

COLONY OLIVENHAIN



Richard Bumann

Alle Briefe und Sendungen sollen an die
"Colony" adressirt werden.

All Letters and Shipments must be addressed
to the "Colony."

COLONY OLIVENHAIN



San Diego County, Cal. 188

By

Richard Bumann

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my wife, Adeline Elizabeth Bumann, for her understanding, encouragement, and never-ending support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank the many people that gave material and information to prepare this book and the many more that encouraged its completion. Although I cannot mention everyone by name, those that recognize their donations will know who they are and hopefully will accept my gratitude.

Thanks to Dr. James R. Moriarty for his respected guidance in writing the Indian country. Also to Sylvia Arden from the San Diego Historical Society for her kind and informative help in preparing Chapter Two.

Since the colony records were hand written in script German, translations were required. Through the combined efforts of Mrs. Gisela Scherfel, Mrs. Irene Engelsberger and Mr. Wolfram Schuetzenduebel, over 250 pages of meeting notes, 96 letters and portions of four audit books were translated during an eleven month period. Other translators whose task was none the less difficult included Mrs. Gudrun F. Osborn, Mrs. Hermine B. Schaefer and Mrs. Ruth Young. To all of these gifted and generous people, I extend my deep appreciation.

It was an honor and enriching experience to interview the many people that contributed to the farming era. These included, and I thank, Arthur D. Cole Sr., Henry F. Cole, Alex D. Reseck, Carl E. Teten, Herman Wiegand and Bruno Denk who safe guarded the colony records for so many years. A special thanks to my uncle Herman C. Bumann for his extensive and often uncredited contributions. Finally with burning regret and cherished memories for Laura A. Miller and Marie E. Wiro who passed away before this book was completed.

For their invaluable help and advise, I give thanks to my mother Rosemary Bumann, my aunt Ruth Buman, my sister-in-law Donna Bumann, and especially to my wife, "Twink" Adeline E. Bumann.

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FOREWORD

The intent of this local history book is to recall and thereby perpetuate the heritage of a small valley called Olivenhain. The location of Olivenhain is approximately twenty-five miles north from San Diego, California and five miles east from the Pacific Ocean. The name is of German origin and is pronounced oh-LEE-ven-hine.

The writing of this book was inspired by a long and almost natural chain of events. The author's interest in Olivenhain history began at a very young age, though the many stories passed from one generation to the next. The interest increased with passing years and in 1972 a sincere effort to collect old photographs and acquire detailed information was undertaken. A unique opportunity existed to collect this historical material since the author was either directly related to or was a lifetime friend with all of the pioneering families of Olivenhain. In fact, it was at the home of one of these families in December of 1972 that a conversation led to a wooden box stored in a closet. The box contained the Colony Olivenhain records dating from 1884 through 1897 and included minutes of meetings, accounting books, correspondence letters and in short was a historian's pot of gold. The colony records led to even more discoveries and by mid 1973, a wealth of information had been collected. So what started as a personal interest snowballed into a major historical research, and the desire to share this knowledge soon promoted the idea of writing this book.

The book is separated into five chapters, each chapter representing a different historical period. Chapter One and Two depicts Olivenhain prior to the colony settlement, beginning with the American Indian and followed by the early land owners. Chapter Three deals with the colony organization, from its beginning to its end. The information in Chapter Three is based on the colony records, newspaper articles and other original material from that time period. Chapter Four, the farming era, represents approximately sixty years. Most of the information from this chapter was obtained directly from the retired Olivenhain farmers. The last chapter brings Olivenhain into the late 1970's and its image as a residential community.

CHAPTER 1

INDIAN COUNTRY

The first race of people to inhabit this small valley, now called Olivenhain, was the American Indian, who predated the arrival of European man by at least 10,000 years.

Anthropologists theorize, that during the last ice age, the Indians migrated from Asia, across the Bering Straits to Alaska, then southward by an extremely gradual movement through Canada and finally America. Exactly when they arrived in Southern California is difficult to know, if not impossible. Recent discoveries have convinced some anthropologists that Indians existed here, at least 50,000 years ago. But because these astonishing dates are not accepted by many experts we will confine our discussions to the three most recent (and confirmed) cultures, namely the San Dieguito, La Jollan and the Diegueño. Each of these three cultures existed here in different time periods and each one was distinctly different from the others.

The first of these three cultures is called the "San Dieguito". These early people probably moved into this area sometime between 10,000 and 11,000 years ago. The San Dieguito Indians were basically a hunting culture which existed almost entirely on the abundant game which flourished here at that time. Almost all of their stone tools consisted of choppers for chopping meat, bone scrapers for cleaning hides and large projectile points.

A few thousand years later, due to a major climate change, this area began to change into a semi-arid environment. The once flourishing game became scarce and the San Dieguito Indian entered a slow transitional change in his food gathering techniques which depended less and less on game and more and more on vegetation and sea life. The change, or transition, at a point some 7,500 years ago, became so pronounced that it had altered their entire culture.

This new culture of Indians was given the name "La Jolla" Indian. Unlike the previous San Dieguito Indian, the La Jolla Indian depended mostly on vegetation and sea food for their basic diet, however, game of almost any kind was consumed when it could be found.

Beginning about 3,000 years ago, Yuman Indians from the Colorado river came to this area and merged with the La Jolla Indian. The Yuman Indian brought with them a new culture and when the cultures of the La Jolla and Yuman mixed, it altered both and the product was a third culture which was given the name "Diegueño" Indian. These Indians were the last native culture to occupy this area prior to the influence of European man.

The Diegueño Indians lived in small community groups of two to forty families each. These scattered groups usually occupied the same permanent camp from one generation to the next and would only leave this camp for brief food gathering excursions of limited distances. Their leader was usually the wealthiest individual in the group. His authority was very limited and is best described as a counselor, not a ruler. In time of war, their leader was the strongest and most courageous male, however, these Indians were not warlike and usually settled their differences in some other manner.

Primarily, the Diegueño were seed gatherers and root diggers and largely relied on the wild vegetation for their basic diet. The remainder of their food supply consisted of a large variety of animals and sea life.

The Diegueño was the first culture of Indians to have pottery. The pottery was very simple and plain, rarely was it painted. Hunting tools such as arrowheads and spears were comparatively small, since the big game had long since vanished from this area.

Their clothing was simple, the men were

usually naked and the women wore a two piece skirt, but normally went bare breasted. Additional clothing was worn on extremely cold days, but was for comfort only. Style was not a consideration.

Houses were of two basic types. The first, a lean-to shape or better described as a ramada, and the second, a beehive shape being about nine feet in diameter and six or seven feet high. These houses were made of tree limbs, grass and mud.

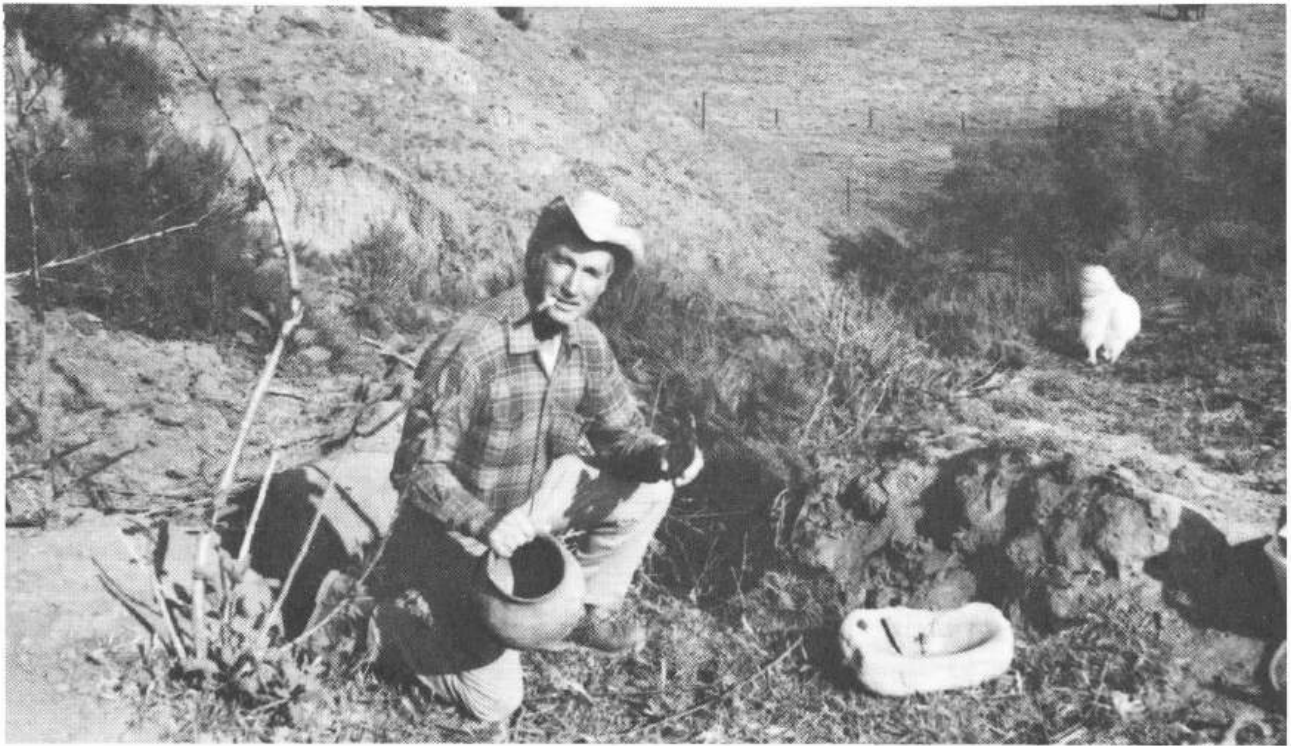
These Indians were the first culture to cremate their dead. To accompany the deceased on the journey to the hereafter, his valued possessions were "broken", then placed in a cremation fire. Later the ashes of the deceased and his belongings were placed in a specially made olla and buried in a nearby burial ground.

When the first Spanish expedition penetrated this area in July 1769, they encountered many small villages of friendly Diegueño Indians. Two days journey from San Diego they found a series of grass covered valleys, speckled with

small oak trees which they named Los Encinos. Evening camp was in one of these valleys which they called San Alejo. That evening, Gaspar De Portola, the leader of the expedition, wrote in his ledger about a band of 15 Indians that visited their camp and stayed for some time. Portola's expedition pushed north the following morning and the Indians remained undisturbed for several more years.

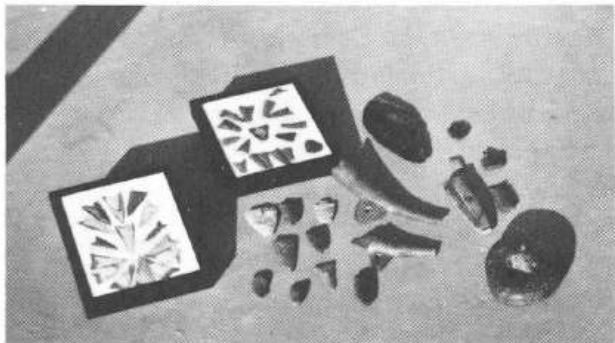
But their isolation didn't last. The Spanish mission system was by design, intended to benefit the Indian, but in effect had a very detrimental impact on both their culture and population. Their numbers were mainly reduced by terrible virus diseases of which the Indian had little understanding or resistance. And finally, the expansion of Mexican and American colonization made the Indian an unwanted trespasser, and ultimately the subjects of secluded reservations. By 1850, it was very doubtful that any Indians remained in the area, now called Olivenhain.

We are constantly reminded that Indians ex-



George T. Bumann displays a few Indian artifacts found in Olivenhain.

isted by their stone implements and tools which are frequently found. Quite often these artifacts were found on top of the ground, other times they were unearthed by the seasonal plowing or disking of the crop fields and occasionally an act of nature revealed them. Laura Miller recalls that the floods of 1922 and 1937 caused a considerable amount of soil erosion. In various parts of the valley, deep ditches were cut in the crop fields, exposing Indian artifacts of all types.



Some artifacts found in Olivenhain include a variety of arrowheads, several clay smoking pipes and a six inch long obsidian spear.

Some of the residents collected many of these artifacts, including arrowheads, grinding metates, pottery and even smoking pipes. The ditches were then bulldozed shut to make ready for the seasons crop planting.

The first large scale archeological excavation was conducted by the San Diego State University in August 1974. Even though it was not in Olivenhain (site located on a hillside near the intersection of Olivenhain Road and Rancho Santa Fe Road), it was often called the Olivenhain site since it was within a short walking distance. The dig produced several thousand artifacts including a rock floor and stone-lined hearth. The artifacts were predominantly from the San Dieguito culture, but the presence of clam shells, seed grinding tools, and pottery indicates that the site was also occupied by La Jollan and Diegueño Indians. It was estimated that the site was at least 10,000 years old and was seasonly occupied by several different bands of about 20 people each.

CHAPTER 2

MEXICAN RANCHO

In the early 1800's California was a vast, sparsely inhabited territory of Mexico. The Mexican government was attempting to populate this territory by granting good ranch lands to its friends and supporters. One of these supporters was Andreas Antonio Ybarra, who had won his popularity as a military leader in a small and short lived political uprising in the fall of 1831.

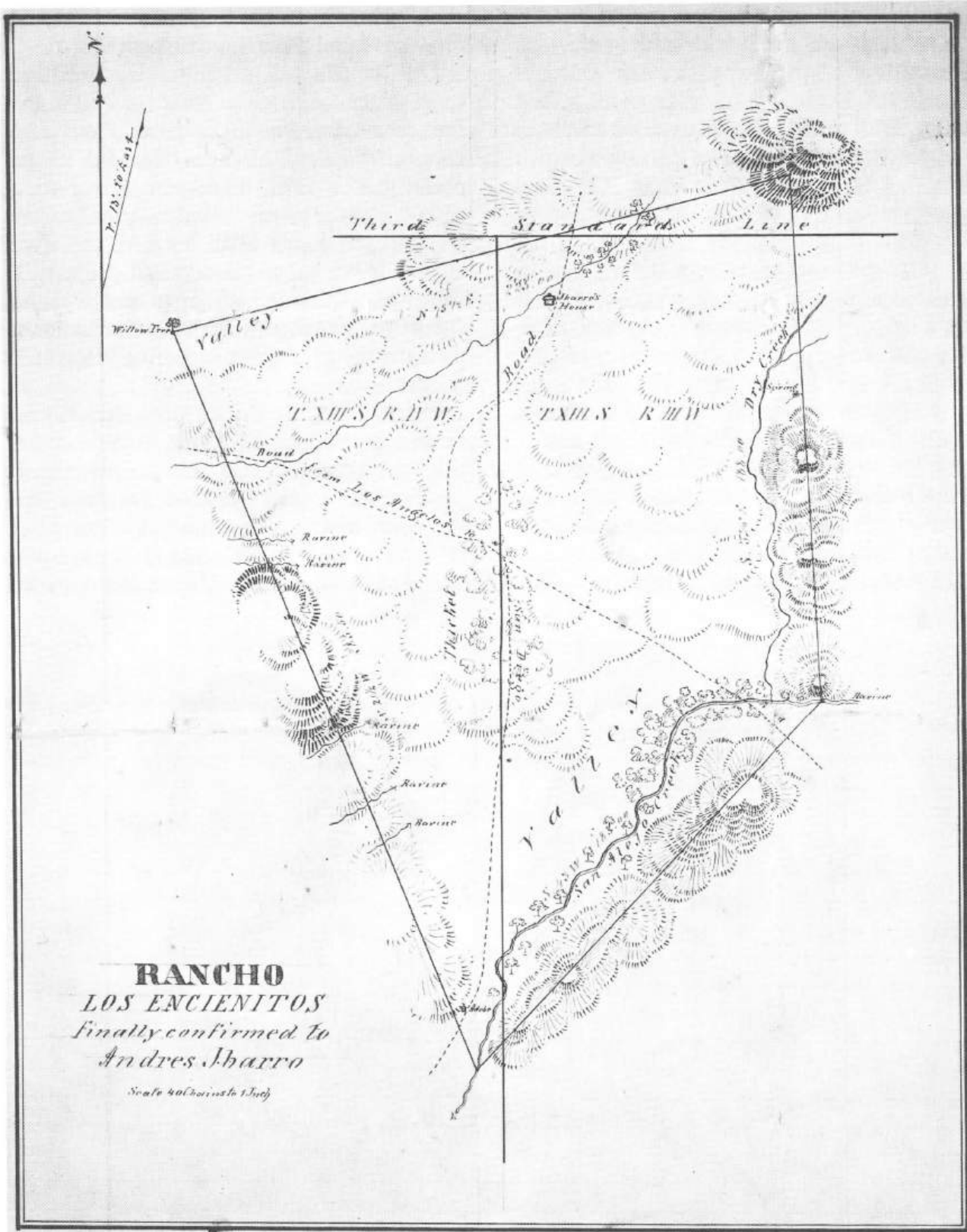
Some time after the war, Ybarra moved to old San Diego where he owned and managed a small liquor store. Business matters, however, faltered, and in 1841 Ybarra was being threatened with confiscation of his inventory and

store due to delinquent tax payments. After giving up the liquor store, Andreas Ybarra made a formal request to the Mexican government that he be awarded the rancho called "Los Encinitos", and on July 3, 1842, Juan Bautista De Alvarado, then constitutional governor of the Department of the Californias, granted him the Rancho Los Encinitos containing one square league of land or 4,431.03 acres.

Soon after acquiring the land grant, Andreas Ybarra constructed an adobe house beside a natural spring, on the northeast corner of the rancho, where he and his wife Francisca Juana Ybarra resided for about 18 years.



The silent ruins of Andreas Ybarra's ranch house and barn, as photographed in 1972. Location, one half mile east of Olivenhain Road and Rancho Santa Fe Road intersection.



This survey map of the Rancho Los Encinitos was drawn by the United States Surveyor General in 1858 and established the legal boundaries of the rancho. Reproduction courtesy of the San Diego Historical Society.

Southern California rancho owners usually stocked their land grants with cattle and horses. The cattle and horses were their only source of income and at the same time provided a food source. Prior to 1849, the only marketable items from the cattle were the hides and tallow, which were sold to Boston trading ships. The hides usually brought \$2.00 each and were used by shoe manufacturers in New England. The tallow sold for a much lower price and was used to make soap. Most of the meat was considered a worthless by-product and was left to decay. The shameful waste of meat continued until the California Gold Rush in 1849. The rapid unexpected population growth in central California created a demand for beef, and prices soared from \$50 to \$70 a head. This is the period of time when some of the ranchos gained their extreme wealth and built large haciendas. Those ranchos that prospered created the symbolic and colorful era that is usually associated with all Mexican ranchos. But in reality, many ran-

chos, including the Los Encinitos, remained unproductive and generally unimproved.

The Rancho Los Encinitos was relatively small when compared to other ranchos in that time period. Its adjoining neighbor, Rancho San Dieguito (now called Rancho Santa Fe), encompassed 8,824 acres. The average was about 13,000 acres. Ybarra stocked his small rancho with proportionally small herds of cattle and horses. A census of his personal property in 1858 lists 20 cattle, 40 horses and 6 mules. Other censuses show a moderate fluctuation in these numbers but never exceeding a total of 75 animals.

In May 1846, the United States declared war on Mexico, supposedly for the American lives that had been lost near the Texas-American border. After eleven thousand American lives and an unknown number of Mexican casualties, the peace treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed in 1848 and the United States owned California.



Joseph S. Mannasse (left) and Marcus Schiller (right) purchased the Rancho Las Encinitas in 1860 for 68¢ an acre. Photographs courtesy of the San Diego Historical Society - Title Insurance & Trust collection.

The peace treaty guaranteed existing rancho owners immunity from land confiscation. The rancho owners, however were eventually forced to show valid proof of ownership. Ybarra filed his claim in October of 1852, which was confirmed and accepted by the United States Board of Land Commissions in 1854. The Rancho was surveyed by the United States Surveyor General in September of 1858. Although the spelling of the rancho was changed to Las Encinitas, the boundary lines of this original land grant is still referenced on current county maps.

Andreas Ybarra sold the Rancho Las Encinitas in December 1860 to two San Diego merchants, J.S. Mannasse and Marcus Schiller, for a sum of \$3,000. This was the first cash sale of the Rancho Las Encinitas and amounted to about 68¢ per acre.

Through the ambitious management of Mannasse and Schiller, the rancho began to prosper, and by 1863, supported more than 1,200 stock animals, including 600 cattle and 500 sheep.

The first known commercial crops were reported in 1872 which included 30 tons of grapes and an unspecified amount of corn. Also in 1872, Mannasse and Schiller converted the adobe ranch houses into a stage station which serviced the Seeley-Wright Stage Coach Line, beginning in December of that year. This became the second out-going stage stop from San Diego and was appropriately named the Mannasse Station. Here the passengers were fed and the horses changed while enroute to the next stop at Mission San Luis Rey.

As time passed, Mannasse and Schiller had some financial misfortunes and became indebted to a Mr. Cullen A. Johnson in an amount of \$5,000 and gave a mortgage on the rancho for security. Before they were able to pay off their debt, Mr. Johnson died, leaving a Mr. J.W. Tyson as executor of his last will and testament.

When the mortgage became delinquent, Tyson ordered Mannasse and Schiller to pay their debt so he could divide the estate among the re-



The Kimball Brothers, Warren C. (left) and Frank A. (right) purchased the Rancho Las Encinitas in 1880. Photographs courtesy of the San Diego Historical Society - Title Insurance & Trust collection.

migrants settled in the cities, where they could find employment in the trades and occupations that Germany had monopolized for so many years. But their hopes were short lived, and most were channeled into factory work or mining. Their income was usually substandard and many were forced to live in undesirable areas of the cities.

Because they were not accepted in these established areas, some of the immigrants formed or joined a colony with their own nationality. These colonies offered the immigrants a place where their language and customs were understood and together they could start a new and prosperous life as proud United States citizens.

Colonies usually purchased and settled on large parcels of land. A colony could afford to pay a higher price for the land, since each

member would only feel a small impact of the total price. Land speculators were quick to realize and capitalize on this fact, thus the sale of large parcels of land to colonies became as lucrative to the speculator as it was essential to the colony.

The Kimball brothers advertised the Rancho Las Encinitas for approximately four years and in that time had three known inquiries. The first inquiry by a Mr. Poorbill in early January of 1884. The second inquiry by Messrs. Johnson and Selfnidzer also in early January of 1884. Neither of these inquiries satisfied the requirements of the Kimball brothers, their conditions were too crude or presented too many impracticable ideas. The third inquirer would succeed and in doing so, changed the lives of several hundred people.

CHAPTER 3

THE COLONY

In the early Spring of 1884, Frank A. Kimball received a letter from a Mr. Theodore Pinther of Denver, Colorado. Mr. Pinther had read the sales advertisement for the Rancho Las Encinitas and signified his willingness to organize a German colony and to locate from 100 to 200 families on the property during the coming Fall and Winter, provided such prices and terms were offered to make the project an assured success. The offer interested Mr. Kimball and he made a gentlemen's agreement that if an organized colony could be formed, consisting of the quantity of people required to purchase the Rancho, he would be willing to negotiate a sale to Mr. Pinther and his would-be colony. The agreement was followed by a series of mail correspondence in which Frank Kimball described various aspects of Southern California and the Rancho Las Encinitas, such as the climate, taxation and farming potential.

Pinther began a very energetic and successful membership campaign in Denver, Colorado. The fact that Mr. Pinther was a German by birth and a very powerful and influential spokesman gave him the natural qualifications required to interest prospective colonists. In a very short time he had acquired several people whom he deemed desirable associates, and on May 21, 1884 the colony was officially formed. At this time there were only seven members in the colony. Their names were Theodore Pinther, Joseph Ullrich, Louis Denk, Otto Pinther, Lina Pinther, Johann Bumann, and Paul Glave. Each of these seven paid a \$2.00 initiation fee and their names were recorded in a membership book.

One week after its formation, the colony had its first recorded meeting. The minutes of this meeting and all subsequent meetings were written in German script. The following is an

1

Soll		Theodore Pinther, Denver		Haben	
1884		Black Mt		Jan 8 500.00/1884, Kegelstein am 1. Februar 1885.	
May 21.	Finckelsgeld	2,00.	May 21.	Finckelsgeld	2,00.
June	Leitrag	2,00.	July 21.	Leitrag	2,00.
July	" "	2,00.	Aug 26.	" "	2,00.
August	" "	2,00.	" "	" "	2,00.
Sept	" "	2,00.	Oct 20.	Angewandte	100,00.
Octbr	" "	2,00.	Octbr	Leitrag	2,00.
Novembr	" "	2,00.	" "	" "	2,00.
"	Angewandte	100,00.	" "	" "	2,00.
Decbr	Leitrag		Jan 31	Insult: President	2,50 00.

This membership record was started on May 21, 1884, and is the earliest known record of the colony.

Meeting June 15, 1884.

Decided to print the by-laws as one piece. Decided to buy three dozen receipt books. Decided to buy one stamp for the colony.

The following names for the Colony were proposed: Olivenhain, Friedensheim, Olive Grove, Vaterland, Portici, Glücksburg, and Pintherheim. The name Olivenhain received the most votes.

The names Mr. Good and Pan were scratched because of no payment of admission.

Mr. W. Dommies paid his \$2.00 dues for the month of June.

Decided to hold a meeting at 7:30 P.M. next Thursday at Ullrich's bar. Friedrich Kob and Paul Wiegand paid the admission of \$5.00. The secretary received seven letters, mostly from Chicago to answer.

Meeting adjourned.

Paul C. Glave sec.

There were five to thirteen colony meetings per month, depending on the amount of business and decisions at hand. The first eight meetings were held in a bar, located on 235 Larimer Street in Denver. The selection of this bar as a meeting place was presumably encouraged by the owner and colony member, Joseph Ullrich. However, due to certain undesirable conditions, the meeting place was later changed to a nearby gymnasium.

The meeting of June 15, 1884 has lasting importance. For it was in this meeting that the colonists established a name for their colony. All but one of the proposed names were German. The first and later accepted name was "Olivenhain" which means olive grove. The other proposed names were "Friedensheim" which means home of peace, "Olive grove" was the only proposed English name, "Vaterland" means father land, "Portici" means portal, "Glücksburg" means castle of luck, and "Pintherheim" means Pinther home and was obviously in honor of Theodore Pinther. The reason Olivenhain was favored over the other



The first eight colony meetings were held in a bar in Denver, Colorado. This tailor shop was within a city block of that bar and at least one person working here became a member of the colony. Marked by X is Friedrich Bumann, the author's great grandfather.

*Salzburger Aussiedler-Verein vorgeflogene
alt Namen für die Colonie:
Olivenhain, Friedensheim, Olivegrove,
Vaterland, Portici, Glücksburg,
Petersheim, New Haven, Oliven-
hain fulten bei der Abstimmung
die Majorität.*

This paragraph is a portion of a colony meeting held June 15, 1884 in which the colonists established a name for their colony. Among the many proposed names is "Olivenhain," the colonists' final choice.

proposed names or for what significance it had was not recorded. There is however, an interesting relationship between the name Olivenhain which means olive grove and Frank Kimball.

The Kimball Brothers owned several large citrus and olive groves in National City. Frank Kimball took considerable interest in these trees, particularly the olives. Frank was a leading authority on olive growing and was often called the father of the olive industry in San Diego county.

In the early mail correspondence in which Frank Kimball described the Rancho Las Encinitas to Theodore Pinther, he undoubtedly mentioned the feasibility of growing olives and his own success with olive groves. Now, is it possible Pinther was so impressed by this "olive grove" aspect that he later suggested it as a name for the colony?

The general purpose of the colony was to establish a German settlement in Southern California. Each member would pay a certain membership fee and therefore be entitled to a small portion of the land, on which they could earn a livelihood by growing agricultural produce. Fruits of almost all types including grapes were to provide a comfortable existence. As stated in the colony prospectus "With proper irrigation and cultivation one acre is sufficient to maintain one family. Five acres, especially fruit trees, make every family well to do". Other essentials such as work horse teams and fruit processing machinery would exist under the common ownership of the colony and made

available to its members.

The colony's financial income was based totally on membership fees which were pooled into a common treasury and used to purchase the colony land and other necessary items. All money received or expended was recorded in accounting books.

An elected board of directors and officers, consisting of a president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary, were responsible for most of the normal business. All other work was accomplished by appointed committees. The use of committees was very extensive and just to name a few, there was a revision committee, arrangement committee, picnic committee, discharge committee, and even a pig committee.

The colony was self ruled by two sets of by-laws which were initially written by Theodore Pinther and later revised by the colony members. The first portion outlined the colony's governmental policies such as election of officers. This portion of the by-laws was hand written and only one copy existed. The second portion was machine printed and at least 2000 copies were distributed. This portion of the by-laws itemized the colonists' obligations to the colony and to what each colonist was entitled. It consisted of at least 51 numbered paragraphs, each paragraph defining some specific rule or benefit. For instance, paragraph #20 obligated the members to plant primarily fruit trees or grapes and not corn, wheat, or exclusively vegetables. The by-laws were democratically approved by the colony members and could not be changed without majority consent.

Newspaper advertising was the colony's main campaign tool and was extensively used to attract potential colonists. Advertisements were placed in newspapers (predominantly German newspapers) in many of the major cities of the United States and a few foreign countries. Those in the United States included the Tageblatt newspaper in Philadelphia, the Colorado Journal in Denver, the Volkszeitung in New York, and many others. The advertisements requested that any person interested in

Prospectus.

In Folge der vielen an uns gestellten Erfundigungen fanden wir es nöthig, die am meisten gestellten Fragen durch ein gedrucktes Formular, wie vorliegt, zu beantworten. Weitere spezielle Anfragen sind wir gern bereit zu beantworten.

1) Unbedingt nöthiges Kapital zur Ansiedlung für Mitglieder unserer Kolonie ist \$200 exclusive des Reisegeides und zwar: \$25 Eintrittsgeld in die Gesellschaft; \$100 Anzahlung an das Grund-Eigenthum in Süd-Californien und \$75 um circa 3 Monate leben zu können, für den Fall, daß ihr Geschäft sich nicht sofort bezahlt oder die erste Arbeit nicht lohnte.

2) Welche Art Geschäfte dort lohnend sind? Unbedingt lohnt sich jedes ehrliche Geschäft, insbesondere die Geschäfte als: Gärtner, Winzer, Fruchtgärtner, Landwirth, Viehzüchter, Bienenzüchter, Melkwirtschaft, Mühlenbauer, Brunnengräber, Zimmermann und Tischler, Maurer, Fricdmacher, Schlosser, Klempner und Zinnschmidt, Schmied, Glaser, Anstreicher und Platterer, Wagenmacher, Maschinist, Mechaniker, Sattler, Kaufleute aller Branchen, Architekt, Ingenieur, Surveyor, Arzt (nur keine Quacksalver), Druggist, Buchdrucker, Barbier, Cigarrenmacher, — Boten, Schneider und Schuhmacher, Kosthaushalter, Schlachter, Bäcker und Konditor, Grocer, Müller u. s. w., sowie Arbeiter aller Art. Nicht willkommen würden sein: Advocaten, da wir unsere Streitigkeiten friedlich schlichten anstatt Prozesse zu führen. — Pawnbroker, da wir keinen Ruher dulden und unsere Mitglieder vor Noth zu schützen suchen. — Agenten für alle möglichen Versicherungs-Anstalten u. dal. da die Kolonie diese durch Selbstversicherung überflüssig macht.

3) Um den Eintritt in die Gesellschaft zu erleichtern soll derselbe bis Ende August \$15, bis Ende September \$20 und vom 1. October an und später \$25 betragen.

4) In Bezug auf die Sicherheit für eingezahlte Beiträge namentlich auswärtiger Mitglieder diene folgendes: Die „German National Bank“ in Denver hält als Garantiefond das gesammte eingezahlte Kapital bis zum definitiv erfolgten Ankauf des Landes. Herr Paul Flaßig in Denver ist Schatzmeister und trägt in Gemeinschaft mit dem Präsidenten Theodore Vinther die persönliche Verantwortung für die eingezahlten Kapitalien.

Referenz für Paul Flaßig: Jede Bank und jeder anständige Geschäftsmann in Denver.

Referenz für Theodore Vinther: J. B. Grant, Gouverneur von Colorado. — Senator Tabor, Denver. — G. C. Davis, Landmeister von Leadville. — John F. Humphreys, früher Mayor von Leadville jetzt Real-Estate in Los Angeles, California. — Illinois Staatszeitung, Chicago. — Colorado Journal, Denver. — Daily Democrat, Leadville.

Summen von \$10 und darüber können an oben benannte Bank gesandt werden; Summen unter \$10 bitten wir, an Herrn Flaßig zu senden.

5) In Bezug auf Anfragen für Regierungsland diene: Es ist noch reichlich Land für Homestead-Preemption und Timberland zu haben, welches jedoch 5 bis 20 Meilen von der Kolonie entfernt im inneren Lande liegt; doch ist auch dieses mit 40 bis 80 Ader aus je 160, 320 bis 640 Acker und der Rest für Landwirtschaft.

6) Bezüglich des Klimas diene: Dasselbe ist in Süd-Californien nahe der Küste gemäßigt warm. Weder Fieber noch sonstige epidemische Krankheiten herrschen. Zur Vergleichung des Wärmegrades diene folgende Tabelle des Durchschnitts ihres für Januar und Juni.

	Januar Grade.	Juni Grade.	Differenz Grade.
San Diego	57	65	8
Santa Barbara	59	69	10
Los Angeles	55	67	12
Sacramento	45	73	28
Fort Yuma	56	92	36
Cincinnati	30	74	44
New York	31	77	46
New Orleans	55	82	27
Neapel	46	76	30
London	37	62	25
Genf	46	77	31

7) Ertragsfähigkeit des Bodens. Bei guter Bewässerung und Bearbeitung ist ein Ader Land genügend um eine Familie zu erhalten. Fünf Ader, insbesondere Fruchtbäume machen jede Familie wohlhabend. — Folgende Früchte gedeihen in Süd-Californien ausgezeichnet: Äpfel, Birnen, Pflaumen, Pfirsiche, Aprikosen, Nectarines, Orangen, Zitronen, Limes, Oliven, Feigen, Bananen, Wein aller Art, auch Rosinen, Mandeln und engl. Walnüsse u. s. w.

