California, Captain Alvarrado took sick, and died. Captain Juan de Rodriguez y Cabrillo continued sailing north until his fleet entered a beautiful, calm, bay. He gave it the name of "Bajia del Santo Miguel." In English:— The Bay of Saint Michael. Unknowenly, he became the first white man to lay eyes on the coast of Alta California.

As the fleet continued north it ran into a terrible storm that drove him back with an injury that took his life. His crew buried him on a lone island off the coast that his crew named:—"La Isla del Santo Miguel:— The Island of Saint Michael.

While waiting for the storm to calm down the crew selected a captain that was favorable to continuing the voyage. And, according to the log of their voyage, they reached an area where the ^{boundary line} between Oregon, and California, meets the Pacific Ocean. The Captain decided, with the crew, that they had gone far enough to prove there was no such an outlet. They returned the expedition to the Harbor of San Blas, without any further problems.

04.

OUR ANCESTRY began a history in that very same area occupied by ex-soldier Juan de Rodriguez y Cabrillo, and his ex-soldier-friend Alvarrado, in 1542, when they both died manning an expedition for their Government. In 1754, 212 years later, a son was born to my Great-great-great-grandparents, Dona. Petrona Patron and Don. Miguel Rodriguez. When he matured at the age of 20 years, he joined the army of Spain, for duty in the newly acquired Territorio de Alta California. But due to the fact that he could read, and write his language quite well, his Government stationed him at Port of San Blas. This Port was feeding supplies into the newly acquired Territory of Alta California.

According to his Military Records, soldado Jose Antonio Rodriguez was transferred to the Presidio of San Diego sometime in his 3rd. year of service. And from there he, and 6 other recruits were ordered to report to the Presidio of Monterey November 26, 1777. Indicating that our surname of "Rodriguez" came into California 01 year after the U. S. had become a nation.

Five years later, and on the 11th. day of August 1782, soldado Rodriguez married the widow of soldado Juarez, killed in action defending San Gabriel mission. His widow had one child, and another one that came July 27, 1782:— just 02 weeks before her 2nd. marriage. Sometime after the wedding, soldado Rodriguez moved his family to the Presidio del monte del Rey:—"The Fort of the forest of the King." And to where he was stationed for the rest of his military career, of 25 years. And to where 09 children were born to his marriage.

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05.

Sebastian Rodriguez became the oldest son of soldado Jose Antonio Rodriguez, and his wife:- Doña. Maria Trinidad Vicenta de Leon y Haro Rodriguez. And he was to follow in his father's foot steps. So, at the age 20 years, and in the year of 1805, he enlisted in Spain's Army for duty in the wilderness of the Territory of Alta(Upper) California.

On June 14, 1808, Soldier Sebastian married a local senorita named Perfecta Pacheco at "la Mision de Santa Clara.2. They were to become my great grandparents.

14 children were born to them. Seven under the flag of Spain, and Seven under the flag of Mexico. Six boys, and 01 girl under the flag of Spain. And 06 girls and 01 boy under the flag of Mexico. That one lone boy became my grandfather, Juan Desiderio Antonio Rodriguez.

06.

A family misunderstanding developed over the abuse being offered the foreigner, in the Monterey area, by Grandfather's older brother, Francisco Solano Rodriguez. To settle it Francisco Solano told his father he was leaving home. And to see what happens to his unruly son: ^{Sebastian} asked his youngest son to follow him. And since Francisco Solano was aware of the land grant issued his sister in the area of "La Mision del Santo Luis Obispo" by the Mexican Government:- headed, with his younger brother Juan Desiderio Antonio Rodriguez, toward that area on horseback. Both brothers arrived at their sister's land grant, that had been issued her in 1841.

A short time later, and in 1846, it was enlarged to contain 30,911.26 acres. And it all belonged to Dona. Maria Francisca Rafaela Isabel Rodriguez, and to her husband, Don. Jose Maria Villavicencio. The area became known as:- "El Rancho con el Corral de Piedra." In American it is known as the "Corral de Piedra Land Grant."

07.

A national misunderstanding caused a war between the United States, and the new Nation of Mexico;- that ended with a complete conquest, when our troops entered the Capitol September 14, 1846. How-ever, existing internal problems caused us to re-instate the Mexican Government. But we did stripe the nation of all the lands lying north of the present boundary line between the Gulf of Mexico, and the Pacific Ocean. And for the great territory involved, we paid Mexico \$15,000,000, plus \$3,500,000, for claims our citizens had against Mexico for injury to their persons, or property.

08

After the year of 1848, the "Rodriguez" clan of California found themselves in a state of confusion. They were now living under a Government that spoke a different language. And which dealt differently than ^{the} Mexican way. I recall that when I began going to school in the early 1900s, I spoke the Spanish language. It was used at home, because Grandfather spoke very broken English. Most of the inhabitants of California spoke 02 languages, and most all business people spoke Spanish, as I recall. How-ever, when the Americans established the school system we have, in California, California has become what it is, today;- nearly 186 years later.

09.

Family Records reveal that grandfather Juan Desiderio Antonio Rodriguez married a young lady from "el pueblo de Los Angeles" (the town of Los Angeles), in April of 1851. She was named Maria Isabel Jenkins de Garcia y Romero. Three children were born to this marriage, before Tuberculosis took the life of Maria Rodriguez. Later her 03rd child, Desiderio Jr. contracted the disease that took his life February 01, 1872, at the adobe that is still being used. It is located on the south-west side of the "CUTCUTT Peak closest to the city of San Luis Obispo.

Later Grandfather married Dona. Maria de Los Angeles Vasquez:- better known as "Angelita Vasquez." She was born in 1847, in the Cambria area of San Luis Obispo County California.

They married in 1864;- at "La Mision de San Luis Obispo de Tolosa. They reared a family of 05 children, at the Orcutt Peak Adobe. One girl and four boys before she contracted Tuberculosis, and died May 11, 1876. Her daughter, Julia Bersabe died Nov. 01, 1875, a tuberculosis victim. So did Nizandro die February 01, 1878. At this stage Grand father's family had dwindled down to 02 children by his first marriage, and

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09:- cont.

03 children by his second marriage. And one of those 03 was becoming ill with the dreadful malady, at the age of 14 years. And according to legend history given me, Grandfather decided to do something with a problem that was destroying the life of his family. He took his problem to Zimmerman Sinsheimer who was then operating the "Sinsheimer Grocery Store that bares his surname on Monterey Street, in the City of San Luis Obispo. I understand that Mr. Sinsheimer spoke the Spanish language just as Grandfather did. And he was, no doubt, well versed with the laws of the United States.

Legend history reveals that Grandfather owed Sinsheimer's Grocery a substantial amount for groceries, and clothing, and I knew Grandfather well enough to know that that he knew nothing about the American Homestead Act, or its application.

What I have surmised Mr. Zimmerman did for Grandfather is the following:-First:- Under the provisions of the law Grandfather secured 160 acres, of public domain, on an area known as "Slide Hill Peak." Second :- when this was done Grandfather deeded Zimmerman Sinsheimer the property involving the Orcutt Peak Adobe. Third:- If and when Grandfather's oldest son, named Adolfo, became 21 years old, in 1887, Mr. Zimmerman Sinsheimer was to make out an application to secure another 160 acres of public domain for Adolfo:- adjacent to his father's property:- as it so happened.

When Adolfo, finally, died with the dreaded malady, in 1899, he had willed it to his youngest brother, Morell Juan Rodriguez;- who had married Doña. Adelina Hemmi, July 13, 1895, at the Arroyo Grande Catholic Church. They had moved into Grandfather's Home located on the west plateau of Slide Hill Peak;- to relieve their household, and ranch duties, for the remainder of their lives.

Uncle Adolfo's decision to compensate his youngest brother, and sister-in-law, prompted Grandfather to do the same. He immediately, drew up his will giving father, and mother, his homestead property, for his care during the rest of his life. He died in 1908.

10.

The "baby" of Grandfather's 02nd. family was Morell Juan Rodriguez. He married an Arroyo Grande girl named Adelina C. Hemmi:- July 13, 1895,- and I became the oldest of 02 girls, and 06 boys.

Both parents are dead. Mother from a cerebral hemorrhage, August 12, 1927. Father died from a heart attack, March 02, 1950.

Brother George died April 07, 1973, from a leukemia attack. Brother Ivan died from a heart attack, January 21, 1974. Sister Myra died from a Leukemia attack, November 03, 1976. Thus, within 03 years our family has shrunk from 08 members to one sister, and four brothers.

We are all located within the city of San Luis Obispo, except brother Harry who is settled at 55 El Toyonal Road, P.O. Box 233. Orinda, California 94563. Phone I-415-254-4889.

II.

Harry, and Cecelia reared a family of 02 girls and 01 boy. Their son is a professor at the University of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. They have 03 children, and 01 grand-child.

12.

I, and my wife, Clydie reared a family of 01 girl and 03 boys. Our oldest son, Mervin, lost his life in W. W. II.

Harold reared 05 children. Virginia Kraatz reared 03 children. And Donald reared 03 children. These II grandchildren have reared II great-grandchildren, up to the 20th day of December, 1978.

How much larger our clan will get is a good \$60 dollar question.

Edward Walter Rodriguez.

MEMOIRS OF THE "RODRIGUEZ" FAMILY:--1754 TO 1837
INTRODUCTION

Praise is due my distant cousins :- Mrs. Helen Taylor, from Oceanside, California; and her sister, Mrs. Louisa Hensler, from Spring Valley, California; for their extensive research work of piecing together a mi-nute study of the historical records pertaining to the Rodriguez Clan. Praise is also due my distant cousin:- Mrs. Helen Collins, from San Jose, California, who has done extensive research on the Juarez (Whua-res) side of the Rodriguez clan; and to whom I am indebted for her recommendation citing historian, Thomas Workman Temple II., from 1430 South Euclid Avenue, San Gabriel, California, as having the best, and most complete set of records, on the Spanish history of California.

Prior to June 6, 1968, - when I wrote my first letter to Thomas Workman Temple II.: I had been searching, in vain, for the historical records of my early ancestry; who, beyond any doubt, had come from Spain, sometime after the year of 1492; and had settled on the east coast of Nueva España (Nu-ev-a Es-pan-yah). By the year of 1750, my ancestry had reached the west coast of Nueva España; and were settled in the areas involving the States of Jalisco (ha-lees-qō), Nayarit (Nai-ah-rīt), and Sinaloa. And it was from these areas that my ancestors were to migrate to the newly acquired territory of Alta California, in the later years of the 17th. century.

To illustrate how confused my records were; prior to first letter to the Historian; I made him the following quote, to wit :- "I am a descendent of 200 years hence; and I have, and still am, searching early California history; Mission Records; and legend stories; for positive information on the life history of my great-great-grandfather, Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez; who came from where, when, and with whom, to Alta California; to start, and develop, a recorded history of his own, when he became a member of the "Northern California Mission Guards", as early as 1787".

"My early records, on this ancestor, date back to the year of 1907; when I was 12 years old, and an 8th. grader in school. My grandfather, Don Juan Desidero *Antone* Rodriguez, who was living with the family; and who had a very clear mind for a person 85 years old; related the story, to me that his grandfather, Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez, was a Castilian Spaniard; that he was very fair complexioned, and had blue eyes; that he was a soldier in the Spanish army, sent here to help occupy, and settle, the territory of Alta (Upper) California. Whether, or not, he told me that his Grandfather came from Jalisco, Spain; or whether he told me that he came from Jalisco, Nueva España, as Mexico was then known, is not clear in my mind. I note that most historians are claiming that the village of Compostela, Jalisco, Nueva España, was the origin of my ancestor".

"From my study of the records, I do have, I have come to the conclusion that I am in need of positive data, to prove their authenticity. I believe that my ancestors came with the Portola expedition, in 1769; that since the prime motive was to conquer the territory of California; and to set up a provincial government; Portola assigned guards, at strategic locations along the route he was to follow; and, no doubt, Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez, became one of those assigned to guard Mission San Gabriel. How old was he then? How old was he when he married August 11, 1782? or, if he came with the Anza expedition, - how old was he? Was he, and Juarez, companion soldiers? A positive answer to anyone of these questions would help me immensely".

When my knowledge; found in the above quotation; is compared with the history; which is to follow; one can immediately realize that the history, of my ancestry, would never have been possible without the records, obtained from the good Historian; and I can assure that they are the foundation of the history that is to follow.

SPAIN, CALIFORNIA, AND THE RODRIGUEZ FAMILY

To begin with the history of California; and to record what part the Rodriguez ancestry played in her history; we must go back to that era, of time, when the first

explorer to set foot, on California soil, was Juan Rodriguez^{de} Cabrillo (Woo-an Ro-dree-ghes Ka-bree-yo); when he anchored his two small vessels in the harbor of San Diego, and stepped ashore at Point Loma, on September 28, 1542. His act happened 21 years after he had helped Hernando Cortes capture the City of Mexico; following a siege of the City, which lasted 85 days; and which destroyed the Aztec Indian Empire. Hernando Cortes became the Governor of the newly acquired territory; and named it Nueva España (Noo-ev-a Es-pan-yah).

Juan Rodriguez^{de} Cabrillo's fleet cruised northward, as far as the Oregon Border; and returned to the coast of what is now Santa Barbara; where he met death, and was laid to rest, in a lonely grave on San Miguel Island.

Over the years that were to follow, the idea of vast riches, in California, continued to persist, despite the fact that a chain of missions, established by the Jesuit fathers, on Baja (Ba-ha) California, proved it to be a poverty-wrecked land. In 1767, King Charles III. ordered the Jesuit Fathers expelled :- partly because he felt that somewhere, under the surface of their hard-scrabbled existence; the 16 surviving priests, on the peninsula, had been with-holding pearls, and gold, due the Royal Treasury; and to evict them, a middle-aged career soldier, named Gasper de Portola, was assigned to the lonely poverty-wrecked peninsula with the title of Governor; which he held in lieu of a military promotion. And the priest; who took over the Jesuit chain of 14 Missions; was a 54 year old Franciscan Missionary, named Junipero (Whoo-nee-per-o) Serra. Behind Father Serra's gentle-ways; and slightly built stature; was imbedded an iron-clad determination to bring enlightenment, and a better life to the native Indian.

The unhappy eviction of the Jesuits brought these 2 men to Nueva España's frontier at a time when the Viceroy of Nueva España, Don Jose de Galvez, was devising plans to extend the frontier of Spain, northward, before it became too late. And to help him execute his plan, Galvez saw; in the person of Gasper de Portola, and Father Junipero Serra:- the leaders of the expedition; he would send. At the time, British, and Russian fur traders, and trappers, were sailing the northern Pacific Ocean waters;-opened up to them;-by the discoveries of Vitus Bering.

Peace had come to the world war front, between England, France, and her ally Spain; in the years between 1762-63:- when France gave up Canada, Cape Breton, and all of her Louisiana territory, lying east of the Mississippi River; except New Orleans, and vicinity.

England had agreed to return all conquests, taken from Spain, except the province of Florida.

France, on the other hand, gave Spain New Orleans, and the vicinity involved; and all of Louisiana territory, lying west of the Mississippi River;- and bowed, herself, out of the North American Continent.

At the time of the treaty, the colonial population of the American colonies, located north of Nueva España, had increased from 200,000, in 1660, to approximately 2,000,000, in 1760; and the great march of the colonies, across the continent of North America had begun. Nine years later, Viceroy Galvez, sent Gasper de Portola on his famous march up the Pacific Ocean coast; with plans to take possession, and forestall, the consideration, of any plans the Russians, or the British, may have had toward the occupation of the Territory.

Such were the conditions, and circumstances; of world affairs; which compelled Viceroy Galvez to work, so feverishly; and for nearly a year; at Port San Blas, on the mainland; and at the Presidio de Loretto, in Baja (Baa-haa) California; outfitting the expedition he was to send, but not accompany. And he worked, in his shirt-sleeves, besides priests, and seaman, caulking ships; and packing canonical

supplies, for the missions Father Serra was to establish along the coast of upper California.

The expedition, when completed, consisted of 3 ships; and 2 overland parties, leaving from Baja California points, to meet at San Diego; so named, and charted, by Sebastian Viscaíno, 167 years earlier.

