Fulton Berry’s Street:
From Street Cars To
No Cars At All, Almost

They clanged their way down the streets of Fresno for 52 years, 1887 to 1939, powered by the horse, later by electricity. And, while the trolley, or street cars clanged, the city grew.

Ben Walker in “The Fresno County Blue Book” wrote, “...the rivalries of Mariposa, I, Tulare and K Streets have all conspired to build up J Street as the median line of Fresno’s business activity.”

The growth along the street was spurred by Fresno raconteur Fulton G. Berry, who arrived on the scene in 1884 and for whom the street was later renamed. Berry developed the Grand Central Hotel on the corner of Mariposa and J Streets. Later he added the Fulton Hotel, which was destroyed by fire in 1915 and replaced by Rodder’s.

The actual renaming of the street in honor of Berry was done Oct. 20, 1923 by the Fresno City Council by ordinance, 13 years following Barry’s famous funeral parade down J Street with the bands playing selected Souza marches and “There Will Be A Hot Time In The Old Town Tonight.”

Early businesses on J Street, according to Walker, included the Arlington Hotel, the Fresno Chamber of Commerce building which later became the property of O. J. Woodward, the Dunn building and the Sequoia bar and restaurant. He also reports J. W. Ferguson relocated the “Weekly Expositor” on Fulton Street, and in 1918 the Bank of Italy (known today as the Bank of America) came to Fresno’s Street.

Paul E. Vandor in his “History of Fresno County California With Biographical Sketches” wrote in 1919, “At Tulare and J on the sandhill there were perched the Silverman cottage home (the residence was replaced by the Forsyth Building destroyed by fire in 1920); on Nob Hill were centered the residences then (the eighties) and later of Louis Eisenstein, Dr. Chester Rowell, the Gundelfingers, Dr. Lewis Leach, W. B. Dennett, the city clerk, H. C. and W. D. Tupper, George E. Church, W. D. Grady, A. J. Thorn and others.”

Later developments in the 1930s on Fulton Street include the 10 story office building of the San Joaquin Light and Power Corporation Building (now Pacific Gas and Electric), Gottschalk’s, and the Patterson Building completed in May of 1932, among others.

By 1926, when the accompanying picture was taken, Fulton Street was the hub of Fresno’s business section. It had replaced Fresno and Mariposa Streets for commercial buildings and in so doing eliminated Fresno’s only Nob Hill, all four feet of it.

The street car era, which began in May, 1887, on J Street, was one of three in the young city. In 1901 the Fresno City Railway Company merged the three and in the spring of 1903

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A Look At Early Times: Indian Treaties And Such

(This is the concluding portion of an article written by a reporter for the Fresno Weekley Expositor and published January 1, 1879.)

ART. 7.—The United States will also employ and settle among said tribes at or near their town or settlement one practical farmer, who shall act as superintendent, or director of agricultural operations, to reside at some central point, and to have two assistants, also of practical knowledge and industrious habits; one carpenter, or worker in wood, to direct and aid in the construction of houses, repairing floors, &c., one blacksmith, to reside at some central point; three principal school teachers, and as many assistant teachers as the President may deem proper, to instruct said tribes in reading, writing, &c. and in the domestic arts of sewing, housekeeping, Sc.; upon the manual labor system; all the above named workmen and teachers to be maintained and paid by the United States, for the period of five years, and as long thereafter as the President may deem advisable. The United States will also erect suitable school houses, ships and dwellings, for the accommodation of the school teachers and mechanics above specified, and for protection of the public property.

These articles to be binding on the contracting parties when ratified and confirmed by the President and Senate of the United States.

In testimony whereof the parties have hereunto signed their names and affixed their seals this 20th day of April, Anno Domini, 1851.

Signed and sealed and delivered after being fully explained in presence of
JOHN McKEE, Secretary; JOHN HAMILTON, Interpreter; ADAM JOHNSTON, Agent; C. D. KEYS, Capt. 3d Art'y Escort; W. S. KING, Asst. Surg. U.S.A.; I. H. LANDRAM, Lieut. 3d Art'y H. J. G. GIGSON, 2d Lieut. 31 Art'y; N. H. M. LEAN, Lieut. 2d Inf't T. H. A. MARS.