Tomatoes und Erdbeeren geben eine Ernte in jedem Monate des Jahres. — Kartoffel 4 mal im Jahr.

Weizen sowie alle Getreidearten gedeihen ausgezeichnet.

8) Bezüglich des Wassers diene: Das Land der Kolonie hat reichlich Quellen. — Betreffs der Irrigation ist alles von uns benötigte Wasser in der Tiefe von 10 bis 100 Fuß zu finden und wird zur Bewässerung benutzt werden.

9) Nach zwei Jahren beginnt der Wein zu tragen. In vier Jahren produziert der Ader im Durchschnitt bei guter Bearbeitung vier Tonnen per Jahr. — Oliven tragen im vierten bis fünften Jahre. Einzelne Olivenbäume tragen per Jahr von \$100 bis \$150 Dollars an Frucht.

Nachschrift: Wir verlangen von unsern Mitgliedern Fleiß, Ehrlichkeit und Friedfertigkeit. Wer nicht arbeiten will, der schreibe sich uns nicht an, denn wir wollen keine Faulheit belohnen.

Die Eisenbahnfahrt von Denver, Pueblo, Missouri-River etc. ist für unsere Kolonie-Mitglieder auf nur \$30 für Erwachsene bis nach Californien ermäßigt. Große Ermäßigung ferner ausgesetzt für alle anderen Punkte.

Um zu beweisen, daß dieses Unternehmen von keinem Monopol ausgeht, hielten der Vorstand und das Statuten Comite es für angemessen, Namen und Stand den Statuten anzufügen.

Der Vorstand der Kolonie Olive-hain: Theodore Vinther, Präsident, Post Office Box 2296 Denver; Conrad Stroebel, Secretar, Post Office Box 2296 Denver; Paul Flaßig, Schatzmeister und Cassirer, Larimer Straße No. 323, Denver. Vertrauensmänner: Will. Dommes, John Bumann, Joseph Ulrich, John A. Berg.

The colonies' prospectus was printed in Denver and circulated to potential members. Only one known original exists today. Reproduction courtesy of Herman C. Bumann.

TRANSLATION OF 1884 PROSPECTUS COLONY OLIVENHAIN PRINTED IN DENVER, COLORADO

On account of the many inquiries directed to us, we found it necessary to answer the most asked questions with a printed formula, as follows. We are very willing to answer any further questions.

1) Absolute necessary capital for settlement as members of our colony is \$200 — not including the travel expenses — for: \$25 entry fee into the group, \$100 down payment on the real estate in Southern California and \$75 for about three months living expenses in case your business is not paying for itself right away or the first work opportunity is not promising enough.

2) What kind of occupation would pay there? Unquestionable any honest work would pay off, especially occupations as: gardener, wine maker, fruit grower, farmer, cattle breeder, beekeeper, dairy man, mill builder, well digger, carpenter and cabinet maker, mason, brick maker, locksmith, tinsmith, and sheetmetal worker, blacksmith, glazier, housepainter and plasterer, wagon-carriage maker, machinist, mechanic, saddler, merchants of all branches, architect, engineer, surveyor, doctor (only no quacks), druggist, printer, barber, cigar-maker, hotel operator, tailor and shoemaker, boarding-house keeper, butcher, baker and confectioner, grocer, miller, etc.; also laborers of all kinds. Not welcome would be: lawyers, since we settle our differences peacefully instead of legal battles; pawnbroker, since we do not tolerate usury and try to protect our members from distress; agents for all possible types insurance and similar, since the colony makes this unnecessary through self-insurance.

3) In order to ease the joining of the colony, the fee will be \$15 till the end of August, \$20 till the end of September and from October 1st and later \$25.

4) In the matter of safety of paid-in dues, especially for members living outside of the colony, the following will serve: "The German National Bank" in Denver holds the guaranty fund of all paid-in capital till the definite completed purchase of the land. Mr. Paul Flassig in Denver is Treasurer and carries together with President Theodore Pinther personal the responsibility for the paid-in capitals.

Reference for Paul Flassig: Any bank and any responsible business man in Denver.

Reference for Theodore Pinther: J.B. Grant, Governor of Colorado; Senator Tabor, Denver; C.C. Davis, Postmaster of Leadville; John F. Humphreys, Mayor of Leadville, now real estate agent in Los Angeles, California; Illinois Staatszeitung, Chicago; Colorado Journal, Denver; Daily Democrat, Leadville.

Sums from \$10 and over can be sent to the above named bank; sums of less than \$10 should be sent to Mr. Flassig, please.

5) In regard to questions of Government land, note: Land for Homestead pre-emption as also timberland — still can be found in great quantity. It is, however, 5 to 20 miles distance from the colony land, away towards the interior; but even this is such that each 160-acre tract will contain from 40 to 80 acres orchard-type land and the rest usable for farm land.

6) About the climate serves the following: It is near the South California coast, moderately warm. Neither fever or other epidemical sickness occur here. In comparison of temperatures serves this table, showing the mean for January and July and the differences between:

	January	July	Difference
San Diego	57 degree	65 degree	8 degree
Santa Barbara	59 "	69 "	10 "
Los Angeles	55 "	67 "	12 "
Sacramento	45 "	73 "	28 "
Fort Yuma	56 "	92 "	36 "
Cincinnati	30 "	74 "	44 "
New York	31 "	77 "	46 "
New Orleans	55 "	82 "	27 "
Naples	46 "	76 "	30 "
London	37 "	62 "	25 "
Geneva	46 "	77 "	31 "

7) Production ability of the land: With proper irrigation and cultivation, one acre is sufficient to maintain one family. Five acres, especially fruit trees, make every family well to do. The following fruits thrive in Southern California exceptionally well: apples, pears, plums, peaches, apricots, nectarines, oranges, lemons, limes, olives, figs, bananas, grapes of all kinds, also raisins, almonds and English walnuts, etc.

Tomatoes and strawberries give a harvest each month of the year. Potatoes four times a year.

Wheat and all other grain thrive very well.

8) In reference to water supply, note: The colony land has copious wells. Pertaining to irrigation, one can find for us the needed water in depth from 10 to 100 feet and it will be used for irrigation.

9) In two years grape vines begin to bear. In four years, the acre on the average, by good cultivation, will produce four tons a year. Olives bear in four to five years. Single olive trees produce per year from 100 to 150 dollars of fruit.

Postscript: We demand from our members diligence, honesty and peaceableness. Who will not work, should not join us, because we will not reward laziness.

The rail fare from Denver, Pueblo, Missouri River, etc. is lowered for our members of the colony — only \$30 for grown-ups to California. Further reduction is assured for all other points.

In order to demonstrate that this development is not a monopolistic design, the Directors and the Regulation Committee found it appropriate to add names and rank to the regulation.

The Directors of the Colony Olivenhain: Theodore Pinther, President, P.O.B. 2296, Denver; Conrad Stroebel, Secretary, P.O.B. 2296, Denver; Paul Flassig, Treasurer and Cashier, Larimer St., No. 323, Denver; Trustees: Wilh. Dommes, John Bumann, Joseph Ullrich, John A. Berg.

joining a German colony in Southern California should send for free by-laws and a prospectus. The word "homestead" usually appeared in the ad, since this was associated with free land and thereby stimulated the interest of the reader.

Befannmaßungen.

Wer ein Homestead

wünscht, oder sich einer deutschen Colonte in Süb-Californien anschließen will, in diesem Garten Amerikas, der schreibe für Statuten und Prospectus, die gratis versandt werden. **California Colonte,**
 963.216 P. O. B. 2296, Denver, Colorado.

To recruit additional members, the colony advertised in newspapers throughout the United States. This particular ad was placed in the August 1884 edition of the Philadelphia "Tageblatt" newspaper. It reads "Notice: Anyone who would like a homestead or join a German Colony in Southern California, in this garden of America, shall write for by-laws and prospectus, which will be mailed free. California Colonte, P.O. Box 2296, Denver, Colorado." Reproduction courtesy of German Society of Pennsylvania.

The colony's post office box was soon filled with letters requesting the free information. As an example, one typical letter mailed from Onekama, Michigan, reads:

My Dear Sirs:

Through an ad in the "Herald" I found your address and read your "send for" which made a big impression. I would like to ask you to send me more information about the starting capital, the by-laws and everything about the colony. Only then can I tell you that two respectable families wish to join your colony.

In the meantime many greetings and sincerely

E. Congelmann

A copy of the by-laws and prospectus were sent to each inquiry. The by-laws, as mentioned before, explained the colonists' obligation to the colony and to what each colonist was entitled. The prospectus was a form letter, designed to answer repeated questions about the colony and the area where the colony intended to settle. Any question not covered by these standard forms required an additional hand written letter.

If the inquiring person chose to join the colony, they first had to be accepted, then pay an initiation fee. This could be accomplished by attending any of the colony meetings or by mail correspondence.

In accepting new members, the colony strived for honest, hard working people. Those with an occupation were particularly welcome. Being a German was recommended, but not mandatory, since people of other nationalities were accepted if they could understand and fluently speak the German language. Gamblers and people of questionable character were not tolerated, nor were lawyers, pawnbrokers and insurance agents. Above all else, the colony discouraged any and all types of freeloaders. As stated in the prospectus "who will not work, should not join us because we will not reward laziness".

If a person's request for membership was accepted and the initiation fee paid, they became an official member of Colony Olivenhain. To retain this membership, each member was expected to fulfill a certain financial obligation to the colony. This debt could be paid over a long period of time, beginning with an initiation fee, followed by monthly dues, voluntary payments, and later-on the debt could even be worked off. Since these fees were increased many times, the amount each colonist paid, or was expected to pay, depended on when they joined. For instance, the first few members paid a \$2.00 initiation fee, \$2.00 monthly dues and were obligated to pay a total membership fee of \$500. The fees were then increased many times. The majority of the later members paid a \$25 initiation fee, \$10.00 monthly dues and a total membership fee of \$600. The fees were increased even more, but only applied to a few of the very last members. In addition to the mandatory initiation fee and monthly dues, all colonists could voluntarily pay as often or as much money as they wished. The total membership fee could be paid out-right and thus end all financial obligation to the colony.

A member, in good standing, would be entitled to many benefits from the colony. Once on

the colony land, they would receive their own five acre parcel of cultivated land, on which would be planted a variety of fruit trees and other plantings, as selected by the individual colonist. A house, within a certain size, would be built on their property and a well partially completed. Additionally, all colony owned property such as horses, wagons, machinery, etc., could be used upon request of the colonist. However, to become eligible for any of these benefits, it was necessary to have paid a certain portion of the total membership fee. This amount also depended on when the colonist joined, since it was also increased several times. The first few colonists were required to pay \$100, the remainder \$200.

In late August, Pinther proposed that a land selection committee be sent to Southern California to investigate and purchase the colony land. His proposal was accepted and it was generally agreed to send two or three members depending on available money for traveling expenses. Pinther quickly amended the proposal, claiming that a committee of two would be completely adequate and the added expense of a third member would be a waste of money. The colonists respected Pinther's judgement and his amendment was accepted. The two members chosen for the land selection committee were Theodore Pinther and his close associate Conrad Stroebel.

Due to the critical decision of land selection and its related financial burden entrusted to Theodore Pinther and Conrad Stroebel, the colonists prepared written conditions and limitations for purchasing the colony land. In brief, these instructions specified the amount of land to be purchased, and a maximum sales price. The committee was to examine all land currently for sale and after a careful evaluation, select a parcel that would be best suited for the colony. Before enacting any legal contract with the owners, the committee was to obtain the consent of the remaining colonists via telegraph.

Pinther and Stroebel boarded the west bound train in mid-September. They traveled on the

Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad to Los Angeles, then transferred to a southbound steamer at San Pedro and arrived in San Diego harbor on September 23. An accurate account of their arrival in San Diego and following land investigations are recorded in Frank Kimball's personal diary.

Sept. 23, 1884

Up at 5 A.M. and went to San Diego to meet Theodore Pinther and Conrad Stroebel of Denver Colorado, also Carru Croffin but did not meet either of them: but in P.M. Mr. Pinther and Mr. Stroebel came out in the stage and stopped at the office till supper - when 2 took them to Chasis hotel and in evening they came over to the house and stayed till 9 o'clock, after which I wrote a column article for the Record.

Sept. 24, 1884

At 8 o'clock started to show Mr. Theodore Pinther and Conrad Stroebel National City and country. After lunch took them (with W. G. K.) to Paradise Valley by Sweetwater and home at 6 P.M.

Sept. 25, 1884

Started at 7:30 with Mr. T. Pinther and Mr. C. Stroebel and W. G. K. Rode to Jamul first looking through Mr. S. J. Bands and Mr. Croffins place. Lunch at Mr. J. P. Harvey's orange orchard - home just before night.

Sept. 26, 1884

Up early and off for Encinitas – got a coach at Clark and Rhodes stables and with Mr. Theodore Pinther, Mr. Conrad Stroebel and W. G. K. and Treanor the driver, drove to Encinitas. When we arrived at 3 P.M. and went to N. W. corner, then at the ranch house – where we stayed and slept on top of a high stack of hay. Have walked most half of the way – horses gave out.

Sept. 27, 1884

Up at 5:30. Got breakfast and off at 6. Examined the springs to N.E. corner – then down E. side to S.E. corner. Then up to location of dam across San Elijo creek – then down south line through the valley to S. W. corner – then out nearly to the ocean and back to stage road and home. Overlook stage for San Diego and came by it to San Diego.

After examining each portion of land, Pinther and Stroebel selected the Rancho Las Encinitas as the best land for the colony. Then without acquiring approval or even notifying the colonists in Denver, Pinther and Stroebel entered a legal contract with Frank Kimball to purchase the Rancho Las Encinitas.

The sales contract would convey to the colony the total 4,431 acres of the Rancho upon payment of \$66,500 plus interest. Payment would be accomplished by fourteen separate installments, evenly spaced over a six and one half year period. The land would be transferred by six deeds which would be individually released to the colony upon payment of six predetermined sums of money. The contract was signed by Frank Kimball, Warren Kimball, Theodore Pinther, Conrad Stroebel (in person) and by Paul Flassig, William Dommies, John Bumann, John Berg, and Joseph Ullrich (by power of attorney).

The sale of the Rancho Las Encinitas, to the

Olivenhain Colony, didn't make front page news in San Diego County, however, a short article announcing the sale did appear in the National City Record newspaper on October 9, 1884.

The sale of Encinitas Rancho by the Kimball brothers to an enterprising Germany colony is viewed by all as ominous of better prospects. We have had several important transfers of real estate during the past year in various portions of the county, in all of which we trust emigration hither will be encouraged and these will be sought by parties specially interested, but in the Encinitas or Olivenhain colony the prospects are brighter than most others from the fact that many of the emigrants are ready to come, and they intend to make valuable and permanent improvements and all portions of the county will receive a portion of the benefit.

With all legalities completed, Pinther returned to Denver to complete the arrangements for sending the colonists and their families to their new home. Stroebel remained and would stay at the colony ranch where he could make final preparations for receiving and temporarily lodging the first installment of colonists.

Pinther arrived in Denver on October 9. At a meeting that same evening, Pinther told the members about the land which Stroebel and he had purchased for the colony. The news was joyfully accepted by the members and the fact that Pinther and Stroebel had purchased the land without their consent was considered an insignificant oversight, at least for now.

October became a very busy month for the colonists. The tempo of activity had greatly increased and meetings were now conducted every one or two days, for the next obvious step was to send the first installment of colonists to California.

The first group of colonists or "pioneers" as they were called would be entitled to certain fringe benefits, such as a financial allocation from the colony treasury for traveling expenses. These benefits were designed as an insurance against any unforeseen traveling problems and to encourage hesitant members to participate in

the first departure. The list of "pioneers" grew quickly. Most were young bachelors, however whole families with women and children were not excluded.

Adding to the last minute excitement, was a letter from Southern California in which Conrad Stroebel wrote;

To the Colony Olivenhain.

Just now I received the news from Mr. Wentcher that a registered letter came for me and since I am without news for over 14 days, I will go down to San Diego at once and see what is going on. In the meantime I worked hard and got all the border lines straight. I made a sketch of how to divide the land. The Encinitas is very fine land consisting of two big and two small valleys. These valleys are 2,000 acres and are very fine land, also the hills are very good except that the flat land is always worth more, especially the big valley is exceptionally good and we will have to adjust the price for it, maybe not for the first members but for sure for the next 50 or 100 settlers. They will have to pay the taxes. To know the tax will be easy since the land has been assessed. My next job will be to clear and cultivate the land, but I will soon be needing help from the young members and some money for plows because it is time to plant potatoes, wheat, corn etc. and I intend to plant tobacco since we will get a lot of people willing to work. I expect a good result also in cash. The weeds tell me that Encinitas is good land. It is high as a man and parts of my shirts and trousers are hanging on these thorny weeds. Everything grows gigantic and it is sometimes hard to find a certain place, especially if the spot is in the middle of the foliage. I also started to make arrangements for the arrivals. I built and whitewashed and I have room for 50 men and some women, but please

don't send too many of the women, since they like it a little more civilized than the men, but I have room for a couple of families.

Otherwise I am fine and I have the greatest hopes for the colony. I am full of excitement and eager to go to work. Right now I arrived in San Diego and received the letter, but must wait until Monday to withdraw the money. I will be back at Encinitas on Tuesday for ever.

Cheer to the colony Olivenhain.

C. Stroebel

The railroad offered the most practical and convenient transportation to Southern California. Representatives of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad company had even promised a group discount for the colony.

Many of the colonists purchased their tickets from the colony and the colony purchased the tickets from the railroad. In this way, a record could be kept of how many and which members would be departing with the first group. Additionally, this enabled the colony to send tickets to members who did not reside in Denver. One of these non-resident members from Sedalia, Ohio wrote;

Dear sir:

Your answer from the 12th has given me great pleasure. I want to inform you that I and a friend named Otto Schubert will leave with the first quota and will thereby be joining the colony.

Beseech you to confirm the day of our departure so we can reach the train that will take the members in Denver. The money for the tickets is included with this letter. Sender is Otto Schubert.

greetings, Oswald Groppengieser

The remaining days of October passed quickly. At last, all plans and preparations were complete. On the 31st of October, 1884, 67 Olivenhain colonists anxiously boarded the train at the

Denver depot. After a final wave to their friends, their journey had begun. The train crossed the Colorado state line near Trinidad, then traveled Southwest to Albuquerque, New Mexico. From Albuquerque the train turned west, eventually arriving at Colton, California. At Colton, the colonists would have normally taken the California Southern railroad directly south to the town of Encinitas. However, a major flood in mid-February of that year had washed out the tracks linking Colton with San Diego and further Southerly travel was not possible. Following an alternate route, the colonists traveled by railroad to Wilmington in Los Angeles. A steam ship company, which ported in the nearby San Pedro bay, offered passenger service to San Diego harbor. A delay, however, would temporarily stop their journey at Wilmington. Passenger ships only departed every fifth day for San Diego and the next scheduled ship would not depart for another two days.

All the colonists boarded the steamer on its next scheduled departure of November the seventh. The overnight cruise aboard the sidewheeler steamer "Orzoba" could be considered uneventful, but to the 67 Olivenhain colonists this marked the last major portion of their journey. Certainly, all were top-side when the ship entered San Diego harbor the following morning.

Stroebel and some other German friends greeted the new arrivals, and after a short rest all traveled to Encinitas by railroad and from there walked the remaining five miles to the colony land.

The colonists' journey from Denver had taken nine days and ended on November 8, 1884 on a tract of land called the Rancho Las Encinitas. Their arrival was announced in several newspapers, including the National City Record.

The advance party of twenty-five families, consisting of 67 members, for the Olivenhain colony at Encinitas, arrived by steamer last Saturday, and were forwarded at once to



This trail was once the main thoroughfare linking Encinitas with the present day Olivenhain road. On November 8, 1884, the first installment of colonists walked this trail and would soon see their promised land. Location: one mile west of El Camino Real and Olivenhain Road.

their destination by a special train. This party of Germans has with it some naturalized citizens and all will probably declare their intentions to become such, and many more are soon to follow. A car load of goods for the colony has arrived at Colton, which will be taken over the California Southern road if those in charge can conveniently procure transportation around the canyon, if not they may go to Wilmington and come by next steamer.

With the exception of two members, the colonists were pleased with their new land. They called it the "Colony ranch" or "Encinitas ranch". (Remember, the name "Olivenhain" was the name of the colony and was not originally intended to name the land where they settled.)

The vital necessities of food, water and shelter were the first items of concern. Shelter was extremely inadequate, since there were only three buildings on the Rancho Las Encinitas. These small adobe buildings (called the ranch houses by the colonists) were located on the northeast corner of the Rancho and were originally constructed by Andreas Ybarra for himself and his family, but would now house over sixty-seven men, women and children. Water was limited but easily accessible, due to the natural springs one half mile north of the



The adobe ranch houses (top right) provided temporary shelter for the 67 Olivenhain colonists. This photograph, taken in 1932, also shows other wood buildings which were constructed after 1900. Location: one-half mile east of Rancho Santa Fe Road and Olivenhain Road.

adobe ranch houses. Conrad Stroebel had purchased enough food to sustain the colony for the first few days. Additional food would be purchased from Counselor A. Wentcher in San Diego or from a local store in the town of Encinitas. A large number of chickens were purchased as well as several pigs. Milk cows were scarce and condensed milk was substituted until the desired cows could be purchased. Wild game such as rabbits and quail were added to the menu whenever possible.

The food was distributed equally to each family or single member everyday. To provide everyone with an equal portion of food was not an easy job. After various complaints from dissatisfied members, a number of rules were quickly adopted. One rule concerning egg distribution, as found in the minutes of a colony meeting, states "as soon as there are three eggs

laid, they have to be distributed *as they arrive*". This task naturally required a committee; in this case a committee of one, Mr. August Pape, was elected the official "chicken inspector" for the colony.

With living essentials temporarily secured, the colonists began work on their ranch land. Hundreds of acres of brush covered soil would soon be cleared and plowed. Construction of homes, roads and the colony owned farm would soon begin.

To insure an adequate labor force, each member was obligated to work thirty days for the colony or pay a \$60 waver. Working under the supervision of appointed foreman, the colonists performed various tasks such as clearing brush, plowing, planting trees, and building houses. All major projects were accomplished by a community effort and not on an individual

basis, therefore the overall planning and desired achievements of the colony could be closely controlled.

The colonists were paid for their thirty days labor, which started at \$1.50 per day and was later increased to \$1.75 per day for a good worker and \$2.00 per day for an excellent worker. If women and children wished to work (they were not obligated) women would receive 10¢ per hour and a child 5¢ per hour. The money earned was not physically given to the colonists, instead the amount was deducted from the debt which the particular colonists still owed to the colony. After completing the mandatory 30 days of work, the colonists could continue working for the colony, if they so chose.

In the first thirty days, the colonists accomplished many things. The San Diego Union printed a very descriptive article on December 6, 1884, entitled "Preparing for 600 settlers — what the advance guard has accomplished".

The entire colony consists of over 200 families and some six or seven hundred persons, only 65 of whom are now here having arrived by the steamer of the 8th and at once proceeded by special train to the property of the colony. The old ranch houses had to be put in condition for habitation, some of them not having been used for ten or fifteen years. The lumber for half a dozen houses will be sent out by cars the early part of this week, and these will be built on the tracts selected by the individual members of the colony. Some 600 acres have been burned off ready for the plows and the mesa soil is now being turned up to the sun for the first time since Adam was a boy and such plowing and such soil is worth going a long way to see. From near the southwest corner of the ranch, Mr. Stroebel has laid out a beautiful road in a northeasterly direction and at right angles from this main thoroughfare other roads reaching the subdivisions are laid out, so that every tract will be accessible by a good road. On both sides of the main road, land for nursery and garden purposes is already plowed and fences are being erected to enclose them and although the soil was never before plowed, nor has there been rain for seven months, yet the soil now contains moisture sufficient

1884		1885		1886	
1884 Dec. 19 Libert 14					
16	Robt. J. ...	30	7	9	37 1/2
27	J. ...	6 1/4	7	12 1/2	
Jan 8	"	4 3/4	8	25	
" 10	"	5 1/2	9	6 1/2	
17	"	5 3/4	7	50	
24	"	5	7	50	
31	"	2			
Feb 7	"	5	7	50	
14	"	6	9	10	
16	"	1	1	50	
21	"	5	10	20	
March 7	"	6	12	00	
" 21	"	5	10	00	
" 28	"		93	0 7/8	
" 31	"	3	6	00	
April 11	"	4	8	00	

Work records were maintained on each colonist to verify the days worked and money credited their account.

for planting and on the mesa too. The valley lands are much more difficult to clear and get ready for the plow as the green grass and weeds are so high and thick that a team of horses cannot haul an empty wagon through them and the whole land must be grubbed with mattocks, which is being done by about a dozen men. This land will not be used till late in the season, after all of the dry lands have been put in order and under cultivation, at which time hundreds of acres of corn, which can reasonably be expected to yield about 100 bushels per acre, can be planted.

The adaptability of the mesa soil of the Encinitas ranch for the growth of tobacco is to be fully tested this season, with seed imported direct from Cuba and from the Southern States and so far, as comparisons with tobacco

soil is concerned, there can be hardly a question of the success of the experiment.

In the center of the tract which the colonists are clearing, they have built a blacksmith shop and have their own smith at work, sharpening ploughshares, grub hoes, shoeing horses, etc. and at this point will soon establish their own store and build their school house.

The entire colony seem as contented and happy as possible and San Diego county may be congratulated in acquiring such valuable citizens. It is expected that about 100 will be added to the colony in a few days or as soon as houses for their accommodation can be built. There are some half a dozen good carpenters besides a number of handy men.

The increased demand for a reliable food supply caused the colonists to establish a colony store. Large quantities of food were ordered including 2,500 lbs. of flour, 3,000 lbs. of potatoes, 200 lbs. of salt, a barrel of vinegar and similar quantities of 50 other items. The store was located at the adobe ranch houses and began operation in mid December 1884. It was managed by an appointed colonist (the first was Mr. Theodore Nollenberger) and was open all day on Wednesdays and Sundays.

An extensive survey of the rancho was started by Conrad Stroebel and a few other colonists. The surveying equipment consisted of a compass, a geodetic measuring chain and a number of redwood stakes. The actual surveying required three to five men, one to hold the geodetic chain at a known starting point, a second pulled the other end of chain until tight, and a third man, using the compass, guided the man pulling the chain. The remaining men freed the geodetic chain when it tangled on weeds or brush. After the desired number of chain lengths had been measured, a redwood stake was driven into the ground, thus establishing the location of a parcel of property, street, or a reference point. This method was used to establish all streets and subdivide the colony Olivenhain land.

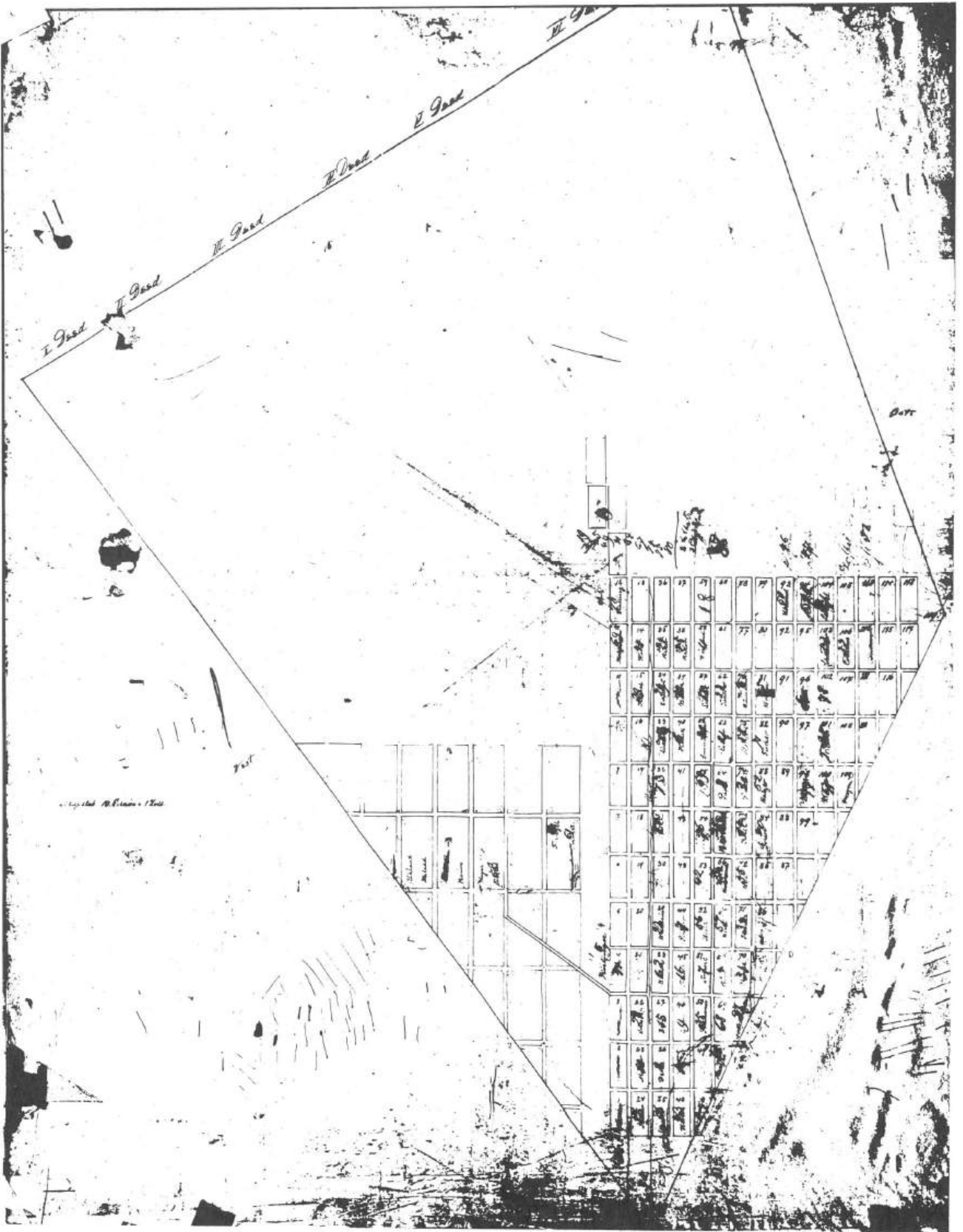
The first area to be surveyed and subdivided was the San Elijo valley (which is the present

A. Hancock

<i>Dec</i>			
16	5 th	Oatmeal	35
		1 Galone Coloil	48
		2 th Split Peas	16
		7 th Sugar	10
		1 st Butter	35
		2 nd Raisins	18
		6 th Paper	3
		2 nd Cigars	10
		1 Packet Tobacco	20
		1 Can Condensed Milk	20
21	5 th	Apples	24
24	2 nd	Lodges	24
		5 th Tea	25
		1 Packet Tea	20
		1 st Chocolate	25
25		1 Spok Potatoes	1 80
		1/2 th Eggs	15
		1 Galone Coloil	48
		1 st Pickled	5
		1 st Cheese	15
		5 th Ham	
		10 th Potatoes	
		2 nd Plums	
		1 Pop Mustard	10
		1 Pint Vinegar	3

Ledger from the colony store that opened in mid December 1884 and was located at the adobe ranch houses.

location of Olivenhain). This valley was favored by the colonists due to its many natural resources. Being approximately two miles long by one mile wide and contained by a natural sandstone ridge on the west, a series of sloping hills on the north and the Rancho Las Encinitas boundary line on the east and south, the valley could easily accommodate 100 farms. The soil was exceptionally rich judging by the foliage it supported. The San Diego Union verified this fact when it wrote "the green grass and weeds are so high and thick that a team of horses cannot haul an empty wagon through them". Also the prospect of water appeared favorable. The San Elijo creek that paralleled the east side of the valley assured the colonists that water could



This subdivision map was drawn by the colonists in January of 1885 and is the earliest known map of Olivenhain.

be found in reasonably shallow wells. With all its resources and potential, this valley was indeed the best land on the Rancho Las Encinitas.

The San Elijo valley was subdivided into five acre parcels, most of which measured 300 feet wide by 720 feet long. Each of these parcels were bordered by road easements which interconnected the entire valley. Additionally, a large number of city lots, measuring 30 feet wide by 140 feet long, were subdivided along the east side and paralleling the present day Rancho Santa Fe Rd. These lots were for the future town site and could be purchased for \$25 to \$50 each.

The large mesa (present location of Village Park housing development) had good farming soil but presumably lacked adequate water. A few parcels of land were subdivided for individual farm sites; however most of the mesa was reserved for the colony farm.

Approximately 100 acres of the north side of the Rancho were reserved for future expansion and would not be improved or subdivided until the following year, which explains the absence of farms near the springs on the northeast corner of the Rancho.

Before the surveying was complete, the colonists were selecting their parcels of land. Each five acre parcel was carefully analyzed and evaluated for such things as terrain, farming potential and prospect of water. In due time, each colonist had unofficially picked out their desired plot of land. The official land distribution began in mid January 1885.

Quit-claim deeds were issued to each property owner thus confirming ownership. Additional property could be purchased by any member for \$190 per five acre parcel, however, only a few were financially able to do so.

After a number of parcels had been distributed, housing construction began. Thousands of board feet of lumber were ordered from the J. Russ Co. in San Diego. The lumber was transported by railroad to the town of Encinitas, then by wagons to the San Elijo valley. There were a number of excellent carpenters within

the colony, like Bernhard Reseck and William Dommies who were appointed as foremen and managed a large taskforce of helpers.

The houses were of two basic sizes, 16' x 24' and 14' x 28'. Each house had at least two rooms and could be made into three. The basic construction was redwood and had a door, several windows, a shingle roof and included a wood burning stove.

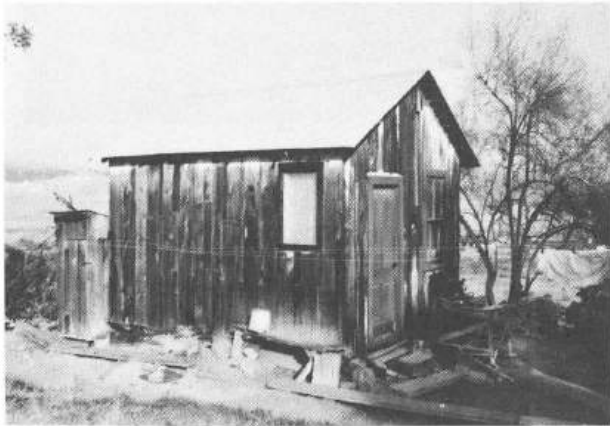
If a colonist wanted a larger house, additional money would have to be paid to the colony.