Of the 3 ships outfitted, the San Antonio, and the San Carlos reached San Diego Bay April 11, and April 29, respectively. The San Jose made 3 attempts to sail, but disappeared on the 3rd. attempt, and was never heard from again.

Both captains looked southward, for help from the overland expedition, being led by Portola and Father Serra. But its advance element was still picking its way through the waste lands of Baja California. Galvez's race against time had turned into an even grimmer race than what he had anticipated.

The first explorers to enter Alta California, by land, had to find their way through the hostile upper regions of the Peninsula of Baja California. It was an area so wild, and so barren, that it had defied any effective exploration, or settlement, for centuries.

It was Good Friday, March 24, 1769, when the advance unit of Spain's colonizing expedition left the Indian village of Velicata, bound for San Diego Bay, - located about 350 tortuous miles to the north. Leading it was Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada, who for 20 years had been a garrison commander on the peninsula, and Father Juan Crespi, -close friend, and subordinate of Father Serra. On May 13, 51 days after leaving Velicata, they saw, in great excitement, San Diego Bay, and the masts of the San Carlos and the San Antonio, both of which had arrived several weeks earlier. But when the land and sea parties came within sight of each other, on the following day, their cheers and elation soon faded in dismay.

Rivera, and Father Crespi, were shocked to find the 21 sailors and soldiers from the ships had died; and that of the entire sea expedition, only about a dozen men were on their feet. And for their part, the earlier arrivals learned that Rivera's Party had very little food to share; and, in fact, had to be supplied from their own slender stores.

The expedition had fulfilled part of its mission, -namely to reach San Diego. But now it was impossible to continue on to Monterey. The new comers helped move the camp to a better site on the high hillside; where the ship's doctor, Don Pedro Pratt, could take better care of the sick, although he was also seriously ill. Then they began to unload the San Antonio so it could sail back to Port San Blas for help.

In the meantime, Gaspar de Portola and Father Junipero Serra, with a scout troop of 10 soldiers led by Sergeant Jose Ortega, had set out from Velicata on the same day the advance unit had reached San Diego. They were followed by a pack train loaded with food-stuffs, commandeered, -regretfully--by Portola, from the poor missions. Cattle, taken from the same source, and Indians, muleteers and 2 servants made up the rest of the caravan.

Before leaving, Father Serra had founded a mission in Velicata; and left Father Miguel de la Campa in charge. With Fernando Rivera y Moncada's trail to follow, Portola's group made better time, although, on some days, their marches lasted but an hour, or two, because of the difficult terrain; and because of the necessity for Ortega to ride ahead in search of the trail; and to examine either side, of it, for food, water, and campsites.

Shortly before noon, of July 1, 1769, Father Serra, and his party, reached the little settlement, located on what is now called Presidio Hill, -overlooking San Diego Harbor.

There he wrote the following notation: - "I met all who had set out before me, whether by sea, or by land; but not the dead". And the dead were very numerous. About 60, of the 159 persons who had reached San Diego, were dead from scurvy, and numerous others were sick. On July 9th., the San Antonio sailed for the port San Blas, with reports of the Expedition's plight. The ship left San Diego with a small crew of 8, and only 2 were alive when it arrived at San Blas.

PORTOLA AND MONTEREY BAY

Portola felt obligated to continue his expedition to Monterey. And because of this, it was decided that Fathers Crespi, and Francisco Gomez, would accompany Portola; and establish a mission at Monterey. Fathers Junipero Serra, Juan Vizcaino, and Fernando Parron were to remain in San Diego. Thus agreed, - Gaspar de Portola made plans to head north with most of the surviving soldiers and officers.

While Father Serra, surrounded by a handful of soldiers; his 2 priests; and a group of ailing seaman, remained behind to establish a mission besides the silent expanse of San Diego Bay. A cross was raised on the side of Presidio Hill, on the 16th. day of July 1769. Father Serra sang a High Mass, preached a sermon, and formally founded Mission San Diego de Alcalá; - thus, by a very slender thread, California was formally tied to the Spanish Empire.

Sebastian Viscaíno had stepped ashore, in the area, in 1602; but Spain, dazed in her sunset years, - wasted time over returning to claim the strategic port until 167 years had slipped by. Now the Russians were on the horizon; and Spain was, at long last, moving.

On July 14, 1769, a long column of soldiers, and pack animals moved up the coast from San Diego Bay. Leading the column was Sargeant Jose Ortega, and his group of scouts; then came Gaspar de Portola, and his staff; Lt. Pedro Fages, engineer Miguel Costanso, Franciscan missionary fathers Juan Crespi, and Francisco Gomez, 6 soldiers, and some Indian sappers who would build bridges, and clear the trails for the pack train which followed next. Bringing up the rear were Captain Don Fernando Rivera y Moncada; more soldiers; and more Indians driving spare mules and horses.

Keeping as close to the shoreline as was possible, the unwieldy caravan could not make more than 7 to 10 miles per day, on good days. The Santa Monica Mountains forced the expedition to go through Sepulveda Canyon; crossed the mountains to the Santa Clara River Valley, and followed it back to the sea, at Ventura. From there the train followed the present highway route as far as Gaviota Pass. Instead of turning inland, they continued along the coast, and went around Point Conception. Records indicate that when they entered San Luis Obispo Valley; they saw a great number of bears; and succeeded in killing two. One of the wounded grizzlies managed to maim 2 mules, and nearly got their riders before it was finally slain.

Continuing northward, they went by Morro Rock; and, in a few days found their route blocked beyond the San Simeon area, by the towering Santa Lucia Mountain Range rising abruptly from the Pacific Ocean. Turning eastward through terrain "inaccessible, not only to men, but even to goats and deer, "in the words of engineer Costanso; the train went over a route scouted by Captain Rivera. They finally entered Salinas Valley near what is now King City. From there it was an easy road to where the river empties into Monterey Bay, and where they arrived September 30, - 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ months after leaving San Diego.

Neither Portola, nor anyone else from his group, could recognize the great open roadstead as being the sheltered harbor so glowingly described by Sebastian Viscaíno. Not knowing that they were there, totally confused Portola, and his council. It was finally decided that Monterey Bay must lie to the north. Although 17 of his men were sick with scurvy, they should press on.

They left Monterey Bay, not knowing that they were destined to discover a greater prize.

63 men, "skeletons spared by scurvy, hunger, and thirst; headed their animals north - ward on a cold, and foggy October morning, in 1769. They were resuming their search for Monterey Bay, after camping by its shores for 5 days. Portola's exploring expedition had failed to recognize it.

The decision to push onward was a grim one. Many men were deathly ill with scurvy; and had to be tied onto their horses. Food supplies were short; and weather was turning cold. Fear of death from sickness, and/or starvation, rode along with them as they struggled across the steep ravines that cut the seaward side of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

A storm drenched them to the skin at Ano (An-yo) Nuevo (Nu-ev-o) Beach; but strangely enough it improved the health of the ~~ed~~ sick. Continuing northward with their search for Monterey Bay the explorers crossed a ridge on Montara Peak, October 31, and saw the coastline forming a great arc to the northwest. From his maps, Portola concluded that Monterey Bay was south from that point. However, not all his men agreed, so he made camp where the City of Pacifica is now located; & ordered Stg. Ortega, and his scouts, to go ahead and return within 3 days. They left Nov. 1, following the beach northward. Somewhere along their route they turned inland without seeing the Golden Gate entrance. Topping a rise, they were astounded to see a great inland bay spread out below them: - a vast harbor unknown to the world. The next day a party of hunters also saw the bay and returned, to camp, with the startling news. The following evening the scouts came back with their report on the bay, and on an even more exciting development: - Indians had indicated, by signs, that just a 2 days' march away was a port with a vessel in it. Could this mean that Monterey, and the long overdue supply ship, San Jose, were still to the north?

On the following day, November 4, the entire Portola expedition set out in search of the elusive port. They rode up the beach for a short distance, then turned eastward to follow a ridge leading to the summit of the mountains. There, on a site known, today, as "Sweeney Ridge," the entire expedition looked down on the great harbor. Father Juan Crespi called it: - "this most notable estuary", and suggested in a letter that if the port of Monterey should not be found, - "we have, in place of it, this fine bay in which to set up the standard of the Holy Cross."

Descending to the foot of the mountains, Portola camped at what is now Palo Alto, on November 6; and sent Ortega ahead to find the supposed port and ship. He returned in 4 days, "very downcast": - the report of a ship was mistaken; the Indians were hostile; there was another immense arm of the bay extending to the northeast which would have to be skirted. Ortega, and his scouts had turned back in the vicinity of what is now Hayward.

By ballot, the officers, and missionaries voted to retrace their steps, and search for Monterey Bay, which they now knew lay behind them. Living on geese, and eventually on pelicans and seagulls, - the explorers followed the shoreline of the bay they did not recognize, and pitched camp on the south shore of Carmel Bay, from November 29, to Dec. 9, they scouted the coastlines to the north, and to the south, but found nothing resembling the fine harbor described by Viscaino.

Terribly short of food, they were forced to killing their mules, for food; which only a few soldiers could stomach at first; the expedition voted to return. But first a large cross was erected on the beach; with a inscription cut into the wood stating: - "Dig! At the foot thou wilt find a writing". A document was buried, detailing their vain search.

On January 24, 1770, after more than 6 months of exploring, the expedition was nearing San Diego Bay. They had failed to find Monterey Bay. They had seen no signs of the supply ships that were to meet with them; and they had had no word from San Diego. Would Father Junipero Serra, and his priests, and his tiny garrison still be alive? Was there still a Mission San Diego de Alcalá? In the words of Costanso: - "All of us were returning with a misgiving, lest the settlement had become a place of solitude".

So critical had become the food situation at Mission San Diego de Alcalá that Gaspar de Portola announced that the settlement would have to be abandoned, if a supply ship did not arrive by St. Joseph's Day, - March 19. Nothing happened on St. Joseph's Day, until 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Sails appeared on the horizon. It was the San Antonio laden with supplies, but bound for Monterey where Portola was to have been. Though the ship sailed out of sight, Portola agreed to postpone the expedition's departure. Four days later the San Antonio re-appeared. It had lost an anchor, and had turned back to pick one up at San Diego.; thus the mission was saved by this event.

The arrival of food put new life into the expedition; and plans were made to push on to Monterey, and establish the second mission, and presidio, in Alta California as ordered. Father Serra sailed aboard the San Antonio; and Gaspar de Portola led a second land expedition up the coast of California. Both expeditions arrived, without incident; and within 8 days of each other.

SPAIN CLINCHES CLAIM TO CALIFORNIA

It was Pentecost Sunday, June 3, 1770, when ceremonies took place under a spreading oak tree, growing near the shores of Monterey Bay. And it was there that Junipero Serra formally founded Mission San Carlos Borromeo; and it was there, under that spreading oak, where Gaspar de Portola raised the flag, of Spain, on a pole, and declared himself the first governor of the Territory of Alta California, under the rule of Spain.

History appears to indicate that cannon fire, from the tiny transport, San Antonio, was used in lieu of a choir and sacred music; a forewarning of the conflicting aims between the church, and the State, that would eventually wreak havoc upon both institutions.

But, regardless of whatever lays ahead, - that Sunday morning was a momentous occasion. Now, after having failed to recognize Monterey Bay on the first trip up the California coast; Gaspar de Portola's party had returned, by land and by sea, to worship under the very oak where explorer, Sebastian Viscaíno, had knelt, in 1602, 168 years earlier.

And while Gaspar de Portola was acting governor of the new province, he had secured for his country; he was to perform one more important act, for the new possession before retiring from history. He was to declare the Monterey site, located on the shores of Monterey Bay, as the Capital of Alta California. With this adieu, he turned his command, over the newly acquired province, to a promising young man named Pedro Fages, in 1770; then sailed for Nueva España, on the first opportunity; and out of the pages of any future history.

So begin a history of the occupation of Alta California; with a record of the efforts Spain was compelled to make, at this particular time, in order to establish a valid claim to this possession. Prior to now, her right, and privilege, had been placed on her lap, 227 years earlier, by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, when he visited the coast of California, in 1542, and became credited with being the first white man to lay eyes on her shores. For reasons unknown, Spain chanced to follow a waiting policy on this discovery.

Another spurt followed 60 years later. In 1602, Sebastian Viscaino made a voyage to the California coast, and charted a very accurate survey of her coast line in the vicinity of Monterey Bay. How-ever, for unexplained reasons, Spain continued to linger with her right, and privilege, to take possession of the virgin land lying north of Baja (Ba-ha) California.

Now, 227 years after Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, had discovered California, for Spain; and 167 years after Sebastian Viscaino had charted a beautiful description of Monterey Bay; Spain began moving, frantically, when she noted that the Russians, in particular; and the British, were appearing on the horizon. The results of her observations was the expedition of Gaspar de Portola, sent to California, in 1769, for the express purpose of taking possession: - by establishing a capital at Monterey Bay; by appointing a governor for the territory; by the erection of a chain of Presidios for the protection of Spain's interests, in the newly acquired province; and for the protection of the chain of missions proposed to be built; under the guiding hand of Father Junipero Serra; thus clinching her right, and privilege, to take possession.

RODRIGUEZ FAMILY AND NUEVA ESPAÑA:----1754.

Because of the activity generated, by Viceroy Jose de Galvez; for Spain; on the west coast of Nueva Espana, in behalf of an expedition to take, immediate, possession of Alta California; the west coast of Nueva Espana became heavily involved with the possession, settlement, and development of Alta California. And because of such an involvement, the name of the Rodriguez family cropped up into the history of Nueva Espana; when a son was born, in 1754, to Miguel Rodriguez, and his wife, Dona Petrona Patron. At the present time I have no knowledge, available, on either one, of these great-great-great-grandparents, except to know that they named their son, Jose Antonio; and that they were living at the village of Compostela, located in the State of Jalisco, Nueva España. And beyond the record that Jose Antonio Rodriguez was born to them,; I have no record indicating that he had brothers and sisters; or that he had received any amount of education, beyond being able to write, and read in the Spanish language.

How-ever, a record began on his life, when he became 20 years old. At that time it appears that he was stationed at Port San Blas, located on the west coast of the State of Nayarit. The Port was, also, located about 40 to 50 miles northwest of his home-town, Compostela; and was selected, by the Spanish Government, as a supply base for the needs of the Spanish Government, in processing the occupation of Alta California.

Whether Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez was employed, as a private citizen, at the Port; or whether he had enlisted with the Spanish Army is problematical. How-ever, a record was made of his career, when he became acquainted with a Spanish soldier, at the Port, in 1774. Another record was made, at the Port, in the year of 1775, when he met with another soldier. These 2 records became the first and last records of Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez's whereabouts in Nueva España. The question which arises, is where was he between the year of 1775 and November 26, of the year 1777? How long had he been a soldier before November 26, 1777? These are both good questions without an answer. On the other hand soldier Rodriguez served his government 22 years, as a soldier, between the year of 1777, and the year of 1799, when he retired from army life. Because of his record of 22 years, in California:--I am inclined to believe that he became a soldier, at the military Port of San Blas in the year of 1774. My surmise is that when he retired in 1799, for reasons of his own, he had served his Government, not for a period of 22 years, but for a period of 25 years; which amounts to the difference between the year of 1774, and the year of 1799, when he retired.

SOLDIER RODRIGUEZ MIGRATES TO ALTA CALIFORNIA:--1777.

The Muster Roll Records, of the Spanish Army occupying Alta California, indicate that the San Diego Presidio Records for January 1, 1778, record soldier Jose Antonio Rodriguez, as being one, of 7 recruits, ordered by the, then, California Governor, Felipe de Neve, to report at the Presidio of Monterey, for duty. And, from a listing dated November 04, 1781; and signed by Diego Gonzales; Commandante (Commander), at Monterey Presidio, of horses and mules issued to soldiers, from January 1, 1774, to December 31, 1780; indicates that Soldier Rodriguez was issued animals, in 1778.

By the records, given above, we have soldier Great-great-grandfather moved from his native land of Nueva Espana; to the wilderness of Alta California. We have him dressed in the uniform of a Spanish soldier. And he has been issued horses, and/or mules, for the performance of his duties as a Spanish soldier, soldiering in Alta California; 200 years ago. We now return to Nueva Espana, for the young lady destined to become his wife; in the non-too-distant future.