(Signed.) Redick McKee, G. W. Barbour, O. M. Wozencroft. For and in behalf of the Howeachs—Nayakqua, Nocheel, Chalwakchee, Porsa, Poqui. For and in behalf of the Cook-chaney—Cotumsi, Timob, Savalui, Achatawa, Miewal. For and in behalf of the Chowchillas—Poholee, Ekeeno, Kayoya, Apem-shee, Chonobalma. For and in behalf of the Pohoneches—Potel, Cheeko, Moolchate, Hohasee, Cowwal. For and in behalf of the Nookchoos—Panwachee, Ketino, Mulluee, Taw-wich, Wallin. For and in behalf of the Pitcaches—Tomquit, Yakowal, Tootromi, Cholul, Naseplo, for and in behalf of the Capoos—Domingo Perez, Tommas, Jose Antonio. For and in behalf of the Tallinohy—Chocate, Pallakoosh, Howlimena, Sokoch. For and in behalf of the Tallinophy, Poskess—Koshish, Koltch, Coppi, Wowal. For and in behalf of the Itches—Wato, Aportal, Tolaichee. For and in behalf of the Choenenymes—Wauokie, Holettee, Taween. For and in behalf of the Chokimenes—Koheel, Traditee, Mohton. For and in behalf of the Notohotos—Pasqual. For and in behalf of the Nesmechess—Pasqual.

The above Indian names are signed by an “X”, his mark.

In the summer of 1851, after the treaty was concluded, Savage put up a store on the Fresno River. In the following winter he moved further down the river and built Fort Bishop, doing the bulk of his trading with the Indians, who in those days dug out large quantities of gold dust, the mines having hardly been prospected by the whites. The Indians still manifested a restless and turbulent spirit, but did not resume open hostilities, but they were not admitted inside the store, and the goods which they bought with their gold dust were handed out to them through small openings left in the walls, and which were securely fastened at night.

About this time the Fresno Reservation was established, Col. Thomas Henley being appointed Agent, with W. B. Lewis, Sub-Agent, and J. B. Folsom, Chief Hunter. Soon after the Kings Reservation was established, also under Col. Henley, with Wm. J. Campbell, Sub-Agent; one Judge Marvin was Quarter-master at this Reservation, furnishing all the supplies; Chas. A. Hurt was his Wagonmaster, and E. P. Hart and D. J. Johnson were also employed here.

The Indians in the meantime kept quiet, and everything went smoothly and harmoniously enough, until the 16th day of August, 1852. Some time previous to this date, one Major Harvey, the first County Judge of Tulare County, and Wm. J. Campbell, either hired or incited a lot of men, who rushed into one of the rancherias on Kings River and succeeded in killing a number of old squaws. Harvey and Campbell had become jealous of Savage in consequence of his prosperity with, and his influence over the Indians. Savage complained of this dastardly outrage to the Indian Commissioners, and publicly asserted that Harvey was no gentleman, which of course came to the ears of Harvey. On the 16th day of August, 1852, Savage paid a visit to the Kings River Reservation, but previously to this Harvey declared that if Savage ever came there he would not return alive. He didn’t.

After the death of Savage, many were the aspirants who sought to step into his shoes and gain prominence among, and control over the Indians, but no one ever succeeded in filling his place among them—they felt like orphans, and realized the fact that their best friend was gone.

MEETING NOTICE

David Barber, a Fresno, will speak on the “History of Caves and Caverns in the Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks” at the March 24 quarterly meeting of the society. He will also display equipment used in the sport and hobby of speleology (cave exploring).

The meeting will begin at 2 p.m. in the hospitality room of the Fresno Guarantee Savings and Loan Association Building, Blackstone and Ashlan Avenues, Fresno. Refreshments will be served.

FULTON BERRY: from page 1

the Fresno Traction Company, then the owners, converted the lines to electricity.