Besides the standard house, there was also the economy model, the shanty. This dwelling was either 12' x 14' or 14' x 16' and consisted of one room, one door and one window. The cost



These houses were originally constructed in 1885 and are still pleasant homes, 90 years later. Additional rooms have been added through the years, but the original houses are easily recognized by their peaked roofs. The house in the top photo was built for Theodore Pinther and latter became the home of Laura and Harvey Miller. The house in the lower photo was built for Wilhelm Wiro and latter became the home of Mrs. Marie Wiro.

of a shanty was considerably less than the standard house and credit allowances were given to those colonists that requested them. Shanties were also built for colonists who had not paid enough money into the colony and thereby were not entitled to a house. For these reasons, shanties became quite popular and totaled approximately 80 per cent of all dwellings constructed.



This shanty was built for Charles Lickert and is the only shanty remaining in Olivenhain. The addition of a window and galvanized roof are the only changes. Photographed location: termination of 11th Street.

Undoubtedly, the largest and most expensive house constructed was the one for Mr. Herman Baecht, which cost him \$500. Mr. Baecht anticipated using his house as a hotel and had already named it the Germania hotel, but for the time being it housed his family of 12 quite comfortably.



Undoubtedly, the most majestic house constructed in 1885 was the one for Herman Baecht. He anticipated using it as a hotel and named it the Germania Hotel. Originally a steeple protruded from the roof, but other than that deletion the house is unchanged.

The colonists proceeded to dig wells, a task which they had underestimated. After several futile attempts to dig wells by hand, it soon became clear that a well boring machine would be required. Want ads were placed in two San Diego newspapers for a well drilling machine, also several letters were written to professional well drillers and a group of colonists traveled to Los Angeles to locate a machine, but all efforts were in vain. No machine or professional assistance could be found. The success of the colony hinged on this one key factor, without water, failure seemed inevitable. In a moment of frustration, Pinther wrote a threatening letter to a W.G. Riefenburg Co. in San Diego. This is one of the few letters written by Theodore Pinther in the English language and it quickly reveals his foreign accent.

Dear Sir:

I wrote twice to you about your boring machinery and asked for your prices and teams for "boring" wells but I received no answer yet.

We cannot wait any longer and when you neglect our colony like you do at present, it don't show much of business means. We intend to give you an order for trees also, but we cannot do so if we are treated the way like you do.

yours resp. Theodore Pinther

Pinther's letter did the trick. The Riefenburg Co. agreed to drill the wells and had their machinery on the colony land by mid March 1885.

The machine's auger screwed into the ground as anxious colonists watched and waited. The machine was slow and depended on a team of horses for its power. Each foot of the way, eager eyes searched for wet sand, but it was never found. After drilling deep into the ground, the first dry well was abandoned and the machine was moved to a new location. Again they drilled and again there was no water. After several weeks of drilling, only a few wells in the San Elijo flood plain basin and a few ravines in the San Elijo valley produced water and they were

brackish and somewhat alkaline. Drilling was discontinued on March the 23rd. The bitter truth was now known: the colony's land lacked sufficient water.

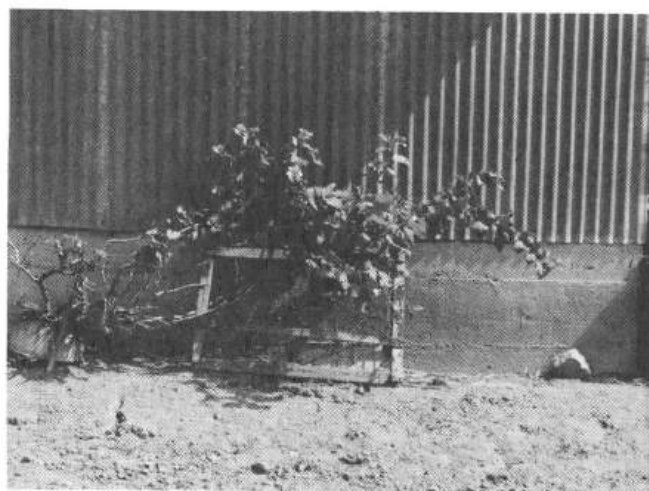
The disappointment must have been tremendous, but the colonists were very optimistic and were determined to find a solution. Various ideas were presented including piping water from the springs some two miles away. This, however, would be very expensive and the springs could only produce enough water for drinking purposes. A proposal to hire a private water company was quickly squelched when three colonists commented that Riverside and Anaheim had had bad experiences with water companies. A third proposal was to dam the San Elijo creek and build canals to channel the water into the valley. This idea had merit and was highly favored by the colonists. The proposed dam would be built near the east boundary line of the Rancho Las Encinitas, where the flood plain is confined by a canyon only two hundred feet wide. Millions of gallons of water could be trapped here and later released into canals that would lead to various parts of the valley. Actual construction of the dam would begin in three months. Until the water system was complete, almost all water used by the colonists would be barreled and hauled in wagons.

Since the overall concept of the colony was to provide each member with a self sustaining farm of either a fruit orchard or vineyard, the selection and planting of trees and cuttings was not delayed.

By mid February, hundreds of fruit trees had already been planted, hundreds more were due to arrive each week. Literally thousands of trees had been ordered, including 1200 apricots, 400 apples, 500 pears, 350 peaches, 350 plums and so on. The sum of all known orders totalled an astonishing 5,560 trees. Surprisingly there's no record of ordering or receiving any olive trees whatsoever. In addition to fruit trees, there were also 1,500 blackberry cuttings and 30,000 grape cuttings.



Hundreds of fruit trees were planted in 1885 and were to provide a financial income for the colonists. These trees are all that remain, 90 years later. The blackwalnut (top) was planted for Wilhelm Wiro and the two pear trees (below) were planted for Herman Baecht.



Of the 30,000 grape vines originally planted in Olivenhain, this is the only survivor. Photo taken 1974.

But in reality, the quantity of trees that arrived each week was far less than the colonists had anticipated. The availability of such huge quantities was very limited and must have quickly drained all stock in San Diego county. Of those trees that did arrive, many had been severely damaged in shipping. It's doubtful that more than 25 per cent of all trees ordered ever arrived.

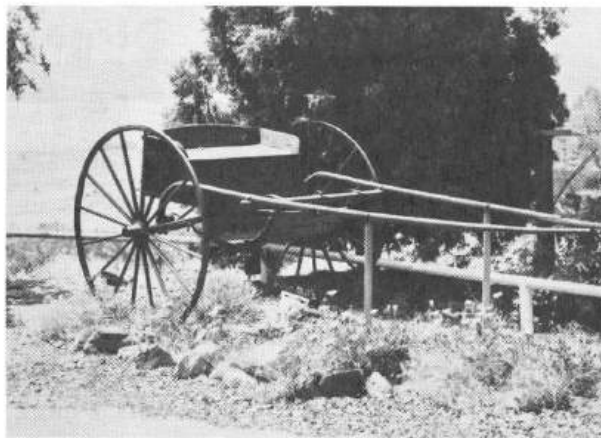
Since orchards and vineyards required two to three years for maturity before they could be harvested, the colonists relied on other resources such as vegetable gardens, grain, livestock and poultry. Potatoes were highly favored and planted on almost every five acre farm. However, these were temporary and would be phased out as soon as the orchards and vineyards could provide a substantial income.

The level of activity had by now increased to an alltime high. If it were only possible to journey back in time to any March day of 1885, one would witness an unforgettable scurry of activity. Groups of men would be busy clearing and plowing the virgin soil, others employing their talents at surveying. The clatter of hammers announcing the construction of new homes and the critical task of planting fruit trees and vineyards that would become so vital to the colonists' future, combined with the hurried horse teams that pulled wagons of lumber and barreled water. Some of the colonists would be



Alex Beller opened the first privately owned store in February of 1885. This store was originally located a few hundred feet southwest of its present location at 211 Rancho Santa Fe Rd.

already living on their farms, others would be just starting their 30 days work and would soon select a farm site. All these things were happening simultaneously, giving the San Elijo valley the appearance of a boom town.



The colony's mail carrier, Mr. Louis Denk, used this buggy to deliver letters and packages to the colonists.

A few community services were also beginning. The first privately owned store was opened in February 1885 by a colonist, Alex Beller. This general merchandise store was originally located about a hundred yards north of the present day Encinitas Boulevard and twenty yards east of Rancho Santa Fe Road. The colony store was discontinued and its entire inventory sold to Mr. Beller, who in turn sold it back to the colonists at inflated prices.

The colony had already petitioned for a post office, but until it was granted all mail was delivered by the colony's own mail carrier, Mr. Louis Denk, who was given the job on February 16, 1885. The mail arrived at the Encinitas Railroad Station and it was Mr. Denk's duty to deliver each letter or package to the appropriate destination within the colony.

Due to the increasing number of children within the colony, the addition of a school house and teacher was being seriously investigated by several committees, but the reality of a school was delayed for many more months.

A seemingly unplanned change that would eventually name the colony land was beginning to mature. To a few people the name Encinitas

Wer sich in einer deutschen Colonie ansiedeln und sich eine gute Heimath erwerben will, der schreibe für Prospekt und Statuten an die Colonie Olivenhain. Dieselben werden gratis versandt und jede Auskunft ertheilt. Man adressire: „Colonie Olivenhain“ San Diego County California.

The continued effort to attract additional members is characterized by this advertisement found in the November 1884 edition of the "Neue Pfade" newspaper at Topeka, Kansas. It reads "Whoever wishes to settle in a German colony and acquire for himself, a good home should write to the Olivenhain Colony for brochures and articles of association. These will be sent free and any information will be given. One should address: Colonie Olivenhain San Diego County, California." Reproduction courtesy of Kansas State Historical Society.

Ranch and Colony Ranch was a bit awkward and since this land was now inhabited by the Colony Olivenhain, it must have seemed more natural to call it by that name. A few letters written by the colonists positively name the colony land Olivenhain. A superb example is an excerpt found in a letter written by Conrad Stroebel, which reads "...to Encinitas Ranch (Olivenhain)." Newspapers were also making this change. The San Diego Union wrote "...status at Olivenhain was...", and a somewhat uninformed and sarcastic reporter of a Los Angeles newspaper wrote,

"There is a new place near the line of the California Southern Railroad in San Diego County called Olivenhain. How it can thrive under that odd name is a mystery yet to be solved."

The transition of naming the colony's land Olivenhain was very gradual and would not be totally accepted for several years. Many colonists continued calling it the Encinitas Ranch, others simply called it the Colony Ranch, but the growing trend was to name it Olivenhain.

To attract additional members, advertisements were continually placed in newspapers throughout the United States. Responses from these advertisements arrived daily and were acknowledged with a copy of the colony's by-laws and prospectus by return mail. Occasionally a hand written letter was required to answer the more specific questions about the

colony and most fortunately the colonists retained copies of these reply letters. The following translations are a few selected letters originally written by the colonists to prospective members.

Mr. Fred Feikenwirth

St. Louis Mo.

February 16, 1885

Dear sir:

Your kind letter dated February 3 came to us, via Mr. Pinther whom it was addressed to. We are very glad to learn that you, as well as some of your friends, decided to move here and we are convinced that you will find it even better than you imagined and better than we can describe it to you. The area, which as little as four months ago was uncultivated, is now completely changed. At that time there were only three houses in Olivenhain and this number is constantly increasing and we are adding a house every day. 20 horses are occupied daily to bring the lumber to the building sites. In addition, 30,000 grape plants have been planted not mentioning the several hundred fruit trees as well as seed for the food supply for the people.

At present there are approximately 200 people in Olivenhain and we expect that this number will double within the next

few weeks. Our financial conditions are very good and at present we have more than \$4,000 in the bank. The quality of the soil is expressed by the beautiful green covering the land and if we consider that you have to get close to a furnace to warm yourself, while we work in short sleeve shirts and our women and children are sitting in front of the doors in summer dress and enjoying the beautiful breeze coming in from the sea. Considering all this, I don't think I told you too much about our area and we can very well understand that people want to flee your climate. Therefore we hope to be able to greet you very shortly. If we can give you any more information on this matter, please let us know and we will gladly do so. Hoping to see you soon.

Will remain with best regards.

Theodore Nollenberger sec.

Mr. Rudolph Rost

St. Louis, Mo. February 20, 1885

Dear sir:

We received your letter from the first of this month and, as requested, send you attached hereto another copy of our by-laws and we would very much like to see you as well as your friends become members of our colony.

Our colony is progressing very fast and it has come to a point of prosperity.

The agreement made when we bought the land was that we would pay it off over six years and we feel now that we can easily meet these requirements. We already have approximately 30 houses built and we add new houses at a rate of one a day. New members arrive daily and at present we are already 200 people in the colony. The climate is absolutely beautiful and there are no diseases or sicknesses in this area. Quite on the contrary this climate has a healing affect.

There are wonderful cold as well as warm mineral springs on the property of the colony and we assume that they will have an undetermined tremendous value in the future for us.

Regarding the general water supply, there will be a conference with experts in this field in the very near future and we will come to a conclusion then, however, we do have enough water for our plantings and our life support. The colony houses are 16' x 24' or 14' x 28', they are built of wood, they contain two rooms, but if necessary could be made into three rooms. Any member who wants more than five acres of land can buy additional land.

As per paragraph #15 of the by-laws, each member who has paid his entry fee of \$25 is obligated to pay another \$200 at his arrival. By working for the colony any member can make enough money to support himself and his family.

Paragraphs 29 & 30 of the by-laws have been voided. The monthly dues to the colony begin three months after arrival at the colony and amount to \$10 per month. These \$10 can easily be earned within the colony. See paragraph 26.

All new colonists must be advised to only bring the very necessary things with them, under no circumstances should furniture be brought to the colony, since furniture freight charges are more expensive than new furniture in this area.

Your questions regarding the income for the last business year and the climate cannot be answered since we first settled here November 8, 1884 and all work since then has progressed at a very fast rate.

When you arrive here you can see with your own eyes what is happening and

we hope that your arrival will not be in too distant a future.

Will be looking forward to meeting you personally very soon.

Nollenberger sec.

Mr. Rathaches

Detroit

April 4, 1885

We have your letter of March 21st and answer your questions in the following.

The soil varies a great deal, depending on its location. Could be light, heavy or even as heavy as adobe. The vegetation is woods or underbrush, again depending on location.

Building material out here is pine or redwood. At a cost of \$16 to \$32 per 1,000 feet.

Within the colony there are only German people while the surrounding areas are populated by Americans, Spanish and Mexican people.

Hunting is good, there are rabbits, deer and all sorts of birds. There are some snakes here, mosquitoes and fleas are completely unknown here.

A milk cow cost between \$60 and \$70. A rancher or dealer in cattle could make good money here. Meat as well as cattle, is expensive, beef for instance cost 15 cents per pound.

To open up a restaurant type business is premature, however, a grocery store would be good business, especially since there is only one in Olivenhain and we need competition very badly.

City lots are 30' x 150' and they're priced between \$25 and \$50. Every colonist can buy as many lots as he wants.

A chicken farm would be a very good business as eggs are very expensive. The care of chickens however takes a lot of time and money.

Government land is plentiful and can be obtained for \$1.50 per acre. It can also be homesteaded just for paying the recording fees.

We will forward your greetings to Mr. Beller.

The climate here is absolutely beautiful. The days are warm and the nights cold and every day brings a nice fresh breeze from the west which makes the heat more bearable.

We presently are still in the rainy season, for instance we had rain today for one hour.

Whoever is interested in joining the colony should do so as soon as possible as the entry fees will be raised by \$150 very shortly.

Bartjes sec.

Pinther pres.

The influx of new arrivals averaged 45 people per month. By January 1885 the population on the colony land had reached 140 people. Many of these arrivals included women and children. Some families were quite large, for instance, three members and their families totaled 18 people.

To insure a safe journey, the people usually traveled in groups of two to four families each. A few members and families did travel independently, which for some proved to be a mistake. The misfortune of one family is recorded in the Colton "Semi-Tropic" newspaper.

Last Saturday a German family, consisting of father, mother and six children, arrived in Colton from St. Louis bound for new German colony in San Diego. They expected to reach their destination via the California Southern railroad, but very disappointed in finding that passenger trains were not running over the road yet. As the family were very short of funds their means soon gave out.

Depending on when they arrived, the colonists followed one of two basic routes to Southern California. Prior to January 1885, the colonists traveled to Wilmington, California via

the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad from the east, then south by seagoing steamer to San Diego harbor and finally to the town of Encinitas by the California Southern Railroad. After completing repairs to the flood damaged tracks in Temecula Canyon, the California Southern Railroad resumed total service on the first of January 1885. This allowed the colonists to switch trains at Colton, California and proceed directly to the town of Encinitas. New arrivals were usually greeted at the Encinitas railroad station and guided to the colony.

The many unscheduled arrivals of small groups and individual colonist increased the colony's population each week and by February 17, 1885 there were 204 men, women and children on the colony land.

The usual arrivals of small groups continued through most of March, then in an excited manner Theodore Pinther wrote this letter to the San Diego Sun newspaper.

In the fastest hurry a short report from our colony to your valuable paper. Yesterday, March 30th arrived from Chicago and Pullmann, Illinois 15 families including more than fifty heads. This has been the largest arrival since the first party came from Denver containing 67 heads under the lead of Mr. Dommies. Messrs. Julius Gruehn from Pullmann and Fred Koehn from Chicago made up the yesterday large party and then new colonists are pleased with the land of the colony and their prospects. Messrs. Pinther, president, Wm. Bartjes secretary, N. Braun foreman and Louis York and W. Dommies had a very busy day to receive the new comers and make arrangements for new homes for these new colonists. Mr. Beller left on horseback the next morning at three o'clock for San Diego to buy two dozen stoves and some other supplies for this store. Mrs. Frank Kimball came down from Colton to San

Diego on the same train with the colonists.

The colony's population continued to increase for several more months and at its peak would reach from 280 to 310 people.

The colony's rapid population growth and seemingly overnight accomplishments were generating interest in San Diego and National City. Newspaper articles and hearsay tales about this new German settlement stirred imaginations and created additional questions. To formally introduce the colony to these many curious observers, Mr. A. Wentcher, then the German counselor in San Diego, organized a grand excursion to the "Olivenhain Colony". The excursion departed on the morning of March 22, 1885. Among the many participants was a newspaper reporter from the National City Record, who later wrote this long but interesting article.

As per advertisement, the excursion train left National City on Sunday last at 7 o'clock, A.M. and arrived at San Diego in about 30 minutes, where it remained an hour or so waiting for the tardy denizens of the sleepy metropolis to get on board. After enjoying the landscape scenery and ocean views for an hour or more we arrived at Encinitas, at which point were numerous vehicles in waiting to carry the excursionists to the Olivenhain colony settlement. The teams were nearly all trimmed with national emblems and the conveyances decorated with evergreens, so that the procession under way resembled a grand pageant destined for Elysian fields — as indeed, the destination proved. The distance to the colony was about five miles over hills and dales, the roadside blooming with variegated flowers, designating it as a land flowing with honey, etc. On arriving at the first of the settlement at the colony we found a beautiful archway embroidered with evergreen and flowers, over which, in plain, bold lettering, was the significant word "Welcome". As each load of excursionists passed through the archway a volley of musketry was fired as a salute by a company of the colonists and hand-grenades or improvised bombs continuously exploded, caused the hills

to echo the rejoicing of the new German settlers at the reception of their guests. A short distance further on was another archway also exquisitely decorated, over which were the following expressive words "San Diego the harbor and metropolis of the future Olivenhain our home".

After allowing the horses a breathing spell, the procession again proceeded to the head of the canyon where, under the heavy branches of mammoth native cottonwood trees, were arranged seats and staging — here all hands partook of lunch — the indefatigable Isidor Louis was there with ice cream, which delicacy he dished out with lavish hand to the recuperating excursionists. The brass band, with its leader Calmbach, entertained the picnickers with choice selections of music-seated here, in the shade of trees which voluntarily sprang from the seeds ages ago, surrounded on every hand by rich verdure and beautiful flowers, listening to music as it emanated from skilled artists, was truly enchanting — an experience never to be forgotten. Over the staging built for the band was the following, a motto that tells its own story for the colony "Einigkeit macht stark", which, interpreted, means — "In union there is strength". The German portion of the excursionists seemed to derive the true essence of enjoyment by frequently partaking of "bumpers" of beer, but we must say that not a drunken or disorderly person was noticed by the writer. This beer, we understand, was a treat by the colonists, and right royally did they treat — for keg followed keg, and many were the toasts given in honor of the occasion. An excursion composed principally of Germans to a German colony, without beer, would be like a wedding without the bride. There were parties along who never understood a word of German, who, after imbibing a few glasses of the foaming beer, rolled off long, jaw-breaking German words with the ease and grace of a genuine emigrant from the fatherland. (The last sentence may seem to the casual reader as somewhat exaggerated, but then in all candor, we have aimed to avoid exaggeration in the main particulars of this article).

After numerous toasts and lots of music the audience was quieted down and addressed by Mr. A. Wentscher — the originator of the excursion. In a few well

GRAND EXCURSION


— TO THE —

OLIVENHAIN COLONY

Sunday, March 22d.

A Special Train

Will leave D street depot, San Diego, at 7:30 A. M., and return at 6 P. M.; and will leave National City depot at 7 A. M.

 ROUND TRIP TICKETS
TO ENCINITAS STATION, \$2.00.

—Pioneer Band—Calmbach,
leader, will accompany the
Excursion.

TEAMS

Will be in readiness at the
Station to convey the Excur-
sionists to and from Oliven-
hain for 25 cents each.

TICKETS

Can be procured at the Horton
House, and at

A. WENTCHER'S.

no23.1t

Announcement of the up-coming Olivenhain excursion from the March 1885 edition of the National City Record newspaper.

selected words Mr. Wentscher thanked the colonists for their kind reception of the excursionists and prophesied for them a brilliantly prosperous future.

Further facts and impressions: The officers and leading members of the colony received the excursionists on their arrival at the first archway and continually mingled with their visiting friends, giving information as to the present and future plans of the colony. Their great concern at the present is — how to secure the benefit of all the water on the ranch — there is a stream and numerous living springs — but in the course of a year without care and considerable expense, a great deal of water will go to waste. The most feasible plan yet proposed is to build a dam in the canyon, this dam to act as a reservoir. To secure and retain all the water of the stream — especially during dry spells. From this dam the water can be conducted by ditches around the side hills to almost any place on the ranch. A sufficient elevation for such a dam or reservoir can be obtained for this purpose, and by co-operative it seems to us that such a system could be inaugurated without great expense, this same plan is followed in Colorado with never failing success and if inaugurated here the colonists can raise small grain in abundance, while at the same time irrigating their young vineyards and fruit orchards — which in an incredible short time also produce fruit. An artesian well is also being sunk on high ground — a depth of nearly two hundred feet having already been attained — if this experiment after artesian water fails, the former plan cannot fail — so, as far as water is concerned, the Olivenhain colony is alright — the only drawback to the country surmounted at the start. The writer was agreeably surprised — at the excellence of the soil, the beauty of the track of land on which the colonists have located — and at the immense amount of improvement made in so short a space of time — most especially so, as within a few short months the writer was told by a San Diego real estate dealer that the Encinitas Ranch was not worth fifty cents an acre — this was about the time that our two well known citizens, Messrs. Frank A. and Warren C. Kimball, were negotiating for the sale of the said Encinitas Ranch to this same colony of

Germans. We never saw a finer track of land, and we doubt if there is a better tract for all purposes in Southern California. The Encinitas Ranch contained 4,437 acres and was sold by the Kimballs, we learn, for \$15 an acre — in the transfer the Kimballs may have done well, but the colonists certainly have done better. On the 8th of last November the first improvements were made on this ranch by the Olivenhain Colony, and as remarkable as it may seem they have already erected about forty residences, plowed up hundreds of acres of land, sunk wells, set out vineyards and fruit orchards, etc. A good store has already been erected, of which Mr. Alex Beller is the proprietor. He keeps general merchandise and sells good goods on a small margin. He believes in quick sales and small profits, and being both energetic and honest cannot fail to become a merchant prince. His store is a good size and is well stocked, and as the colony increases in numbers he will also increase in stock. Among those having the best residences are Herman Baecht, Conrad Stroebel, exsecretary of the colony, Theodore Pinther, Paul Flassig, Gustav Bachstein, Wm. Dommes and B. Reseck. At present many of the colonists built first a kitchen, in which they temporarily live during the erection of the main dwelling which is, of course, attached to the first structure. In a few years it will be safe to predict, that passing over the Olivenhain settlement, you will see on every side fine residences, big red barns, flower gardens, fat cattle, sleek horses, etc., etc., — at least, that is what we find in every German settlement where proper time has elapsed for such things to be brought about. There is nothing in the world to keep back this colony — they have efficient and enterprising officers whose foresight and business experience is sure to bring success to every member thereof.

The president, Mr. Pinther, the writer has known for years as a newspaper man, author, orator and merchant, and can say that no more thorough-going, capable and honest leader could be selected for any colony, and with such a leader the Olivenhain will make a mark in the near future among the prominent colonies of the continent. The treasurer, Mr. Flassig, is also an efficient man, one who is affable in his ways, and by his gentlemanly

department will make friends wherever he may have dealings. Mr. Herman Baecht, one of the trustees, is also known to us as a genial gentleman of large business experience. The same may be said undoubtedly of all the officers, but we only speak at this writing of those with whom we are most intimately acquainted, as our allotment of space will allow.

The excursion party numbered something less than one hundred, and was a complete success, unless perhaps in a financial way to Consul Wentscher.

For many points of information we are indebted to Mr. L. York, a member of the colony — the artist who so dexterously painted the lettering over the archways. He also informed us that acquisitions to the colony were constantly arriving and that before many weeks there will be several hundred families in the colony.

The German consul's flag floated from the dome of Mr. Herman Baecht's residence, which is perhaps the most prominent building in the colony — located on a high knoll, commanding a good view of the surrounding country.

In a short time the building of an academy, church and other public buildings will follow and we learn that the erection of a grist mill and brewery is also contemplated.

The Olivenhain colony is located about thirty six miles north of San Diego and about five miles east of Encinitas station, on the California Southern railroad, hence easy of access to commercial points. Here the climate is excellent — where frosts are never known and where flowers perpetually bloom. The location and soil is peculiarly adapted for vineyards and fruit orchards — being five miles back from the ocean, where the breezes become tempered. Here the Germans will produce raisins by the ton, wine by the tierce and fruit by the car load. We would also think that the site is an excellent one for invalids.

We consider that the purchase and settlement of the Encinitas ranch by the Olivenhain colony one of the most important movements for the benefit of San Diego county made for many years past — one that will figure prominently in the history of our county.

There is one other prominent point the colonists have under advisement — that is, the building of a railroad to intersect with the California Southern near Encinitas station — the distance is only about five miles, an easy, almost natural grade and could be constructed at a comparatively trifling expense. When the colony is increased by several hundred more families, we have no question of the feasibility and practicability of the plan — this road would undoubtedly prove a profitable feeder for the California Southern road — most especially so if pushed on into other growing settlements.

About 6 P.M. the train left for home, all the excursionists feeling well repaid for the trip, and all expressing themselves as anxious to return again on another excursion at an early date. If Mr. Wentscher should get up another excursion we predict that it will be difficult for the California Southern company to furnish sufficient cars. Our description of this excursion has been necessarily brief, but we shall have more to say from time to time about the good time we enjoyed and what we learned, in future issues of the Record and will now close with our benediction — “long live the Olivenhain Colony, and may its members live long and prosper.”

The excursion was a total success indeed. The colonists gleamed with signs of prosperity as they eagerly displayed their many accomplishments and revealed their future goals. Undisputably the colony had achieved total success, both as an organization and a settlement.

The timing of the excursion couldn't have been planned more perfectly, for the colony had nearly reached its peak. No one could imagine the terrible catastrophe that would soon destroy the very soul of the colony.

To the average observer, the colony's swift progress and rapid growth were unmistakable signs of success. Credit for this achievement was usually given to the founder and president of the colony, Theodore Pinther, who had united hundreds of German emigrants and forged a thriving settlement from a once desolate and uninhabited land. During the first

four months on the colony land, his unquestioned loyalty and dedication to the colony was assumed by most people, especially by his fellow members. "We realize," wrote a fellow colonist, "the service Mr. Pinther has rendered to the colony. He has our complete trust and we are bound in gratitude". There was no tangible reason to question his honesty for many months. Then an increasing number of discoveries cast a cloud of suspicion on his assumed integrity and honest intentions.

The origin of the trouble can be traced back to September of 1884, when Theodore Pinther and Conrad Stroebel were sent to Southern California to purchase the colony land. They had been instructed to investigate all land available, based on a careful examination of both resources and cost. Upon selecting a parcel, they were supposed to obtain the consent of the remaining colonists before enacting any legal contract. The colonists were therefore surprised when they learned that Pinther and Stroebel had purchased the Rancho Las Encinitas without acquiring permission. At the time it was considered an insignificant oversight, but later when the colonists discovered the Rancho lacked sufficient water, this unauthorized decision quickly resurfaced.

Additional friction was created when Pinther neglected to perform his mandatory thirty days physical labor for the colony, claiming that his duties as president required all his time. Some colonists questioned that fact since his mail correspondence had been badly neglected. The colony's branch office in Chicago wrote many letters that were never answered. Much of Pinther's correspondence had to be acknowledged by other colonists. Some members resented Pinther's behavior and personal conflicts soon arose. Recorded in the minutes of one colony meeting is "Mr. Braun reported that he resigned his post as economy manager since he could not work with President Pinther. Pinther's advice was always interfering". A mysterious feeling of mistrust was beginning to generate within the colony. No one could

pinpoint the reason, but suspected Pinther of some wrong doing. The feeling was shared by the members back east and many were reluctant to join the colony in California.

The colonists were further aroused when they were told by adjoining neighbors that the price they were paying for the land was extremely high. They were informed that \$15 per acre was an outlandish price for unimproved land and the Rancho Las Encinitas was worth only a fraction of that. Subsequent inquiries exposed other detrimental facts, including a rumor that Pinther and Stroebel were receiving a commission from the Kimball brothers. These and other rumors magnified the original suspicions and a heated investigation was underway. Pinther was questioned several times but denied any wrong doing. Unsatisfied with his assuring words, the colonists demanded a German translation of the sales contract between the Kimball brothers and the colony. Unfortunately, none of the colonists were able to read the original contract since it was written in the English language and had previously relied on Pinther's good faith to explain its contents.

Before the translated sales contract was received, another discovery was made. Recorded in the minutes of April 6, 1885 is found "During the debate Mr. Baecht reported that the president left the colony without permission from the board. Mr. Pinther reported that he talked to the Kimball brothers regarding the time extension of the payments. Mr. Baecht and Bartjes express their deep distress that the president took this on his own. Mr. Kleine and Holzmann feel the same way". The colonists undoubtedly suspected that Pinther discussed other pressing circumstances but ended the debate, knowing that he would deny any further accusations.

Three days later, the translated sales contract arrived and was read by several colonists. Shocked by its contents, a special meeting was quickly assembled and the contract read to the other members. Two major faults were discovered. The first was the order in which the land

would be deeded to the colony. As outlined in the contract, the total 4,431 acres of the Rancho Las Encinitas would be released to the colony upon the payment of \$66,500, payable in fourteen separate installments, spread over a six and one half year period. The Rancho would be conveyed to the colony by six separate land deeds, the deeds being released on evenly spaced intervals within the installment period. The colonists had been previously informed that the first deed would release the first area extensively settled, namely the San Elijo valley, which parallels the easy boundary line of the Rancho. However, the contract clearly stipulated the first area to be released paralleled the west boundary line of the Rancho and therefore would only release a small portion of the San Elijo valley. The other five deeds were typical of the first, each releasing vast portions of unsettled land and only a few improved acres in the San Elijo valley. The colonists suddenly realized it could be many more years before they obtained clear title to their five acre farms and if for any reason the remainder of the colony land failed to develop they would lose their land, house and all related improvements. The second major fault discovered in the sales contract related to legal ownership of the land. The colonists believed that the Rancho, when paid for, would belong to Theodore Pinther and Conrad Stroebel since they were the only ones to sign the contract.

During the same meeting of April 19, it was also discovered that someone had added an unauthorized paragraph to the governing by-laws of the colony. This new by-law stated "an absolute majority is necessary to dismiss a board of director". Several members accused Pinther of forging the by-laws, but he repeatedly changed the subject.

A special meeting was held the following day. Due to the importance of this meeting, the minutes are presented in their entirety.

The meeting was held to prove or disprove various accusations against President Pinther.

The meeting was started by vice-president Holzmann. The secretary read the following accusations.

- 1. Did Mr. Pinther add an unauthorized paragraph to the by-laws regarding the procedure of dismissing a board of director? Put to a vote, is President Pinther guilty of forging the by-laws?*
- 2. Did Mr. Pinther make the false statement that the first settlement would be located on the first parcel of land to be released? Put to a vote, did President Pinther make these false statements?*
- 3. Why did President Pinther negotiate with the Kimball brothers without permission, knowledge or approval of the board of directors, knowing that this would endanger the trust of the colony? Put to a vote, are these secret negotiations between Mr. Pinther and the Kimball brothers enough to start a distrust within the colony?*
- 4. Is the mistrust the majority of the members, especially in Chicago, have against the colony the result of President Pinther's conduct? This question is put to a vote.*
- 5. Put to a vote, shall President Pinther be removed from office?*
- 6. If voted out by the last question, decided to remove him from office as soon as possible and vote for a new president at a special meeting.*

President Pinther was not present at this meeting and he told Mr. Bachstein, who was sent to invite Mr. Pinther, that he was sick and could not appear. It was decided to start the meeting without Pinther since the majority feels his sickness was not bad enough to prevent him from coming.

Just now Mrs. Pinther came and presented a letter with the resignation of Mr. Pinther and the notice he could

not attend because he was not feeling well.