DE LEON FAMILY AND NUEVA ESPANA:--in 1758.

Great-great-grandmother, Maria Trinidad Vicenta was the daughter of Don Francisco Matias de Leon, and Josefa (Ho-sea-fa) Encarnacion de Haro. She was born, in 1758, at Real de Cosala, a village located approximately 30 miles, inland from the west coast of what was then called Nueva Espana, but which is now known as the nation of Mexico. And today Cosala is a city of more than 14,000 population; and is located in the State of Sinaloa.

Like the parents of my Great-great-grandfather, I have no further information on the parents of my Great-great-grandmother, at the present time; than to know that they were the parents of the lady destined to become my relatives; and that they, no doubt, were living at Real de Cosala, in 1758, when Maria Trinidad Vicenta was born to them.

At the age of 20 years, Maria Trinidad Vicenta married Francisco Juarez, a native of Real de Cosala, who was 3 years her senior. And while they were living at Real de Cosala, a son named Francisco Xavier Juarez was born to them, in 1780.

Between the years of 1769, and the year of 1781, many changes had taken place in the history of the Territory of California. Gaspar de Portola, who had led the exploratory expedition, which clinched the rights of Spain to take possession of the virgin territory of Alta (Upper) California. And, as has been stated before, he declared himself as being the first governor of the land he had explored.

In 1770, he gave up the governorship of California; and disappeared from any further role in history. From 1770, to 1774, he was followed by another Military Commander, named Don Pedro Fages (Fa-hes). In 1774, Pedro Fages was replaced by a third Military Commander, named Don Fernando Rivera y Moncada. Governor Fernando Rivera y Moncada was replaced, by Felipe de Neve, who became the first civil Governor of California, in 1777.

Following his retirement from the governorship Captain Fernando of Alta California, Rivera y Moncada was assigned the task of recruiting soldiers, and civil citizens, from Nueva Espana for duty in the settlement, and development of Alta California.

YUMA INDIAN MASSACRE!

As it happened, Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada recruited 2 expeditions, from the States of Sinaloa and Sonora; scheduled to arrive at San Gabriel Mission, from Sonora, in July and August of the year 1781. The one which came, by way of the Rio (River)

Colorado; and in which Don Francisco Juarez, and Dona Maria Trinidad Vicenta de Leon Juarez were members, arrived safely at San Gabriel, Mission on July 14, 1781. They escaped the "Yuma Indian Massacre", of July 17th. 1781, at the Yuma Indian Pueblos where the Indians clubbed, to death, 50 men; 4 Franciscan Padres; and Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada, - who had recruited the men, and their families, in Sinaloa and Sonora, between the year of 1780, and 1781. And, according to the records, the women and children were enslaved by the Indians.

The safe arrivals of 1781, on learning of the tragedy; which ended the life of their leader, and destroyed the remainder of the expedition of which they were a part, and which they narrowly averted; prompted the beginning of "Memorial Services", at San Gabriel Mission. These services lasted 50 years, or until 1831. In 1954, Miss Ellen Schaffer; - an authority on the history of Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada; and San Gabriel Mission historian, Thomas Workman Temple II., have revived the "Memorial Services". And, as of July, 1968, the Mission Church was celebrating the 14th. revival of the Memorial Services held, in behalf of the leader; the Priests; the men; the women; and the children, who lost their lives in the Yuma Indian Massacre of July 17, 1781.

SOLDIER JUAREZ AND FAMILY ARRIVE:--July 14, 1781.

However, as of July 14th. 1781, we have witnessed the mysterious, but safe arrival of great-great-grandfather, Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez, in California from Nueva Espana. And we have witnessed the miraculous, but safe arrival of Dona Maria Trinidad Vicenta de Leon, - the lady destined to become my Great-great-grandmother. She was accompanied by her husband, Don Francisco Juarez, and by their first child, Francisco Xavier Juarez. And they came from the State of Sinaloa, Nueva Espana, to San Gabriel Mission, located in the southern part of Alta California.

SOLDIER FRANCISCO JUAREZ DIES:--Feb. 28, 1782.

They became temporarily stationed at San Gabriel Mission, pending the erection of a presidio at Santa Barbara. By the terms of his enlistment, in Nueva Espana, he was to serve at the proposed Presidio de Santa Barbara. As Indian uprisings were quite frequent, because of the intrusion of the white man, and the teachings of the Missions: - and because of the honor bestowed on this particular burial; that I have come to the conclusion that Dona Maria Trinidad Vicenta's husband Francisco Juarez died February 28, 1782, from wounds received while defending Mission San Gabriel against an Indian uprising. No records do exist stating what he died from, but the very fact that he was buried in the floor of San Gabriel Mission signifies the great honor bestowed on him, by the Mission, that cost him his life.

DEATH CREATES BAD SITUATION

His death created an unbelievable situation for his wife. Here, at San Gabriel Mission, she now found herself stranded, in the wilderness of California; with one child born, and another one on the way. Undoubtly, she realized there was no way of ever getting back to Real de Cosala, in Nueva Espana. But kind Providence was at her side, as events continued to unfold. It was the custom, in those times, to move soldiers from one Presidio to another as conditions warranted; and the fact that Francisco Juarez died February 28, 1782; and the fact that on the 26th, day of March, 1782, the expedition to found the Presidio of Santa Barbara, left San Gabriel Mission: - it stands, to reason, that soldiers must have come to the ceremonies from the Presidios of Monterey and San Diego; and, no doubt. Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez could have spent considerable time at San Gabriel Mission because of the events mentioned.

RODRIGUEZ MARRIES JUAREZ WIDOW:-1782.

Viewing the picture from the side of Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez:-here was a young man who was nearing his 30 years of life. He was living in an environment where, no doubt, Spanish women were scarce. And, beyond question, the Spanish women, who were there, were women with young families. A young man, in Great-great-grandfather's position was faced with no better choice than the one he eventually made under the existing circumstances.

When? And for what reason he made his decision, is a question I will not attempt to answer. But I do enjoy the romantic explanation offered by historian Thomas Workman Temple II, in the following quote: - "Don Jose Antonio, no doubt, was present at the death of Juarez: - took a liking to Vicenta, - now with one child; and expecting another soon; - quite a romantic meeting, and out of the goodness of his heart, - "Popped the Question", and did a wonderful thing".

Preparations, for their marriage, began July 18, 1782, with the pre-marital investigations. At the time, Dona Vicenta was only 9 days away from the birth of her second child. Two Monterey Presidio soldiers, who acted as witnesses to the pre-marital investigations, were Franco Bruno and Manuel Maria de Vargas. (Incidentally these were the last two men, of record, to see Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez, when he was located at Port San Blas, Nueva Espana. Franco Bruno record was made in 1774. Manuel Maria de Vargas's record was made in 1775; and, according to history, he was the last person, of record, to see Don Jose Antonio in Nueva Espana). However, both soldiers testified that they had known Vicenta for a little more than a year, and since she had arrived at San Gabriel Mission, on July 14, 1781. Both witnesses, also, testified that they knew the parties, to this marriage, were not related by blood, affinity, or spiritual relationship. That they were marrying voluntarily, and freely. That they had not taken any vows of religion, or chastity; nor did they know of any impediment that stood in the way of their marriage. Father Antonio Cruzado married them. Witnesses to the marriage ceremony were Soldado de cuero (Calvary soldier) Francisco Lopez, and wife Encarnacion Lopez; and his sister, Maria, wife of the Corporal of the Mission Guards: - Don Jose Maria Verdugo (Ver-du-ho).

With their marriage agreement binding them together, as man and wife, for the remainder of their lives; great-great-grandfather, Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez headed north, from San Gabriel Mission, with great-great-grandmother, Dona Maria Trinidad Vicenta de Leon (Juarez) Rodriguez, and her 2 sons: - Francisco Xavier Juarez, age 2 years; and Jose Joaquin Juarez, age 2 weeks. Their destination was Monterey Presidio, located nearly 300 miles north of San Gabriel Mission, where he was employed as soldier of the Spanish Government; and where he was to arrange a semi-permanent home for his family; and where he was to spend the greater part of his life, serving the Missions as a member of the California Northern Mission Guards; and where he, and his faithful wife were to rear a family of 6 boys and 3 girls.

Sebastian, born January 20, 1785, was the first Rodriguez child to arrive. in California when the family was temporarily stationed at la Mission San Luis Obispo de la Tolosa". At that time Great-great-grandmother's oldest child was 5 years old; and his younger brother had reached the age of 3 years.

Jose Maria de los Dolores, their 2nd. child, was born March 30, 1787, at the Presidio de Monterey. No further record is available except that, according to his father's history, all of his 6 boys served in the Spanish army occupying Alta California.

Margarita, their 3rd. child, and 1st. daughter was born July 19, 1789. "en la Mission San Luis Obispo de la Tolosa. She married Jose Maria Perez; and was living at Villa de Branciforte: - a widow according to Census Records of 1845.

Alejandro (Ale-hen-dro), 4th. child; born June 05, 1791, at Mission San Luis Obispo de la Tolosa. He married Concepcion Martinez on the 3rd. of February, 1815.

Jose Brigido (Bre-he-do), 5th. child; born October 08, 1793, at Mission de San Antonio. He never married; and prior to his death, in 1880, he left his "Recuerdos Historicos" to the Bancroft Library of Berkeley, California.

Francisco de Sales (Sa-les), 6th. child of the family of Rodriguez; was born January 29, 1796, at Monterey Presidio. He married Rafaela de Castro; and became Great grandfather of distant cousin Mrs. Helen Taylor, and her sister, and distant cousin, Mrs. Louisa Hensler. Both distant cousins are residents from the area of Oceanside, California.

Roman, 7th. child of the Rodriguez family, born February 26, 1798, at Pueblo de San Jose; married Teresa Gertrudis Soto y Berryessa, by his first marriage. His second marriage was to Dona Ignasa Albisa.

Francisca, 8th. child of the Rodriguez family, was born in 1801, at Villa de Branciforte, California. She married Antonio Santos Escamilla (Es-ca-me-ya), in 1822. He died prior to the Census year of 1836, for Monterey, leaving Francisca a widow with daughter, Blas, age 13; and daughter, Maria, age 3 years. Her mother, Dona Maria Trinidad Vicenta de Leon Rodriguez was living with Francisca, in 1836. Great-great-grandmother died the following year at the age of 79 years.

Francisca Vicenta, 9th. child of the Rodriguez family, born January 11, 1802, at Villa de Branciforte, Santa Cruz County, California. She was baptized by Father Domingo Camanja (Ka-maan-ha). No further record has been uncovered.

FOUR MILLIONAIRES OF NORTH AMERICA!

A question has been made regarding the use of "de la Tolosa", in describing Mission San Luis Obispo. Conclusions on W-H-y it is being used may be drawn from the following passage, taken from Caughney's California History; and found on page 44, to wit: - "Juan de Tolosa discovered silver deposits near Zacatas, Mexico, in 1546; - when Indians, he befriended, led him to the deposits. But, before making a public announcement, of his find. Tolosa confided, the find, to 3 of his friends: - Diego Ibarra; Cristobal de Quate; and Baltazar de Banuelos. They formed a partnership from which they became the first 4 millionaires of North America".

CLUE TO "DE LA TOLOSA".

Mission records indicate that when Father Junipero Serra was on his way, from Monterey, to San Diego to meet 2 supply ships; he arrived in the valley of the bears on the 19th. day of August, 1772. Upon the present site, of the Old Mission, he raised the Cross and dedicated the new mission, September the 1st., of that same year. It was from this humble beginning that "la Mission San Luis Obispo "de la Tolosa", rose, rather quickly, to prosperity, and prominence. Because of the roll she played in the chain of California missions, may have been the reason for the addition of "de la Tolosa", to the proper name of "Mission San Luis Obispo".

FAMILY BIRTHS PORTRAY PICTURE

However, a review of the birth records attributed to great-great-grandmother, Dona Vicenta de Leon Rdriguez's family; which began in Nueva Espana, in 1780, with the birth of her first child, Francisco Xavier Juarez; and which ended, 22 years later, at the Villa de Branciforte, California, on the 11th. of June 1802, with the birth of her 11th. child, Francisca Vicenta Rodriguez; portray's an excellent, and most remarkable word picture of how Devine Providence gave her 11 children, over a period of 22 years; all born, beyond any doubt, with the probable aid of a mid-wife.

Never-the-less, her career began at Real de Cosala, Nueva Espana, in 1778, when she married Francisco Juarez. Two years later a son was born, to them, and named Francisco Xavier. The following year her husband enlisted in the Spanish army for service in the Territory of Alta California; and more specifically at the Presidio of Santa Barbara. Accordingly, an over-land journey was planned, by the Spanish Government; for him, and his family; from Real de Cosala to San Gabriel Mission, Alta California.

While waiting, for the founding of the Santa Barbara Presidio, death overtook Francisco Juarez, at the Mission, on the 28th. day of February, 1782; only 26 days prior to the founding date of the Presidio at Santa Barbara. Because of the unfortunate incident, his wife found herself stranded, at the Mission, with one child at her side, and another one on the way; an alarming situation to say the least.

How-ever, Devine Providence came to her rescue, when she agreed to marry another soldier located at the Presidio of Monterey. Her marriage, at San Gabriel Mission, August 11, 1782; only 15 days after the recorded birth of her son, Jose Joaquin Juarez, dated July 27, 1782; placed her career in action, once more, when her new husband, Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez, moved her, and her young family, to the Presidio of Monterey. The move placed her about 300 miles north of San Gabriel Mission; and the same distance, deeper, into the wilderness of Alta California; and that many more miles farther away from her home town of Real de Cosala, in Nueva Espana.

Never-the-less, her move to the area of Monterey, became a very important one in the future history of the family she was to rear. And it was here, in Monterey, where 12 years earlier, Gaspar de Portola had established the Capitol of Alta California; where he had declared himself the first Governor of this Territory, on that memorable Pentecostal Sunday of June 3rd., 1770. And it was from the Capitol of Monterey that he abdicated governorship, of this newly acquired paradise, to a promising young military man, named Pedro Fages (Faa-hes); then sailed for Nueva Espana, and out of the pages of history. And when Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez became destined to make army life a career; he joined the "Northern Mission Guards of California", in order to expand his services to include the protection of the Missions involved.

Another factor of immense importance is the fact that Monterey Presidio was located in the immediate area of the Capitol of California; and because of this factor his family of 2 step-sons, and 9 other children, of his own, were raised, to manhood, in the shadow of California's Capitol: - a circumstance which was to pay the Jose Antonio Rodriguez's family large dividends, when Mexico initiated a land granting program, following the secularization of the missions of California, in 1834; by the nation of Mexico.

Due to the charactor; and to the enlargement of the scope of his military duties, Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez set up a semi-permanent residence for his wife, and her 2 children; after their arrival from San Gabriel; and located in the area of the Royal Presidio of Monterey. Nothing, of record, happened in the next 3 years that followed.

In the year of 1785, the renegade Indians, from the area surrounding Mission San Luis Obispo, attacked the Mission with flaming arrows and destroyed the thatched roof. Their act brought the Northern Mission Guards into action; and the entire Rodriguez family moved, temporarily, to "la Mission San Luis Obispo de la Tolosa". While there the family was increased to 3, by the birth of the 1st. Rodriguez child.

Sebastian, born January 20, 1785, was baptized at the Mission; recording the addition of another 145 miles to the traveling record of Great-great-grandmother, and her family, while living in the wilds of Alta California. Sebastian was destined to become my Great-grandfather. Following the correction of this upheaval, the Rodriguez family moved back to their semi-permanent home, in Monterey; where another child was added to the family.

Jose Maria de los Delores, born March 30, 1787, at Monterey Presidio; became the 2nd. child of the Rodriguez clan. No further record is known, other than the statement, made by his father, claiming that all his 6 sons served at the Monterey Presidio. His Baptismal record, add another 145 miles of travel to the career of his mother; in California, when it was, historically, 17 years old; and when the only method of traveling were, on foot, or by horseback, and time, used, had no limit.

