RECOLLECTIONS OF

ARTHUR JAMES McFADDEN

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INTRODUCTION

Arthur James McFadden, prominent California fruit grower, was born in Santa Ana, California, August 2, 1881. During his youth, he spent many hours in the Newport Beach area, where his father and his Uncle James established the Newport Lumber Company and built the first pier in the Bay. His recollections of the phenomenal growth of the Bay area is in many ways a cross-sectional account of the rapid development of the whole state of California, in which he played an active part. After completing his high school work in Santa Ana, he attended Pomona College where he took courses in preparation for entrance to the Harvard Law School. His experiences at Pomona made a lasting impression. After graduating from Pomona in 1901, he retained a great interest in the institution. Later in life, he gave strong support to Pomona as a member of the Board of Trustees. In 1904, he graduated from The Harvard University Law School with an Ll.B. degree.

After his return to California, he began practicing law, but on his doctor's advice, abandoned

the practice and began his long and successful career as a fruit grower. Because of his education in law and his knowledge of the fruit industry, he soon became a leader in various agricultural organizations in the state. During his career, he has served as a director of the Irvine Company, and as President of the Irvine Valencia Growers Association and Irvine Walnut Growers Association. He is a past president of The National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and was vice-president of the California Walnut Growers Association. He was also director of the California Fruit Exchange and president of the Agriculture Council of California.

Of the many other posts he has held, one of the most important was as president of The California State Board of Agriculture. Appointed to the position in 1943, he thus automatically became a Regent of the University of California. During his many years as Regent, he was particularly instrumental in the development of the University's Davis Campus. As a native Californian, he has shown great wisdom in coping with the state's problems, and has actively participated in the State's Chamber of Commerce in such efforts as keeping California one state and on an even keel.

These interviews were conducted in the McFadden home in Santa Ana in February, 1963, by Donald J. Schippers, who also edited the manuscript.

CHAPTER I

NEWPORT BEACH

McFadden: The development of what is now the major portion of Orange County by the American or the United States population began along about the year 1870, except in the town of Anaheim, which was founded in 1856. My uncle, James McFadden, had come to California in the latter days of the Civil War and settled in Salinas. In 1868, he heard that the Yorba estate was going to be settled and that this was a very good district. So, he came down here from Salinas, where he'd made his headquarters, and bought forty-eight hundred acres at the distribution of the Yorba estate. The northeast corner of the portion he bought was at the corner of the present South Main Street and Warner Avenue in Santa Ana. It reached from there clear to the edge of the Santa Ana River.

My father came out in 1870, two years later, and took charge of this land and another four ~~hundred~~ thousand and eighty acres on the east side of Main Street which he and my uncle had bought. They began to sell off the four hundred and eighty acres to the American settlers who were beginning to come into the country, but they also expected to farm some of this land.

They discovered, however, that the country was more or less covered with herds of horses and cattle which "ran wild," as we'd say nowadays, without any herders or anything of the sort, so it was impossible to grow crops unless the land was fenced. So, my Uncle James went up to Santa Cruz, which was the center of the lumbering district in California in those days, and bought a cargo of lumber suitable for making fences. He brought it down to what is now called Newport Harbor and floated the lumber through the surf and hauled it up on the beach.

Well, before they could make it into fences around this land, the farmers who'd come into the country proceeded to buy all the lumber in small lots. So, Uncle James went up and bought another shipload of lumber, and the same thing happened again. The net result was that, by the time they got their land fenced, they were in the lumber business a good deal deeper than they were in the farming business. As a result, they took over the landing on the inner Newport Bay about 1874, and my father was the acting manager of that from then on to the time they finally sold out.

Of course, they couldn't bring very good-sized ships into Newport Bay, and even at that, they could only bring them in at the high tide period of the

month. So, they built two or three lighters, and when they couldn't bring the ships in themselves, they took the lighters out into the open sea and transferred the cargo onto the lighters and brought the lighters in. It must be remembered that all this had to be done by hand power because in those days, they had no gasoline engines, and steam equipment for lighters was nonexistent.