Mr. Stroebel proposed to accept the resignation because that would settle the affair quickly. Mr. York is very much against this. He says Mr. Pinther missed his opportunity to resign, now it is too late. His sickness is just in his head. Mr. York had told him after the last board of directors vote that he was dissatisfied.

Mr. York once took some papers from Mr. Flassig to Mr. Pinther and was looking through the papers to find the by-laws but Mr. York did not find the paragraph where it was stated that an absolute majority was necessary to dismiss a board of director. He questioned Mr. Pinther and received the answer "can you keep your mouth shut?" Before Mr. York could answer, Pinther put the by-laws in a suitcase. After he was told by Mr. Holzmann, at a later date, that the by-laws were written on white paper, he became suspicious.

The secretary gave the by-laws to Mr. Stroebel to verify that neither the by-laws nor the signature "C. Stroebel" were written by him. He did write the original by-laws but these are a forgery, apparently done by Mr. Pinther. None of the older members can remember that such a paragraph existed and Mr. Pape said for sure there never was such a paragraph.

Voted on the question: Is Mr. Pinther guilty of forging the by-laws, and the result was unanimously yes.

The question that Mr. Stroebel did not sign or write these by-laws was voted unanimously yes.

The question that Mr. Pinther wrote Mr. Stroebel's name was voted yes.

Mr. York asked for a vote to see if the board believes his story and the

resulting vote was yes.

Concerning the second accusation, all members from Denver affirm that Mr. Pinther knew which parcel of land would be released first. He stated it in his speech. All except one vote that Mr. Pinther is guilty of making false statements.

Unanimously agreed that the arbitrary actions of Mr. Pinther with the Kimball brothers started the mistrust.

The fourth accusation: is the mistrust by the members, especially in Chicago, which could endanger the colony due to Mr. Pinther's neglecting the correspondence? Answer, after a few discussions, yes.

Before voting for the fifth question Mr. Stroebel counted the members present. There were fifty-eight members present. To the question: shall President Pinther be removed from office, the resulting vote was fifty seven in favor and one against.

Mr. Bachstein suggested to go to Mr. Pinther's house and inform him of his removal from office and to get back all documents and property belonging to the colony. Meeting adjourned until return of the messenger.

After approximately one half hour, the meeting continued and the vice president presented the above mentioned documents to the members.

Mr. Langer proposed to vote immediately for a new president. The result was 55 for and 3 against.

Mr. York received 41 votes, Mr. Baecht - 4 votes, Mr. Dommies - 3 votes, Mr. Kleine - 2 votes, and Mr. Bartjes - 2 votes.

Mr. York was elected and took over the office of president with a few words of thanks.

The secretary was ordered to send a report immediately to Chicago.

Mr. Bachstein proposed to get a copy of the power-of-attorney from San Diego. After this, a letter from Chicago was read, and the board shall mail an answer as soon as possible.

Also decided to ask Mr. Kimball to visit us as soon as possible.

Finally decided to reduce the wages of the stable man to \$2.00

Meeting adjourned. M. Bartjes

An investigation committee met with the Kimball brothers a few days later. They asked if Pinther and Stroebel received a commission from the land sales and were informed that a secret contract between Pinther and the Kimball brothers did exist. Frank Kimball also stated he would not reduce the price for the land or change the order in which the land would be released. On April 30th the committee again met with Frank Kimball at the office of Wallace Leach, and again Kimball refused to change any portion of the sales contract. Then on May 9th, the committee learned the extent of the secret contract. Pinther's commission would amount to as much as \$10,000 if he obtained forty to sixty thousand dollars from the colony. Stroebel would receive a piece of property with a house in National City. This was to be considered a gift from the Kimball brothers without Stroebel's knowledge.

As expected, Stroebel denied any knowledge of the secret contract, but the mounting evidence against Pinther was conclusive. The angered colonists knew they might lose everything and that an accurate account of Pinther's secret dealings with the Kimballs was desperately needed for future legal battles.

On May 9, 1885, Pinther was kidnapped and subsequently held captive at a secluded location. The guarding colonists informed Pinther they simply wanted an accurate confession but also warned that many other colonists wanted to hang him.

After several days, Pinther confessed he had intended to cheat the colonists from the very

beginning. During the early mail correspondence, he was offered \$3,000 commission if he could sell either of two large parcels of property to the colony. Pinther replied that \$3,000 was too cheap, but a judicious use of the multiplication table might interest him. When Pinther and Stroebel were sent to investigate and purchase the colony land, Pinther negotiated a secret written agreement with the Kimball brothers, wherein it was stipulated that he would receive \$9,600 for selling the Rancho Las Encinitas. After Pinther's confession, the sheriff from San Diego appeared on the colony land and Pinther was freed on May 16.

Fearing further attacks on his life, Theodore Pinther never returned. His lust for money had made him an outcast of the very colony he had founded. For those remaining, troubled times still lie ahead.

The sum of \$2,800 that had already been paid to the Kimball brothers was lost, since the colonists would not honor the existing sales contract. The next payment for \$5,000 was past due, and to prevent any possible confiscation the colonists withdrew all their money from the Consolidated National bank in San Diego.

The colonists demanded a new sales contract from the Kimball brothers and a reduced sales price. Frank Kimball finally agreed to rewrite the contract but would not consider a price reduction. To break the stalemate, Kimball suggested an arbitration board consisting of a number of reputable businessmen who would establish a fair sales price for the Rancho. The colonists accepted, but five days later the Kimballs withdrew the offer. The colonists were outraged and declared they would abandon their land rather than honor the existing contract, and if they abandon their land, they would bring legal suit against the Kimball brothers in the amount of \$30,000. The Kimball brothers resubmitted to arbitration on May 23. The resulting arbitration board consisted of five men: two elected by the colony, two elected by Frank Kimball, and one elected by

the four board members. The board convened for the first time on June 9 and began their investigation. All aspects relating to the true value of the land were explored including tax assessments, testimony from various experts, and a personal inspection of the land in question. The investigation would continue for several weeks and during the interim, other interesting developments arose.

The colonists were so depressed by the inherited hardships and inadequacies of the Rancho Las Encinitas that a suggestion to abandon it was inevitable. Recorded in the minutes of a colony meeting on June 15, 1885 is found:

A long discussion started about the fact if the land of the colony is at all suitable for the purpose intended. Many of the speakers submitted it would be best to leave the colony and find some other land somewhere else, if at all possible. Upon Mr. Bumann's request, a committee was named consisting of Messrs. Kleine, Wiegand and Schneider and the committee was ordered to look over land in the San Diego area which is presently for sale.

The fact that the colonists were searching for new land was common knowledge in San Diego County. The San Diego Union newspaper reports:

H. Baecht, proprietor of the Germania hotel, Olivenhain, was in town yesterday. He said it's clear that the colonists are determined to abandon the lands they now occupy unless the present differences as to prices can be settled to their suiting. The lands they consider practically valueless without irrigation facilities and they estimate \$50,000 will be required to furnish these. The colonists are doing such work as is necessary to care for the growing crops but will make no further improvements till the matters at issue are settled.

The land investigation committee anxiously reported their findings on June 21. New land had been found in the El Cajon Valley, approximately twenty miles East of San Diego. This

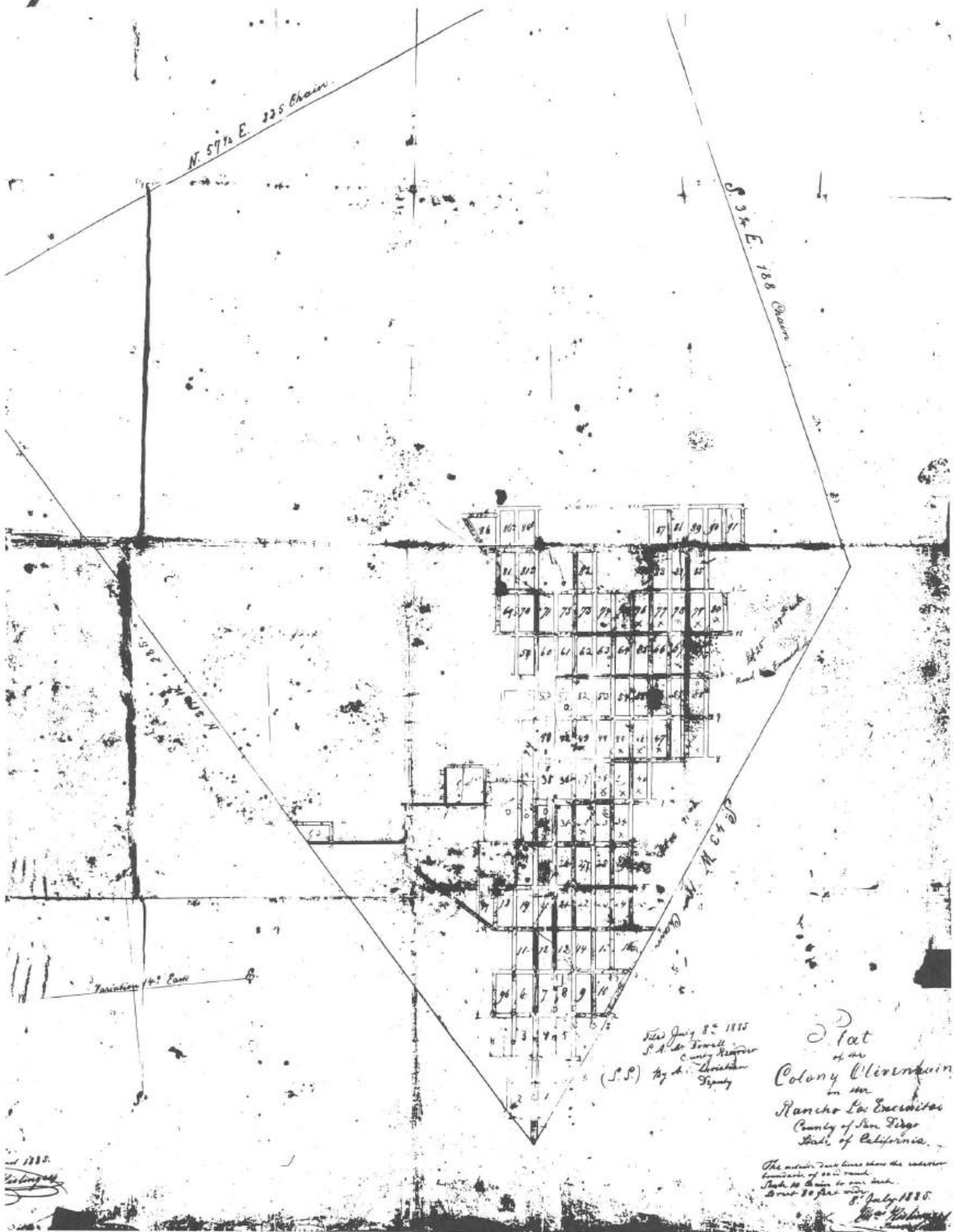
land was already cultivated and was highly recommended by the committee. Many colonists wanted to relocate immediately, but during this same meeting Mr. William Dommies said,

"Moving at this point is out of the question since the colony does not have any capital. In any event one should wait until the end of the negotiations with Kimball. A long debate followed and most of the speakers presented the opinion that if the land is not being appraised too high, then it would be best to stay right here."

For reasons yet unknown, Frank Kimball approached the arbitration board and offered all land that had been cultivated for \$15 per acre and that the colony need not purchase the remainder of the Rancho Las Encinitas. The arbitration board strongly supported Kimball's offer, but the colonists' opinions were mixed. Some wanted to accept, others did not. After repeated encouragements from the arbitration board and the favoring colonists, the offer was accepted, with stipulations. This was followed by a series of offers and counteroffers before a common agreement was reached. In the final settlement, the colonists agreed to purchase 441 $\frac{7}{8}$ acres at \$15 per acre. All except ten acres were located within the San Elijo Valley. The Kimball brothers agreed to forfeit all land designated as public roadways without charge to the colony. A new land contract was written and signed by both parties on July 8, 1885.

The colonists paid cash for their land, thus severing all relations with the Kimball brothers. The financing for this mass payment was appropriated by a loan from the Consolidated National Bank in San Diego. The colonists borrowed approximately \$7,000 and, for collateral, mortgaged all their land.

After their land had been secured, the colonists immediately focused their attention on Conrad Stroebel. They were convinced Stroebel knew of Pinther's proposed deception all



After the colonists finalized a reduced sales contract with the Kimball brothers on July 8, 1885, this map was recorded by the county of San Diego and thus separated Olivenhain from the remainder of the Rancho Las Encinitas.

along and many believed he had actively participated. The colonists' actions were later reported in the San Diego Union:

They concluded to rid the colony of Stroebel's presence and on last Saturday they invited him to take his departure and saw to it that he took formal leave of all the colonists, a committee volunteering to escort him around for that purpose.

Then two days later the Union again reports:

President York and six others of Olivenhain have been arrested at the insistence of Conrad Stroebel. Two of them are charged with assault with a deadly weapon and the others with riot. The examinations are set for the 21st. It is alleged that Stroebel's departure from Olivenhain was encouraged by some birdshot that were emptied into him from a shotgun.

After several restful days in the county jail, the colonists had their preliminary hearing and all charges were dismissed. Apparently, Stroebel was unable to support his charges. Like his forerunner, Conrad Stroebel became an outcast to the colony.

The worst was over, but the damaging affects from the trouble had seriously injured the colony. First, the colony's land had been reduced to one tenth of its original size and could only accommodate a few additional members. Secondly, the colonists had lost faith in their organization and considered it more troublesome than beneficial. Without hesitating, the colonists unanimously agreed to change the governing policies and management of the colony from its present co-operative form to a more individualized system. This does not mean the colony was dissolved, but rather a major change in its operating policies did occur. The San Diego Union reported this dramatic change on August 1st.

Paul A.J. Flassig of late Olivenhain colony was in town yesterday. We say "the late Olivenhain colony" because the colony organization of the settlement has been abandoned. Each land owner now operates for himself.

Undoubtedly all the colonists were disappointed by the recent developments. It's therefore understandable that a few would leave, but what began as a trickle soon became a stampede and within two years 80% of the colonists would abandon their promised land. The exodus from Olivenhain was first reported on July 16, 1885 by the San Diego Union:

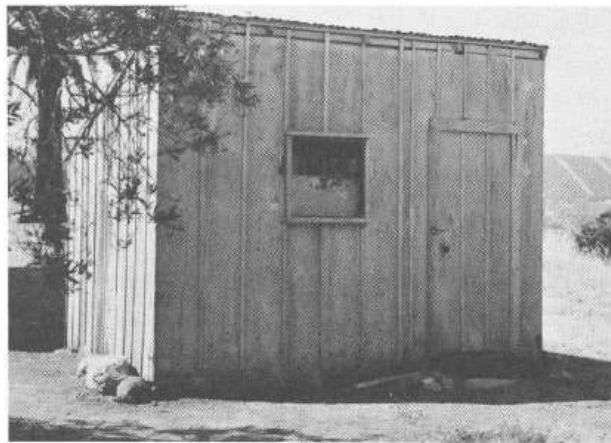
A few, perhaps a dozen, have left the colony and settled upon government land. Some are selling their small tracts to members who are able to buy, as they have discovered that it is folly to think of making a living from five acres of land in that section.

Another report just three months later implies a sharp increase of deserters.

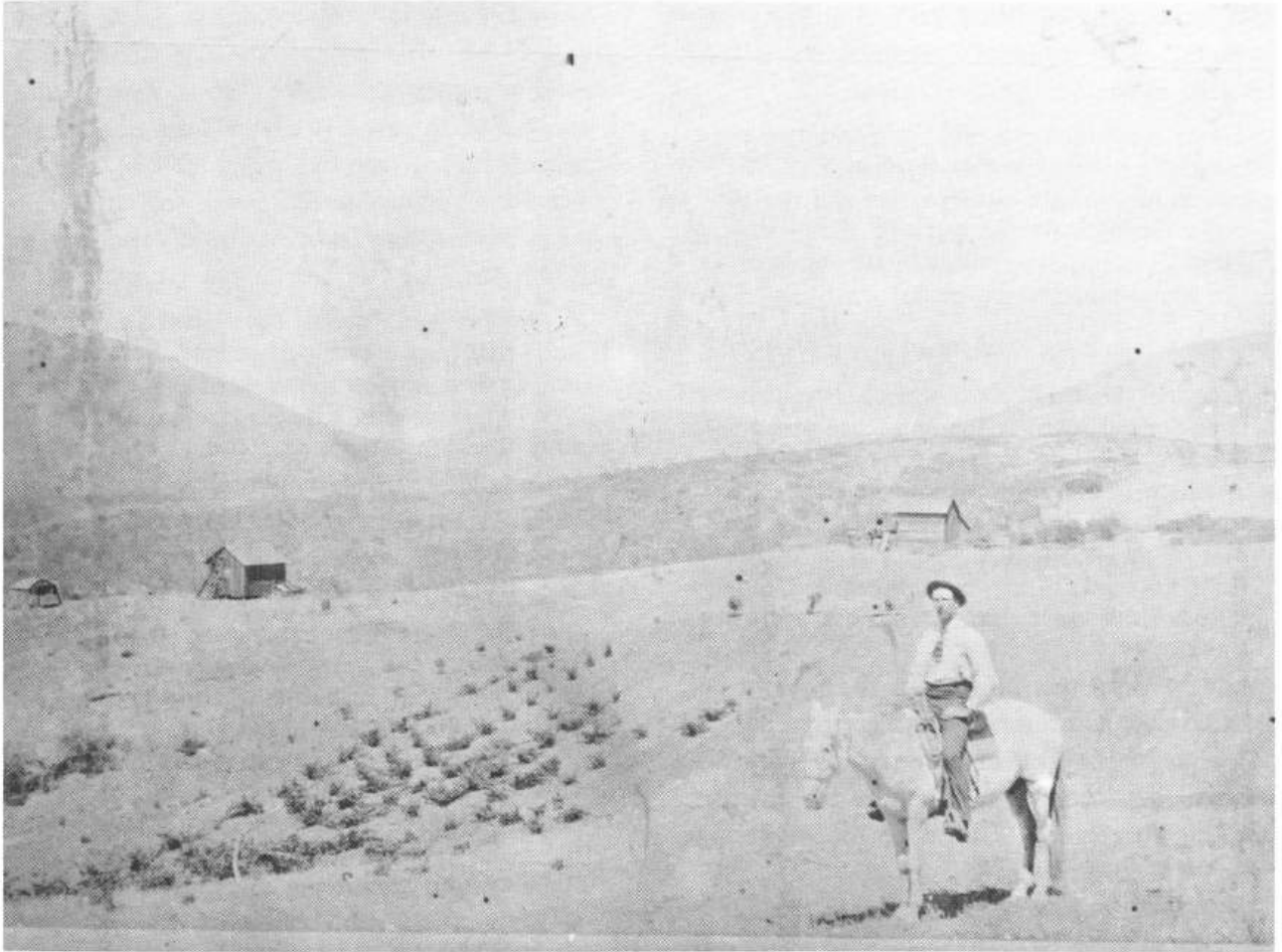
Curtis Johnson of San Louis Rey is having his ranch of six hundred acres of the finest land in that valley sub-divided into lots of twenty acres each and had made arrangements to dispose of a large portion of the land so divided to members of the Olivenhain colony. The purchasers intend planting the land to grapes and building themselves pleasant homes.

The stream of departing colonists would continue through the remainder of 1885 and all of 1886. By January 1887, most of the colony farms were abandoned.

Many of the departed colonists relocated in distant areas of Southern California or returned to the Midwest and Eastern States. All except



This homestead shanty was built by Herman F. Bumann in 1886 and is the last homestead shanty in the Olivenhain area. Photo taken 1974.



After abandoning the colony land, many colonists homesteaded a short distance northeast of Olivenhain. One such homesteader was August Schmidt, poised here on his horse Charley. Photo taken 1890.

a few of these colonists have been forgotten. Those that are remembered include the Einers and Asmus' in Escondido, the Uhlands in San Marcos, and the Mahrs in Fallbrook.

Another group of colonists homesteaded to the northeast of the colony land. This land was not as productive but was available in sections of 160 acres, which could be obtained by simply filing a claim. The homesteaders were within a short walking distance of the colony and, although they were physically removed, they were never socially separated from the remaining colonists. Due to the inherited advantages, homesteading became quite popular and attracted many colonists, including the Wiegands, Bumanns, Resecks and Koehns.

Like so many boom areas of its time, Olivenhain became a near ghost town. More than half of the houses and shanties scattered throughout the valley were abandoned. The orchards and vineyards of these vacant farms quickly withered from lack of irrigation. Hundreds of young fruit trees and at least 24,000 grape vines died before they were three years old. Only a few maintained orchards, and vineyards would survive and eventually bare fruit.

The two years following 1885 also found the colony in financial trouble. The unhealthy combination of mortgaged land and penniless members resulted in a private recession. Money was tight and the colonists squabbled



Amongst the many colonists that homesteaded was Bernard Reseck, who built this house and reared a family of eleven children. His ranch was later called the "Lone Jack Ranch" and the road leading to it was appropriately named "Lone Jack Road". The name perpetuated but the original house (shown in photo) burned to the ground in 1896.

over minor debts. Prolonged arguments over two dollars was not uncommon; occasionally the same argument would continue for several months. The colony's financial status was further weakened by the flow of departing members, since their portion of the total debt was transferred to those remaining. The colonists were unable to fulfill their mortgage payments several times and the threat of foreclosure seemed unavoidable. It was by sheer perseverance that the colonists eventually paid their debt, and in December of 1887 the mortgage was finally cancelled.

The colony's population began to stabilize in mid 1887. The minority that remained presumably stayed because they had made extensive improvements to their farms or they had invested a large sum of money into the colony. Whatever their reasons were, approximately eighty people did stay.

When those remaining colonists obtained warrant deeds for their land, they were no longer dependent or committed to the colony rule. This freedom, combined with the past disappointments in the colony system, lead to a gradual, but ultimately final, dissolution of the colony. Meetings were sharply reduced from eleven in 1888 to four in 1889. After

1889, meetings were held once or twice a year. The last registered member was Friedrich Teten who joined the colony in March of 1892. The colonists had their last meeting on November 15, 1897; beyond that date, no other reference to the organization called Colony Olivenhain can be found.

The abolishment of the colony should not imply that the Olivenhain history ended; actually it was just beginning. A healthier and more permanent community quickly evolved. Many of the people that remained after 1887 would remain a lifetime. These people and their descendents would populate and farm the Olivenhain valley for the next seventy years. We therefore end this chapter with the beginning of a new era that was recognized and printed in 1889 by a newspaper reporter for the San Diego Union.

Olivenhain which was settled a few years ago by enterprising Germans is beautiful and prosperous. Many of the first settlers, through fraud and misrepresentations of their agents, suffered much loss and disappointment and some of them had to seek homes elsewhere. But those who remain are thriving. German industry and perseverance had won the battle and no doubt Olivenhain will be one of the coziest spots in Southern California.

CHAPTER 4

FARMING ERA

Following the collapse of the colony system, each colonist or family group faced the reality of a financial income and how to earn it. Some people returned to their former trade, and a few succeeded, but the vast majority of people became farmers. This was the beginning of the farming era in Olivenhain which lasted well into the 1950's.

Day to day life during the farming era was often routine and sometimes laborious and very much like any other farming community in Southern California. It was a time when families grew in number, when farms were expanded and improved, and when hard honest work was an assumed necessity. It was a time when Olivenhain itself grew to maturity and gave birth to eight small businesses, two schools, two meeting halls, and a very stable farming community.

The network of events and people which make up the farming era are often complex and overlapping and not suitable for a chronological presentation; therefore, each major subject is presented separately.

STORES

Five separate stores had opened and closed in Olivenhain before the 1920's. All of these stores were privately owned except one and were either a grocery store or general merchandise store.

The first store opened in December 1884 and was owned by the Colony Olivenhain. It was located at the Ybarra adobe ruins, located one-half mile east of Rancho Santa Fe Road and Olivenhain Road. This early store supplied food goods to the arriving colonists and stocked a moderate supply of hardware items. Even though the colony store was heavily used, it only lasted two months.

Alex Beller purchased the entire inventory at the colony store and opened the first privately owned store in February 1885. This store was located about three hundred yards north of Encinitas Boulevard and seventy yards east of Rancho Santa Fe Road. This was primarily a grocery store even though Beller could special order items such as stoves and wagons. But the Beller store was forced out of business approximately three months after it opened. Apparently, Alex Beller wronged his fellow colonists and they in turn boycotted his store.

Herman Baecht opened a store in Late May of 1885. Little is known about the Baecht store including its location and how long it was used.

The next store was opened by John A. Berg in 1886 and it became the main store in Olivenhain for approximately twenty five years. The Berg store was located on the southeast corner of Seventh Street and Rancho Santa Fe Road. This general merchandise store had a large supply of food goods, hardware, clothing, and farm supplies. "John Berg had everything from a sewing needle to a plow," recalls Alex D. Reseck, "jewelry, shotguns, food, dynamite, anything you wanted, he had. What he didn't have could be ordered from a large catalog."

The main room of Berg's store was approximately twenty feet wide by thirty feet long. In 1901 Berg built a lean-to addition on the store for the larger farm implements. The interior of the store contained a multitude of items, all neatly packed into every available space. A counter near the south wall supported a large coffee grinder and a number of candy jars. Adjoining the counter was a glass cabinet filled with ladies hats, dresses, and jewelry. In the center of the room were barrels of crackers and apples, also several shelved racks containing food goods. Shoes were displayed along the north wall and a nearby rack held shirts, jeans,



The Berg Store in about 1900. John Berg in doorway and the horse on far right is Billy Boy. Photograph from the San Diego Historical Society - Title Insurance & Trust collection.



Berg store and a few local customers. Photo taken about 1899.

JOHN A. BERG,
DEALER IN
General Merchandise.
Olivenhain, Cal. 190

Sold to _____
Address _____

	DEBIT	CREDIT
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		

IN CASE OF ERROR RETURN THIS BILL.
Pat. Apr. 24, 1900. Reg. for C. H. WHEEL, PHOENIX, ARIZ. BY AMERICAN SALES BOOK CO., ELIZA, N. Y.

JOHN A. BERG,
DEALER IN

Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Shoes, Hardware,
Drugs, Notions, Harness and Saddlery.

Country Produce Bought and Sold

The Pioneer Store.

OLIVENHAIN, CAL.

Receipt form used by John Berg.

and other clothing items. Perishable goods were stored in a screened room on the northeast corner of the store. Miscellaneous items such as harnessing, pans, lanterns, and rope hung from the ceiling and walls. A small closed in post office filled the southwest corner of the store. Mail was kept in shoe box size containers and given to customers by John Berg.

John Berg was a bachelor and lived alone except when his sister and niece visited. He was a small man, but he could handle delinquent bill payers with the grace of a heavyweight.

In 1895 Frederick Yager opened a grocery store about a hundred yards north of Berg's store. Yager's store was smaller than Berg's and didn't stock as much merchandise. There was a small bar on the east side of Yager's store, which was the closest thing to a saloon that Olivenhain ever had. "I was too young to go in the back room," recalls Carl Teten, "but I know they drank liquor and gambled with cards in there." "One time Frank Laughter went into Yager's bar," recalls Herman Wiegand, "and after drinking for a while, got kind of loud. There

was a blacksmith there by the name of Fred Balzer who was a very powerful man. Laughter and Balzer got into a big fight and finally Balzer grabbed a pick handle and drove Frank out. Frank's horse was tied up outside and he got a Winchester rifle and shot four or five holes into the building. He shot high so not to hit anybody, just scare them. Some of the bullets jammed in a stack of jeans which were stacked up in the store." After Frederick Yager's death, Mrs. Yager ran the store for several years and then closed it in 1903.

Mrs. Hulda Yager sold the store to John M. Nobel in 1906. Nobel operated the store, but competition with the Berg store was too great and he finally resold in 1908. "There was jealousy between Berg and Nobel," recalls Herman Bumann. "Berg thought all the customers were his and he resented anybody that went into Nobel's store. Berg would sometimes go out in the road and look over to the Nobel store to see who was doing business there."

Hattie and Joe Hess bought Nobel's store and ran a reasonably successful business until 1910.



The Hess store in about 1918 or 1919. Arthur D. Cole on bicycle and Mrs. Colburn on porch.

The store never opened again and was finally moved to another location.

John Berg closed his store in 1911 and a few years later sold it to Edward Eymann. The store was reopened in 1914 but was primarily used as a grocery store. Eymann added a partition to the main room and only used about half of the available floor space. Eymann never did as much business as Berg and finally the introduction of automobiles sharply reduced the number of his customers.

Eymann sold his store and property to the county of San Diego in 1919. The store was converted into a road maintenance station which the county road department used for twenty years and then dismantled it and moved to another location.

BLACKSMITH SHOPS

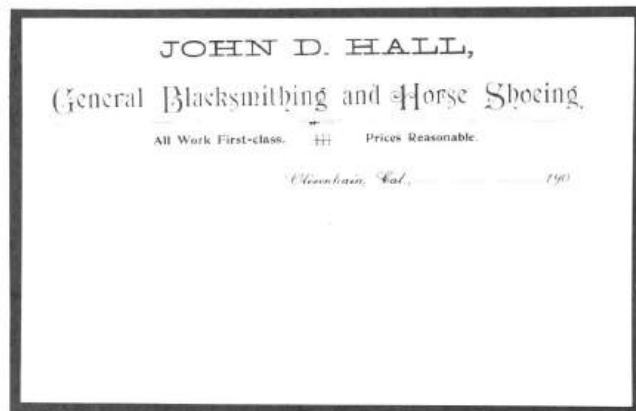
Blacksmithing was a necessity to any farming community and Olivenhain was no exception. The colonists purchased a complete blacksmith outfit only eight days after they arrived and the blacksmith shop was probably the first structure built in the Olivenhain valley. The colony's blacksmith, Cyprian Muller, was busy sharpening plowshares, grub hoes, and shoeing horses by late November 1884. The exact location of the colony blacksmith shop and how long it was used is unknown.

Fred W. Teten opened the first privately

owned blacksmith shop soon after he arrived in 1892. "My dad," recalls Carl Teten, "built his blacksmith shop on the southeast corner of Rancho Santa Fe Road and our driveway (located at 211 Rancho Santa Fe Road). The building only had one room, measuring about twelve feet wide and maybe twenty four feet long. There were several large bellows inside, also a forge, anvil, drill press, and a wheel rim shrinker. He never shod horses but could repair or build almost anything."

Fred Teten monopolized the blacksmith business in Olivenhain until about 1896 when Fred Balzer opened a shop on the southeast corner of Rancho Santa Fe Road and Ninth Street. Balzer's shop was about fourteen feet wide by eighteen feet long and had a separate room adjoining the south wall where Balzer lived. The shop didn't have as much equipment as Teten's but Balzer could shoe horses. Fred Balzer closed his shop in about 1900. The competition with Fred Teten was too great and there just were not enough customers to support two blacksmith shops in Olivenhain.

John D. Hall built a blacksmith shop on the northeast corner of Eighth Street and Rancho Santa Fe Road and opened for business in about 1902. Hall anticipated little competition in Olivenhain, since Fred Teten was unable to work, due to a major illness. Hall's shop was a long building and was well equipped with smithing tools including several forges and an engine driven drop hammer.



Stationery used by John Hall.

John Hall closed his blacksmith shop in 1906 and was the last person to operate a blacksmithing business in Olivenhain.

SCHOOL

Olivenhain was without a school for the first twenty one months after the colonists arrived. The immediate necessities such as building homes and establishing a food supply took priority over a school. Then the Pinther trouble left the entire settlement in a state of uncertainty and additional months of delay. Not until May of 1886 were the colonists prepared to discuss a school house, which they decided should be cheap and simple. The colonists' desire for an inexpensive school was fulfilled by the vacant home of Theodore Pinther. With a total investment of fifteen dollars, Pinther's home was converted into a temporary school and housed the first group of students beginning in the Fall of 1886. This one-room school house was located about a hundred feet east of Woodwind Drive and Rancho Santa Fe Road and was used until 1888. Little is remembered about this early school; however, Laura A. Miller recalled a story told her by Gertrude MacKinnon. "Once the teacher at the old school had to leave for a little while during school hours. In her absence all the children crawled into the attic and hid. When the teacher returned, there were no children in sight and she called and called. The children thought that was great fun, until they were found." After the old school was abandoned, Fred Teten bought the property and moved the building to its present location at 211 Rancho Santa Fe Road.

A larger one-room school house was opened in 1888. The colony bought Fred Balzer's home and moved it to the southwest corner of 7th Street and E Street where it was used as a school for fifty-four years. An addition was added sometime before 1900, making the building slightly "L" shaped.

The Olivenhain school was classified as an elementary school since the standard educational program didn't exceed the eighth grade.

The ninth grade was taught as a special class if the student volunteered to work part time as a teacher's aid. If a student wanted a high school diploma, they completed their education in Oceanside or San Diego.

The subjects taught at the Olivenhain school included reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, history and geography. English was the basic language used even though a short course in German was included until World War I. Most children entering school had a poor understanding of English since German was the predominant language used at home.

Most of the teachers were unmarried women who stayed from one to six years at the Olivenhain school and usually boarded with one of the local families. Some of these teachers included Miss Eleanor O. Lewis, Miss Kate Schiller,

PROGRAM.

For term beginning Sept. 2, 1907, and ending May 29, 1908.

Opening Exercise		9:00	10 min.
Reading 1st Grade		9:10	10 "
" 2nd "		9:20	5 "
" 3rd "		9:25	15 "
Arithmetic 4th		9:40	10 "
" 5 "		9:50	10 "
" 6 "		10:00	10 "
" 7 "		10:10	10 "
" 8 "		10:20	10 "
Recess		10:30	20 "
Language + Phonics		10:50	5 "
" 2nd Grade		10:55	5 "
" 3rd "		11:00	5 "
" 4th "		11:05	5 "
" 5 "		11:10	5 "
Grammar 6 "		11:15	10 "
" 7 "		11:25	10 "
" 8 "		11:35	10 "
Spelling	1122	11:45	15 "
	Noon	12:00	1 hr
Stories		1:00	15 min
Writing or drawing		1:15	15 "
Reading 1st Grade		1:30	10 "
" 2nd "		1:40	10 "
Arithmetic 3rd		1:50	10 "
Reading 4th		2:00	5 "
" 5 "		2:05	5 "
History 6 "		2:10	10 "
" 7 "		2:20	10 "
" 8 "		2:30	10 "
Recess		2:40	20 "
Geography 4th Grade		3:00	10 "
" 5 "		3:10	10 "
" 6 "		3:20	10 "
" 7 "		3:30	10 "
" 8 "		3:40	10 "
German	1122	3:50	10 "

Work schedule used by Miss Kate Schiller in 1907 and 1908.