Margarita, born July 19, 1789, at Mission de San Luis Obispo de la Tolosa; records her mother, and family, as being back in the village of San Luis Obispo. Another Indian uprising brought the Northern Mission Guards back to quell the renegade Indians; and to repair the 2nd. mission roof destroyed by fire. This episode added another 145 miles, of travel to the record of Dona Maria Trinidad Vicenta de Leon Rodriguez, in California. A question arises over whether the Rodriguez family remained at the Mission for another 2 years, or went else where to return within the 2 years, in question, is not known. However, what is known, is that the family was there the following year when another child was born; recording where the family was located in 1791.

Alejandro (A-le-han-dro), born June 5, 1791, at Mission San Luis Obispo de la Tolosa, was the 3rd. and last of the Jose Antonio Rodriguez children to be born at this Mission; and the 4th., of a family of 9 children.

How to make tile roofing was discovered by a San Antonio Mission priest; and San Luis Obispo Mission became one, of the first, to replace her 3rd. thatched roof, destroyed by fire; with a tile roof, thereby ending a problem which was becoming chronic.

Whether the problem was the burning of a thatched roof at San Antonio Mission, in the year of 1793, is not clear; but, what-ever the reason was, the Northern Mission Guards, including the Jose Antonio Rodriguez family were sent to San Antonio Mission, in 1793. And while located there, a 5th. child came to the family during that year. He was named Jose Brigido (Bree-hee-do), born on the 8th, of October, 1793.

This venture entailed a round trip of about 150 miles, to be added to the travel record of Great-great-grandmother, and her family, in a different part of the wilderness of California. The return, of the family, to their semi-permanent home near the Monterey Presidio was the signal for the arrival of another child to the family.

Francisco, born at the Presidio, January 19, 1796, was the 6th. Rodriguez child to arrive; and record the family at the presidio.

In the year of 1798, Mission San Jose de Padua found herself in need of the services of the Northern Mission Guards of California, and the Rodriguez family moved to the area of trouble. And it was while there that their 7th. Rodriguez child was born; recording the where-about of the Rodriguez family; and signaling the end of his father's services with the Northern Mission Guards of California.

Roman was born February 26, 1798, at Mission San Jose de Padua; and became the last one, of 6 boys, born to the Rodriguez family.

Following the correction of the San Jose Mission problem; soldier Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez moved his wife, and their family, to a permanent home, located in the Villa de Branciforte, Santa Cruz County; where the remainder of his family was to be born. Their daughter, Francisca was born in 1801; and their last, of 3 daughters, was Francisca Vicenta, born the 11th. day of June 1802; ending a child bearing period of 22 years, within which great-great-grandmother, Dona Maria Trinidad Vicenta de Leon Rodriguez, gave birth to 11 children; and established 2 family trees, in California.

RODRIGUEZ RESIGNS FROM ARMY LIFE

After his mission, to the San Jose Mission area had been completed; he resigned from his duties with the Spanish Army; and with the Northern Mission Guards of Alta California, in the year of 1798; and was appointed, in 1799, to the position of Comisionado (Commissioner) of the Villa de Branciforte, Santa Cruz County, California; which position he held until 1810, when he retired from active life, at the age of 56 years.

CAREER REVIEW FOR SOLDIER RODRIGUEZ

In review of his life's history, as a private citizen, he had reared a family of 9 children; consisting of 6 boys, and 3 girls. All 6 boys served with the Spanish army; and received their training at the Presidio of Monterey, after the year of 1800. And, by his profession, lived the greater part of his life in the ranks of a soldier. Don Jose Antonio served his government for a known period of, at least, 24 years. Three, of those 24 years, were spent in his native soil of Nueva Espana; and more specifically at the port of San Blas; serving his government, in Spain's action to take possession of the territory of Alta California. When the date of November 26, 1777, rolled by, he was recorded, in the records of San Diego Presidio, as being one of 7 recruits, ordered by California Governor, Felipe de Neve, to report at Monterey Presidio on that date. The following 21 years, of his life, became a history of his military activities at the Presidio of San Diego; & of Monterey; & of his active life as a member of the Northern Mission Guards of Alta California. Besides his services, with the Presidio of Monterey; for nearly 21 years; he was called out on 5 various occasions to serve the needs of 3 Missions. Three, of those calls were made by Mission San Luis Obispo de la Tolosa; when the renegade Indians set fire to the thatched roof of the Mission. Following the 3rd. fire, the thatched roof was replaced by tile, thus ending a problem which was becoming chronic. After serving Villa de Branciforte as Commissioner, for 11 years, he retired completely from active life.

HIS DEATH: -- Oct. 22, 1820

A soldier, by profession; and a tireless, loyal, family man; in private life:-dedicated to the welfare of his family; to the interests of his Church; of his Government; and of his fellowmen; he, loyally, served his Government's efforts to pacify, and educate, the native Indian; to settle, and colonize, the wilderness of Alta California. After a period of 10 years, of well earned rest, he died, October 22, 1820, at the age of 66 years; and was buried at San Carlos Cemetery, Monterey, California:-so came, to an end, the rugged life of an early California pioneer; and the ancestor who started the growth of the Rodriguez family tree, in California.

GREAT-GREAT-GRANDMOTHER CONTINUES LIFE.

At the time of Great-great-grandfather's passing, Great-great-grandmother was 62 years old; and was to continue, as a widow, for another 17 years; before her death, in 1837. And she was to remain in the area of Monterey until her death.

CAREER REVIEW FOR MARIA TRINIDAD VICENTA DE LEON RODRIGUEZ

In a review of her life, from March 1, 1802; when her first husband, Francisco Juarez, was accorded the high honor of being buried in the floor of Mission San Gabriel; and when his untimely death left her stranded, at the Mission; with one child at her side, and with another one on the way, and expected sometime in July:- a predicament of considerable magnitude, - to say the least. But Kind Providence was at her side, when she agreed to marry Don Jose Antonio Rodriguez, August 11, 1782; only 15 days following the birth of her second child, Jose Joaquin Juarez. Their marriage agreement should be considered a miraculous event when one views the extreme conditions Dona Vicenta de Leon Juarez found herself in; following the death of her first husband.

Their marriage brought together 2 separate individuals:- who's lives originated in separate towns, or villages; located in different States of Nueva Espana; and who came as pioneers, to Alta California, by separate routes; and by separate years:- only to be led, by Fate, on the one hand; and by Kind Providence, on the other hand; into a marital union, of husband and wife; and which would result in the founding of 2 of the oldest "Family Trees; both, of which are growing, like an uncontrolled fire, in the State of California.

The "Juarez Family Tree", began a generation later than the "Rodriguez Family Tree", when the marriage of Dona Vicenta de Leon's son, Jose Joaquin Juarez to Pascuala Lorenzana, took place. The 1845 Census Records indicate that this couple were living in the area of Villa de Branciforte, Santa Cruz County, California: where they reared a large family. Their daughter, Stephane Juarez, married John Mc Auliffe; who settled in the Villa Creek area of San Luis Obispo County, California; and in the vicinity of Cayucos.

According to history, 2 boys inherited their parents property; and both reared their families on the property inherited. Wilford Mc Auliffe's oldest daughter, Mrs. Ruth Jensen, is a resident of San Luis Obispo City; while her younger sister, Mrs. Helen Collins, is located at San Jose, California. Their other sister, Grace lives at Los Gatos California.

Wilford's brother, King Mc Auliffe, also married. His daughter, Patricia Mc Auliffe, married Realtor Frank E. McNamara. They, and their family of 8 children are residents of the City of San Luis Obispo, California; where Mr. McNamara is a businessman.

The "Rodriguez Family Tree", is deeply imbedded, principally, in the counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Santa Clara, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara; and it is not only spreading to the other counties of California, but to many States of the Union. Genealogical studies appear to indicate that there are very few of the pioneer families who came to Alta California, that do not have a trace of Rodriguez blood, flowing in their veins. And according to Spanish history, the blood of the California Indian flows, freely, in the veins of the "Rodriguez Family Tree".

Historical records have it that the Grantees, of the Corral de Piedra Grant, were my grand-aunt, Dona Rafael Rodriguez, and her husband, Don Jose Maria Villavicencio (Vi-yah-vi-cen-ce-oh). The original grant, to them, contained 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ square leagues of land; and was granted by California's Mexican Governor, Alvarado:- May 14, 1841. The Grant was enlarged by Governor Pico, the last Mexican Governor of Alta California; when he added 5 more square leagues of land, May 28, 1846, enlarging the Corral de Piedra Rancho to 30,911.26 acres of land; and the grant remained, as such, although Commander Sloat took possession of California a scant 2 months, later, when he lowered the Mexican flag; and raised the stars and stripes, in its place at the Monterey Capitol of California, on the 7th. day of July, 1846.

California Census Records, for the year of 1836, found Great-great-grandmother living in Monterey County with her daughter, Francisca Rodriguez Escamilla, and her 2 young daughters:- Blas Escamilla age 13; and Maria Escamilla age 3 years. Francisca's husband Don Antonio Santos Escamilla, had died in the early years of the 1830s. Death overtook Dona Maria Trinidad Vicenta de Leon Rodriguez, the following year of 1837; at the age of 79 years. And so came, to a close, the colorful, adventurous, and interesting life of a rugged pioneering lady; who left, for posterity, her list of births records; extending from her home town of Real de Cosala, in Nueva Espana, to the Villa of Branciforte, located in the County of Santa Cruz, California. Her record, in California began with the birth of one child at San Gabriel Mission; 3 children at San Luis Obispo Mission one child at San Antonio Mission; one child at San Jose Mission de Padua; two children at the Presidio of Monterey; and the last 2 were born at Villa de Branciforte:- a record of 11 children born, in a period of

22 years, while following her soldier husband from place to place, as his military orders demanded.

Such was the history of this rugged pioneering couple who teamed together, for the greater part of their young lives, while offering military protection to those seeking to settle, and colonize the unexplored wilderness of California; and to those concerned with civilizing, and with teaching of the native California Indian to accept Christian Civilization Program, offered by the Spanish Government, through a chain of Missions to be built; and who, by their individuals efforts, as a "matrimonial team"; involving Dona Maria Trinidad Vicenta de Leon, as the "Common Mother", of 2 individual families who were to start the 2 individual "Family Trees", that are still growing, in California, to unbelievable proportions; and which are spreading to other states of the Union.

Edward W. Rodriguez
Aug. 23, 1971

INTRODUCTION

INDIAN RIGHTS TO SOIL HONORED:- Prior to Enactment of the "Homestead Law", Indian had been considered the rightful owner of the soil; according to American policy; until his title should be extinguished by treaty.

After title had been secured, the was surveyed and offered for sale at auction. Lands which did not sell at auction, could be bought at private sale, for \$1.25 per acre. It was, further, proposed that lands which did not sell at private sale, within 05 years, should be offered at \$.50 cents per acre. And if they, still, remained unsold, should be given away to anyone who would cultivate them for a period of 03 years.

However, the Federal Government's attempt to control the shifting, and moving of the Indian population westward; or into Indian Reservations, finally, ended up in the Black Mohawk war, which began in 1832; under the leadership of Osceola;- a Chief of considerable ability.

After much fighting, and some defeats, Osceola visited the camp of General Jesup, in 1837; under a flag of truce. He was seized and sent to Fort Moultrie, near Charleston, South Carolina, where he died. In that same year of 1837, his followers were beaten in a hard-fought battle by Colonel Zachary Taylor; but the war continued until 1842.

HOMESTEAD LAW ENACTED IN 1862:- Twenty years after end of the Black Hawk War, United States Congress realized the need for passing the Homestead Law, in 1862. And it was under the provisions of this law that led my Grandfather, Don. Juan Desiderio Antonio Rodriguez, to apply for a Federal Land Grant, sometime before year of 1880.

Under the terms of this law, a farm of 80 acres; or of 160 acres of Public Domain, could be secured by any head of a family; or by any person 21 years old, and who is a citizen of the United States;- or has asserted his intentions of becoming a citizen; and provided he, or she, intended to live on said farm, and cultivate it for a period of 05 years,- in order to obtain title to it.

APPLICATION APPROVED MEANT MOVE:- Family Records indicate that Grandfather's application met approval in 1880; and that he planned to move away from his adobe home built between the 02 Orcutt Road Peaks.

The adobe; which is, still, standing in almost perfect shape; is located about 03 miles south-east of what was then the small town of San Luis Obispo (El pueblito de San Luis Obispo), which was, slowly, growing around:- "La Mision de San Luis Obispo".

Family Records do not seem to imply; but circumstances do seem to indicate that Grandfather lived at the adobe mentioned, from the time of his first marriage to Señorita, Isabel Jenkins, in 1851, until his move in 1880.

Family Records reveal that in those 29 years of his life, Grandfather had reared a family of 08 children. 03 by his marriage to Miss Isabel Jenkins, and 05 by his marriage to Señorita Maria de los Angeles Vasquez. And during those 25 years of married life, Grandfather had lost 02 wives, and 03 children, due to the, dreadful, disease of those days,- called "Consumption." Today it is better known as "Tuberculosis." Grandfather was to lose one more child, at a latter date, due to the ravage of the malady. The disease has never re-occured since, in the "Rodriguez" family.

Family History reveals that Grandfather had been a widower for 04 years. That my half-Aunt, Gertrudis (Haehr-troo-daes) Rodriguez, and her full brother, Uncle Juan (Whoo-yahn) Rodriguez (Only children living from 01st. marriage); had married and left home by year of 1880.

Thus, at the age of 57 years; Grandfather moved to the west-plateau of "Slide Hill Peak", with the following 03 young sons;- which was what remained alive, from his 02nd. marriage. They were:- Uncle Rudolfo, age 14; Uncle Fidelino, age 10; and my future father, Juan Morell, age 09 years.

LIFE ON WEST PLATEAU OF "SLIDE HILL PEAK":- Here is where the family name of "Rodriguez", was to begin a new life, in a new environment, located some 18 miles away from "El pueblito de San Luis Obispo", by the wagon road that connected both points, in those days of 95 years ago. And in 1880, California had become a possession of the United States, July 07, 1846, when Commodore Sloat lowered the Mexican flag at Monterey, and replaced it with the Stars and Stripes. There is where it remained when Mexico signed a Treaty in 1848.

SEBASTIAN'S LIFE.

The reason for Sebastian's birth taking place at the Mission of San Luis Obispo, January 20, 1785, was the burning of the Thatched roof; by the renegade Indians when they shot it with flaming arrows.

As a member of the Northern Mission Guards, it became the duty of soldier Rodriguez, and other members of his organization, to quell the rebellious natives; and to defend the property of his government. And it was while he and his group were there when his first son was born.

The same offence was committed, by the Indians, on 2 other occasions at San Luis Obispo Mission; at a later date; and, on both occasions great-great-grandfather was sent to defend, and protect his government's interests. And on each occasion another child was added to the Jose Antonio Rodriguez's

family. Great-grandfather's sister, Margarita, was born July 19, 1789; and a brother named, Alejandro, was born, at the mission, June 05, 1791.

I do not have the Mission's records revealing why soldier Jose Antonio was sent to San Antonio Mission, but I do have a record indicating that he was there when his son, Brigido, was born October 08, 1793.

The family birth records appear to indicate that the Indian population remained peaceful for quite some time when 2 more brothers were added to the Rodriguez family; and both were born at the Presidio of Monterey. They were Jose Maria de los Dolores Rodriguez, born March 30, 1789; and Francisco de Sales Rodriguez, born January 29, 1796.

When the Indian uprising was dissipated at the Pueblo de San Jose, in 1798, great-great-grandfather, and soldier of the Spanish Army occupying, and guarding the peaceful development of Alta California, Don. Jose Antonio Rodriguez was nearing his 25th. year ^{of} military service with the Spanish Army. In tracing great-great-grandfather's military record, over a period of 25 years; I have come to the conclusion that he became a soldier of the Spanish Army, when he was first recorded as being stationed at the military Port of San Blas, located on the coast of the State Nayarit, in the territory of Nueva Espana. Don. Jose Antonio Rodriguez was 20 years old in the year of 1774; according to his military records; and was the son of my great-great-great-grandparents Don. Miguel Rodriguez, and Dona. Petrona Patron Rodriguez. He was born at the village of Compostela, State of Jalisco, Nueva Espana. His records, further, indicate that he was at Port San Blas, in the year of 1775. This date proved to be his last recordation in Nueva Espana; before he was recorded as being located at the Presidio ~~November 26, 1777~~ San Diego, Alta California; when he, and 6 other recruits were ordered to report at the Presidio of Monterey November 26, 1777. The military order was signed by California's new Governor Don.