In 1909 Fresno’s first double tracks were laid on J Street and in 1910, Southern Pacific gained control. On May 21, 1939, city officials took the last ride in car 90, although car 29 was used to remove the overhead wiring, then had to be towed to oblivion because its power source no longer existed.

Today, the Fulton Mall, dedicated in 1964, and the pedestrian have replaced the street and the gas powered buggies. But the “trolley,” now modified and perhaps a little less glamorous than its predecessor, still “beeps” its way down Fulton.
Cattle And Courage: Fresno County’s Cattle History

(This is the concluding part of the history of the cattle industry in Fresno County. The series was written by a committee of the Fresno County Cattlemen’s Association and its auxiliary.)

Perhaps no group of men in the United States ever developed a greater pride in their occupation than did the old time cattlemen. No amount of horsemanship could rival that performed by those who rode the Forest Reserves. Only the men raised to the saddle and instilled with its knowhow and ability could master the rugged terrain without injury. It demanded the finest roping skill and the best of a good cowdog. The rally dog, used to encircle and hold the cattle, was a vital part of the drives. It would not be uncommon to have a dog to every man on a roundup that consisted of from 40 to 60 men. Without the valuable head dogs it would have been almost impossible to pursue the wayward cattle through the brush and timber.

Marking their humor are the names yet used in the mountain areas. “Dinkey Creek was named for a pet dog that was killed there by a bear.” “Tunemah Pass takes its name from a shepherder giving vent to his opinion after descent of that well nigh impassable mountain ridge cleft from the North to the Middle Fork of the Kings River and the Tehilippe Valley, the rival of Yosemite.” “Dutch Oven Creek gives reminder of the disaster to a party in fording that swift stream and the recovery of the indispensable oven as the only article of the camping outfit.”

Oil was discovered by Frank Dusy of Selma and John Clark of Bear Valley, at the stage of history when the County was in its Great Drought. They filed a claim along with W. A. Porter on 160 acres near the springs and ledges in Valleccito Canyon in the vicinity of Coalinga. The large Elkhorn Ranch, owned by Cuthbert Burrell, became the site of wildcat drilling, with the oil excitement reaching its apex in 1885. M. L. Curtis made a homestead entry on a tract of land in Pleasant Valley, which was at that time mostly controlled by the Kreyenhagen family for cattle raising. Following this time Southern Pacific laid its tracks to this point, taking advantage of its land grants and to supply the miners in that area. The nature of Coalinga’s growth in the 1900’s was fast. The discovery of oil there was instrumental in the forming of backers and the subsequent drilling throughout the entire San Joaquin Valley. However, it remains primarily a good cattle raising area and adds greatly to the county’s overall production.

Fresno and Central California are not naturally farm areas in the old sense. Agriculture in this part of the state was very meager until it was placed on a capitalized basis. This capitalization from the first had its legal and political features, which are a part of the understanding of settlement. The next ten years show enormous growth. In the 1890’s there were big promotional deals set up by land owners around Fresno City and representatives of every immigrating nation settled. Stockmen tried to discourage the colonizers by telling them tales of “birds dying from the heat, sandstorms, fruit baked half-ripe on the trees and temperatures of 130 degrees in the shade.” However, more farmers came, taking up the land, and the stockmen were forced to buy land previously merely appropriated by them. With the encroachment of farming, enlargement of the Homestead Act and the severity fought over No-Fence Law, it became necessary for the cattlemen to pull away from the plains, to settle in the foothill areas and to fence or provide riders for the livestock.

Before fencing, there was not too much that could be done about herd management. In the early days of the county, fences were made out of mud or brush. They were not to keep cattle in, but to keep them out. The few grain and hay fields were fenced, also corrals for horses, but that was all. Without pastures or corrals as we know them now, working cattle was altogether different. The cattle were not segregated in any way. Bulls stayed the year around with the herd. Most of the foothill stockmen raised their own bulls and sometimes traded with a neighbor— if he thought he was getting the best of the trade. Calves were never weaned until they weaned themselves. If a cow had a new calf while an old one was still suckling, the new one usually died. Herds were never culled and old or unproductive stock sold. Steers were not sold until they were five or six years old. Some steers, brought out of the mountains after spending years evading the roundup crews, weighed in at as much as 1,800 pounds.