Miss Leda Winter and class of 1909 on east side of Olivenhain school.



Miss Kate Schiller and class of 1907.

Miss Leda Winter, and Miss Camilla Lee. "Those teachers were wonderful people," recalls Herman Wiegand. "They would bandage up cuts and everything. They were like a teacher and mother too. They had a lot of patience, but, of course, the children never talked back or they would lose part of their hide."

School started at 9:00 a.m. and ended at 2:00 p.m. for grades one through three and 4:00 p.m. for the remainder. Noon recess was an hour long and was the highlight of the day for the children. "The girls usually stayed around the building," recalls Laura A. Miller. "After eating lunch, we played games such as hide and go-seek, run sheep run, drop the handkerchief and what's my trade." "The boys," recalls George T. Bumann, "usually ran down to the creek and went swimming, and we ate our lunch on the run. Sometimes we climbed a hill and rolled rocks into the valley and other times we looked for bird nests. None of us had a watch so we'd guess the time. We'd often be late getting back and we would run like everything."

Most of the children at the Olivenhain school came from working farms and had chores before and after school hours. "We'd get up about day-break," recalls Bruno Denk, "and it would be well after dark when we got through. I milked cows, fed the chickens, and did other chores before walking to school. After we got home, there were chores again. Just keeping enough wood for the stove was a big job. I started using



West side of Olivenhain school. Cistern is now directly under the house at 2365 7th Street.

the walking plow and a team of horses at a very young age. Most kids had Sunday off and there was a class picnic at the end of the school year. Sometimes other kids came over to play but that was pretty rare." Some children quit school to help run the family farm. Also, the death of a parent usually forced the older children to work the farm and support their younger sisters and brothers. Laura Miller recalls, "When Fred Teten died, his son Johnny quit school and worked the farm. He was so young he could hardly reach the handles on the walking plow, but he did the work of a man just the same."



Olivenhain school class of 1929.



Art Cole at age 12, bringing in baled hay which he loaded on wagon.

From 1889 to 1935 the enrollment at the Olivenhain school averaged twenty students. Then in the late 1930's the number of students sharply dropped to nine. The decline continued, and finally the Olivenhain school was

closed in the Spring of 1942 and the children were transferred to the Encinitas School District.

In 1943 the Olivenhain school house was moved to the San Dieguito Union High School and used as a music room for about twenty-five additional years.

MEETING HALL

Based on their desire for community meetings and social gatherings, it seems natural that the early colonists would build a meeting hall. The hall was presumably built in honor of the colonists' 10th anniversary, since the first arrival of colonists was in November 1884 and the decision to build a meeting hall was made in November 1894. In the minutes of a colony meeting held November 4, 1894, is found, "Next item

on the agenda was a discussion if a hall shall be built on the south side of block 36." "The lumber was shipped to Encinitas," recalls Herman Wiegand, "and all the farmers went with their wagons to get it. My father had a wagon drawn by four horses and we stretched that wagon out so it would hold some of the long timbers. I went over to the hall just once and saw it when it was framed and the siding put on. Bill Dommies was out there with two saw horses. Dommies was hired for six dollars to build the hall and many others donated their own work. The trees were planted six or eight months later. Pepper, cypress and eucalyptus trees were planted but only the eucalyptus survived." The exact date the hall was completed is unknown. The first recorded date is found in the minutes of a colony meeting held March 22,



The Olivenhain Meeting Hall in 1976.

1895, which reads "...colony block on which the hall stands." It's possible the hall was completed in December of 1894, but since there's no recorded evidence to support that date, the 1895 date is used. The completed hall consisted of one room, measuring twenty-eight feet wide by thirty-six feet long, and was built on stilts, thus forming a spacious basement. The siding was redwood board and bat with eight built-in glass windows and two front entry doors. The interior included a musicians stage on the south-east corner, a pot belly stove on the north wall and a bar counter extending halfway across the east wall.



Artist conception of the Meeting Hall in 1895 by Adeline Bumann.

The hall became the nerve center of Olivenhain. Community gatherings including dances, picnics, business meetings and 4th of July celebrations were all held at the community hall. On Sunday afternoons a large delegation of Germans could be found drinking beer and playing their favorite card game. The largest gathering of people was on the 4th of July celebration which started in the morning and continued to the following morning. All the local residences were represented, as well as many people from neighboring communities.

Probably the most frequent event at the hall were the Saturday night dances. These early dances attracted people from miles around. They came by foot or by horse-drawn buggies to have fun and dance to the pleasant sounds emitted by the violin and guitar. The beer keg,

which was usually kept in the basement, was carried into the hall and placed on the bar. Brass chips, about the size of a nickel with an embossed 5¢, were used to purchase beer. "I can still see Louis Denk in his brown vest selling the beer," recalls Herman Bumann. "There was so much fun and laughter that it was necessary for someone to check the horses every few minutes to see if they didn't get loose and run away." "At one of those old dances," Herman Wiegand remembers, "the beer got low, maybe two or three gallons left. Some of the guys wanted all that was left, so August Schmidt threw the keg over his shoulder and ran out the door. Schmidt and several others went down Rancho Santa Fe Road to Encinitas Boulevard. They were sitting in the middle of the road drinking this beer when along came Henry Merz carrying a kerosene lantern. When Merz got close enough, Melby Laughter drew his six shooter and shot the lantern out. Merz ran up the road and wasn't seen the rest of the night." Not all the dances were so hair raising. The vast majority were just pure fun and enjoyment for all. The colonists held most of their dances between 1895 and about 1910. The exact number of dances at the hall is unknown, but there were enough to wear out two dance floors.

Soon after the turn of the century the colonist children discovered the pleasures of social activities. The Olivenhain youth and their friends quickly organized, and in May of 1903 formed the Olivenhain Owl Club. The primary purpose of the Owl Club, per the by-laws, was simply "For the mutual and social amusements of its members." Business meetings and activities were managed by a board of directors and officers. Monthly business meetings were short and usually ended with some sort of entertainment. For instance, the closing minutes of the August 22, 1903, meeting reads, "The Copper Mine String Band rendered a few select pieces while those that felt so inclined danced."

The Owl Club rented the colonists' meeting hall and had a club meeting and a dance each month for about a year and a half. Then the



Owl Club membership badge.

members decided to build their own hall. The Owl Club hall was completed in 1904 and stood on the southwest corner of 9th Street and Rancho Santa Fe Road. "The Owl Club hall was larger than the colonists' meeting hall, as wide and maybe ten feet longer," recalls Herman Bumann. "It was built on stilts, the floor being five to six feet off the ground. The underpart of the hall was open and the stilts and remainder of building were clearly visible from Rancho Santa Fe Road. The musicians stage took in the entire width of the west wall, at least two feet high and had a curtain which could be drawn closed."

An admission fee of 75¢ was charged at the monthly club dances. This door charge was intended to repay the two hundred dollars which

was borrowed to build the hall. But the attendance at the dances was far less than the members had anticipated and the door charge only paid for dance expenses. By 1906 the Owl Club was in serious financial trouble and their hall was threatened by foreclosure. An additional two hundred dollars was borrowed and used to cancel the first mortgage. The club rented the hall to repay some of the borrowed money but the remainder came from the pockets of the club members.

Once relieved from financial burdens, the Owl Club had monthly meetings and dances for several years. But their trouble wasn't over. In 1909, the Owl Club hall began to lean to the south. The inadequate bracing was strengthened but each year the hall leaned more and more. By 1911 the hall was at such a threatening angle it was abandoned from fear of total collapse.

Without a hall, the Owl Club went dormant for about four years. Then some of the members approached the colonists and asked if they could use the meeting hall and in exchange the Owl Club would contribute some major improvements. The request was granted, so Eddie Reseck, together with a few helpers, dismantled the Owl Club hall and with some of the salvaged lumber built two dressing rooms and a hallway on the east side of the colonists' meeting hall. The main room of the hall was also changed. The bar was taken out, the musicians stage was



The 1916 addition is clearly defined from the original meeting hall by the stepped roof lines.

raised, and a new dance floor was installed. The improvements were completed by February of 1916 and the Owl Club dances resumed.

The Saturday night dances, between 1916 and 1918, included: neck-tie socials, hard-time dances, box socials, and masquerades. A "mid-night supper" (potluck) was usually served in the basement of the hall and then the dance continued until two or three o'clock in the morning. A phonograph was purchased but proved to be unsatisfactory, so the live orchestra consisting of Ed Reseck and Raymond Valenzuela provided the music.

By late 1918 the meeting hall was in a state of disrepair. The roof needed new shingles and the second dance floor was showing signs of wear. Without sufficient funds for the needed repairs, the Owl Club dances stopped. After 1918 many of the members quit the club and were replaced by a younger group who had fresh ideas. "We needed money," recalls Alex Reseck, "so during a club meeting in 1922 we decided to cut all the

eucalyptus trees down on the hall block and sell the wood. Bill Wiros and myself cut them down with a hand saw and then into short pieces with a power saw. The wood was sold to local people for fourteen dollars a cord. All those trees at the hall block today are second growth from the ones we cut. The roof was repaired in 1922. Then in 1928 they bought a piano, and I installed a new dance floor that's in the hall now."

Dances were regularly held all through the 1920's. Various musicians, including the "Hawaiians" from San Diego, Leigh Young and others, played for short periods. Then beginning in 1930 the dances became very erratic, from one to twelve dances per year. In 1944 and 1945 the Owls Club was very active again. The "Harvey Band", consisting of Fred Harvey, Herman Bumann, Mac Brink and Eddie Cole, provided most of the music. These war-time dances attracted a large number of people including many service men. "There was a big mixture of people," recalls Arthur D. Cole, "in

DANCE

at Olivenhain Owl Hall

Saturday Evening

Good Music and Refreshments
Everybody Cordially Invited

Posters, such as this half size reproduction, were displayed along roads and other public places.



The "Harvey Band", from left to right is Eddie Cole, Herman Bumann, Mac Brink and Fred Harvey. Photo taken 1945.

addition to the local people; there were men from the Coastguard, Marines, Army and Navy who came from the convalescent hospital in Rancho Santa Fe. Considering this mixture, I think there was less trouble at those dances than anywhere in San Diego County. Once there was a big fight that started in the back of the hall. They fought all the way down the steps and were finally on the ground. I quick signaled the band and they played the Star-Spangled Banner and the fight immediately stopped."

During the 1940's the kerosene lanterns were replaced by electric lights. Other alterations included a galvanized roof and cement entry steps. These improvements were the last major contribution made by the Owl Club. After the conclusion of World War II, the Owl Club

dances became very irregular. Even though they continued through 1954, the dances just weren't as successful as they had been in previous years. A juke box was brought into the hall but failed to stir interest. Dances at the Olivenhain meeting hall were simply outdated by the modern night clubs and dance halls in San Diego County.

After the Owl Club dissolved, the meeting hall stood silent and practically abandoned for about 18 years. During this idle period vandals broke the glass windows, and wood shutters had to be installed.

The next organized group to maintain and actively use the meeting hall would be the Olivenhain Town Council.

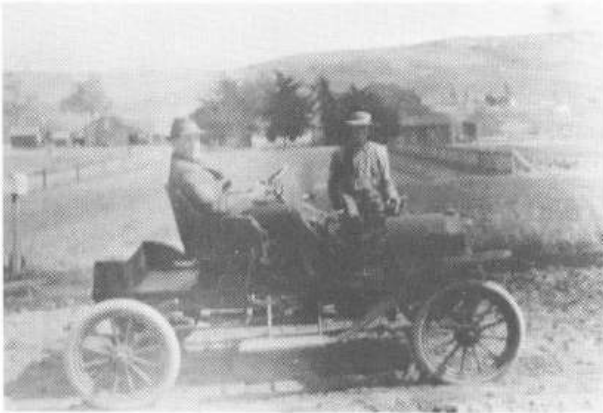


The Owl Club dances in 1945 attracted many people, both civilian and military.

MODERN CONVENIENCES

The arrival of modern conveniences such as the telephone and electricity were delayed to Olivenhain, presumably because of its secluded location and small population.

Prior to rural route delivery, the mail was transported by horse and buggy from Encinitas to the Olivenhain post office located in John Berg's general merchandise store. Then in about 1910 rural delivery came to Olivenhain. "Don Ingersoll was the first rural mail carrier," recalls Bruno Denk. "When he first got the route he rode a wild horse and had a heck of a time. He later used a motorcycle and finally a twelve horse-power Maxwell car. Don was the mailman until about 1919 and then it went from one person to the next."



Don Ingersoll delivering mail in his Maxwell motor car. Bruno Denk standing on Manchester Avenue, one-eighth mile south of Encinitas Boulevard.

The clatter and chugs of automobiles were first heard in Olivenhain in about 1910. With great caution, a few residents purchased a motor car in 1915 and by 1920 almost everybody owned one. The Model T Ford and Overland Roadster were the favored early makes and they, along with their predecessors, brought the horse and buggy days to a close. Motorcycles were also very popular. By 1917 the Harley Davidson, Excelsior and Thor were a common sight in Olivenhain.

Telephone service was extended from Encinitas in 1938 and the convenience of casual conversation or business transactions became as close as one's own home.



A few early automobiles from Olivenhain. (Top) Delivering milk to the Cardiff railroad depot with a Buick roadster and (bottom) an Overland roadster at the Teten ranch.



An Olivenhain motorcycle gang. From left to right is Herman Bumann, Eddie Cole, Henry Cole and Frank Laughter. Photo taken 1925.

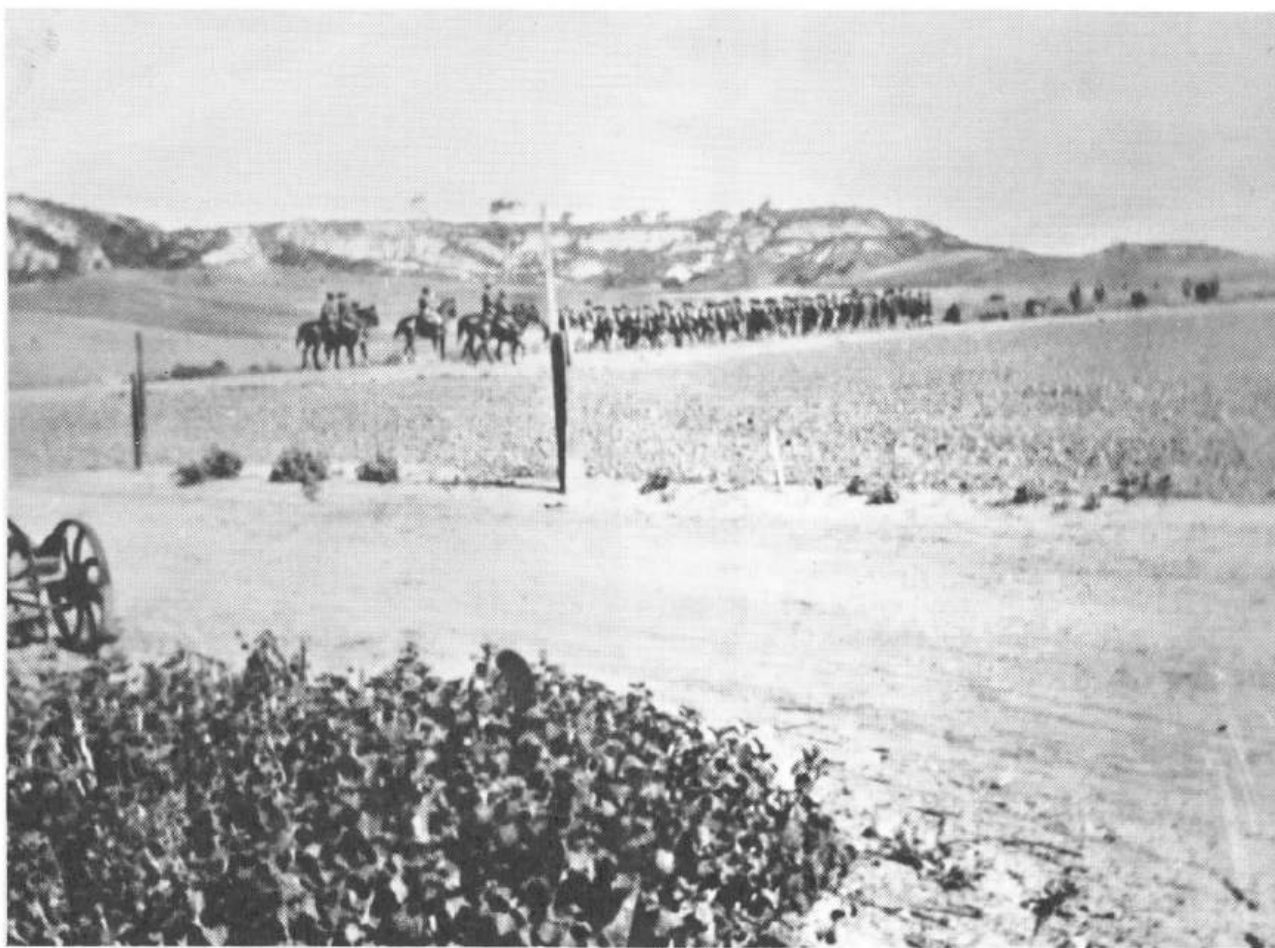
Electricity came to Olivenhain in about 1946 and the dream of electric lighting, appliances and even a radio became a reality. But probably the greatest benefit from electricity was in the refrigeration of perishable foods, particularly

meat. Before electricity was available a few people had a kerosene or propane refrigerator, but most people smoked, pickled or recooked meat before each meal.

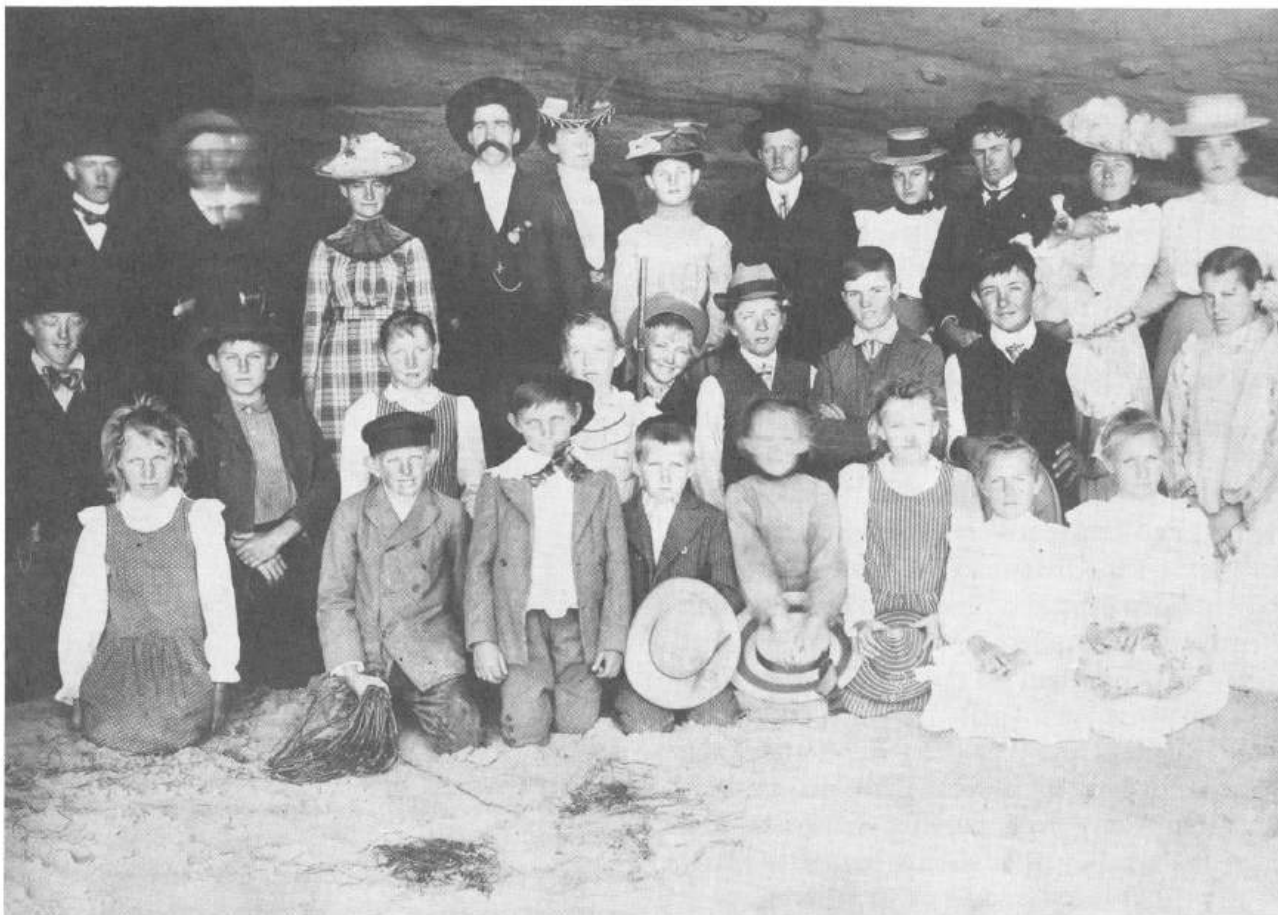
WORLD WAR ONE

During the Spring of 1918 the United States Army used Rancho Santa Fe and outlining areas to train infantry soldiers. An entire regiment, possibly two or three thousand men, were trained each week and then presumed sent to France where they fought in the ultimate battles of World War One. Almost every day they marched through Olivenhain, the formation being four abreast and about a mile long. The steady column of foot soldiers was occasionally broken by horse mounted officers and covered

wagons. Besides marching, the soldiers also staged many war maneuvers and occasionally turned the quiet community of Olivenhain into a battle ground. "One time there were about two hundred soldiers resting under the trees at the meeting hall," recalls Arthur D. Cole. "Another large group had seen them and were preparing for a surprise attack. But my brother and I were walking to school and saw what was happening and got so excited we alerted the soldiers in the hall block. The battle started almost immediately. The attackers shot first (both sides used blank ammunition) then those in the hall block returned the fire. There was really a calamity for awhile. We watched the whole battle and really enjoyed it."



Military on maneuvers marching one-quarter mile north of Encinitas Boulevard, along Rancho Santa Fe Road, in the year 1918.



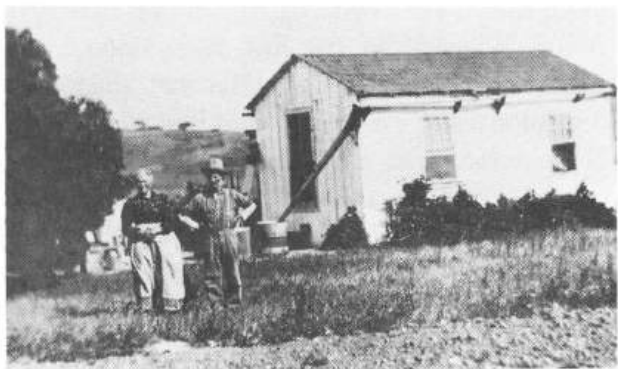
Olivenhain group enjoying beach picnic in about 1906. Location: near north end of Tide Park in Solana Beach.

WHO WERE THEY?

The basic population in Olivenhain from 1887 to 1950 was of German ancestry since the majority came during the colony era. These people had endured the colony break down and developed common occupational trends and,

during the process, became a very close knit community. This unity was further strengthened in later years when many of the original families became related by marriage.

Considering the many hundreds of people that lived in Olivenhain prior to 1950, it's difficult to know where to begin and where to end,



Mr. and Mrs. Peter Chalvet, Location: 200 feet north of Fortuna Ranch Road and Bumann Road.



Dommes family in 1892. From left to right are Johanna, Elsie, Willie, Alexander, Emma and William.

who in include and who to exclude. A few people resided on the outskirts of Olivenhain long before the colony was organized. The Osuna family, for instance, occupied the land now known as Rancho Santa Fe and Peter Chalvet herded flocks of sheep in the Olivenhain valley prior to 1884. Even though these people became neighbors and good friends with the Olivenhain residents, they neither owned nor greatly contributed to the Olivenhain history. Many people that did reside in Olivenhain only stayed a few years, then moved to distant areas, leaving little trace of their prior existence or accomplishments. Other families like the Dommies, Baechts and Lickerts were established residents and farmers in Olivenhain for many years, but they also departed and time is gradually erasing their story. Then there were those families that stayed in Olivenhain for the remainder of their lives, likewise with their descendants, and in some instances four or more generations of the same family have lived in the Olivenhain valley. The following seven families settled in the Olivenhain valley or adjoining homestead land prior to 1900 and stayed for three generations or longer.

BUMANN

The Bumanns began their migration to America sometime before the Civil War. First to arrive was John Christian Bumann. Some time after the war John married Eva Barbara in Quincy, Illinois, and years later they moved to Denver, Colorado.

Next to arrive was Frederick August Johann Bumann and his second born son Herman Frederick Wilhelm. Both had journeyed from Grosz Garz, Germany, in 1882 and quickly settled in Denver, Colorado, where Frederick found employment in a small tailor shop.

In May of 1884 John, Frederick and Herman joined the Colony Olivenhain and six months later all three arrived on the colony land. In due time each one selected their five acre farm site: John, block 92; Herman, block 64; and Frederick, block 23.



Emma and Herman Bumann on their wedding day December 20, 1893.

John left the colony soon after his arrival and homesteaded at the termination of Fortuna Ranch Road. The following year John C. was reunited with his wife Eva and their three children, John H., Lena and Minnie. John C. and Eva resided on their homestead for the remainder of their lives.

Frederick remained on his colony block and lived in a one room shanty until his death in 1893.

Herman remained on the colony land for more than a year, residing part of that time with Adam Wiegand in the San Elijo flood plain. After the Pinther trouble, Herman abandoned the colony and eventually sold his colony land. He purchased an existing 160 acre homestead (located near the termination of Bumann Road) from Conrad Stroebel in 1886, paying about \$50 for land and improvements. At first Herman only had a small one room shanty, a lean-to barn, two horses and a plow, but as time passed more buildings were added, the fields cleared and the homestead gradually became a working farm.



The Herman Bumann homestead ranch in March of 1927.

In December of 1893, Herman F. Bumann married Emma Marie Junker, a former native of Harthau, Germany. In the years to follow Emma and Herman had twelve children: Marie Emilie, Laura Annie, Anna Evelyn, Louise Marjorie, Clara Emelyn, Ernest Waldemar, Herman Charles, Alta Elizabeth, Emil Frederick, Mollie Lucille, George Theodore (the author's father) and William John. All twelve children worked their parent's farm and attended the Olivenhain school during their youth.

Herman F. dry farmed his fields for more than thirty-five years and also sold a variety of livestock and poultry goods. The ranch was expanded by purchasing adjoining homesteads and eventually included 480 acres.

In February of 1926 Herman F. passed away and was followed by Emma ten years later. All the children gradually left the homestead ranch

except one. Herman C. Bumann continued to work the ranch, making farming his lifetime career. During World War Two, Herman also was away from the ranch for some time in the Army and was a combat veteran of battle with the enemy on Attu Island, Alaska, in 1943.

SILAS COLE

Silas Dennison Cole was born December 10, 1852. His parents were of Dutch descent and had resided in Pennsylvania for many years. At age twenty-two Silas started West, first to Michigan and then to Illinois where he met and married Mary Adelaide Kent. In 1884 Mary and Silas were in Nebraska where their first four children, Clarence E., Hattie M., Charles and Florence M., were born. Then in 1892 the Cole family moved to Del Mar, California, and after a few years moved again to Olivenhain. The exact



Mary and Silas Cole sometime before 1896.

date they arrived in Olivenhain is unknown but the school register lists the Cole children for the first time in fiscal year 1894-1895. Since their last son, Gerhart, was born in January of 1894, his actual birthplace was probably Del Mar.

Silas built their home and barns near the northeast corner of Lone Jack Road and Fortuna Ranch Road. He also built a stone smokehouse which in the years to follow became an unofficial landmark.

Mary A. Cole passed away in January 1896, leaving Silas to raise their five children, who at the time were from two to twelve years of age. He was a carpenter and farmer by trade but was also very versatile and applied his talents to many other professions.

As the children grew older, they married and went their separate ways. Clarence E. Cole married Amanda C. Koehn and became a prominent farmer in Olivenhain. Hattie M. Cole

married Joe Hess and for a time they owned a grocery store in Olivenhain. Charles Cole married Leda C. Winter, a former teacher at the Olivenhain school. Florence M. Cole married John Peters. Gerhart Cole worked for a mining firm in Mexico then moved to Arkansas, Oklahoma, and finally to Lakeside, California, where he passed away in 1965.

In his senior years Silas resided with his sons and daughters in Olivenhain and Lakeside, California. Silas died in December of 1938 and was laid to rest in the Olivenhain cemetery.

CLARENCE COLE

Clarence E. Cole was born in Nebraska on May 17, 1884, being the first child to Silas D. and Mary A. Cole. In about 1895 Clarence moved to Olivenhain with his parents and resided on the northeast corner of Lone Jack Road and Fortuna Ranch Road.

In about 1904 Clarence married Amanda Clara Koehn. Amanda's parents, Wilhelmina



Clarence Cole family in 1911. From left to right are Amanda, Edward, Clarence, Arthur and Henry.



The Cole family at their home in about 1923. From left to right are Amanda, Henry, Edward and Arthur. Name of boy on buggy is not known.

and Ferdinand, had moved to Olivenhain in March of 1885 being members of the Colony Olivenhain.

For the first few years of their marriage Amanda and Clarence lived at Silas Cole's ranch where their first son, Arthur D., was born in 1906. Then the following year Clarence built a new home located near 3177 Lone Jack Road (a small grove of eucalyptus trees still marks the building site). The Cole family resided at the new ranch for approximately six years, and during that time Henry F. and Edward C. were born.

Clarence moved his family to Cardiff, California, in 1913 but returned to Olivenhain three years later and resided at the water company ranch located near the termination of White Owl Drive. The Coles stayed at the water company ranch and farmed the surrounding land until the children married and moved to other locations. Only one of the three boys, Arthur D., stayed in Olivenhain and began a lifetime career of farming.

In later years Amanda lived with her eldest son until her death in 1964. Clarence died six years later in Chowchilla, California.

LOUIS DENK

Louis Denk was born in Weseritz, Austria, on September 9, 1856. He immigrated to America and first settled in Chicago and later moved to Denver, Colorado. Since Louis was one of the

first seven members to join the Colony Olivenhain on May 21, 1884, he probably resided in Denver before the colony was conceived.

When the first group of colonists arrived on the colony land on November 8, 1884, Louis was with them. He selected block seven (located near Manchester Avenue and Colony Terrace Road) for his farm site and was prepared for a comfortable future. After the Pinther ordeal, Louis remained on his colony land and opened a cobbler shop (he was a shoemaker by trade), but after the mass exodus from Olivenhain there simply weren't enough people to support the shoe business and Louis turned to farming.

In July of 1894 Louis Denk married Helene Krause. She was born in Newholdensleben, Germany, and came to America with her first husband and parents. After the death of her husband Helene moved from Texas to California and Olivenhain.



The Louis Denk family in about 1899. From left to right are Louis, Bruno, Alex, Helene and Ludwig.

Soon after their marriage Helene and Louis built a new home located at 4404 Manchester Avenue. The original house and related barns cover a large area and has been the home for five generations of the Denk family.

Helene and Louis had four children: Alex Louis, Bruno, Ludwig Fredrick and Anna Marie. All four attended the Olivenhain School and worked their father's farm during their youth. Only one of the children, Bruno, stayed in Olivenhain and began a lifetime career of dry farming.

Louis earned a livelihood by dry farming in Olivenhain for more than thirty-five years. Probably his greatest community achievement was when he became president of the Colony Olivenhain in 1888 and held that position until the last recorded meeting in November of 1897.

In 1918 Helene and Louis moved to 4241 Manchester Avenue where they resided for the remainder of their senior years. Louis Denk passed away in July of 1922 and was followed by Helen in October of 1925.

BRUNO DENK

Bruno Denk was born on May 3, 1897, to Helene and Louis Denk at their home along Manchester Avenue in Olivenhain. He obtained his education at the Olivenhain Elementary School but the greatest portion of his youth was occupied by farm chores, which prepared him for a lifetime career in farming.

Bruno married Alwine Caroline Hauck on February 26, 1918. They had known one another from childhood since the Hauck family also came to Olivenhain during the colony era.

Herman Otto Hauck immigrated from Germany to America in 1853 and married his first wife, Emelie Mobus. In May of 1884 Herman joined the Colony Olivenhain and arrived on the colony land in November of that same year with his wife and two children, Walter R. and Harry H. Disappointed by the Pinther trouble, Herman moved his family to Vista, California, where Alice M. was born. Then in 1888 the Hauck family moved back to Olivenhain and



The Herman Hauck family in about 1892. From left to right are Alice, Harry, Herman, Edna and Walter.

built their home on the southwest corner of Rancho Santa Fe Road and Whisper Wind Drive. Their fourth child, Edna E., was born in 1889 and two years later Mrs. Emelie Hauck died. Herman remarried in 1894 to Alwine Antonete Roben but she passed away the following year giving birth to her surviving daughter, Alwine Caroline.

Soon after her birth Alwine C. Hauck was taken in by a childless couple named William and Caroline Fauth. The Fauths came to Olivenhain in March of 1885, being a member of the Colony Olivenhain and built their home about a hundred feet south of El Camino Del Norte and Val Sereno Drive, where Alwine resided for the first twenty-three years of her life. Times were rough, especially after Mr. Fauth's death in 1898, leaving Caroline to raise Alwine and forge a meager existence. Mrs. Fauth took care of Alwine, but Alwine's father paid for her care and she was often at her father's house.



Caroline and William Fauth at their ranch located a hundred feet south of El Camino Del Norte and Val Sereno Drive. Photo taken about 1897.