Felipe de Neve *who had become the 4th Gov. of Alta Calif. He had been superseded by Gaspar de Portola, son, Nicolas Lopez and Fernando de Rivera y Morafan*

S E B A S T I A N ' S L I F E---Continued.

A 7th. child was born to soldier Rodriguez's family at Pueblo de San Jose, February 26, 1798, and named Roman. He was to become the last child born to the Rodriguez family while his father was an active Spanish soldier, and still a faithful member of the Northern Mission Guards of Alta California. True to his wishes, he retired in 1799, after 25 years of military life; and moved his family from the Presidio area of Monterey to the Villa de Branciforte, located in the county of Santa Cruz, California. It was there where 2 more children were added to the Rodriguez family. Francisca was born in 1801, and her baby sister was born January 11, 1802, and named Vicenta.

Birth records of his family reveal that his, faithful wife followed her soldier husband; with her family; to where-ever his military duty sent him regardless of what condition she was in. And because of her policy, and ability, 5 of her 9 children were born away from home while he was on military duty. His faithful wife gave him 9 children, and 2 step-children. How she managed to travel with a family of 8 children, over a period of 13 years; would make interesting history for those of us who cannot conceive the hardship our ancestors ^{endured} ~~endured~~ nearly 200 years ago.

Never-the-less soldier Rodriguez's 6 sons became soldiers of the Presidio of Monterey, after he retired from military service.

Death came to him October 22, 1820. He was buried at the Monterey Presidio Cemetery, Monterey, California.

S E B A S T I A N R O D R I G U E Z .
Sebastian, born January 20, 1785; at "la Mision de San Luis Obispo de Tolca; was the oldest son of soldier Jose Antonio Rodriguez, and Dona. Maria Vicenta de Leon y Haro. When he became 20 years old, in 1805, he joined the Spanish Army for duty at the Presidio of Monterey.

3 years, later, he met a young lady from Santa Clara Mission area. They married June 14, 1808, at Santa Clara Mission de Asis, California.

Perfecta Pacheco was born April 18, 1790, baptized at Santa Clara Mission; was the daughter of Bartolome Ignacio Pacheco del Valle, and Maria Francisca de Soto y Espinosa.

Historical records reveal that Perfecta's grandparents:- Don. Juan Salidro Pacheco, and Dona. Maria del Carmen y del Valle, came to Alta California with Don. Juan Bautista de Anza, in 1776, from the State of Sonora, in Nueva Espana (As Mexico was, then, known to the Spaniards)

After their marriage, soldier Sebastian moved his wife to the area of Monterey Presidio; where he would be, conveniently close to his military job. Sebastian followed, closely, on the footsteps of his father, by joining the Northern Mission Guards of Alta California; for a number of years.

SEBASTIAN RODRIGUEZ

14 children were born to soldier Sebastian Rodriguez, and his wife Dona. Perfecta Pacheco. They were, the following:-

01: Jose Antonio,-born in 1809, at Monterey Presidio. no further record.
02. Pedro Regalado Bernardino,-born May 20, 1810, Monterey Presidio, Monterey. Ist. Marr. to Gertrudis Espinosa:-Jan. 24, 1834. 2nd. Marr. to Candela Salazar;-Aug. 02, 1845. Residents of Watsonville, California. Parents of 2 children; all dead. Survived by grandchildren according to Ella Villa, in 1933.

03. Jose Antonio Aniceto de Jesus:- born April 11, 1811, at San Antonio Mission, Monterey County, California. Married Hilaria Castro,- October 12, 1835. 1836 Census records record them living in Monterey area. Children born to marr,-all dead. Lineage out according to Ella Villa.

04. Carlos Jacinto,-born November 05, 1812; San Antonio Mission, Monterey County, California. Educated in Mexico City, and versed in law. Ist. mentioned in Public records as lieutenant of State's Militia; Employed by California Governor Alvarado, in 1836. Became lieutenant of Monterey Presidio Company, in 1840;-employed in aiding the arrest of foreigners, from 1843 to 1846. Served as warden of Monterey's San Francisco's Custom House. Was grantee of Rancho Jacinto, Calusa County, California, in 1844. Judge of Monterey County, in 1849. Was still living , in 1874. Was a man of considerable property, and wealth, Oldest son died at Monterey, in 1877. Carlos loaned brother-in-law, Jose Maria Villavicencio; grantee of Corral de Piedra Rancho, San Luis Obispo County, California, considerable sum of money. Debt remained unpaid when Jose Maria Villavicencio died, in the late 1850'S. Carlos journey to San Luis Obispo County, in 1866. Sold Grant to Steele Bros., for \$20,000 dollars; considered the reconsilable value of his loan, plus interest and costs involved. Sale judged contrary to laws of the United States. 7 years of litigation, suffered in U. S. Supreme Court. Case settled by the following procedure, to wit:- Carlos Jacinto instructed to purchase interests of all heirs involved, in Corral de Piedra Rancho; including his sister's interest. He; in turn; was instructed by the Supreme Court, to sell the property subject to the same stipulations he had set forth in his agreement with the Steele Bros., dated July 27, 1866 County, State, and Federal records reveal how successful Carlos Jacinto was in establishing ownership of Corral de Piedra Grant. In selling it to the 3 Steele Bros. and in satisfying the laws of the United States. On the 31st of July, 1871,-etc; etc.etc see Note. Page 08:-etc;etc; etc.

05. Maria Francisca Rafaela Isabella Rodriguez born Aug, 28, 1814;(See note Page 08) etc; etc.

06. Jose Augustin Rodriguez:- See Records; etc;etc Page 09.

07. Francisco Solano Rodriguez:- See Records; etc; etc; etc page 09.

08. Teresa Rodriguez y Vasquez:- etc; etc; etc; Page 10.

09. Juan Desiderio Antonio Rodriguez:-see notes Page 10.

10. Maria Julia Margarita

S E B A S T I A N R O D R I G U E Z.

IO. Maria Luiz Margarita:- See notes Page IO.

II. Bernabella:-See notes. Page IO.

I2. Maria Antonia:- See Notes. Page IO.

I3. Maria del Carmen:- See Notes. Page IO.

I4. Prudencia Ramona Rodriguez:- See Notes. Page IO.

Great grandfather; Sebastian's death, and etc:- See Pages IO & 4. See his Chart.

THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF DON. SEBASTIAN RODRIGUEZ.

As recorded by the Watsonville, Calif. Register-Pajaronian newspaper Wednesday, July 2nd., 1952.

"I command there be no pomp at my interment." This is the command he gave his relatives; and here is a portion of the Will of Don. Sebastian Rodriguez,--once owner of the land on which the City of Watsonville does, now, rest.

Don. Sebastian Rodriguez was made Grantee "de el Rancho Bolza del Pajaro" pronounced Bol-sah del Paah-hah-ro, and meaning the bag, or the pocket of the bird. The Mexican government of Alta California gave him title to the Grant, October 01, 1837. His Title was confirmed by a United States government Patent signed by President Buchanan, January 04, 1860; after Don. Rodriguez had entered a title suit, in conformity with an act of 1851.

The Patent was certified; and ordered into the Records, April 16, 1860; by the Honorable S. B. McKee; judge of the 3rd. Judicial District Court of the State of California, in the County of Santa Cruz. At the time Don. Sebastian Rodriguez had, already, given the town of Watsonville, the block which is, now, the City Plaza.

It has been noted, in his WILL, that Don. Sebastian Rodriguez says that he had 12 children:- but lists 13. However, my records; taken from the files of San Gabriel Mission Historian, Don. Tomas Workman Temple II., reveal that great-grandfather, Don. Sebastian, was the father of 14 children; instead of 12, or 13. And I have the, corresponding, dates, and locations, of where their births took place. A more intensive study of great-grandfather, Don. Sebastian Rodriguez's history, reveals that he became a career soldier; of the Spanish Army; to do service at "el Presidio de Monterey", in Alta California. His army career began in 1805, at the age of 20 years. His married life began, in 1808, when he married Senorita Perfecta Pacheco at "la Mision de Santa Clara." And, during the 16 years he served under the flag of Spain 6 sons and one daughter were born to his family. When "el Territorio de Nueva Espana" (Pronounced Ter-ree-tor-e-o-de Neu-eav-sah Es-pahn-yahn,, and meaning "the Territory of New Spain"), became the nation of Mexico, in 1821, he continued his army career, in Alta California, under the flag of Mexico. When his military career ended; under the flag of Mexico, in 1830; great-grandfather had completed a stretch of 25 years of military duty, in Alta California; and he had completed a family of 14 children.

The Last WILL And Testament Of Don. Sebastian Rodriguez---continued.

And, according to my family records, the 2nd group of children were composed of 6 daughters, and one son. This last son, born under the flag of Mexico; became my grandfather Don. Juan Deciderio Antonio Rodriguez, June 14, 1896, in the County of San Luis Obispo, California.

SEBASTIAN RODRIGUEZ'S WILL.

In the name of the ALL POWERFUL God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Amen: I, Don Sebastian Rodriguez, native of Alta California, and resident of Pajaro, State of California, and County of Santa Cruz; legitimate son of Antonio Rodriguez, and Vicente de Leon, deceased; finding myself; by the grace of God;- in good health, and of my sound mind; but fearful of death to which we are all exposed;-I make, decree, and ordain, this my last WILL, and Testament, in manner and form, as follows:-

FIRST:* I command my soul to God; who created it from nothing; and my body to the earth from which it was formed.

ITEM:- I command there be no pomp at my interment, but that some masses be said, circumstances permitting.

ITEM:- I declare that I am married to Perfecta Pacheco; and that during our married life we have, by Divine Providence, had twelve children, male, and female, and they are as follows:- Jose Antonio; Pedro; Jose; Jacinto; Rafaila; Solano; Teresa; Deciderio; Bermabela; Ma; Antonia; Carmen; and Ramona.

ITEM:- I recognize for my property; real, and personal; the Rancho called "Rincon de la Ballena"(Pronounced Rin-gone de la Bal-lyenah, meaning "The Corner of the Whale"), which contains one league, more or less; and the Rancho called "Bolsa del Pajaro", which contains about 2 leagues scant, excepting the part which my son, Jacinto, owns in said Rancho.

ITEM:- I declare that the houses in said Rancho are mine; and the cattle and horses heirs recognize as my property.

LASTLY:- As I, my wife, and family, have till now lived together in all tranquillity, and love, I charge, and beg, them to continue, if possible, so to live, one helping another in guarding the interest which God has given us, and I charge my daughters, in particular, to watch over their, poor mother, to respect and guard the interest, belonging to her, rendering her, always, the honor to which she is entitled, and if they

SEBASTIAN RODRIGUEZ'S WILL---continued.

do so, God, our Lord, will reward them and augment their fortunes, and they will receive His blessings for all time; as they have, already, mine.

And I declare if there be had; or appear at any time; any other testamen, made by me, anterior to this, I declare it null and of no value, and only this shall have force.

Signed in Monterey, State of California, the 26th. day of April, A.D. 18

Sebastian Rodriguez.

WITNESSES:

D. S. Spence.

Chas. Wolter.

Salvador Osio.

MY NOTATION.

1. Soldier Sebastian Rodriguez married Senorita Perfecta Pacheco, June 14, 1808; at Santa Clara Mission. Great-grandmother was a native of Santa Clara Valley.
2. They made their home in the area of Monterey Presidio where Great-grandfather was soldering under the flag of Spain.
3. It was there where they reared a family of 14 children composed of 7 girls, and 7 boys. One daughter, and 6 sons were born under the flag of Spain; and one son, and 6 daughters were born under the flag of the, new, Nation of Mexico.
4. There children were:- I. Jose Antonio, born in 1809, No further record
2. Pedro Regalado Bernardino, born May 20, 1810, at Monterey Presidio.
3. Jose Aniceto de Jesus, born April 18, 1811, at San Antonio Mission.
4. Carlos Jacinto, born November 05, 1812, at Mision San Antonio.
5. Maria Francisca Rafaela Isabel, born August 28, 1814, en el Presidi
6. de Monterey. Jose Augustin, born January 02, 1816, en la Mision de
7. Solidad. Francisco Solano, born September 10, 1817, en el Presidio
8. de Monterey. Teresa, born ? , 1822, en el Presidio de Monterey.
9. Juan Deciderio Antonio, born February 12, 1823, en el Presidio de
10. Monterey. Maria Luz, born June 12, 1825, en el Presidio de Monterey.
11. Bernabela, born ? ? , 1826, nacio en el Pueblo de Watsonville.
12. Maria Antonia, nacio ? ? 1828, en el pueblo de Watsonville.
13. Carmelita, nacio ? ? 1830, en el pueblo de Watsonville.
14. Prudencia Ramona, nacio May 19, 1830, en el Presidio de Monterey.

Edward W. Rodriguez
Edward W. Rodriguez.

HISTORICAL NOTES:—1977

01:—SANTA MANUELA SCHOOL DISTRICT. The School District was founded in 1877. The old school-house was moved to its present location by the construction firm building "Lopez Lake." It was re-located in the recreation area of the dam, where it will remain a symbol of the "Elementary School System," of the past.

The old schoolhouse was located under the crest of Lopez Lake approximately 200 feet south from the north abutment of the fill that created the dam.

Land Records reveal that the land area covered by Lopez Lake was a south-east part of CORRAL de PIEDRA Rancho, containing 30, 9II. 26 acres, and originally granted to my father's Aunt and her husband, ~~in two Mexican grants.~~ FIRST grant was made in 1841, by Mexican Governor of Alta California, Don. Alvarado. He granted Dona. Maria Francisca Rafaela Isabel Rodriguez and her husband, Jose Maria Villavicencio, two square leagues land amounting to 8,878 acres. SECOND grant was made 05 years later by the last Mexican Governor to rule over Alta California:— named "Pio Pico." He enlarged their grant by 05 square leagues of land;— amounting to 22,195 acres;— for a grand Mexican total of 31,073 acres. American surveys placed total acreage at 30,9II.26 acres.

02:— SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY RECORDER RECORDS:— involving land area covered by Lopez Lake reveal the following County Records, Namely:—E. W. & George Steele to Joseph Jatta. Transaction made Feb. 26, 1883:— Book 324 of County Records./ Innocente Garcia to Leonardo Lopez, made November 15, 1869:—Book 666./ Frank J. Walker to Mary Walker, made April 23, 1887:—Book 01, Page 217./ John Rodriguez et ux to San Luis Obispo County Schools, made April 13, 1921:— Book 115, P. 015.

03. CHECK:

Joseph Jatta for homestead property.	Desiderio Rodriguez for patent lands.
Peter Hemmi for Patent lands.	Leonardo Lopez for patent lands.
Wittenberg Ranch:—Luis Sousa/ Forsyth/ Alex Madonna.	
Juan Lopez	Elsie Rhyne Murphy
Huff's Hole	Mauvros Soto
Frank Olivas	Brown to Flood Control.
Routzham Park	Wittenberg to Girls Scout Camp.
Baily Ranch	George Folkrod
Arthur & Edna Musser Ranch	Petersen.
John Biddle Ranch	S. J. Rhyne to Lopez Canyon School.
Walter Bruno	Seaman to Dr. Campbell.
Frank Guillespi/ to Harding/ to Luis Sinsheimer/ to San Luis Obispo City.	
Marble Page	E. C. Loomis
Robert Wilson	Espinosa
Perry Harding/ to Hays/ to Harding/ to Antonio Doco.	
Bumsom	

04:— PATENTEES:— according to San Luis Obispo County Recorder Records:

Peter Hemmi	June 30, 1880;	Book B. Page 257.
Hugo F. Leitner	June 01, 1898;	" H. " 138.
Desiderio Rodriguez	Mar. 21, 1896;	" H. " 120.
Rudolfo Rodriguez	June 01, 1898;	" F. " 633.
Steven J. Rhyne	Dec. 31, 1904;	" H. " 459.
Morell J. Rodriguez	Dec. 17, 1913;	" J. " 192.

Note:— Time has not permitted me to check this valuable page of history,— as of 1977.

MEMOIRS OF THE "RODRIGUEZ" FAMILY NAME.