With the passage of the No-Fence Law and more irrigation canals being built, farms increased and filled the valley that was previously deemed unfit and too much of a gamble for crops. Wheat was produced on a collosal scale, 1,000 to 3,000 acre wheat fields were not uncommon. Clovis Cole had 10,000 acres in wheat in later years. The large ranch owned by Cole was situated northeast of Fresno and a halfway station was established and named for him when the railroad built their line across his ranch. Today, a modern, but well regarded cowtown, Clovis, sponsors the scene for the annual Clovis Rodeo each April and attracts the finest riders in the RCA Association.

Although wheat was to hold the front for many years and prove of more value than the great gold fields, the fruit and vine industries, incepted in the 80’s was to gain great force by the 90’s and the acreage now producing in our county attests to the success of this form of farming.

A stockman of 100 years ago would be bewildered now by the array of equipment on a stock ranch. Ranch equipment of horses, saddles, ropes, a wagon or two and some hand tools are no longer the only essentials. Today scales, chutes, trucks, jeeps, pumps, veterinary supplies and vaccines play an almost every day role. Not to mention the almost scientific practice in breeding, range management and the more sophisticated methods of marketing. Supplemental feeding, in a poor feed year, has taken the place of starving herds. Some cattlemen still trail their cattle to summer range in the mountains. Permanent pasture, first introduced in the early 1900’s, has steadily grown and many ranchers not having summer ranges, take their cattle to pasture or feed out cattle. The feedlot industry has become a major factor in today’s beef picture.

Remaining to the present day is the gathering for marking and branding. Neighbors still combine to help each other. Although they now come in trucks or trailers with their horses and work with fences, chutes and vaccine, very much alive is the old time hospitality, humor and pride in roping skills and horsemanship.

Contributing to the growth and economy of the county last year, cattlemen held on the surrounding ranges and in the foothills approximately 33,950 head of range cattle, including calves, stockers and breeding bulls. Feedlot turnover has been estimated to be between 240,000 to 250,000 head per year. This is considered a very conservative figure. The contrast in a little over 100 years, from the first time the Americans came to stay, to today, is great in each phase of the wealthiest county in the state. No more is there lush grasses, trampled only by wild animals, but now to take its place are large cities, well defined ranches, industry and all the many things needed to help keep this big nation at the top of the world’s list. Fresno County Cattlemen are proud of their contribution.
AWARD WINNERS — Two teenage volunteers were cited by the Society for “valued services rendered” during the annual dinner meeting in January. The pair, from left in the mirror, Garry Adams and Stephen Barile. Verne Cornell of Fresno received this year’s adult certificate of appreciation.

Our old by-laws, written in 1949, were out and were officially replaced at the annual meeting by a unanimous vote of the 75 persons attending.

Some of the more important changes, now legal, are the change in name to the Fresno County Historical Society, a slight change in the types of membership, and the setting of a date for the annual meetings.

Under membership, we now have active, family, sustaining, life and honorary titles. Active memberships cost $5 a year, family memberships $10, sustaining memberships $25, and life memberships $100. There will no longer be an institutional membership or a regular membership as such.

The third Friday in January of each year will be the annual meeting date.

The number of directors has been reduced from 20 to 15, but members saw fit to add a grandfather clause that eliminates the need to ask any of our directors to resign. The directors will be elected each year at the annual meeting, although vacancies will be filled by the directors. Board meetings will be held the second Monday of February, May, August and November.

The offices of the board of directors remain the same except the administrator’s official title shall be executive director, and he will serve as an ex-officio member of the board, the executive committee, and all other committees created by the board.

The by-laws also made our present executive committee an official part of the Society.

Our administrator and treasurer are urging those who have not paid their dues to do so as soon as possible. Forthcoming issues of our quarterly will not be sent to persons lax in sending their money to Dan Pollard or John Houlihan, 1085 N. Brawley Ave., Fresno, Ca. 93705.