Louis Denk retired the same year Alwine and Bruno were married and turned over his entire farming operation to them. Bruno improved and expanded the ranch until it was considered one of the largest farming operations in San Diego county, encompassing 350 acres owned and an additional 1,500 acres leased.

During his farming career, Bruno also participated in a wide range of civil affairs ranging from trustee for the San Dieguito Union High School to chairman of the Bean Grower's Association. He was also a member of the soil conservation board and received a certificate of merit for work on soil and engineering contoured ditches.

Alwine and Bruno had three children: Daniel Herman, Harley Ludwig and June Shirley. All three graduated from the Olivenhain School and helped work the Denk ranch during their youth. Daniel and Harley remained in Olivenhain and raised their families.

In 1955 Alwine and Bruno moved into their new home at 4251 Colony Terrace. The following year Harley L. took over the Denk farming operation, allowing his parents to enjoy a well deserved retirement.

BERNHARD RESECK

Bernhard Reseck was born in Germany August 20, 1859, and resided for many years in



Wedding picture of Alwine and Bruno Denk in 1918.



The Reseck family at their homestead ranch in about 1892. From left to right are Martha, Adolph, Anna, Frank, Nellie and Bernhard.

Rheinsberg where he learned his occupational trade as carpenter. Sometime during his early twenties Bernhard immigrated to America and settled in Chicago. He found work at the Pullman Car Shop and applied his carpentry talents at building railroad cars. While in Chicago Bernhard met and married a German born girl named Anna Brokop.

After their marriage Anna and Bernhard joined the Colony Olivenhain and in February of 1885 arrived on the colony land with their first born son, Adolph T. They chose block number five for their colony farm site and

prepared for a prosperous future. In the months to follow Bernhard constructed many homes and shanties on the colony land.

The Pinther trouble shattered the expectations of the Reseck family. They abandoned their colony land and homesteaded a 160 acre section near the termination of Lone Jack Road. The house and barns were constructed on the north side of Dove Hollow Road about three tenths mile east of Lone Jack Road. The Reseck Ranch (in later years known as the Lone Jack Ranch) was considered one of the best in the Olivenhain area. Bernhard seasonally planted



The Lone Jack Ranch in 1909.

his fields to wheat, barley, corn and oats but also sold many other farm products including dairy produce and poultry goods.

From 1886 to 1901 Anna gave birth to ten of the eleven Reseck children: Nellie M., Martha A., Frank J., Edward E., Fred C., Alex D., Agnes L., John Louise E., and Benard T. All the children attended the Olivenhain School and worked their parent's farm during their youth.

Bernhard sold the homestead ranch in 1909 and moved his family to Paradise Valley, California (located near National City) where Anna passed away in 1910. In later years Bernhard moved to San Diego and then to Los Angeles where he passed away in March of 1951.

ALEX RESECK

Only one of the Reseck children followed his father's footsteps and pursued a life of farming and carpentry. Alex Donald Reseck returned to

the Lone Jack Ranch in 1913 and farmed ambitiously until 1918. After his military service in World War One Alex leased the Lone Jack Ranch in 1920 and during that same year married Clara Emelyn Bumann. The young couple farmed the Lone Jack Ranch for five years, relying heavily on field crops, poultry and twenty milk cows to provide an income.

In 1925 Clara, Alex and their baby daughter, Violet, moved a short distance north of the Lone Jack Ranch where Alex found work at the Encinitas Copper Mine. This is where Alex began his career in carpentry work and in years to follow obtained a sizeable homestead. Even though the mine closed after a few months, the Resecks resided at the mining camp for many more years. During this time Alex built an increasing number of homes and barns in the surrounding communities, eventually making carpentry work his permanent occupation.



Alex Reseck's homestead ranch in about 1939.



A converted mining shack became a comfortable home for Clara, Alex and Violet Reseck. Photo taken in 1940.

In the early 1930s Alex discovered that the mining claims had expired so he filed claim using the homestead act and was awarded 230 acres. This was probably the last section of land obtained by the homestead act in the Olivenhain area.

The Reseck family moved to Cardiff in 1945 and after a few years moved to Encinitas where Alex and Clara built their permanent home.

FRIEDRICH TETEN

The date and birthplace of Friedrich Wilhelm Teten is unknown, but considering his fluent German and age of death he was probably

born in Germany in about 1856. He later married Anna J. Alting and resided in Chicago and Barton County, Kansas, where their first eight children were born. But tragedy struck the Teten family and six of the children died at very young ages.

In March of 1892 Friedrich Teten joined the Colony Olivenhain and arrived that same year on the colony land with his expecting wife and two children, Margaret Anna and John Jürgen Jacob. They had previously selected their farm site via mail correspondence. This particular parcel of land originally belonged to Theodore Pinther, and after a short time Friedrich moved the old Pinther house from its original location to 211 Rancho Santa Fe Road.

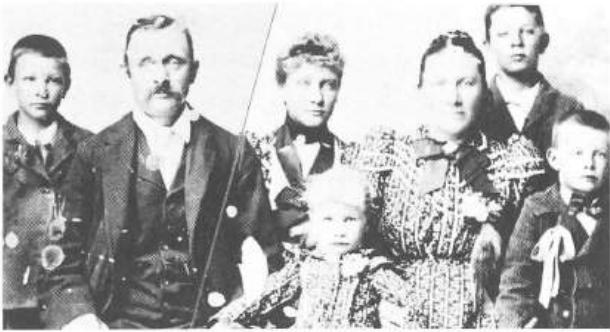
Soon after their arrival, Friedrich constructed a blacksmith shop and exercised his trade for about ten years. He also dry farmed his land to supplement the deficient but steady income from the smithing business.

From 1892 to 1897 Anna gave birth to three children: William Johnson, Carl Friedrich and Marie. All five of the Teten children were educated at the Olivenhain School and worked the family farm during their youth. In later years Margaret married Melby Laughter, John married Laura A. Bumann, William married Alta E. Bumann, Marie married several times and Carl remained a bachelor.

Friedrich was stricken by tuberculosis in his



Early photograph (before 1900) of Teten ranch at 211 Rancho Santa Fe Road looking west.



Friedrich Teten family in about 1900. From left to right is William, Friedrich, Margaret, Marie, Anna, John and Carl.

mid forties and gradually regressed until his death in 1903. Anna kept the family together and with the help of the older children continued the Teten farming operation for many years. During her senior years, Anna resided with her youngest son until her death in 1927.

JOHN TETEN / HARVEY MILLER

John Jürgen Jacob Teten was born November 28, 1889, in Barton County, Kansas. He moved to Olivenhain with his parents in 1892 and resided at 211 Rancho Santa Fe Road, which became his permanent home. John was thirteen years old when his father passed away, and he ambitiously took over the farming labors, gradually taking over the entire farming operation which he worked for the remainder of his life.

In November of 1917 Johnny married Laura Anna Bumann and in August of 1918 they had their first child, Viola Annie, but a tragic accident took her life before reaching two years of



John Teten family in about 1943. From left to right is Gladys, Roger, John, Laura and Evelyn.

age. In 1920 Evelyn Louise was born, followed by Gladys Laura in 1926 and Roger John in 1928. The children grew up on the ranch and attended the Olivenhain School.

Johnny and Laura dry farmed their land with hay, grain and beans. They raised a moderate number of cattle, thousands of turkeys and New Hampshire Red laying hens, selling five thousand dozen eggs each year. John also started a crop harvesting business in the mid 1930's and serviced various farms in the San Dieguito district. His equipment included both bean and grain threshing machines and a hay baler. In 1939 John purchased a grain harvesting combine and Cletrac tractor. That year the harvesting business took John and his helpers as far as El Cajon.

John's health began to fail in the late 1940's and gradually worsened until his death in May of 1956. Laura remarried to Harvey Archie



Laura and Harvey Miller at their home in 1974.

Miller. Following their marriage they lived on the ranch where they continued to farm. They planted the last crop of lima beans in 1975. Laura and Harvey gradually began their retirement maintaining only a few cows and growing spectacular vegetable gardens at their home along Rancho Santa Fe Road. Laura passed away in March of 1979.

CARL TETEN

Carl Friedrich Teten was born on January 8, 1895, and recalls "It was three o'clock in the morning, I remember that. I saw the clock on the wall." Carl lived at his parents' ranch until



If you're greeted by Carl Teten in this manner, don't worry, he enjoys friends and rarely shoots.

1921 when he and his mother moved. They first lived in a small house near the Teten ranch and the following year moved to the former Baecht house located at the termination of "F" Street in Olivenhain, which became their permanent home. Carl dry farmed in Olivenhain for many years and also enjoyed a variety of other occupations including driving stage to Imperial County. He prefers the solitary life as a bachelor, but yet enjoys occasional visits by friends whom he smothers with his endless humor.

ADAM WIEGAND FAMILY

Adam Wiegand was born in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1851. At the age of nineteen he fought in the Prussian War and was later captured and imprisoned by the French. Adam managed to escape and board a sailing ship destined for the United States. He first settled in South Dakota and then moved to Chicago where he found employment at the Union Meat Packing Company. During his employment at Chicago, Adam resided at a boarding house where he met and courted Christiana Schmidt.

In 1885 Adam and several other workers at the meat packing company became interested in a newly founded German colony in California. Both Christiana and Adam saved as much money as possible and in February of 1885 Adam joined the Colony Olivenhain. In April of 1885 Adam arrived on the colony land and selected blocks 48 and 49 for their future home.

Christiana arrived several months later in San Diego where she and Adam were married.

Their return to Olivenhain was disappointing. The Pinther scandal had been discovered and the whole colony was in an uproar. Adam and Christiana soon discovered their existing land deed was worthless, so with great frustration they abandoned the colony land and filed for a 160 acre homestead located two miles east of Olivenhain. They built their home on the east side of Aliso Canyon Road where their five children, Alwin, Elizabeth, Herman, Amelia and Fritz, were born.

In 1903 the Wiegands were offered a good price for their homestead ranch so they sold and moved back into Olivenhain to what is known as the water company ranch (located near the termination of White Owl Drive).

They rented the water company ranch for about three years and during that time built a new home and barns near 3748 Manchester Avenue. The 246 acre ranch along Manchester Avenue became the permanent home for the Adam Wiegand family. As the children grew older, Elizabeth Wiegand married Lucas Scott and Amelia Wiegand married Alex Lux. The three boys also married and went their separate ways. Both Herman and Alwin became prominent farmers in the Olivenhain area.

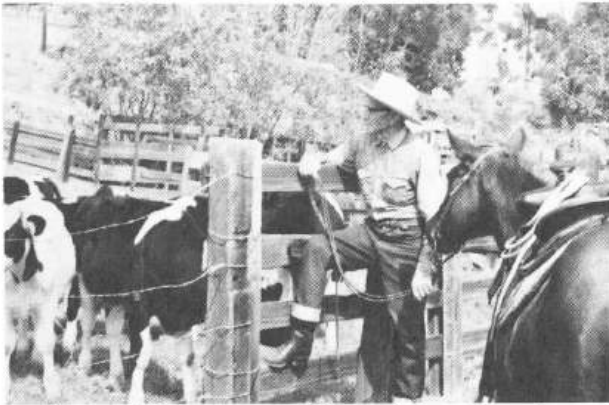


The Wiegand family at their homestead ranch is about 1893. From left to right is Christiana, Amelia, Adam, Herman, Elizabeth and Alwin.

After a very full and rewarding life, Adam Wiegand passed away on December 26, 1921, and was followed 29 years later by Christiana.

HERMAN WIEGAND

Herman Wiegand was born at his father's homestead ranch located along Aliso Canyon Road on April 15, 1890.



Herman Wiegand at age 84 examining some calves.

In November of 1903 Adam and Christiana sold the ranch and moved back to Olivenhain. Herman vividly remembers that day seventy-three years later. "I walked out of the gate and took a last look, then turned around and walked away." Herman's permanent place of residence became his father's new ranch along Manchester Avenue.

At age 23 Herman became interested in a girl named Mary Anna Meyer, who at the time resided in Orange, California. His weekly courting visits were accomplished by railroad which kept Herman very busy until they were married in 1914.

After their honeymoon trip at Santa Catalina, Mary and Herman moved into their new home located at 3748 Manchester Avenue, which Adam Wiegand had built for them as a wedding gift. In the years to follow Mary and Herman were blessed with two daughters, Mildred C. and Mary Ann E., and one son, William H.

Herman dry farmed many acres in Olivenhain and outlining areas, beans being the main commercial crop. But probably his greatest interest was in cattle, which he raised for approximately sixty years.

In December of 1969 Mary passed away, leaving Herman and his first daughter, Mildred, at the Wiegand home along Manchester Avenue.

ALWIN WIEGAND

Alwin Wiegand was born March 7, 1887, being the first of five children of Christiana and Adam Wiegand. At age seventeen he left his birth place along Aliso Canyon Road and moved to Olivenhain with his parents, brothers and sisters. Alwin resided and helped farm his father's ranch located near 3748 Manchester Avenue until he was twenty-eight years old.

During his later bachelorhood, Alwin was introduced to Frieda Wiehle. After courting for some time, Frieda and Alwin were married on Oct. 26, 1914, in the San Bernardino Lutheran Church. They moved into their new home located at 1355 El Camino Real which was a wedding gift given to them by Adam Wiegand. This became their place of residence for the remainder of their lives.



Alwin Wiegand in his senior years.

Their six children, Marguerite E., John H., James A., Daniel H., Carl F., and Harold D., attended the Green Valley Elementary School and helped work the farm.

During his farming career Alwin was a very ambitious worker and expected his fellow workers to share his enthusiasm. He started farming beans along Green Valley and with the help of his boys gradually expanded the farming operation to include 10,000 acres.

Alwin's civic endeavors ranged from serving as chairman of the board on the Olivenhain Municipal Water District to a board member for the Bank of America in Encinitas (then located on the northeast corner of Highway 101 and "D" Street).

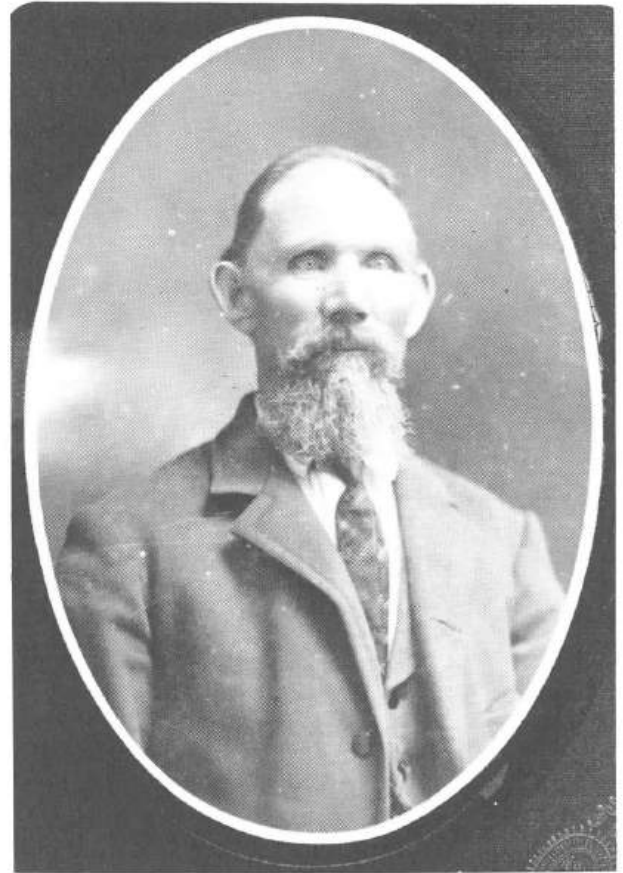
Frieda passed away October 1, 1968. Alwin suffered several strokes during that same year which slowed down his lifestyle, and his death came in December of 1973.

WILHELM WIRO

About 1879, Wilhelm Wiro and Wilhelmina Bachaus recited their marriage vows in Hannover, Germany, and began a lifetime adventure which led them to Olivenhain. They shared a growing desire to immigrate to America, but family ties temporarily kept them in Hannover where their first two children, Sophie K. and William, were born.

Around 1882 Wilhelm could wait no longer, so he sailed to America and settled in Chicago where he found employment in a small butcher shop. Wilhelmina and the two children joined him a year later. The Wiro family stayed in Chicago for several years, and during that time William suffered from whooping cough and died before his second birthday. Wilhelm and Wilhelmina had their third child in 1884 whom they named Lena.

In late 1884 Wilhelm became interested in the Colony Olivenhain and pledged his membership on November 30. Forty-five days later the Wiro family arrived on the colony land and selected block seventy for their farm site. A house was soon constructed on their colony



Wilhelm Wiro in his senior years.

block (located at 778 Rancho Santa Fe Road) where Frederick William and Charles Peter were born.

Wilhelm dry farmed his fields for twenty-five years, raising a variety of crops including oats, corn and hay. The Wiro farm was gradually expanded and by 1910 contained two hundred acres.

Wilhelmina passed away in October of 1908. Wilhelm remarried in 1910 but financial problems caused a divorce within the year. Wilhelm sold the ranch to his eldest son in 1911 and traveled to Australia where he stayed for a year, then returned to the United States and resided in Santa Rosa, California. In 1917 Wilhelm moved back to Olivenhain and lived with his eldest son Frederick for the remainder of his senior years. Wilhelm Wiro passed away in March of 1927.

BILL WIRO

Frederick William Wiro (usually known as Bill Wiro) was born January 25, 1887, being the fourth of five children to Wilhelm and Wilhelmina Wiro. His birthplace was in the Wiro home located at 778 Rancho Santa Fe Road in Olivenhain where he resided for the remainder of his life. Bill only completed the fourth grade at the Olivenhain School since farm chores occupied much of his youthful years. At age 24 Bill purchased his father's 200 acre farm which he and his younger brother (Charlie) jointly dry farmed for several years.

In 1916 Bill became interested in a neighboring girl named Marie Emilie Bumann. After a memorable courtship they eloped and were married on November 20, 1916. Marie and Bill journeyed to Santa Rosa, California, for their honeymoon and visited Bill's father, then returned to their home in Olivenhain. In the

years to follow, Marie and Bill were blessed with two children, William Herman and Clara Louise. Both children graduated from the Olivenhain School and then attended the Oceanside High School where they completed their high school education.

Bill dry farmed his fields and occasionally leased additional land. He farmed oats, hay and lima beans for more than forty years. Probably his best crop production was in 1917 when he threshed 499 sacks of limas which sold at 13¢ a pound.

On January 4, 1956, Bill Wiro suffered a fatal heart attack and passed away in the same room where he was born. Marie never remarried and remained at the Wiro home at 778 Rancho Santa Fe Road where she resided until she passed away in March of 1980.

CHARLIE WIRO

Charles Peter Wiro was born February 2, 1890, being the last child born to Wilhelmina and Wilhelm Wiro. He obtained his formal education at the Olivenhain School, but, like his brothers and sisters, much of Charlie's youth was occupied by farming chores.

In 1909 Charlie married Ruth Casserette, who previously resided in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Three years after their marriage Ruth and Charles moved to Chowchilla, California, but returned to Olivenhain in 1917. For the first few years they resided at the old Seewer house (then located near the northwest corner of Lone Jack Road and "E" Street), then they moved the house to 704 Rancho Santa Fe Road where the Wiro family lived for more than sixty years.

During his farming career, Charlie raised the usual Olivenhain crops including oats, barley and beans. He also operated a crop harvesting business in 1917 with his elder brother.

Ruth and Charlie had four children, Martha Wilhelmina, Vernice Ruth, Robert Charles and Richard Bedford. All four children attended the Olivenhain School and helped work their parents' farm during their youth.

Charlie's health failed during his senior years



Marie and Bill Wiro at their ranch in 1927.

and he finally entered a convalescent home in Ramona, California, where he passed away in November of 1950. Ruth never remarried and remained at the Wiro ranch with her youngest son for many more years.

A FEW OTHERS

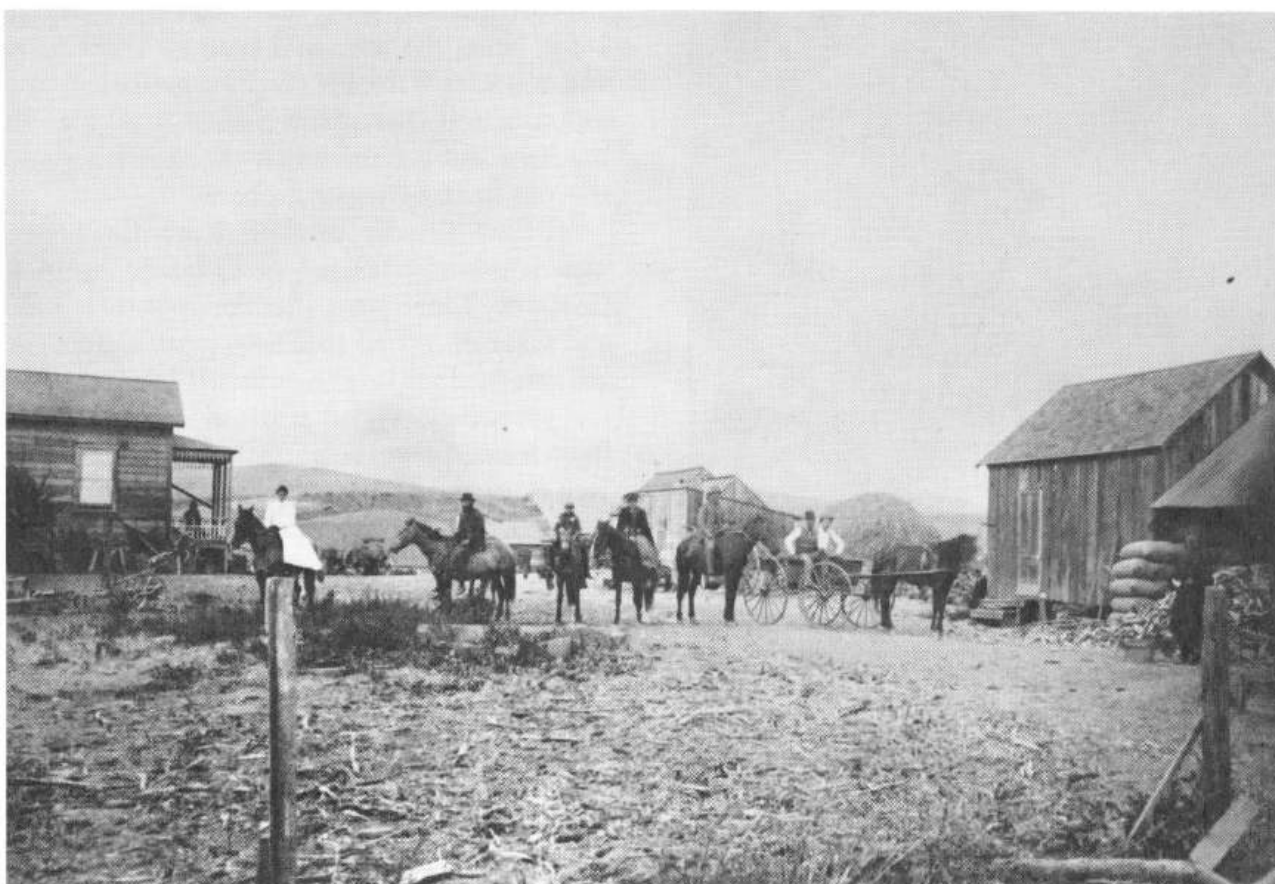
Then there were a few people whose personalities or actions added a little color to an otherwise routine farming community.

George Tausch was a glassblower by trade and came to Olivenhain as a colonist in 1884. He was a bachelor and resided at 2566 El Camino Del Norte where he stayed for the remainder of his life. "George was a strong supporter of the wine industry," recalls Marie E. Wiro. "One time he had been drinking heavily and decided to draw a pail of water from the cistern. He leaned over the edge and suddenly fell in. There was enough water to cushion his fall but it was

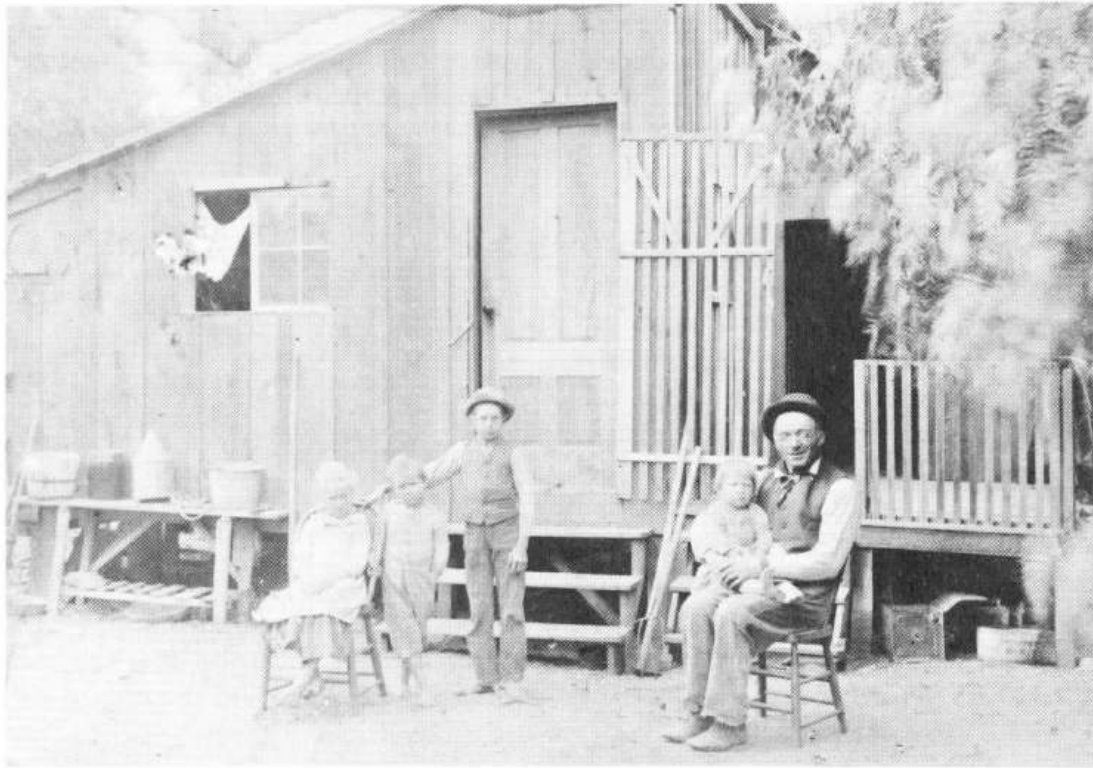
raining that night and the cistern began to fill up. Hours later he was standing in deep water; it was pretty well up to his neck. George yelled and yelled for help and was finally rescued."

Conrad Gut came to Olivenhain in the 1880's and built his home near the stream in the San Elijo flood plain. "Conrad was a kind old man," recalls Laura A. Miller, "and loved children. He had a habit of carrying a pink geranium in his mouth. He didn't smoke but almost always had a geranium. His house was built high off the ground but not high enough for one of those big floods. When the water began flowing through his house, Conrad had to climb a high tree. He was rescued the following morning by neighbors."

John Etzelstorfer came to Olivenhain in 1885, being a member of the colony. Some people say he was highly educated and dabbled in politics back East. John and his wife Kate resided in a



Everybody dressed in their Sunday best at the Tausch ranch.



Conrad Gut holding Bill Teten while Margaret Teten, John Teten and Walter Hauck stand by. Photo taken about 1896.

small house on the northeast corner of Rancho Santa Fe Road and Encinitas Boulevard where Kate passed away in 1901. John remained in Olivenhain for many more years, earning a small but substantial income on his property.



John Etzelstorfer by his house in about 1925. Location: northeast corner of Encinitas Boulevard and Rancho Santa Fe Road.

DOCTOR

Olivenhain never had a resident medical doctor; therefore, the people largely depended on their own ability to treat injuries, illnesses and deliver babies. Many improvised remedies were employed including homemade salve and medicinal teas. A doctor was called if the injury or illness was of a serious nature. For many years the closest doctor was located in Escondido or San Diego. Then in 1905 Dr. R.S. Reid established a business in Oceanside and served the Olivenhain area until Dr. Charles V. Lindsay came to Encinitas in 1926.

CHURCH

Church services were usually held in the school house and occasionally in a private home. The meeting hall was rarely used as a church prior to the 1940's. Some of the very early services were conducted by local residents.

Then beginning in about 1906 traveling Lutheran ministers came to Olivenhain once to twice a month; these included Pastor Limebrook and Pastor Paul Scherf from San Diego and Pastor L.H. Jagels from Escondido.

CEMETERY

In 1891 Mrs. Emilie Hauck was buried in the Olivenhain cemetery located near the termination of Colony Terrace. This was the first burial on the property formerly set aside by the colonists for a graveyard. During the next eighty-five years, one hundred and thirty-three other people were buried, including most of the original settlers of Olivenhain and many of their descendants. The cemetery is still active and several graves are added each year.



Partial view of the Olivenhain cemetery.

The one and nine-tenths acre cemetery is owned and maintained primarily by the descendants of the original settlers. There is no caretaker since lawns and flower gardens were never planted. When a death occurs the remaining family is required to make all necessary arrangements, including digging the grave, ordering rough box, and grave closure.

For eighty years the cemetery was managed by volunteer help. The land deed was held in trust by the Denk and Wiro families and passed from father to son for three generations. Then in the summer of 1971 the Olivenhain Cemetery Council was formed and incorporated in November of that same year. Per the articles of

incorporation, "The specific and primary purpose for which the corporation is formed is to perpetuate ownership and management of the Olivenhain cemetery."

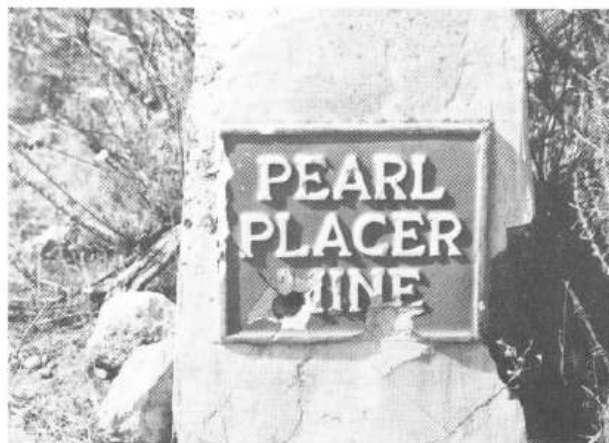


Annual weed hoeing and clean-up. Photo taken 1974.

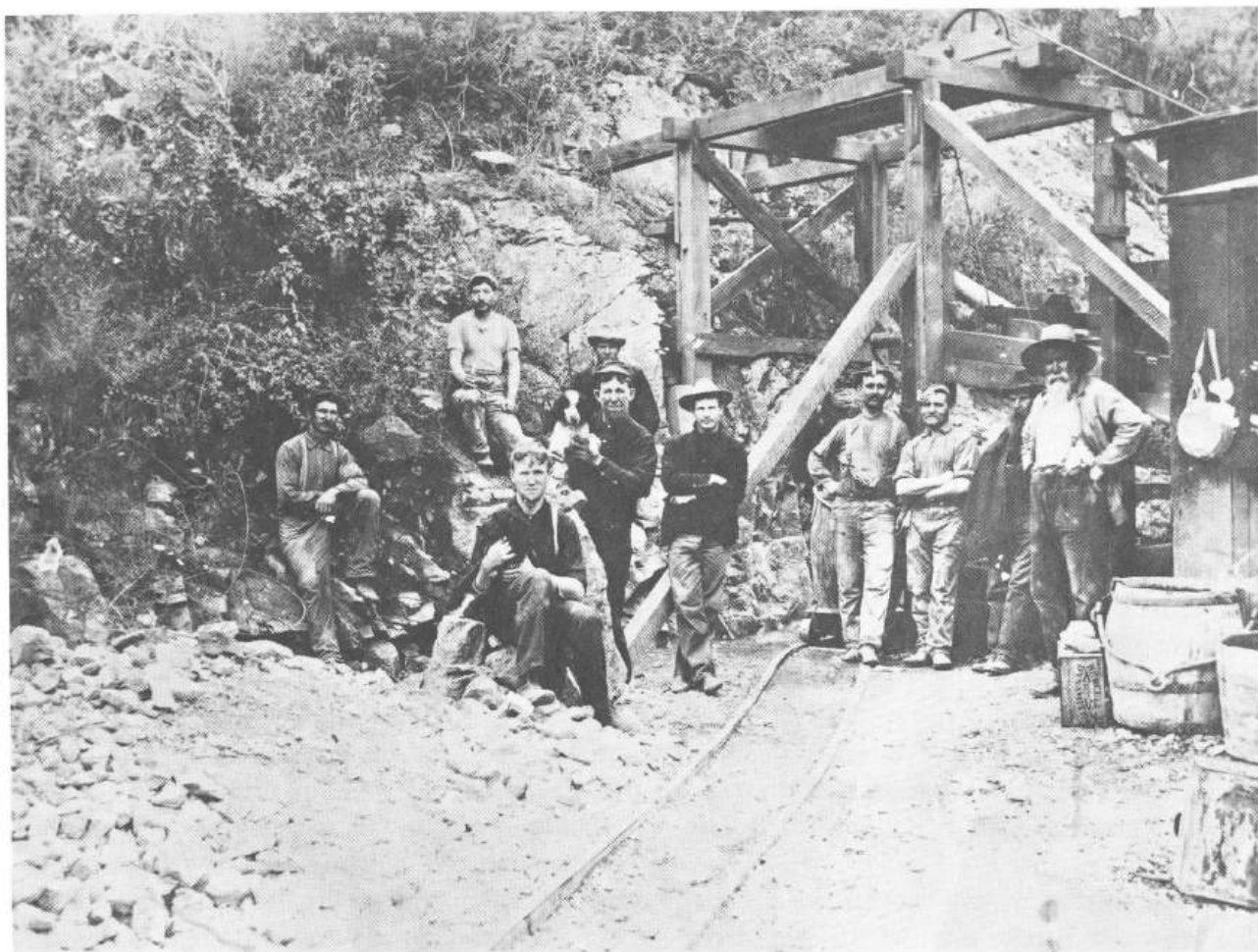
Due to the limited amount of usable land in the cemetery, all future sites are reserved for direct descendants and the immediate families of those already buried.