HISTORICAL NOTES:—9/28/'72.

BIRZA PALMAR WATERS MORTUARY RECORDS:—reveal that grandfather, Don. Juan Desiderio Antonio Rodriguez, was buried by this mortuary, April 03, 1908. That he died March 31, 1908, about 08 miles east of the village of EDNA,— and on the west slope of the Santa Lucia Range of mountains traversing San Luis Obispo County, California,— in a north-west and south-east direction.

HE LIVED:— on the west plateau of "Slide Hill Peak"(2160 Ft. elevation) from 1880 to 1900. His homestead home was 18 miles away from the village of San Luis Obispo, by way of the old wagon road;— and with a mile long grade to climb with every trip that was made.

FAMILY HISTORY REVEALS:—great changes about the year of 1900. Father married Mother, July 13, 1895, in Arroyo Grande village. In the last months of 1895, he and his oldest living half-brother, Uncle John, dissolved their ranching-partnership in upper Arroyo Grande Valley. Uncle John remained in upper Arroyo Grande Valley area, with aunt Elena;— but Father, and Mother, moved to Grandfather's homestead home located about 05 miles north-west from Grandmother's home, located at the base of the Santa Lucia Range.

THE PRE-ARRANGED PLAN:—relieved Grandfather from the load he was carrying, that was becoming heavier with his age. Mother took over Grandfather's household duties, and the care of Father's oldest-full-brother:— ill with tuberculosis. Father took over the care of the animals and the homestead owned by his ill brother and aging Father.

UNCLE RUDOLFO DIED IN 1899:—leaving his "Homestead" estate of 160 acres to his youngest brother, for the care he, and Mother, had given him in the last few years of life. His action triggered Grandfather to deed his estate of 160 acres, for his care until his death. These 02 transactions made Father the owner, and operator, of a 320 acre ranch:— involving the top of Slide Hill Peak, with 02 plateaus on the north side.

I recall that water facilities were very poor on the west plateau, but possibilities were much better on the north plateaus. And, because of the move, Grandfather lived with the family until March 31, 1908, when death overtook him at the age of 85 years;— and 01 month and 19 days.

FAMILY HISTORY;— reveals that Grandfather was the 09th child of a family of 14 children, reared by a Spanish-Mexican soldier, Sebastian Rodriguez and his wife, Doña. Perfecta Pacheco. Their entire family was born in the area of "El Presidio del Monte del Rey." :— meaning(The Fort of the Forest of the King:— and Americanized:—"Monterey Presidio."

HISTORY OF A UNIQUE FAMILY:— began with the enlistment of Sebastian into the Spanish Army at the age of 20 years. His father enlisted in 1774. He enlisted in 1805, and married in 1808:—03 years later. His father married 13 years after enlistment. Both served a stretch of 25 years each, in Alta California. Soldier Jose Antonio Rodriguez served his stretch under the flag of Spain. Soldado Sebastian Rodriguez served 16 years under the flag of Spain, and 09 years under the flag of Mexico./ 01 daughter, and 06 sons were born under the Spanish flag./06 daughters, and 01 son were born under the Mexican flag./

HOW "SECULARIZATION ACT" AFFECTS :— the Sebastian Rodriguez Family:—Mexican Governor ALVARRADO, grants Doña. Maria Francisca Rafaela Isabel Rodriguez, and her husband:—Don. Jose Maria Villavicencio, 02 sq. leagues of land (8878 acres) taken from the Mission of San Luis Obispo:— in year of 1841. 05 years later, Calif. Gov. PIO PICO adds 05 sq. leags, for a total of (30,911.26 American Acres). Grant known as "Corral de Piedra Rancho." (Maria Francisca was only girl born under flag of Spain). U. S. honors Grants.

MEMOIRS OF THE "RODRIGUEZ" FAMILY NAME.

HISTORICAL NOTES:——9/28/1972.

A disagreement between father, and son, causes Francisco Solano (youngest son, born under flag of Spain) to advise his father, Sebastian, that he was leaving Monterey, and going to the area of the Mission of San Luis Obispo. Sebastian asked his youngest son of the family to accompany his unruly son. My grandfather, agreed to follow his brother. History of the event reveal that both brothers arrived, and located their sister's Land Grant. The defeat, and destruction of the Mexican Government, convinced both brothers to settle along the north-east boundary line of their sister's Grant. None of them ever returned to Monterey. Both brothers married, and all three reared large families, under the flag of the United States.

MEXICAN HISTORY:—reveals that Mexican Governor of Alta California, "PIO PICO" made the additional land grant to the "Corral de Piedra" Rancho, in May of 1846.

AMERICAN HISTORY:— reveals that Commodore Sloat entered Monterey Bay, with a naval force, July 07, 1846. And without firing a single shot:— lowered the Mexican Flag at the Capitol of California, and replaced it with the American flag. There it has flown ever since, and to this day.

Edward W. Rodriguez.

HOW MY NAME BEGAN.

Family records reveal that Senor. Morell Juan Rodriguez married a young lady named Senorita Adelina C. Hemmi, July 13, 1895, at what was known then as the, recently, built "St. Patrick Catholic Church located at the north-west side of the small village of Arroyo Grande, County of San Luis Obispo, California.

The growing village is located about 15 miles south of the much larger village of San Luis Obispo, that began to grow around the area of "la Mision de San Luis Obispo. It was, then, the main "Pueblo del Condado de San Luis Obispo" (main town of the County of San Luis Obispo); and has, now, become the seat of county government.

DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

Next step taken by Senor. Morell Juan Rodriguez was to dissolve the, existing, partnership existing between his oldest half brother, Senor. Juan Rodriguez and himself.

Their ranching venture was located at the extreme north-east end of Arroyo Grande valley; and that it was located along the south bank of Arroyo Grande Creek, including that portion of the "John Biddle Ranch" forming the south-west abutment of the man-made "Lopez Lake." Family records indicate ended November 01, 1895

Family records, also, display that the "Hemmi" family were the owners of a ranching venture lying, directly, across Arroyo Grande Creek from the "Rodriguez" ranching partnership; and forming the north-west abutment of Lopez Lake. Hence, the above mentioned records offer a clue to How, - When, - and Where, the acquaintance of the newly wed couple developed into their marriage July 13, 1895.

A PRE-SUMPTION.

Knowing my Father like I got to know him during his life-time, tempts me to pre-sume beyond the shadow of any doubt; that he had discussed his intentions with his aging Father, carrying for the health of failing son ill with an advanced case of tuberculosis; then with his bride-to-be; and, finally with his partner for their consideration and, mutual, consent; which he, no doubt, received.

NEWLY-WED TAKE OVER.

Under the above, mentioned, circumstances the "Newly-Weds" moved to Grandfather's home November 01, 1895, with the happy blessings of grandfather, Don. Juan Desiderio Antonio Rodriguez who, no doubt, sought mental, and physical, relief from the burden he had been carrying on his shoulders since the death of his last wife, May 11, 1876.

GRANDFATHER'S HOME.

Grandfather's home; as I vividly recall it, was located on the north-east end of a small plateau containing some 20 acres, and forming the west side of a mountain rising to a height of 2,160 feet above sea level. The U. S. Geological surveyors gave this peak, located on the west ridges of a range of hills and mountains traversing the County of San Luis Obispo in a north-westerly and south-easterly direction, the name of "Slide Hill Peak" because of the many slides that happen during heavy rainy seasons.

Grandfather's home was located about 18 miles south-east of the village of San Luis Obispo (la villa de San Luis Obispo), by the old wagon road extending between the two points. According to "Family history"; and to what I saw and learned about the road-building equipment at the turn of the 19th. century; it consisted of picks, shovels, axes, a slip scraper, a chain or two, a farm plow with a light iron beam, and having one share, a dirt moving scraper shaped like a V, and dynamite for blasting rock. This was about all of the equipment used by Grandfather, and his neighbors, to build a mile long grade up the west slope of "Slide Hill Peak" through brush, rock, and clay, in order to reach the government lands they had acquired under "The Homestead Law", enacted by the United States Congress in 1862. However, whether it took, or did not take 18 years to feel the affect the people on the west coast of the United States, Grandfather's Family Records indicate it was in the year of 1880 when he moved to his newly acquired claim on Slide Hill Peak with 03 orphan boys from the adobe home located between the 02 Orcutt Peaks about 02 mile south-east "de la Mision de San Luis Obispo."

Copied March 30, 1975.

Continued.

BRIEF OF GRANDFATHER'S LIFE.

01. Don. Juan Desiderio Antonio Rodriguez was born February 12, 1823, in the area of the Presidio of Monterey:- 152 years ago, as of March 30, 1975.

02. His parents were Mexican soldier, and great-grandfather, Don. Sebastian(Sae-baahs-tee-aahn) Rodriguez and Dona. Perfecta Pacheco from the area "de la Mision de Santa Clara.

03. Grandfather was born the son of a Spanish family; but under the conditions existing at the time, his birth came under the Mexican flag.

04. Grandfather became the 08th. child of a family of 14 children

05. Family History reveals that soldier, Don. Sebastian Rodriguez served Spain for 10 years in the area of the Presidio of Monterey.

06. Family History reveals he served the Nation of Mexico 09 years, in the same area of the Presidio of Monterey, to complete a military career of 25 years.

07. Family History indicates that 06 boys, and 01 girl were born under the flag of Spain, and 06 girls and 01 boy were born under the flag of Mexico.

08. Family History, and Mexican Records reveal that Dona. Maria Francisca Rafaela Isabel Rodriguez, and her husband, Don. Jose Maria Villavicencio, became Grantees of what was to become known as the "Corral de Piedra Rancho" May 14, 1841, and contained 02½ square leagues of land. Said Grant was located in the area of "la Mision de San Luis Obispo."; and was made by Mexican Governor Alvarado.

09. Family History, and Mexican Records reveal that Mexican Governor Pio Pico, who was to become the last Mexican Governor to rule over "el Territorio de Alta California" ; added 05 square leagues of land to the original Grant May 28, 1846, to complete a total of 30,911.26 acres of land.

10. War with Mexico began in the early months of 1846. In the meantime American settlers in California revolted against Mexican rule, adopted a flag with a grizzly bear, and declared California an independent republic. Commodore Sloat entered Monterey Bay with a naval force July 07, 1846, and without firing a single shot, lowered the Mexican flag, and replaced it with the American flag. It has flown over the Capitol of California ever since.

11. It was in this era of confusion in Alta California that Grandfather and his older brother, Francisco Solano Rodriguez, left their home in Monterey to migrate to the area of "la Mision de San Luis Obispo":- apparently with the intentions of visiting with their older sister and brother-in-law.

12. Both young men were to remain in the area of their sister's abode; and both were to enjoy the honor of transferring the surname of "Rodriguez" to the area of San Luis Obispo.

13. Both young men married, and settled in the area of the 02 Orcutt Peaks located south-east of "la Mision de San Luis Obispo."

14. Family history indicates that it was from this area of San Luis Obispo County that a branch of the "Rodriguez Family Tree" took root in 1851, when Grandfather married for the first time; and became the source of the first generation to start a family tree in the County of San Luis Obispo, and State of California.

SECOND GENERATION IN COUNTY.

FIRST MARRIAGE. Grandfather, Don. Juan Desiderio Antonio Rodriguez married Señora. Maria Isabel Jenkins de Garcia y Romero sometime in April of 1851. She was from the town of Los Angeles. How he became acquainted is unrecorded history.

01. Children reared were:

A. Maria Gertrudis Policarpia Rodriguez(Haer-troo-dees/Pao-lee-caar-pee-yah/Rao-dree-ghes), born Jan. 25, 1852, near "el Pueblo de San Luis Obispo.

B. Juan(Whoo-aahn) Rodriguez, born in 1854, near the town of San Luis Obispo.

C. Desiderio(Dae-see-dae-ree-ao) Rodriguez Jr. born in year of 1851

D. Mother of children passed away July 04, 1861:- End of first marriage.

History:- Mother died in 1861, and her son Desiderio died in 1865. Because of later deaths in the second marriage, I suspecion these two relatives were tubercular cases.

Maria Gertrudis, and her brother Juan, lived; and both had families. Gertrudis, as I became old enough to know her, married some one named Jackson Villa. Her husband was not with her; but she was left with a family of one girl and three boys.

SECOND GENERATION IN COUNTY.

Three of her family married. One had no issue. Gerty Jr. married twice and had issue from one marriage. She moved elsewhere, so have lost track of her many years ago.

Her brother, Johnnie; as I remember knowing him; married a Santa Barbara girl. They were rearing a family, but moved elsewhere many years ago. This ends my knowledge about Grandfather's first marriage.

SECOND MARRIAGE. Four years after the death of his wife, Grandfather married Senora Maria de los Angeles Vasquez (Mary of the angels Vasquez), who was better known in family circles as "Angelita Vasquez". Family records indicate she was 18 years old when she married Grandfather, and he was 42.

They reared a family of 01 girl and 04 boys in the last 11 years of her life. Family records indicate; beyond any doubt; that once the tuberculosis germ got into a family in those days, it became, almost, impossible to eradicate. Such was the tragedy that befell upon Grandfather between the years of 1861, and 1899.

During that span of time, he lost his first wife, and one son from his first family. He lost his second wife; his, only, daughter from the second marriage, and his two oldest sons from this marriage.

During that span of 38 years of life, Grandfather lost 02 wives, and 04 children. The tragedy left him with 02 children his first marriage and the 02 youngest children of the second marriage. Thus, when he moved from the adobe home located between the 02 Orcutt Peaks, to his new home located on the west plateau of Slide Hill Peak, took along with him, his oldest son by the second marriage; age 14, and ill with Tuberculosis; and his two youngest sons; ages 10, and 09, respectively.

How Grandfather managed to survive with his three, young, children some 18 miles away from "el Pueblito de San Luis Obispo" remains unknown, and unrecorded, to this day. But as the saying goes:-- "Where there is a will, there is a way;" and Grandfather must have found it. Hence, from 1880 until 1895, he struggled along with the operation of his homestead and the problems of his domestic affairs.

Family history reveals that in the first years of 1890, Uncle Fidelino married, and went on his own. That left the youngest son at home until he went on a ranching venture at the, extreme, south-east end of Arroyo Grande valley; and while operating the ranch with his half-brother, he came across a rancher's daughter who, in time, sought to be married with Grandfather's youngest son named Morell Juan Rodriguez.

Family history record that their marriage took place July 13, 1895, at the Catholic Church of St Patrick, located at the north-west side of the, small, Village of Arroyo Grande. After a short honey-moon trip to San Francisco, they returned to the ranching.

Whether the lease of the venture was expiring, or not, on November 01, 1895, remains unrecalled, and unrecorded. Never-the-less, the partnership dissolved in that era of time; and Morell's half-brother moved to a strawberry ranch located at the mouth of the canyon leading up toward the source of Lopez Creek. The level acreage forms a portion of the floor of "Lopez Lake."

On the other hand, Morell Juan Rodriguez and his bride Adelina C. Hemmi, moved into Grandfather's home, located on the west Plateau of Slide Hill Peak, where the bride took over the domestic affairs of the household, and the groom took over the operation of Grandfather's homestead of 160 acres of land granted by law.

Their take-over relieved Grandfather of the load he had been carrying for more than 20 years; and retiring him at the age of 72 years. He was to live 13 years in complete retirement before death overtook him at the ripe age of 85 years.

I began to realize who he was, and what he represented to the family, about 1901, or 1902. In the 06, or 07 years that I knew him, I never saw him sick until the night of his death. After his last evening, he complained to Mother that he was not feeling too well; and that he was going to room to retire for the night. Shortly after, Mother went to see if he was all right. She found him sitting on his chair with his body limp over the side of his bed.

He was a short, stocky man, standing about 5½ feet in height, but weighed better than 300 pounds, according to Father's statement. So Mother sought help from Father to put him in bed. This they managed to do, while we continued to milk cows. The following morning he was dead.

*****Short Stories*****

Uncle Solano's Determination Ends.

Father's Uncle Don. Francisco Solano Rodriguez, became the 7th. child born to great-grandfather, Don. Sebastian Rodriguez and his wife, Dona. Perfect Pacheco. He was, also, the last; of a family of 14 children; to be born under the flag of Spain. His birth took place September 10, 1817, in the area of Monterey Presidio; where he grew up to manhood.