MINING

In 1887 a copper deposit was discovered near the termination of Lone Jack Road. A mine was developed by the Encinitas Copper Company and sporadically produced a low grade of copper ore until 1917. The mine consisted of three vertical shafts, two horizontal shafts and a small processing mill to concentrate the ore. Processed ore was hauled by horsedrawn wagons to Cardiff and loaded on railroad cars.



Vandalized marker near the Pearl Placer Mine.



Walter H. MacKinnon (far right), Silas Cole (far left) and remaining workcrew in front of vertical shaft at the Encinitas Copper mine. Photo taken between 1901 and 1905.

The foreman, Walter H. MacKinnon, and a work force of five to twelve men produced about 5,000 pounds of copper in 1905. The mine then closed until World War I when copper prices jumped to 27¢ a pound. From 1915 to 1917 an estimated 7,000 pounds of copper was extracted and the main shaft was reported to be 400 feet deep. The mine closed in 1917 and has not been profitably worked since. An attempt to reactivate the mine in 1925 failed. Alex D. Reseck recalled timbering some of the shafts and helped pump the main shaft down to 200 feet but no ore was produced. Even though copper is still present in the mine, it is very low grade and cannot be profitably mined. The shafts have been blasted closed for safety reasons and will probably never be reopened.

The Encinitas mine was the largest mine in the Olivenhain area but not the only mine. At least four open pit clay mines, including the Vitrified and the Pearl Placer, were profitably worked from the early 1920's to 1940. These mines produced many tons of clay, claystone and shale, which was processed into firebrick, stoneware, and pottery. The Vitrified mine (located ½ mile northeast of Rancho Santa Fe Road and Lone Jack Road), was opened in the fall of 1922 by Alex D. Reseck, Fritz Wiegand, and Art D. Cole. Two open pits were established, each one measuring approximately 150 feet wide by 100 feet long and 45 feet deep. "The three of us," Art Cole remembers, "hailed out 50 tons a day for months at that mine. The shale was blasted loose, then wheelbarrowed to



Vitrified open pit mine. Photo taken 1976.

a bunker and dumped. A truck hauled the shale to Cardiff where it was loaded on a railroad car and taken to the Vitrified Products Company near Old Town in San Diego. After quite a while we put in a track and had a cast iron cart which made the work a little easier." "Production became very erratic in the 1930's," recalls Herman Bumann. "The Vitrified Products Company ordered a railroad car load every one to three months and finally the mine was abandoned."

For approximately twenty years the Vitrified mine was completely deserted, then motorcyclists found the steep sides suitable for hill climbing and the echo of motorcycles filled the air for 10 years. The "pits," as they were called, offered challenging, exhaust-amplified enjoyment for the motorcyclist, but the surrounding homeowners weren't as enthusiastic and today the mine is again silent.

FARMING

Farming was the main occupation in Olivenhain for approximately seventy years. All crops were dry farmed which depended on seasonal rainfall for irrigation. The colonists began farming grain and corn no later than 1887, thus establishing a food supply and a financial income. Oats, corn and barley were the main commercial crops farmed in Olivenhain prior to 1910. Some wheat and potatoes were also grown but not on a large scale. Livestock feed

such as oat hay was always in demand and routinely planted or harvested from volunteer fields.

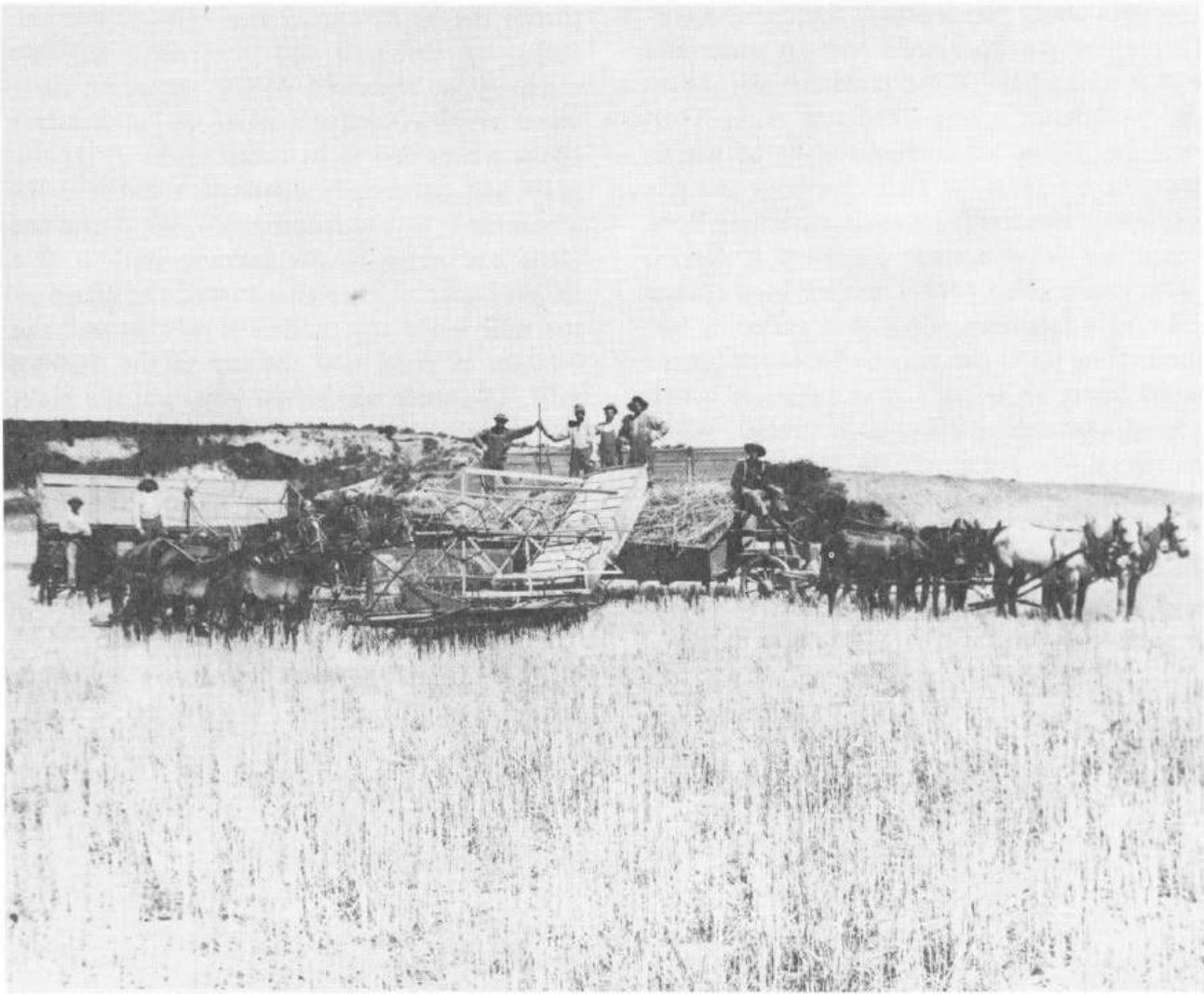
Corn was the favored crop, and fields from five to thirty-five acres speckled the Olivenhain landscape from mid March to September.

The children usually suckered the corn and that was one job they really hated. "A stalk could have as many as ten or twelve suckers," recalls Carl Teten, "and they all had to be cut off with a knife. I had to stoop over all day and cut one row and then the next. I didn't have shoes and in that black soil my feet would burn so bad it made me cry." Corn was usually harvested in September. "There would be four of us husking corn," recalls Herman Wiegand, "and we filled two wagons each day. The corn had to be dried, then shelled. I had a two hole sheller that worked pretty darn good."

Some of the early harvesting and threshing techniques used on grain were fatiguing and time consuming. Flailing was one threshing technique used in Olivenhain before the advent of mechanized machinery. To thresh grain using the flail method the stalks are placed in an open top wooden enclosure and lightly tamped with a wooden mallet. The flail consisted of a hardwood club, usually three inches square by two feet long. The club is attached to a wood handle by a leather strap or some other type of flexible hinge. The handle, which is usually five



Herman Bumann demonstrates the flail method which he used to thresh grain and beans. Photo taken 1976.



Heading grain, three-tenths mile west of Rancho Santa Fe Road and El Camino Del Norte.

feet long, was grasped by both hands and swung in a half circular motion repeatedly. The impacting blows of the club shook the kernels from the stalks. After the grain was separated the straw, grain and chaff were removed from the bin and replaced by an unthreshed load. The flail method was very fatiguing, and eight bushels of grain was considered a good day's work for a man.

The threshing floor is another early technique which was used in the Olivenhain area. It consisted of a leveled and tamped earth floor on which the harvested crop is threshed by means of a pounding action. Peter Chalvet used the simplest version of a threshing floor known in the Olivenhain area. It consisted of an earth

dugout about thirty feet wide and thirty feet long. The unthreshed stalks were placed on the threshing floor about a foot deep. Then two horses walked or trotted on the crop, thus pounding the stalks and causing the kernels to separate. Chalvet stood in the center of the floor and brought the horses closer on each revolution. After the kernels had completely separated, the straw was removed. The remaining grain and chaff was further separated by tossing them into the air. The chaff was carried away by the wind but the grain fell back to the ground, clean and ready for market.

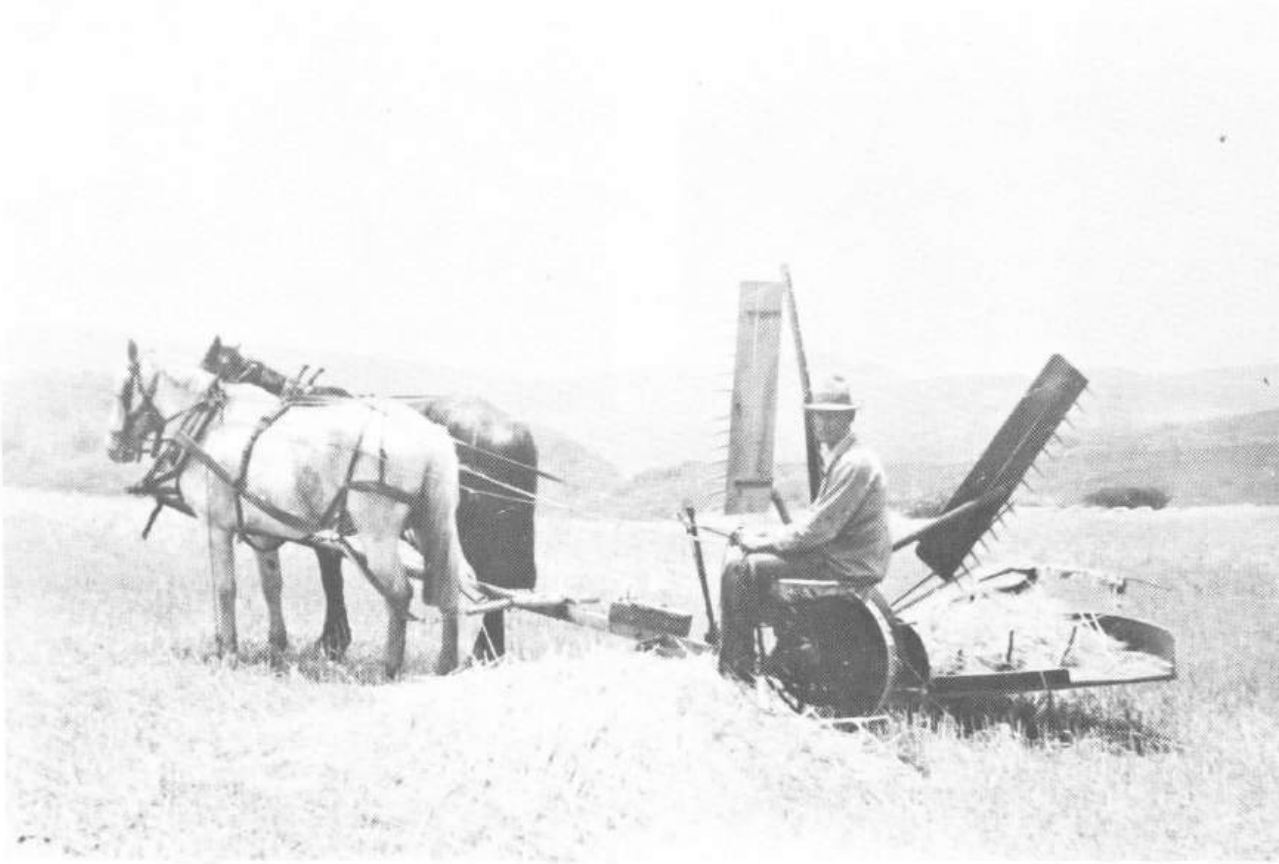
A modified version of the threshing floor was used by the Reseck family, and Alex D. Reseck gave this detailed explanation: "Our threshing

floor was about two hundred feet in diameter. To prepare the floor we'd haul in water and level it with a float. When it dried it was almost like pavement, it was clean and slick. Then we'd get six to eight wagonloads of wheat, barley or whatever we were threshing and pile it up about two feet high on the threshing floor. The actual threshing was done with a wooden roller about twenty-eight inches in diameter and twelve feet long, which was pulled by two horses. The roller had two-by-four-inch boards nailed along its outside circumference which created a pounding effect as it turned. When the horses first got on the threshing floor they would be knee deep in the crop, but after going around several times the roller pressed it down and began shaking the kernels from the stalks. It took about three hours on a good hot day to

thresh the kernels from the stalks. Then the straw was removed and piled on a separate stack. What remained on the threshing floor was a mixture of kernels, chaff, and unthreshed stalks which had to be rolled again. After the grain was completely separated from the stalks it was ready for the fanning mill. We'd haul the chaff and grain to the fanning mill in five gallon buckets. My father turned the crank on the mill while my mother slowly poured the buckets of grain into the top of the fanning mill. The chaff was blown away but the grain fell straight through since it was heavier. The grain was then put in sacks and taken to the barn. We could thresh one setting (threshing floor) per day using this method and would usually get thirty-five to forty sacks of grain. Some years we'd thresh for two months or



A contented workcrew pauses in about 1911. Gerhart Cole standing on horse, Florence Peters in doorway of cook wagon, John Peters, Hattie Hess and Joe Hess on steps, Clarence Cole sitting on barrel, Charles Cole sitting on horse and Theodore Fidero holding team in background. Location: one-quarter mile southeast of Rancho Santa Fe Road and Seventh Street.



Harvest time, June 9, 1935. Herman C. Bumann cutting barley with a 1899 or 1900 McCormick Daisy reaper.

more and our biggest harvest was one thousand six hundred sacks in one season.”

The harvested grain was either sold or consumed by the local families. “Flour for the bread,” recalls Mrs. Christiana Wiegand during an interview with a San Dieguito Citizen newspaper reporter, “was obtained from the grain grown on the place. We hauled it by wagon to Pala where it was milled into flour in the old water mill on the Rincon Indian Reservation. The trip took three or four days and had to be made when there was enough water to turn the mill wheels. Several of the ranchers banded together to haul the grain over and the flour back to their homes.”

After several years many of the Olivenhain farmers expanded their farms by renting or purchasing additional acreage. By 1890 some of the

prominent farmers were beginning to emerge, these included Louis Denk, Adam Wiegand, John Lickert, and William Wiro. Improved farming techniques and machinery led to greater crop production and financial reward. The introduction of horse drawn machinery including the mower, header, reaper and hay press increased field production and decreased labor.

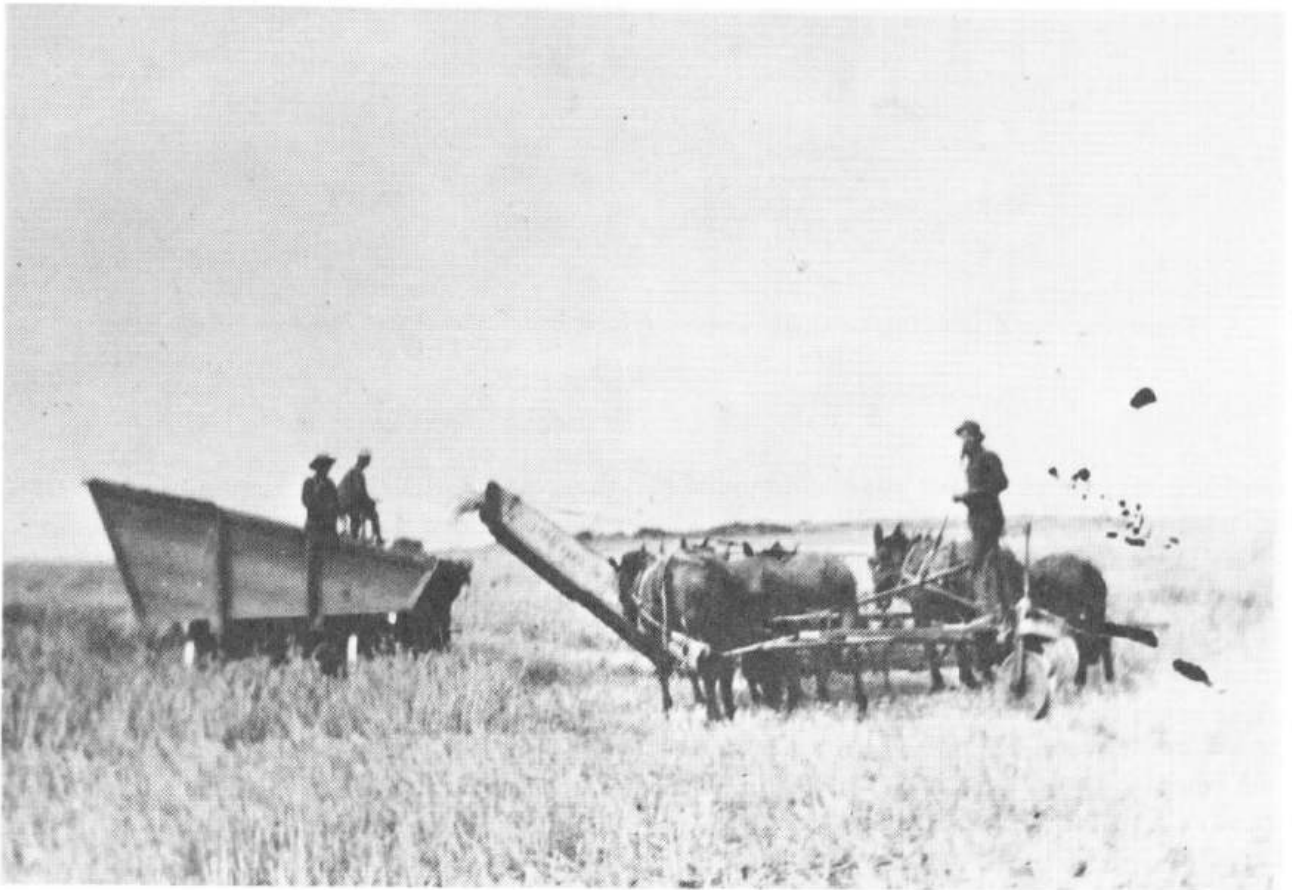
In 1895 Adam Wiegand purchased a Buffalo Pitts threshing machine and became the first person in Olivenhain to own a thresher. The rotary power needed to drive this thresher was produced with a device called a horsepower. Wiegands had two horsepowers, one was a four sweep and the other was a six sweep. The six sweep horsepower had six wood spokes extending about twelve feet from the center pivot. As many as three horses were harnessed to each



Bruno Denk operating a Milwaukee reaper in 1919.



Early harvesting outfit and work crew.



Heading grain near the intersection of Bumann Road and Fortuna Ranch Road. John Teten on header. Carl Teten and Carl Finch on header wagon. The unique push feature of a header eliminated crop damage from the draft team and was a very effective crop cutting machine. Height of sickle bar was adjustable to reduce straw length and therefore increase percentage of grain heads. Operator controlled header by horse reins and rudder wheel which was turned by rudder board held between his legs. Most headers cut a 14 foot swath and were powered by a six horse team. The header wagon was driven along side of header and received load from the elevator spout. A fully loaded wagon would transport cut crop to a common pile where it was later threshed by a stationary threshing machine. Usually two header wagons were required for each header. Header wagons were pulled by a four horse team.



Alex D. Reseck mowing oat hay in about 1922.

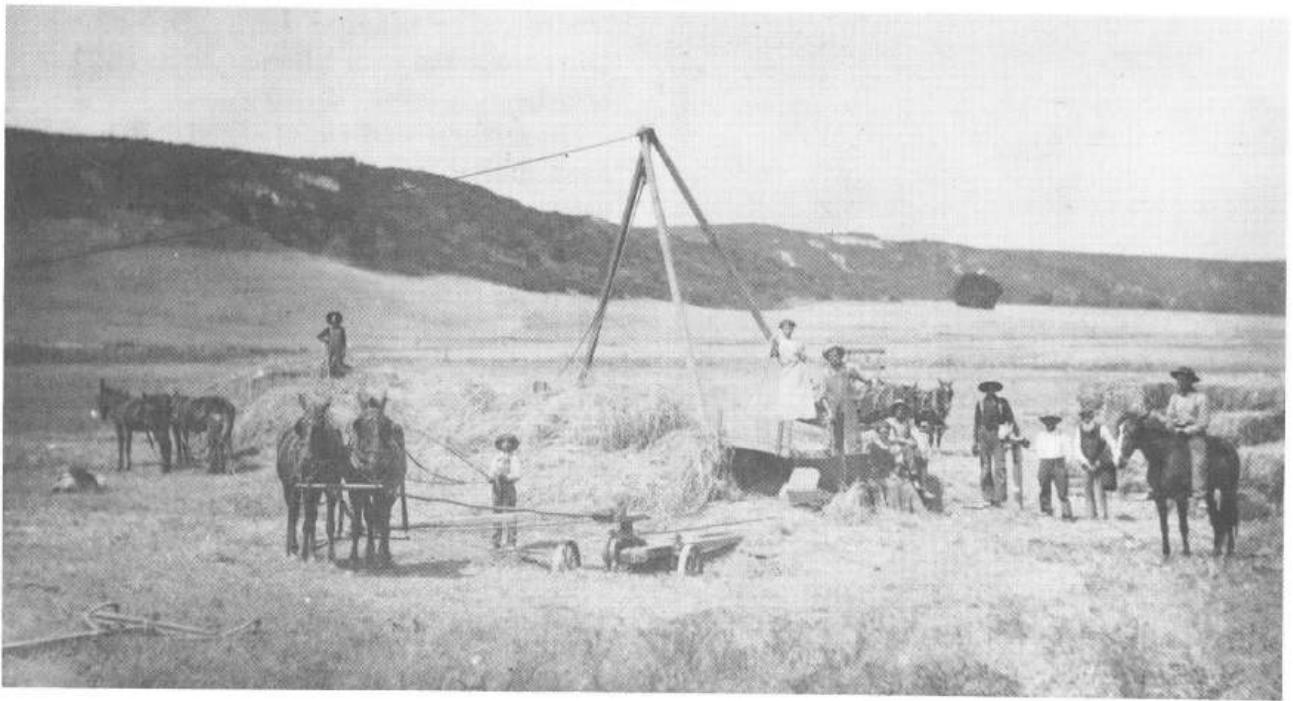
spoke. The horses walked in a circle around the pivot, and as the pivot turned, a series of large gears turned a tumbler shaft which extended from the pivot to a massive flywheel located beyond the horses. The flywheel was about six feet in diameter and weighed hundreds of pounds. A long flat belt connected the flywheel to the threshing machine. "The sweep tender," recalls Herman Wiegand, "stood on the pivot on the horsepower. When the men running the thresher needed more power, they yelled at the

tender and he whipped the horses. Those poor horses followed each other for hours and had to breathe each other's dust."

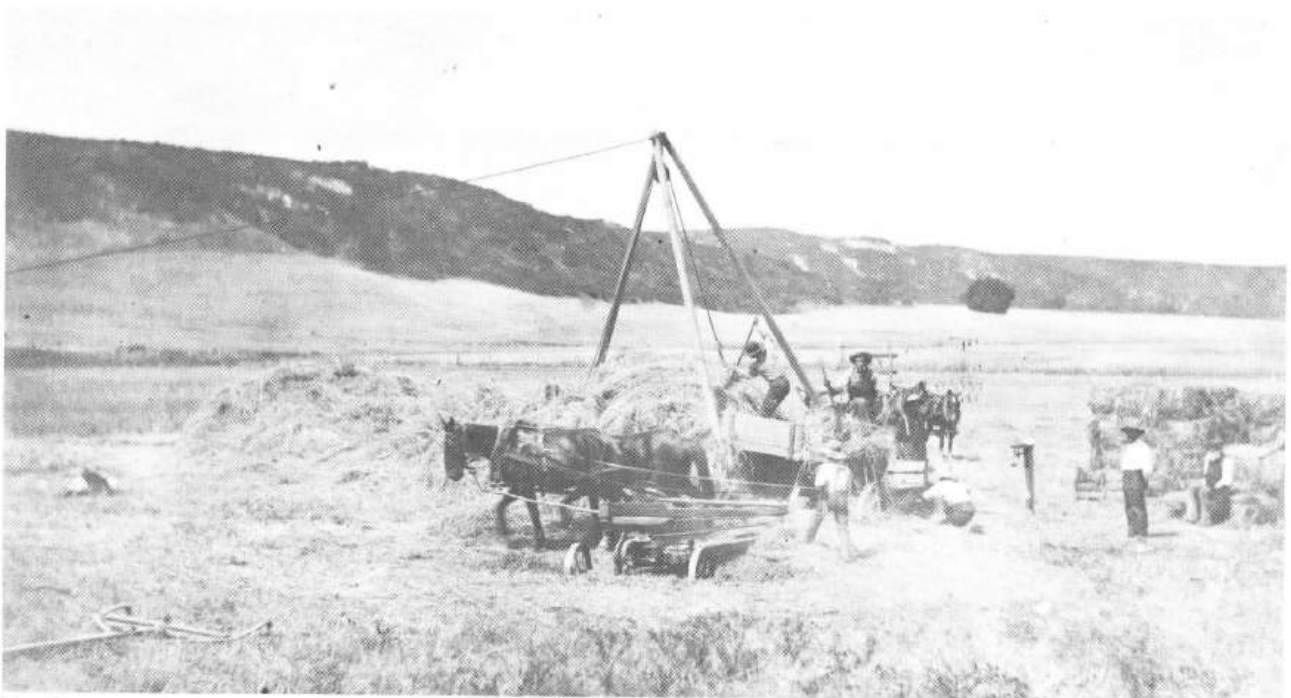
Horse teams were essential and each farm had from four to twenty work horses. The horses were a very mixed breed since purebreds were expensive and hard to obtain. A few people preferred mules, and it's interesting that some people wouldn't own a mule while others wouldn't trade a mule for a half dozen horses. The Olivenhain farmers usually raised three or four colts each year to replenish or expand their teams. Breaking the horses and mules for field work involved a variety of individual techniques, and Carl Teten used an unusual but (per Carl) very effective method. "To break mules, I'd harness them to a plow. If they acted up or slowed down, I'd beat them on the rear with a chain. I never hit them after they were broke, all I had to do was rattle the chain." Gas engines and tractors eventually replaced work horses, but the transition was very slow and was not totally complete in Olivenhain until the mid 1940's.



Work horse teams provided a necessary service and were used in Olivenhain through the mid 1940's. Some farmers had only a few horses, but others like Alwin Wiegand (shown in photo) owned twenty or more.



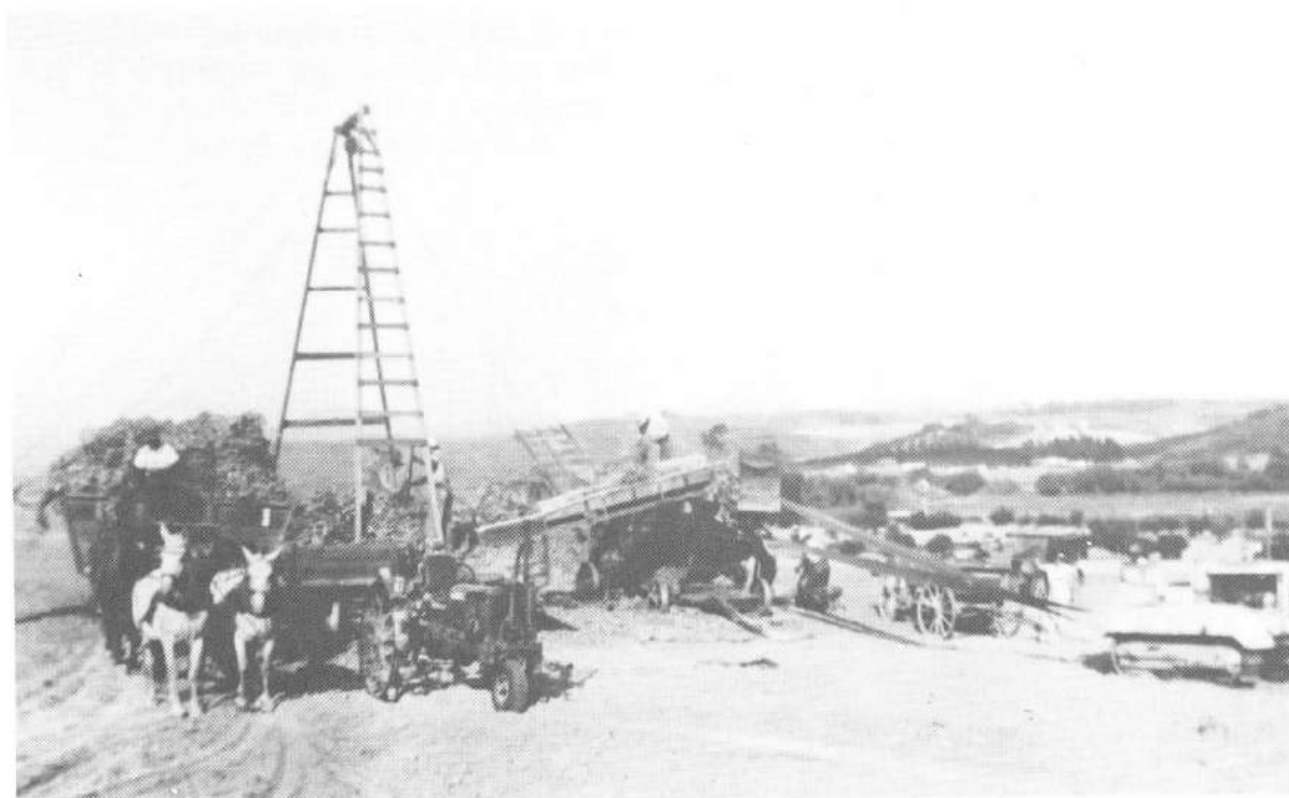
Baling hay with a horse-powered press makes a long and hard day. Eighteen tons was considered a good day's work. Average bale weight was about 150 pounds, making maximum production about 240 bales per day. Photograph taken ¼ mile southwest of Rancho Santa Fe Road and Olivenhain Road in about 1909. This outfit was probably owned by the Cole family since Florence and Hattie Cole are photographed with remaining workcrew.



Excellent example of a horse-powered hay press. Power was obtained from sweep team which was driven around center pivot. As the pivot cam turned, a plunger shaft was caused to oscillate in and out, usually two times per revolution of the sweep team. The plunger shaft extended along the ground to the hopper (about 14 feet away) and required the team to step over it on every revolution. When the plunger was retracted, hay was quickly forked into the hopper and usually compacted by foot. As the sweep team advanced, the ram closed and produced one flake in the bale. A bale usually consisted of twelve flakes and therefore required six revolutions of the sweep team. The completed bale was hand tied with wire and then removed from the press.



Although gas engines powered the larger threshing machines, they were often moved from place to place by horse teams.

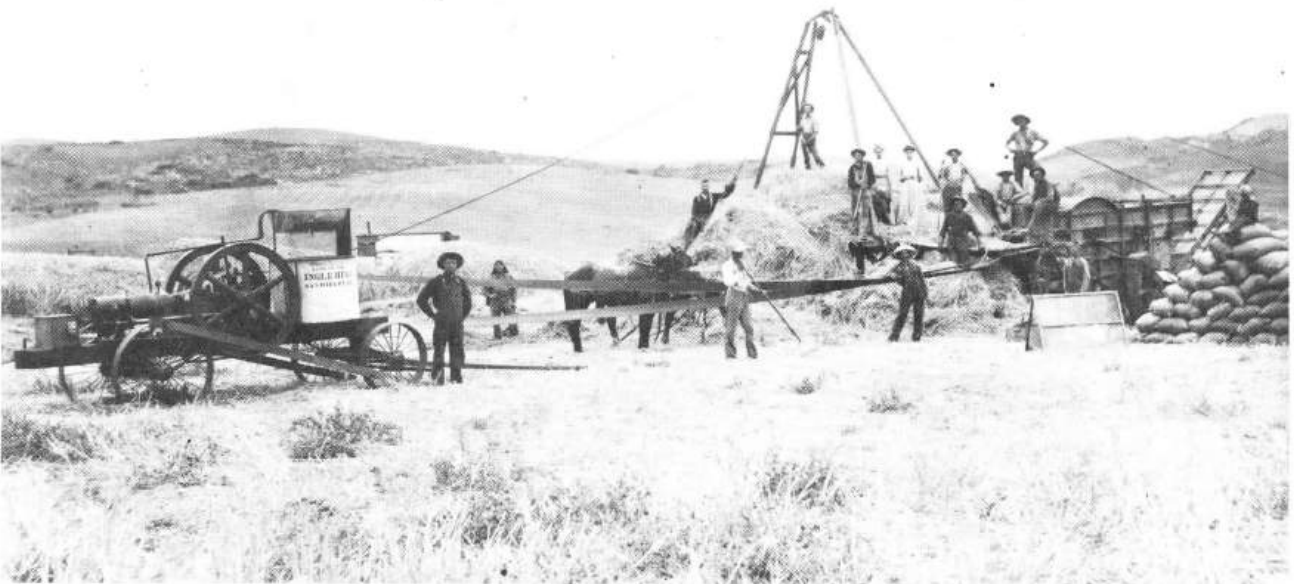


Threshing beans northwest of Manchester Avenue and Colony Terrace. This outfit belonged to the Bruno Denk family. Photograph also illustrates the transitional overlap from horse drawn to power driven equipment.