Foreign migration; especially from the United States; had increased, considerably, into Alta California, by the years of 1845, and 1846. Monterey area seemed to have become a very active center for the foreigner at the time. And because of it, my father's Uncle Solano took it upon himself to rid the area, of the un-wanted "Gringo", by any means at his comma "Gringo", was a nick-name given the American by the Mexican of Alta California.

His policy, and his cruel actions, drew the concern of his ex-soldier fath; who took his unruly son, to task, by offering him 2 alternatives:- eithe learn to live with the un-wanted American "Gringo", without molesting him; or go elsewhere, with his inhuman antics,- lest he jeopardize the peace, and tranquility, of his father's family.

Because of his father's concern, and demand, Uncle Solano decides to leave home; and head for the Village of San Luis Obispo, California, where his older sister, Rafaela Isabel Rodriguez, and husband:-Don. Jose Maria Villa vicencio, had acquired a land grant from their Mexican Government, in 1841

To keep tab on his unruly son, and to provide him company on his trip; my great-grandfather urged Uncle Solano's younger brother, Don. Juan Desiderio Rodriguez, to accompany him on his lonely, and dangerous journey

My Grandfather accepted the offer;- and both, young, men arrived at their destination, without incident. And to the best of my knowledge, neither one ever returned to his home in Monterey.

Whether it was the new environment; or whether it was the war between Mexico and the United States; or whether it was both;- Uncle Solano's determination to rid California of the "Gringo", ended in Monterey, when h left; and never developed in San Luis Obispo area, after his arrival.

Both, young, men married, in the early 1850's;-both settled on the north-grant line of their sister's Corral de Piedra Rancho;- and both began the name of "Rodriguez", in the area of "La Mision de San Luis Obispo".

Uncle Francisco Solano settled in the Log Cabin Area, where he reared a large family.

My Grandfather, Don. Juan Desiderio, reared 2 families at the adobe home located between the 2 Orcutt Peaks. The "Rodriguez" family name is, still, going strong in the County of San Luis Obispo, California.

E. W. Rodriguez

MEMOIRS OF THE "RODRIGUEZ" FAMILY NAME.

HISTORICAL NOTES:- Re-copied & corrected May 13, 1977.
of
Corral de Piedra Land Grant. :--part OI.

SOURCE

"Story of San Luis Obispo County/ Mexican Land Records/ State & Federal Land Records/
San Luis Obispo County Land Records/ and from Records of the "Rodriguez" family.

OI.

The original "Corral de Piedra" land grant contained 02 square leagues of land, and was granted to Dona. Maria Francisca Rafaela Ysabel Rodriguez and her husband Don. Jose Maria Villavicencio, May 14, 1841, by Mexican Governor of Alta California, Don. Alvarado.

02.

Pio Pico,- last Mexican Governor of Alta California;-enlarged their land by adding 05 square leagues of land to it, May 28, 1846.

03.

Mexico declares war on the United States over the boundary line of Texas about the middle of the year of 1846. And when President Polk learned that war existed by the act of Mexico, alone,- Congress promptly voted ~~men and money~~ to carry on the war.

04.

On the 7th. of July, 1846, Commodore Sloat entered the Bay of Monterey with a naval force;- replaced the Mexican flag at the Capitol of Monterey, with the American flag. The American flag has flown over California ever since.

05.

The 30,911.26 acre land grant was patented to the Jose Maria Villavicencio family, October 09, 1867, by the Federal Government of the United States. (According to the Dictionary, a Spanish square league is equal to about 4,439 American acres, or 1796 hectares for the old Spanish land league). (See Book of Deeds ? Page ?

06.

American history reveals that the Corral de Piedra land grant was sold to C. Steele/ Rausalauer Steele/ and Edgar Steele/ by Jacinto Rodriguez, July 27, 1866;- following the death of his brother-in-law:- Don. Jose Maria Villavicencio. Purpose of the sale was to satisfy the terms of a loan made by Jacinto Rodriguez to his brother-in-law for the sum with interest, amounting to a total sum of \$20,000.00 dollars.

07.

Sale of grant involved 30, 911.26 acres. Total selling prise was \$20,000.00.

08.

Sale of Corral de Piedra grant by Jacinto Rodriguez, dated July 27, 1866, was declared ~~illegal~~ because it did not conform with laws of the United States. The case was in the Supreme Court of the United States for 05 years. (See Book P. of Deeds. Page 382).

09.

To satisfy U. S. laws, Jacinto Rodriguez was forced to purchase his sister, Dona. Rafaela (Rodriguez) Villavicencio's interest, plus the interest of all her children, in order to become the sole owner of the Corral de Piedra Rancho. He, in turn, as Grantor, sold the Rancho to the Steele Bros. as grantees, by deed dated July 31, 1871;- with the stipulation contained that said Deed covered an agreement made between the Steele Bros. and himself,- dated July 27, 1866.

IO.

Rancho was divided into 03 parts by Steele Bros., in 1875

II.

Edgar W. Steele died Feb. 18, 1896. Left Widow, Mrs. Emma Steele, and son, Edgar W. Steele Jr.

I2.

Edgar W. Steele's portion of Corral de Piedra Rancho, containing 6,425.62 acres at time of his death;- was sold November 07, 1900, by the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff, for a bid of \$3,701.25;- plus an indebtedness to J. C. Colman et ux of \$110,000.00 dollars with interest accrued @ 08%:- plus a 2nd. mortgage held by the San Luis Obispo County Bank for the sum of \$25,000.00 dollars, with accrued interest @ 10%.(Vol. 45/ Pages 203 and 210).

I3.

On November 07, 1900;- by Sheriff Sale Deed;- J. C. Coleman and Persis Coleman, and their son Edward Coleman, became owners of 6,425.62 acres of the Corral de Piedra Rancho belonging to Edgar W. Steele Sr., and at a price of \$153,701.25 dollars.

I4.

J. C. Coleman et ux, decide to sell their purchase. Accordingly, they employed the services of Mr. Thomas Barrett, a realtor; and Edgar W. Steele Jr. to subdivide and sell their interests.

I5.

For his services:- J. C. Coleman et ux convey 45.83 acres of land, by Deed dated Nov. 01, 1904, to Thomas Barrett. (Liber. 64. Page 226 of Deeds).

I6.

For his services:- J. C. Colman et ux convey 325 acres of land, by Deed dated November 01, 1904, to Edgar W. Steele Jr.

I7.

Steele Rancho located in Township 31S/ Range 13 E. Mt. Diablo Meridian:-(Vol.5/P. 523.

I8.

Probate File for Edgar W. Steele Sr.,(Probate File A. B. C.).

I9.

Thomas Barrett to Morell Juan Rodriguez:-(Vol. 105/ Page 224 of Deeds).

20.

Edgar W. Steele Jr. to Morell Juan Rodriguez:- (Vol. 113 of Deeds:- Page 06.

01. J. C. Coleman:- Recorded in Book 08 of Mortgages./ Page 402.

02. Edgar W. Steele Sr.:-- Left Will dated November 13, 1894.

03. Mortgage to J. C. Coleman executed May 23, 1895.

04. Mortgage foreclosure dated July 05, 1899, by J. C. Coleman.

05. Property incumbered to J. C. Coleman by 1st. mortgage for \$110,000.00/ int. 08%.

06. 02nd. mortgage to S. L. O. County Bank for \$25,000.00/ interest @ 10%/EX.-740-B.

07. J. C. Coleman agrees to allow property rental as long as rental pays interest on mortgage.

08. Foreclosure took place July 05, 1899.

09. Ex.-740- B.:-- is the verification number of an agreement made by J. C. Coleman to allow rental of property, prior to foreclosure.:* as I understand it.*

CHRONOLOGICAL RECORD OF DEEDS.

Bearing on that portion of the Corral de Piedra grant owned by Edgar W. Steele Sr.

- Steele Bros to Patrick & Catherine Donahue,- Dec. I, 1874. Vol. G. Page 27.
 Steele Bros. to Patrick & Catherine Donahue,- Jan. 4, 1875. Vol. G. Page 28.
 Edgar W. Steele to Patrick & Catherine Donahue,- Aug. 22, 1876, Vol. I. or L. Page 576.
 W. W. Stowe to Patrick & Catherine Donahue,- Sept. 13, 1881, Vol. N. Page 351.
 (Clarification deed on Lots BB-CC-EE & T, containing 28.96 A's. Vol. L. Page 576.
 Edgar Steele to David Mitchell,- Aug. 19, 1882,- 50.15 A's. Vol. O. Page 583.
 (Included approximately 1/2 of re-subdivision Lot F. in subdivision Lot 38 by Stratton).
 Frank L. Shank. et ux to E. W. Steele Sr. Aug. 27, 1888. Vol. I. Page 518.
 (Parts of Lot Z lying N. & W. of Villa Creek).
 Ramona Villa Sanford & James Sanford to Peter Maggetti, Sept. 29, 1883. Vol. R. Page 39.
 (Lot AA containing 6.05 A's,- Mary Turner to Antone Simon to M. J. Rodriguez to Antone Simon,- Simon Estate to Frank Mello).
 Edgar W. Steele Sr. died Feb. 18, 1896. Emma Steele died March 18, 1908.
 By Sheriff Sale Deed,- Edgar W. Steele to J. C. & Persis Coleman, and Edward Coleman,
 Nov. 7, 1900,- Vol. 45. Pages 203 and 210.
 Edgar W. Steele Sr Estate,- Homestead to Emma E. Steele,- Oct. 20, 1900. Vol 44. P. 631.
 Edgar W. Steele Sr. Estate,-Homestead to Emma E. Steele, Aug. 20, 1901. Vol.49. P. 370.
 (Delineating Homestead by meets and bounds, containing 4.58 acres).
 J. C. Coleman et al to Emma E. Steele, Sept. 20, 1901,- Vol. 49. Page 486.
 (Subdivision Lot 38,- excepting David Mitchell, and Lots AA-BB-CC-etc).
 Emma E. Steele to Edgar W. Steele Jr. Oct. 5, 1901. Vol. 49. Page 554 + 555
 (Pts of re-subdivision Lot F. of Subd. Lot 38,- Less conveyance to David Mitchell by
 Deed,- Aug. 19, 1882).
 Emma E. Steele to Edgar W. Steele Jr. Oct. 5, 1901. Vol. 49. Page 555.
 (Pts of Lot 38 as per date of Oct. 5, 1901. Vol. O. Page 583).
 Emma E. Steele to J. D. Batchelder,- July 24, 1902. Vol.54. Page 308.
 (5 acre plot including the "O. N. Cottage place", which is part of homestead by Edgar
 W. Steele Sr. Estate to Emma E. Steele).
 Emma E. Steele to David Mitchell,- Sept. 25, 1903. Vol. 62. Page 9.
 (59.44 A's, and including Re-Subd.Lot F., of Subd. Lot 38. Boundaries particularly
 described as down the center of Corral de Piedra Creek on the S. and E. boundary, and
 up the Villa Creek on the N. and W. boundary side.
 J. C. Coleman, et ux to Edgar W. Steele Jr.- Nov. 26, 1906. Vol. 73. Page 218.
 (Parts of Subdivision Lot 53, containing 28.65 acres).
 Emma E Steele Estate to Edgar W. Steele ,- July 9, 1909. Vol. Page
 Edgar W. Steele to Morell J. Rodriguez Nov. 8, 1916. Vol. II3. Page 6.
 Morell J. Rodriguez Estate to Edward W. Rodriguez; George A. Rodriguez; Harry L.
 Rodriguez; Ivan H. Rodriguez; and Mrs Alice Rodriguez Grider. Vol. Page
 Thomas Barrett to Morell J. Rodriguez. Oct. 6, 1915. Vol. IO5 Page 224
 (Conveyance was 45.83 acres). (Distributed to Archie Rodriguez and
 Raymond Rodriguez by Morell J. Rodriguez Estate)
 Distribution date of Morell J. Rodriguez Estate was July 20, 1951.
 J. C. Coleman,- Book 8. of Mortgages,- Page 402,- Executed May 23, 1895.- Will by
 Steele dated Nov. 13, 1894.- Foreclosure date--July 5, 1899. Note for \$110,000.00 @
 8% interest,- County Bank of S. L. O.,-2nd. for \$25,000.00 @ 10% interest.
 Ex-740-B--J. C. Coleman agrees to allow rental of property

NOTES ON MY AUTO-BIOGRAPHY.

01. MY PARENTS:-Were Mr. Morell Juan Rodriguez and Mrs. Adelina(Addie)C. Rodriguez.
02. THEIR MARRIAGE:- July 13, 1895, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Arroyo Grande, California.
03. MOVED:- From upper Arroyo Grande Valley TO crest of Santa Lucia Range of mountains, traversing County of San Luis Obispo, California.
04. MOVED:- TO Grandfather's home, located on west plateau of "SLIDE HILL PEAK."
05. MOTIVE:-Retire Grandfather from further active service.
06. MOTHER:- Takes charge of household duties, including care her brother-in-law, Rudolfo, ill with bad case of tuberculosis.
07. FATHER:-Takes charge of Grandfather's homestead operation.
08. MY BIRTH:- Takes place June 14, 1896, at Grandfather's home, on crest of Range. Became first child of a family of 08 children. NO doctor. Mid-wife, yes.
09. RUDOLFO:- Die's from case of tuberculosis, at age of 33 years, in 1899. I was too young to recall Uncle Rudolfo.
10. FATHER:- Inherit's Uncle Rudolfo's estate of 180 acres, adjoining Grandfather's property on north side; and included the north plateau of "Slide Hill Peak."
11. FATHER:- Inherit's a very promising supply of water, that needed to be piped to a farm unit located on the north plateau of "Slide Hill Peak."
12. FAMILY HISTORY INDICATE'S:- that Grandfather deeded his homestead of 180 acres to Father, for his care throughout the rest of his life.
13. WATER:- was an insoluble problem on west plateau of Slide Hill Peak, in those times.
14. BETWEEN YEARS:- of 1901, AND 1902, Father tears down unit on west plateau; and moves it to north-east end of north plateau of Slide Hill Peak.
15. EDUCATION:- comes to Slide Hill Peak area, in 1899.
16. MAPLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT FORMED:-by families surrounding Slide Hill Peak area.
17. Joe Farias de Costa grants Maple School District one acre of land near crest of Santa Lucia Range, for school purposes.
18. School doors of 01. room school opened in 1899, with neighbor, Mrs. Jessie B. Jardine as school teacher.
19. My education began between year of 1901, and 1902, with Mrs. Jardine as teacher; by peculiar quirk that put me in school at the age of 05½ years.
20. Began school as a typical Mexican. Knew nothing about the English language. Learned fast with aid of Mother; plus Fater's reasoning, and decision to speak the English language at home.
21. Spanish language fades from home after Grandfather, Juan Desiderio Rodriguez, died in 1908.
22. Graduated from Maple Elementary in 1909, with classmates Florinda Tomasini, and her oldest brother, Louis Tomasini.
23. We 03 students proved to be a record. We were the first, and last Class to graduate from Maple Elementary; in its life of 16 years, when it lapsed into Independence School District in 1915.
24. Class of 1909 scatters. District begins to disintergrate. Tomasini Family moves into town of San Luis Obispo, so that Florinda and Louis could attend California Polytechnic School.
25. My parents sent me to Arroyo Grande town, to live with my Grandmother, Dona Maria Hemmi, so that I could attend Arroyo Grande Union High School for my education.
26. The test our elementary education went through, does not speak well for the teachers of Maple School District.
 - A. Louis Tomasini, and Florinda Tomasini, were adviced to review their 8th. Grade education. This they did, and returned to Cal Poly to graduate in 1914.
 - B. My High School instructors allowed me to flounder through my Freshman year that ended in a failure. THAT failure hurt me immensely; and I have never forgotten it's effect on my pride. But it did not make me a quitter. It taught me to be more captilous than ever; and it taught me that I had a limit.
 - C. After 03 years, I moved from Arroyo Grande to Edna area of San Luis Obispo County. From there I bicycled some 18 miles, daily; over a dirt road; to graduate from San Luis Obispo City High School, in June of 1914.
 - D. My Maple School Classmates graduated from Cal Poly in 1914. Thus, I entered Cal Poly when they were leaving it.