Baling straw on Bumann ranch, August 1, 1935. William H. Wiro driving horses. Herman C. Bumann feeding press. George T. Bumann standing on right with fork. William F. Wiro sitting tying wires on bale and dog Mickey behind him. Other man on derrick wagon with back turned is perhaps Fritz Wiegand.

The introduction of power driven farm machinery was a blessing to the farmers. Gus Larcin chugged into Olivenhain on his steam powered tractor in 1904 and was soon followed by a parade of early tractors including a kerosene fueled Hart-Parr and a Holt 30. These early tractors were characterized by poor drawbar performance but were immensely superior to horses when used for belt work to power threshing machines and hay presses. Hay baling capacity alone was increased from eighteen tons a day to sixty tons per day. But the Olivenhain farmers would soon learn the ever present dangers associated with power machinery. "The first person in Olivenhain to own a tractor and power press was Emil Licker," recalls Marie Wiro. "He borrowed thousands of dollars to purchase the equipment and was heavily in debt. During harvest time Emil was very busy. He hired a work crew and baled hay wherever he found work. He was a very hard working man and to save a little time would usually oil the baler while it was running. On a July afternoon in 1908 Emil was oiling the hay press and his trousers got caught in some large gears. He was jerked into the machine and both legs were ground off just below the hip line.



Grain threshing with the aid of an early gas engine. Photo taken about 1910.



Hart-Parr tractor and baler in background which tragically took the life of Emil Lickert. Photo taken in 1908.

Emil died the following morning leaving a wife and small child.” The tragedy of Emil Lickert was never forgotten but couldn’t stop the onslaught of power driven machinery. The 1920’s are when the first practical tractors appeared. These included the 10-20 McCormick-Deering, the John Deere Model D and, in later years, Caterpillar and Allis-Chalmers track layers.

The farmers supplemented their income by selling a variety of poultry and livestock goods. Most ranches had from one hundred to five hundred chickens, four to thirty milk cows and a small variety of other farm animals. In a few instances someone would expand on a particular commodity and create a small business. “We got our start in the turkey business by a gift from a neighbor,” recalls Laura Miller. “My late husband Johnny was given four hens and a tom

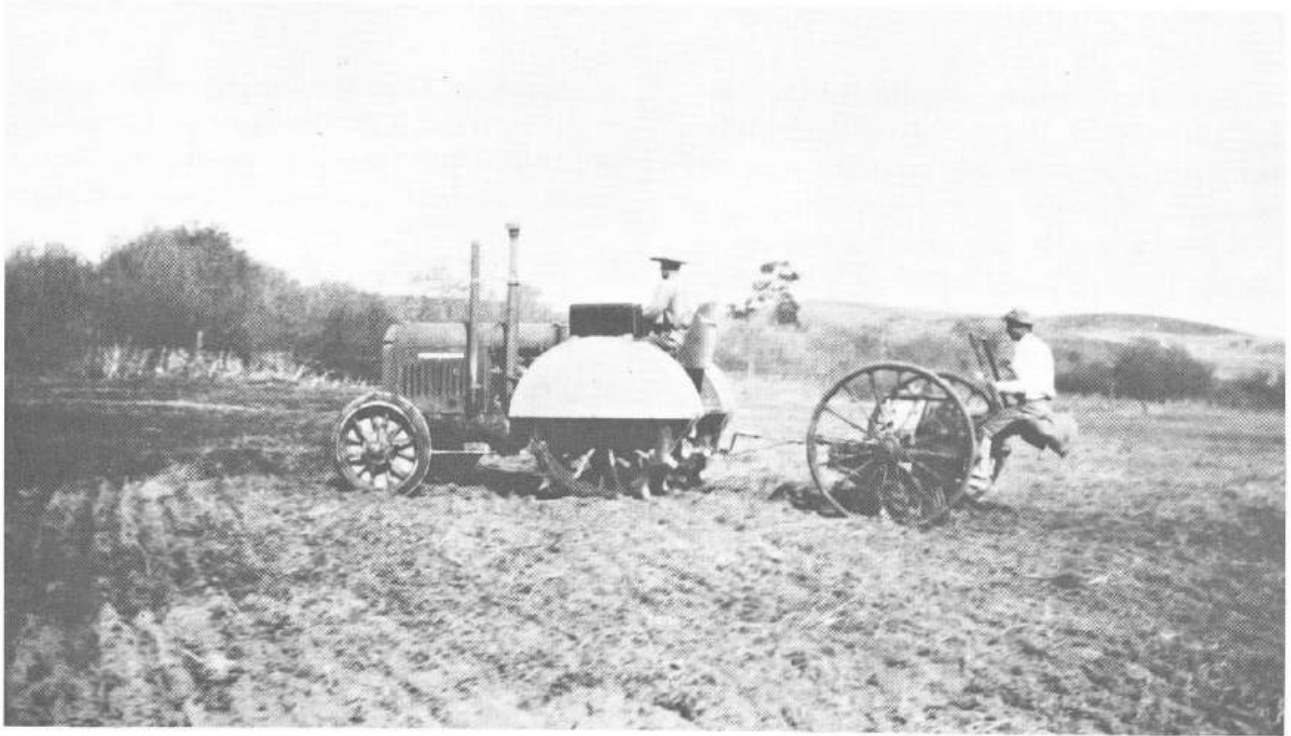
as a thank you from Mr. Murphy, who lived east of the town hall. I decided to raise a few turkeys and make a little money. In the first year we expanded the flock to thirty-six and a few years



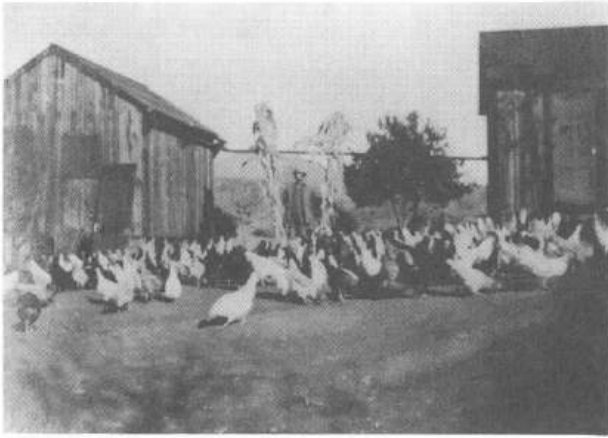
Harley L. Denk on his father’s 1927, 10-20 McCormick-Deering tractor.



Baling hay with stationary power press in 1932. Art Cole feeding hopper and Mike Simon (front) poking wires. Names of men tying wire and forking hay onto table are unknown. Other workmen not shown in photograph would include a bale stacker, a buckrake operator and possibly a table. This press was tractor-powered using a long flat belt.



Seeding crop field in 1930. Bruno Denk on tractor and Edward Cole on seed drill.



Herman F. Bumann holding exceptionally tall corn stalks from 1915 harvest. Also notice quantity of chickens. Most Olivenhain farmers maintained from 100 to 500 chickens for domestic and commercial purposes.



Laura A. Teten started with five turkeys but in the years to follow would sell a thousand turkeys and ten thousand eggs each year.

later had several hundred turkeys. The turkey business lasted thirty years and we sold as many as a thousand turkeys and ten thousand eggs each year. We used to sell about two hundred dressed turkeys on a holiday and we even furnished the Encinitas Safeway some years.” Another side occupation practiced in Olivenhain was bee keeping. Several families including the Luxs, Resecks and Bumanns maintained bees. The largest bee keepers in the Olivenhain area were Henry and Peter Lux who began working bees before 1900 and were once considered the biggest bee keepers in San Diego county. Peter Lux often said, “when you have bees and make honey, you’ll always have money.” Cattle raising is probably the only commodity which shouldn’t be considered a side occupation because of the time and money involved. Herman Wiegand and in later years Edward Lloyd (owned the Double L at termination of Lone Jack Road) were the two largest cattle ranchers in the Olivenhain area. “I owned about five hundred head at times,” recalls Herman Wiegand. “Sometimes I bought three hundred or so and had them shipped by rail from Arizona and New Mexico. They were unloaded at Sorrento Valley and we herded them to Olivenhain. Occasionally we herded the cattle up Rancho Santa Fe Road and pastured them in the surrounding foothills.”



Bee keeping was practiced by several Olivenhain families. Here George T. Bumann takes a choice frame while Richard Bumann takes a moment for a picture. Photo taken 1973.



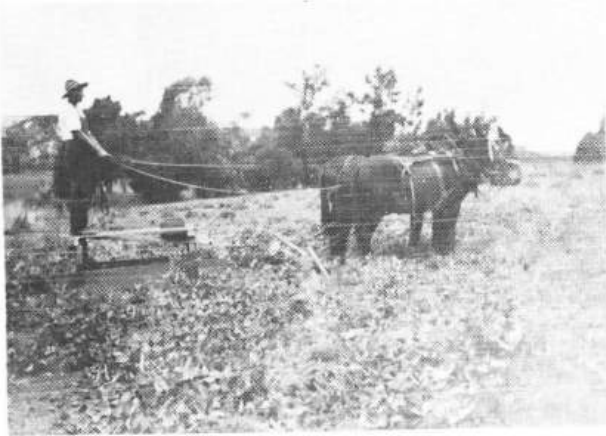
Albert Lickert and team in about 1910. Notice olive grove in background. This was the largest commercial grove of olives known in Olivenhain.

Almost everyone had a small orchard and vineyard for their own use, usually about fifteen trees and vines per farm. The commercial production of fruit and grapes in Olivenhain were very limited. Some people have speculated that vast olive orchards were once planted, presumably because the name Olivenhain was associated with olives. In fact, very few olives were planted in Olivenhain. The only commercial grove known was about one and one half acres in size and didn't exceed twenty trees. This solitary olive grove was located on an adobe knoll northwest of Rancho Santa Fe Road and El Camino Del Norte. The grove never produced enough marketable fruit and was removed in 1915. A four and one half acre apple orchard was planted by Herman Hauck on the northwest corner of Rancho Santa Fe Road and 8th Street in about 1913. The apples were commercially sold but the profit margin was very

narrow and these trees were also removed. Herman Hauck also made and sold wine. His vineyard covered a five acre block on the southeast corner of Rancho Santa Fe Road and El Camino Del Norte, which was often called the wine block. His wine was considered a delicacy and was in high demand.

Lima and blackeye beans were introduced to the Olivenhain farmers in about 1905. Most people agree that Joe Vasa, a former resident of Ventura, California, planted the first commercial bean crop near the intersection of Olivenhain Road and El Camino Real. Vasa's first harvest wasn't too successful but did prove that beans could be dry farmed in the Olivenhain area. The following season a few other farmers planted beans and found they did extremely well. By 1910 bean growing had revolutionized the Olivenhain farming industry and totally eliminated corn production. Limas were the

favored crop since they usually brought a better price and they became the staple crop in Olivenhain for the next fifty years.



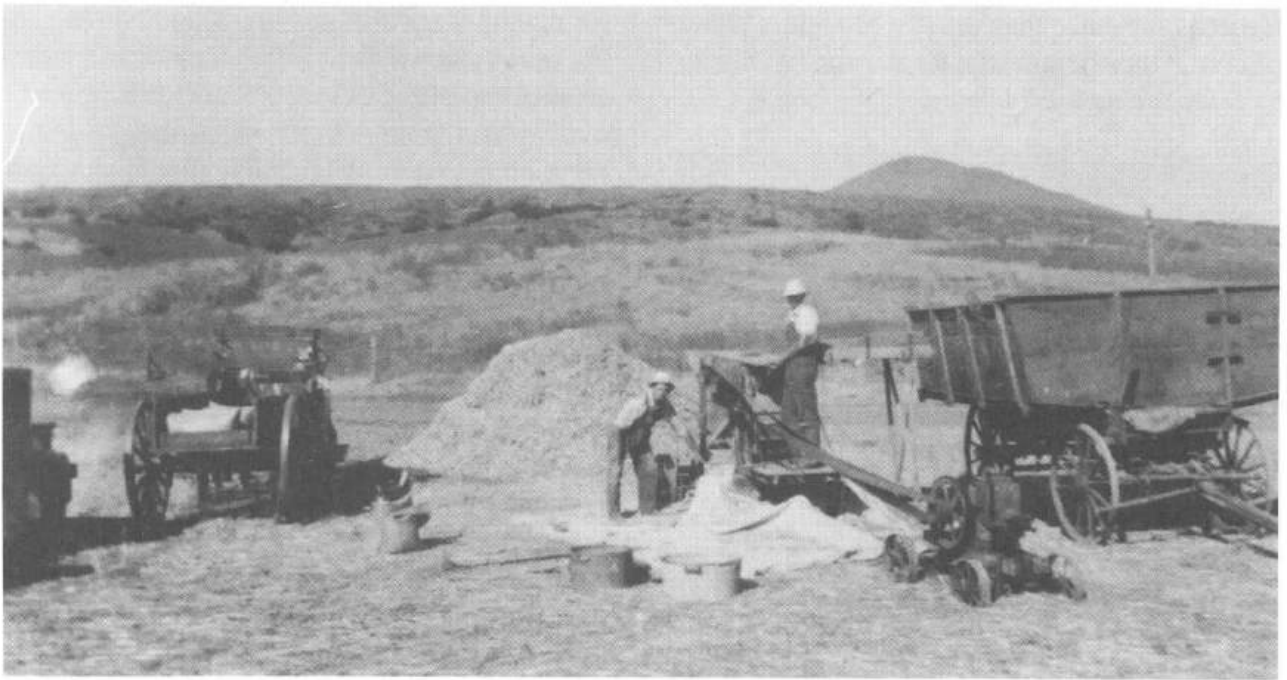
John Teten cutting beans. Sled was pulled between rows, and blades on bottom cut beans at ground level.

Lima beans were planted in late April or early May and cut in late August and all of September. The beans were allowed to dry in the field

for several weeks before threshing. The threshing crews started work in September and worked until the end of October. The threshing outfit was moved from job to job throughout the harvesting season. A complete threshing outfit included the threshing machine, a tractor or gas engine to supply power for the thresher, five or six transport wagons to haul the cut beans from the field to the thresher, a derrick to unload the transport wagons, a water wagon, cook wagon and a work crew of twenty to twenty-five men. "We usually slept on the straw and ate in the portable cook house," recalls Herman Bumann. "I worked for Johnny Teten one time and helped thresh all different places for about three weeks. After finishing a field near Leucadia, we moved the threshing outfit to Solana Beach. We used a track layer tractor and pulled the threshing machine right through Encinitas on Highway 101. I don't know if that was legal, but no one complained."



Cutting lima beans northeast of Encinitas Boulevard and Rancho Santa Fe Road. Photo taken about 1920.



Threshing beans on Bumann ranch August 24, 1937, using a 3 H.P. John Deere gas engine, belted to a small Owens threshing machine. Herman C. Bumann at thresher feeder. William F. Wiro sewing sacks.



Owens lima bean threshing machines in about 1920. This is a good working example of a bean thresher and shows the hoedown men, sacksewer and straw staker at respective work stations. Some of the remaining work crew, including pitchers, skimmers, sackjig and derrick team driver, are shown near wagon. This could be considered a medium size threshing machine requiring a work force of about 22 men and at least 18 horses. Average output would be about 25,000 pounds of beans per day. This outfit was jointly owned by John Teten, Clarence Cole and Garfield Ramsey.



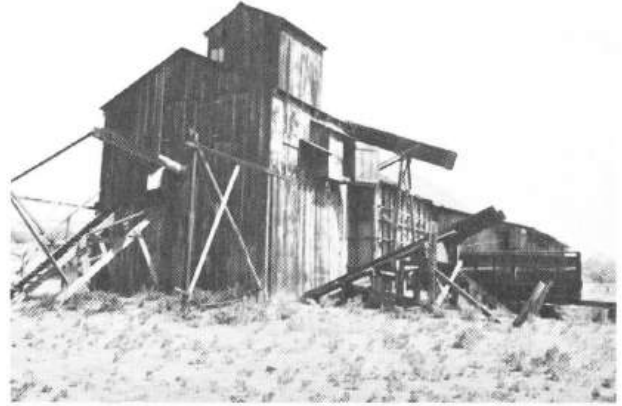
Denk family threshing lima beans 200 yards southwest of Encinitas Boulevard and Manchester Avenue.

Some farmers like Bruno Denk, John Teten, Herman and Alwin Wiegand started farming great acreages of beans in Olivenhain and surrounding areas. The most successful bean grower in Olivenhain was Bruno Denk, who threshed as much as one thousand nine hundred acres in areas including Olivenhain, Leucadia, Solana Beach and Del Mar.

The unpredictable weather was both a blessing and a curse to the farmers. Most years treated the farmers pretty good — they didn't get rich but were provided with an adequate income. Occasionally an abundance of rainfall and sunshine produced a bumper crop and financial prosperity. But other years had unfavorable weather which caused crop failures and financial disaster. "In 1916 and 1917," recalls Bruno Denk, "especially 1917, were bonanza years for farming. A big crop and no worms in the beans. They were almost ready to sell when they came

from the threshing machine. We averaged eleven cents a pound, which was a terrific price. Then the next year, Alwine and I took over the farm and that year sixty percent of the beans had worms and the price dropped to about four or seven cents a pound. We went in the hole so darn far that year it was pitiful. In 1930 we had a good stand of barley but the weather turned dry and the barley never headed out. So we cut it in May to use at least for hay. No sooner were we through cutting and along came a six inch rain and half of it rotted in the field. Then in 1942 is when we had our biggest crop. We sold three hundred and fifty tons of limas that year. 1952 was another good year; we had barley that year till we couldn't help it." Art cole recalled "1952 was the best farm year I ever had. I took care of about one hundred and fifty tons of hay that year. I ran the mowing machine from late morning till night for three weeks."

The year 1952 treated the Olivenhain farmers well but it was to be their last good year. A succession of average to poor years followed. The farmers were also heavily burdened by spiraling wages and other overhead costs. Bruno Denk alone lost thousands of dollars each year and finally stopped farming on a large scale in 1957. The farmers planted fewer and fewer fields and by the late 1950's and early 1960's it was apparent that the farming era in Olivenhain had ended.



Processing mill built by the Denk family in 1947. Location: one-quarter mile east of Encinitas Boulevard and Rancho Santa Fe Road.



Water wagon used by the John Teten family stands idle and permanently retired.

CHAPTER 5

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

The decline of farming activity and gradual tax increases during the 1950's stimulated changes which transformed Olivenhain into its present residential status. The development and population growth which occurs during this new phase of history exceeds all combined changes of past years and was made possible by imported water.

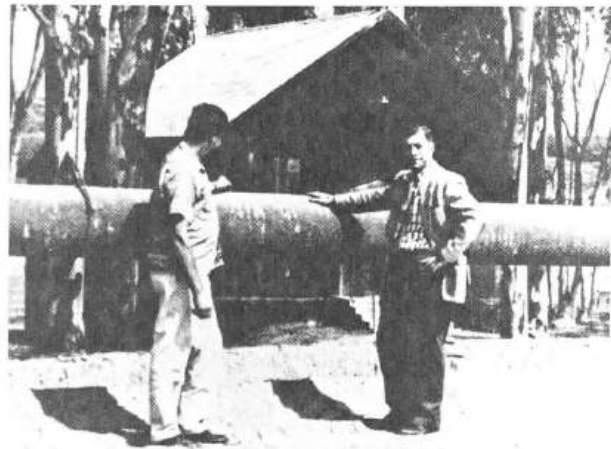
Until as recently as 1961, residents of Olivenhain relied on privately owned wells and cisterns for their total water supply. The general water quality of wells was considered fair to poor depending on their geographical locations. Those near or in the flood plain basin contained a minor, yet noticeable, salt and alkaline content. Wells on higher elevations contained better quality water but often failed during dry periods. Water gathered from roof tops and stored in underground cisterns was restricted to household use due to limited storage capacity.

The obvious need for a better water system reached a climax during the late 1950's. This desire was also shared by residents of a much larger and adjoining dry area containing more than thirty-seven square miles. Even though this land was predominantly undeveloped, with a total population of 120 registered voters, it was viewed by many as having tremendous future potential and was also dissected by the San Diego Water Authorities' second aqueduct with its flow of Colorado River water.

An early attempt to tap the aqueduct was made in 1955 with the proposed San Elijo Water District, which died before obtaining a public vote. Even though the San Elijo proposal wasn't supported by the residents, it did seed the idea of district water. When a second water district proposal was launched in 1957, it was met with enthusiasm. Some of the initial promoters were Olivenhain valley residents, and

the planning headquarters was at the Olivenhain meeting hall; presumably by this influence was born the name Olivenhain Municipal Water District.

The irregular outline of the district boundaries would include an area east of Cardiff, Encinitas and Leucadia, south of Carlsbad, west of Escondido, north of Rancho Santa Fe and contain a total area of 24,260 acres.



Maurice G. Smith, manager of Olivenhain Municipal Water District (right) and Ralph B. Slaughter inspect pipe near meeting hall. November 1961.



Dedication ceremony, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, November 18, 1961. Alwin Wiegand symbolically opens valve to begin flow of imported water.

The Olivenhain Municipal Water District was formally established in March of 1959 by the district voters and eighteen months later these same voters, all 91 of them, authorized financing for a \$4,370,000 water system.

Subsequent construction was engineered by the Boyle Engineering firm of San Diego and executed by various contractors including Ralph B. Slaughter and the Julian Tree & Timber Co. The initial distribution system included one primary and two secondary reservoirs, a pump station, two chlorinators and thirty miles of distribution line. Construction of this initial distribution system was completed in late 1961. Dedication ceremonies were conducted on November 18, 1961, and for the first time a reliable and abundant supply of water was available in Olivenhain.

During the first two years of service the Olivenhain Municipal Water District acquired less than a hundred customers due to the predominately undeveloped land within its boundaries. The trend continued until 1963, after which water sales and meter installations rapidly increased to keep pace with the domestic and agricultural growth. During the first ten years of service the Olivenhain Municipal Water District installed approximately one thousand water meters and almost tripled that amount during the next five years. Additionally, annexation has added new territories to the district's boundaries which now includes more than 27,500 acres and is rated as the ninth largest water district in San Diego County. These growth rates have necessitated an ambitious expansion of the district's distribution system and support facilities, which in all has been diligently executed by the directors and staff of the Olivenhain Municipal Water District.

When district water became available in 1961, residential growth was practically nonexistent. Of the approximately fifteen residential homes in the Olivenhain valley, most had been constructed thirty or more years before and at least four had been constructed in 1885. Only a few

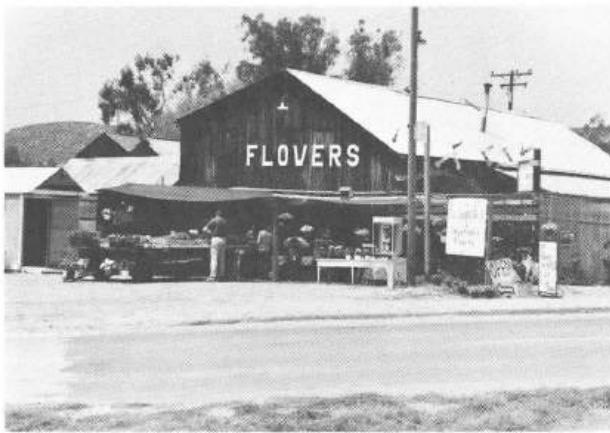
houses were constructed in 1962 but, as time passed, more and more people became attracted to the open country atmosphere which Olivenhain offered, and development began a slow but steady increase. Even though the initial development was slow, at least two realtors, Raymond Chavez and later Samuel S. Rose, speculated that Olivenhain was on the threshold of a residential boom. Both men established separate realty offices in Olivenhain, Ray Chavez at 2236 Encinitas Boulevard and Samuel Rose at 770 Rancho Santa Fe Road. The realty businesses sparked new life into the lagging development of Olivenhain and residential growth began to flourish. Housing construction became a common sight and it was increasingly difficult to know all who lived in Olivenhain.

Commercial growth was also expanding. In 1965 Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Tarvin opened a nursery and gift shop at 442 Rancho Santa Fe Road where four years later the Olivenhain Post Office was located. Also in 1965 Rupert and Irene Engelsberger constructed their first of two senior citizen rest homes, appropriately naming it the Olivenhain Guest Home.

But as Olivenhain prospered and changed, at least one building did not and had remained almost abandoned since the mid 1950's. The Olivenhain meeting hall was all but forgotten by everyone except the County Tax Collector.



This small but adequate post office came to Olivenhain August 9, 1969.



Several small businesses were established during the 1960's and 1970's, including Denk's Flower Barn at 2375 Encinitas Boulevard.

The hall and property were held in trust by Harley L. Denk and Bob C. Wiro. Taxes were paid by volunteer contributions which were easily obtained when the annual premium was less than a hundred dollars, but when the taxes quadrupled during the mid 1960's, the meeting hall became a growing burden. The concern deepened with the arrival of each tax premium, and finally, on the afternoon of May 22, 1965, a small group of concerned residences assembled for a decisive meeting. The acting chairman, Harley L. Denk, started the meeting with the opening statement, "What are we, the community, going to do with the Olivenhain hall and property?" Many ideas were discussed, and even though they didn't find a workable answer, they did agree to keep the meeting hall in its natural state. The following month this same group of people formed the Olivenhain Community Steering Committee and it was this committee's job to put the hall and related property on a self paying basis. The Steering Committee was active for more than two years, and during that time explored a multitude of unsuccessful ideas. Probably its most prosperous endeavors were fund raising campaigns such as rummage sales and picnics. These campaigns produced a generous income to pay the taxes but more importantly exposed an overwhelming enthusiasm of the Olivenhain residents to retain and preserve their meeting hall.

During a meeting in April of 1967 it was suggested that the community residents form a non-profit corporation whose elected directors could manage and appropriate tax money for the meeting hall. Four months later the suggestion became a reality and they named their non-profit corporation the "Colony of Olivenhain Town Council."

For the first two and one-half years the directors of the town council concentrated on the maintenance and improvements to the meeting hall. They transformed the two dressing rooms in the hall into a kitchen and indoor restrooms, complete with running water. The rummage sales, pot lucks and other town council sponsored activities continued as they had in the past but seemed to be designed for the social enjoyment of the community rather than fund raising events. In 1971 the Colony of Olivenhain Town Council began a gradual expansion of its efforts to include community improvements and community involvement. Through these efforts it has become both a watchdog and voicebox for the community it serves.

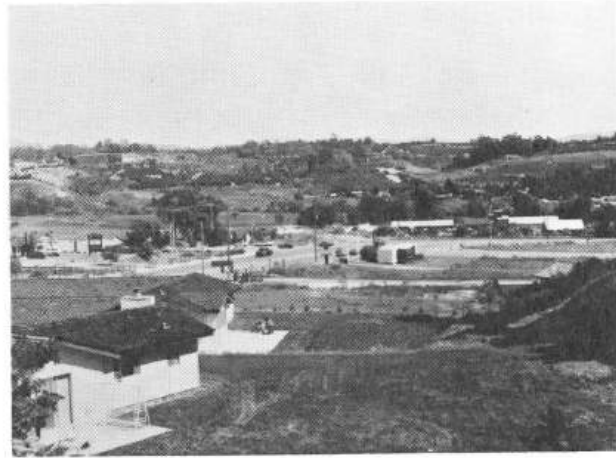
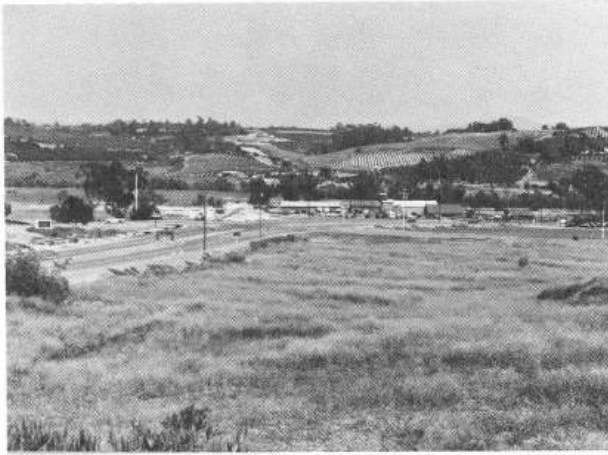
Even though these added efforts demand much time from the directors, there is always enough enthusiasm for bigger and better social activities. The brautwurst/beer feast and 4th of July celebration are among the many enjoyable and well organized events sponsored by the Colony of Olivenhain Town Council.

During the formative years of the town council, housing construction continued to increase. Olivenhain was becoming a very desirable place to live, and building contractors hurried to finish one house only to start another. Real estate prices were beginning a rapid escalation and would eventually drive housing prices to astonishingly high and, for many people, prohibitive levels. Additionally, in 1967 a subdivision called Lake Val Sereno, located on the northeast corner of Olivenhain, had been approved and would soon add an estimated 162 homes.

By the mid 1960's the trend for residential development was deeply set. Olivenhain was



A few memories from town council-sponsored functions at the Meeting Hall.



The empty fields in Olivenhain gradually are giving way to residential and commercial development.

losing its identity as a farming community as more and more fields gave way to residential housing. Spiraling taxes and the anticipation of financial prosperity encouraged the now retired farmers to sell land. The charm of Olivenhain and its country atmosphere drew prospective buyers. Almost everyone was content, if not eager, to see Olivenhain developed. Everyone that is except the county planning commission, who had their own idea for the unincorporated area.

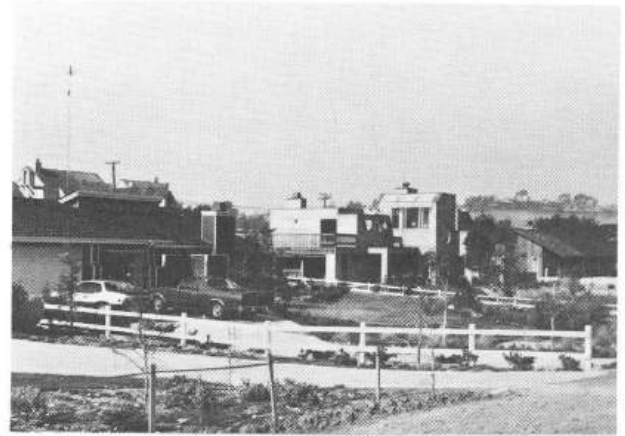
In 1966 the commission recommended that Olivenhain and a vast area adjoining Olivenhain be zoned agricultural. The recommendation brought heavy protest from residents and from the Olivenhain Municipal Water District. The residents, particularly large property holders, envisioned tomato fields, pig farms and dwindling land values. The water district warned that a sharp reduction in residential growth would create a serious financial problem for the district and increased tax premiums for established residents.

The residents opposed the agricultural proposal for eleven months and eventually gained the support of the San Diego County Supervisors who ruled that Olivenhain be temporarily zoned as "low density residential." A large number of meetings followed, both at the community level and with the county planning commission, to establish a permanent zoning design-

nation or designations for Olivenhain. The residents were largely undecided on any specific zoning but favored a designation which would maintain a rural atmosphere and at the same time allow controlled development. The task of establishing and more importantly agreeing on a unified zoning proposal required countless meetings, many intense studies, and another one and one-half years.

The final zoning proposal contained not one but many separate designations for the Olivenhain valley. Half acre residential totaled over 50% of all acreage, followed by flood plain basic which occupied 22% and another 14% was earmarked approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ acre residential. The remaining 14% of acreage contained a mixture of commercial, low density residential, and temporary zoning designations. The proposal not only established the framework for uncrowded residential growth but also encouraged a country atmosphere by permitting limited livestock raising. The zoning proposal was reviewed by the County Board of Supervisors on the third of June, 1969, and unanimously accepted.

The 1970's would bring even more development, which further shaped Olivenhain's rural image. Of the many houses constructed, ranch style architecture remained predominant, although most homes displayed a great deal of individualism. Barns and corrals are often seen on these half acre "farms," complete with



Although ranch style homes are predominant, a great deal of individualism is expressed, both in size and architecture.

livestock of all kinds, horses and chickens being on the top of the list. A slow and friendly lifestyle continued to prevail over Olivenhain which is flavored with a deep community pride that all new homeowners seem to inherit.

Of the hundreds of new residents that arrived in the 1970's, a large percentage came from more populated areas and were undoubtedly at-

tracted by the low density zoning and the farm atmosphere. Many of these new residents proudly stated, "We have moved to the country!" But during this same period, Olivenhain was in the center of the fastest growing area in the county. Several new housing tracts were encroaching the valley and many feared that county officials would permit high density development within Olivenhain, despite existing zoning. The concern deepened with the expansion of outlining developments and, ultimately, many of the Olivenhain residents developed a slow growth attitude which became unmistakably obvious by 1975. Proposed housing developments, roads, and zoning changes soon became the targets of vigorous opposition.

Olivenhain prospered through the remainder of the 1970's as events continued to enlarge its history. The future will undoubtedly enhance this already unique community which has grown from a rich heritage that a weathered meeting hall and rusted farm machinery pay tribute.



Demonstrators protest commercial development at the corner of Encinitas Boulevard and Rancho Santa Fe Road in 1978.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Richard Leigh Bumann considers it an honor to be a descendant of the early colonists and to have witnessed the last of the farming era in Olivenhain and also its transformation into a residential area. Although born in Solana Beach, California, Richard moved to Olivenhain as a young lad in 1956 with his parents George Theodore and Rosemary, an older brother Ronald George, and younger sister Carol Ann. Memories of these first few years in Olivenhain bring back visions of a timeless farm community dominated by crop fields and of a small winding stream with seemingly endless adventures and of a young boy's companion, a collie dog named Surprise.

At age 14, Richard worked on a Case threshing machine for his uncle, Herman C. Bumann. Over a hundred sacks of grain were produced, which became the last commercial crop in the Olivenhain area which was field worked with horse teams. In passing years, additional work included hay baling and other agricultural related duties, but the farming activity in Olivenhain was quickly declining, and following high school Richard found employment in industrial manufacturing and ultimately a career in mechanical designing.

In 1966 Richard married Adeline Elizabeth Bruning, and their children, Carl Leigh and Denise Elizabeth, became the fifth generation of Bumanns to live in the Olivenhain Valley. Finally, during the many years required to complete this book, Richard served a three year term on the Colony of Olivenhain Town Council as secretary, vice-chairman and chairman and also served on the Olivenhain Cemetery Council as secretary.