MEMOIRS OF THE "RODRIGUEZ" FAMILY NAME.

NOTES ON MY AUTO-BIOGRAPHY-----con.

27. Graduation of Uncle George, and Uncle Harry, create, puzzling problem for Father, in year of 1914. Seeks my aid for a solution of a transportation problem to higher education facilities.
- A. Father question's me about my ability, and responsibility, to operate a car that will handle, at least 02 cans of cream, and transport 03 of us kids to San Luis Obispo High School, and California Polytechnic School, daily.
- B. My answer was:-"Your guess is as good as mine. All I know about cars is that I rode once, or twice in them; but I see no reason why I can't learn to drive, and handle one. Let's go see Mr. Bill Reid about a model T Ford. The Swift Creamery is right next to his agency. Maybe we can borrow a cream can to measure with."
- C. That seem's to have been the answer Father was waiting for. To my, greatest, surprise he said:-"Hitch Riley (the horse) to the rubber tired buggy, we'll have a talk with Mayor Lucchesa. That Swiss may have some good ideas about what car may do what we want."
- D. With that adieu, Father and I were soon on our way to Lucchesa's Garage, and to where Will T. Reid's Ford Agency was temporarily quartered, at the time.
- E. After a thorough, check-over of a Model T. Ford touring car; economy-wise, and price-wise; we decided that the Model T Touring Car was the right answer.
- F. And sure enough, it was more then the answer. For 03 long years that Model T hauled everything from Poly students to plow shares. It, actually, was the beginning of motorized transportation of students attending the higher levels of education in San Luis Obispo area.
28. I graduated from California Polytechnic School in June of 1917, as Cadet Captain of Company B. I majored in Academics, and sidelined it with a course in Mechanics.
29. Became a farm operator November 01, 1917, in area of Edna. World War I. was on in Europe; and farm prices were skyrocketing. Farming looked very promising.
30. Married Miss. Clydie Agnes Leitner, June 01, 1918. Married at "La Mision de San Luis Obispo de Tolosa", with Father Flinch officiating.
31. Went south for our honeymoon. Registered for a Military Draft, at Los Angeles, for the County of San Luis Obispo, California.
32. Took induction into the United States Army, September 01., 1918. Was sent to Oakland Technical School, Oakland, California for "Boot" Training.
33. Became victim of influenza. Spent 23 days in Letterman's Hospital. Released 06th., 07th. of November, 1918. Boarded a train the following day with Sealed Orders in my hand. Train went south by way of San Joaquin Valley, making many pick-ups to Los Angeles, California.
34. Boarded a transfer train going east; and was stopped at El Paso, Texas, November 11, 1918.
- A. Receiver told me I was going to Fort Bliss, some 04 and 1/2 miles away from El Paso; but being rather late in the evening, Receiver offered 02 alternatives:- I could stay with him for the night; or he would put me on board of a street car that would take me to Fort Bliss.
- B. I advised him to forget sending me anywhere, as I was dead tired, and ready for bed. He acknowledged my plight, and desire, and acted accordingly.
- C. About 10, or 11 o'clock, he tapped me on the shoulder to let me know that it was all over, When I awoke; and came to my senses;- the blowing of horns, and the sounds of cars racing the streets of El Paso with cans dragging behind them, was clear evidence that war was over.
- D. My receiver had no other alternative than to send to Fort Bliss the following day.
35. When I arrived at the Fort, about 10 o'clock, the following day, the Camp was a mess to say the least about it. Military officers were everywhere trying to place things in order; but my camp receiver was on hand to receive me.
- A. I Was registered, and placed in a tent with 04 strange soldiers in Camp Pershing.
- B. I was made a member of the United States Motor Transportation Corps, and located in Unit 315. My work in that Corps was that of a truck body repair man. Truck bodies, in those days were made of wood; and had no starters. It was amusing to watch, and see how soldiers started one truck; and to see how soon they had 03, or 04 hundred started, and rolling toward the border to take care of their mission.

NOTES OF MY AUTO-BIOGRAPHY

(cont.)

Motor Transportation Corps was the beginning of the motorization of the American Army. Now I can see why the United States Army was calling for specials from the County of San Luis Obispo. I happened to be one of those who answered the call for a special.

36. After war ended November 11, 1918, I waited until the end of year to see what was going to happen. No movement came in sight, one way or another; so I applied for discharge on grounds that my wife was pregnant, and would bare a child soon; and on grounds that I was needed on the farm. Apparently, my call took effect. My discharge was made in February 04, 1919. Within another day, I was on my way home from Fort Bliss, Texas.

A. Mervin was born March 29, 1919, and became our oldest child.

B. I continued to help Father with his farming operation until November 01, 1919. In the meantime brother George graduated from Cal Poly in June of 1919. He, also, continued to work on Father's farm until November 01, 1919.

37. Father, now, had 02 sons to start in business, instead of one. The involvement turned out to be no problem, when George and I agreed to become partners, and Father agreed to sell us his business on the Morretti Canyon Ranch for \$10,000. This was a business Father claims he was offered \$14,000 for it, sometime earlier, but refused to sell it on grounds that he had 02 sons to start in business.

A. Before going any further, Father advised me to go to the bank and check what amount it would loan on that business we were intending to buy. This I did and came home with the answer. To my surprise, Father said he would go our note for the remainder.

B. Thus, the E.&G. Rodriguez Bros. became the owners and operators of one of the best farming ventures in the County of San Luis Obispo, if not in the State of California.

C. In 08 years of operation during "Recession" time, the partnership cleared the bank of the Note we had. That left us owing Father \$3,000, which would have been no problem to pay, but Father's problems were deeper than that.

D. Near the end of 08 years of Recession; and near the end of our first 08 years of partnership, Father came to me with tears of agony in his eyes and began the explanation of his problem.

E. So desperate was his conclusion and his threat to end his problems with the sale of his property; for whatever he could get for it, and to move to town with Archie; and let the rest of his family struggle for themselves. His statement took me right off my feet when I compared it, in my mind, with the statement I had so often hear him make, expressing that it was his hope, and wish, to see all of his family happily married, and in business by themselves. I could hardly believe what I had heard him express on that particular occasion.

F. Family history, and family records reveal the decision I, and my wife, made in those happy, but dark days of our young lives - when the economy of our Nation was floundering just like it is, today, in the year of 1975. Today, 46 years after the 01st depression began, with the break in the Stock Market, the "Rodriguez" family, as a whole, are far better off, financially, than it was in those days when Father approached me, in desperate agony, with his financial problem for a probably, and possible solution. I have, often, wondered what would have happened, had my decision been otherwise? Would I have been able to offer this history I am offering?

38. Going back to the year of 1919, when George and I, became partners in a farming venture, I found time enough to serve as Trustee of Independence Elementary School, from 1920 to 1927. In 1927, I moved from the Independence School area to the Corral de Piedra School area.

39. In 1928, I was made Trustee of Corral de Piedra Elementary School District, and served as such until 1928, when I moved to the "Pecho" area of San Luis Obispo County in 1936 - to operate a 1220 acre ranching venture.

40. In 1943, which was the year our oldest son, Mervin, died in an action of World War II, I was chosen member of the San Luis Obispo City School Board of Education to serve out the term of Dr. Campbell, who had recently been elected, but who was called to serve in W.W. II. I was elected twice after I served out Dr. Campbell's term, before retiring in 1954, principally, due to an arthritic condition that was slowing me down.

41. I ran for a County office twice, but failed to win both times. I simply could not run fast enough.

MEMOIRS OF THE "RODRIGUEZ" FAMILY NAME.

NOTES ON MY AUTO-BIOGRAPHY:-----con.

42. Besides being a familyman; a businessman; a politically-minded man; interested in the advantages offered by education to all of us; but, principally, to our future generations; I found time to be a farmer, a dairyman with a herd of 100 milking cows, and a considerable amount of dry stock, and replacement stock.
- A. The picture I have painted for you should tell you why I; like my Father; had little, or no time, to visit here or visit there;- but we did find time to hunt, fish, clam, and etc, even if it was only for an hour, or so. I, like my Father learned to make fun pay dividends without sticking our hand into our purse for every bit of fun we enjoyed. Ask your Father for the value of this statement, if you do so desire.
- B. My business career in the "Pecho" area of San Luis Obispo County ^{ended} in 1946. The Miossi family sold their interest in the ranch to DeVaul Brothers prior to the end of lease. The DeVaul Bros. offered to continue the lease, if I so desired. My answer to them was "NO". That my wife was refusing to live out in the sticks any longer, after her brood had all left home. She found too many inconveniences, and lonesomeness to suit her, any longer.
- end of my dairying career; but I continued farming.
45. Father approaches me with his final proposition, when he heard that I was foot-loose, and getting ready to move somewhere, with all my farming equipment.
- A. He suggested buying a home in the City of San Luis Obispo, where Clydie and I could live with him until his death, when the home would become our own property. I told him that I felt too young to retire at the age of 52; and asked him what he saw wrong with us moving back to the ranch where he was living alone, and where I could find lands to continue my farming operations. A surprised look came over Father's face with a gentle smile of approval. "I see nothing wrong with it, and am happy about your suggestion, if you and Clydie would like it that way. That adieu ended the discussion then, and there.
46. Father was to live until March 02, 1950, when a heart seizure took his life, as your Grandmother was cooking his breakfast. He was 78 years, 9 months, and 28 days old when life left him.
- A. According to Family Records, Father outlived Mother by 23 years.
- B. Mother's problem was similar to Father's in that it involved high blood pressure. But her death was caused by a cerebral hemorrhage that hit her, as she was preparing a noon meal for Father. And from Father's description of what took place within reach of him, her fall to the floor, surely, did her no, particular good. It seems as though her body stiffened, as she threw her arms upward, and placed her hands on the base of her skull, and exclaimed:-"Oh my God", as she began falling backward with no effort by Father to check her fall. He simply froze with the unbelievable surprise that came over him.
47. Father appointed Raymond and I, administrators of his estate. Mr. C. P Kaetzel was his attorney for the distribution of his property. Consequently, we had no problem with Father's Will. or distribution.
- I continued to rent the lands I had been farming, and Raymond continued to operate just like he had been operating it when Father was living.
- A. When the dairy herd came up for sale. George helped Raymond finance the purchase of the cows he wished to keep for the dairy he was going to operate on the ranch.
- B. I continued to farm the lands of the Estate until 1957, when a problem developed in San Joaquin Valley needing my attention, in the first place. In the 2nd. place, some of the heirs seemed unhappy with the rent I was paying. My problem in San Joaquin:---

NOTES ON MY AUTO-BIOGRAPHY.

- Valley offered me a very good excuse to get away from the rental problem of the Estate. Consequently, on November 01, 1957, I was on my way to the San Joaquin Valley with all my farming equipment, and with my beet allotment acreage.
48. I became a San Joaquin Valley farmer with son, Harold November 01, 1957, in area north-west of Riverdale, and south of Burrel. All points being in County of Fresno, California.
- A. Because of Harold's family problems, we formed a partnership with him, and moved into his home, where his Mother took charge of the household, and I took charge of farming operations while Harold worked as a carpenter for a contractor.
- B. July 01, 1959, our partnership sold the ranch to a progressive neighbor, who took charge of the farming operation, immediately.
- C. The partnership auctioned off all the operating equipment we had. Paid off all the debts of the partnership; and divided the balance.
49. Harold remained in the San Joaquin Valley. But we loaded all of our belongings into our family car, and a U-Haul trailer, and headed west, for the City of San Luis Obispo, and to our new home at 1727 Chorro Street, where we have lived ever since, as of November 25, 1975.
50. AS Parents:- we are both still living, and the parents of 04 children.
- A. I am a veteran of World War I. I took induction August 01, 1918, into the U. S. Army. Was sent to Oakland Technical School for boot training. Spent 23 days in Letterman's Hospital with the "Flu". Reached Fort Bliss, near El Paso, Texas, November 11, 1918. That was the day W. W. I. ended. Was discharged from U. S. Army February 04, 1919.
- B. Three of our children were veterans of W. W. II. Our oldest son, - Second Lieutenant Mervin E. Rodriguez failed to return from area of Salerno, Italy, where he lost his life in action, December 25, 1943.
- C. Harold gained deferment through his agricultural operation.
- D. Virginia served as a "Wave" in the Army of the United States.
- E. Donald became a Navy sailor of W. W. II. After his discharge from the U. S. Navy; - he remained in eastern United States, where he married Miss Geneveive Sulkowski, June 16, 1952; - and reared a family of 02 girls and 01 boy.
51. AS Grandparents:- we have 11 grandchildren.
52. AS Great-Grandparents:- we have 04 girls, and one boy who's surname is "Klawin." This generation is in dire need of a boy who's surname is "Rodriguez."

N O T E S:- O N:-

MY GRANDFATHER DON. JUAN DESIDERIO ANTONIO RODRIGUEZ.

01. His parents were Mexican soldier Sebastian Rodriguez, and Dona. Perfecta Pacheco.
02. Don. Juan Desiderio was the 9th. child of a family of 14 children.
03. Juan Desiderio Antonio was born in area of Monterey Presidio, California, February 12, 1823. NOTE:- that was 02 years after Spain's Territory of "New Spain" (Territorio de Nueva Espana), had become the Nation of "MEXICO".
04. Grandfather, Juan Desiderio leaves home with older brother, Francisco Solano, and migrate to area of San Luis Obispo Mission, about year of 1844-45, -or 46.
05. Both arrive in good health, at the land grant issued their older sister, Dona. Maria Francisca Rafaela Isabel Rodriguez, and her husband Don. Jose Maria Villavicencio, by Mexican Governor of Alta California, - Alvarado, in 1841. Circumstances appear to indicate their arrival took place shortly before, or about the time when Mexico, and the United States locked horns over a border dispute involving the, free, State of Texas; seeking admission to the United States.
- A. My impressions are that war must have created a confusing situation for the 03 "Rodriguez" individuals pioneering in the surrounding area of "La Mision de San Luis Obispo, in 1846
- B. Family history indicates both brothers settled in areas bordering the north-east boundary line of their sister's land Grant
06. Family History reveals that Rafaela's youngest brother, Juan Desiderio Rodriguez,

NOTES ON GRANDFATHER:-----cont.

settled in adobe built between the 02 Orcutt Road Peaks, located about 03 miles south-east of "la Mision de San Luis Obispo de Tolosa."

07. Grandfather married Isabell Jenkins, daughter of John Jenkins, and Pascuala de Garcia y Romero,, from area of Los Angeles, California. Date is estimated to be sometime in year of 1851.

A. First child born was Maria Gertrudis Policarpia;-born January 25, 1852.

B. S. L. O Mission records indicate Isabell Jenkins Rodriguez died July 4th. 1861.

(Apparently, her death was the beginning of tuberculosis in family).

C. 1870 Census Records indicate the following children; from her; were living:- Maria Gertrudis 18;- Juan 16;- Desiderio Jr. 12 years old.

08. Grandfather's 02nd. marriage to Maria de los Angeles Vasquez, estimated to be in 1865. New Bride was born in Cambria, in 1847. Marriage took place in "La Mision de San Luis Obispo, in 1865.

A. 1870 Census Records indicate the following children born to Maria de los Angeles were:-Nizandrp:-05; Rudolfo:-04; Clara Julia Bersabe:-02; Fidelino:- 03 months;(Juan Morell was not recorded by 1870 Census. He was born; according to baptismal Records of "la Mision de San Luis Obispo;- May 04, 1871

B. Father was compelled to reverse name from "Juan Morell" to Morell Juan Rodriguez, because of conflict with half brother "Juan Rodriguez."

C. Family Records reveal Grandfather's 02nd. wife died May 12, 1876, at age of 29 yrs.

D. My observations convince me; beyond any doubt; that consumption; also known as "Tuberculosis"; caused Grandfather to loose 02. wives, and 04 of his 08 children, in his married life.

09. Grandfather, Juan Desiderio Antonio Rodriguez died in 1903, at the ripe age of 35 years; and is buried in Father's Family plot at the Catholic Cemetery.

NOTE:- This is Dec. 01. Sorry to be so late getting all this history together for you; but am, extremely, happy I had the time to check it over before sending it to you. By the time you read it; if you could have read it; you would be wondering what I had that was stronger than plain water.

E. W. R.