During the first ten or fifteen years of the operation of the harbor, which was right at the ~~east~~ west end of the present bridge which goes from Costa Mesa over to Corona del Mar, there's a little flat in the mouth of a valley. That's where the harbor was, and the lumber yard was right at the edge of the harbor. The wharf was right where the bridge crosses at the present time. Up on top of the mesa, which was probably only a hundred yards north of there and a hundred feet high, they had another warehouse with a very steep chute that ran out over the middle of the bay. They could anchor the ship so that the chute ended right over the top of one of the holds and they could slide sacks of wool and grain down the chute and load it onto the ship. A good deal of the stuff that went out was loaded in that manner.

At that time, the permanent population in the

neighborhood of Newport Bay consisted of three families. Part of each year there was a fourth family. There was my father, mother, and myself, and an old Papago Indian and his wife. He was known as Indian Joe and lived there for many years. He had a son who grew up there and was a well-known employee of the Newport Wharf and Lumber Company as long as he lived. The other family, the Duarte family, was of Mexican descent. They had two or three boys. Then there was an old fisherman who was known as Old Frank. What other name he may have had, I don't know, and I don't think anybody else did either. He lived in a little house there by himself. He was a southern European of some kind. He spoke very poor English, and I said that he spoke all the other languages equally as poorly. [laughter]

At the time I was seven years old, my father gave me a fourteen-foot skiff as a birthday present. It was the only pleasure boat on Newport Bay. You can see why I doubt that any other area in the United States or maybe even in the world has changed as much in one lifetime as Newport Bay. All I have to do is take one look at it now and think back to the time when there was only one pleasure boat on it. That's some change! There was no population in the area outside of this little settlement of three

or four families within a radius of six or seven miles. There was no population up the coast clear to Long Beach. The so-called "Gospel Swamp" area, which was the forty-eight hundred acres that my father and uncle owned was getting fairly well populated, but that was the closest area of population. What is now Costa Mesa was completely in a state of nature, and so were the Laguna Hills and the Irvine Ranch, with the exception of the cattle ranch headquarters just east of the head of the upper bay.

My father and my uncle continued to operate this port and, after awhile, they built a steamer especially designed for going in and out of the bay. It was known as the steamer Newport and was owned by my father and uncle. Later, it was sold to the Pacific Coast Steamship Company and operated down there as long as the port was operated in the inner bay. It was a shallow draft and could come in most any time during the month at high tide. The channel, of course, is now anchored down by the jetties at Corona del Mar and on the other side at the end of the Newport mesa. At that time, however, it was very variable and sometimes moved as much as a quarter of a mile away from the rocks and up toward Newport. It was necessary to make soundings in the

channel every time a steamer was coming in because it would be different from what it was the time before. It was also sometimes necessary to change the course of the steamer coming in by putting out an anchor and hooking on to that so they could make a sharper turn than they could make with an ordinary boat.

The result of all this maneuvering was that there was a continuous loss of life on this bar. At one time, a boatload of sailors who went out to set an anchor was capsized. Several of the sailors drowned. The captain took the other boat off the steamer to rescue them, but they couldn't make it. The steamer was run back to San Pedro by the engineer and my father, who was acting as pilot. That was all they had left on the boat.

Well, about 1886 or '87, a man named Tom Rule (he was the pilot and a very close friend of both my father and uncle) was making soundings on the bar. While he was doing this, the boat was capsized and he was drowned. He probably hit his head on something when he fell off the boat because he was a good swimmer and would otherwise have made it to shore. The other young man who was with him, the son of old Indian Joe, swam ashore, and Tom would have undoubtedly done the same if he hadn't been injured. Well, that was the straw that broke the camel's back,

and my father and Uncle James decided they'd have to move the port to where the Newport Harbor wharf is now located.

The reason they located the wharf at its present site was due to some observations they had made. They used to go out and meet the steamer when it came down, and powered it in with a dory they kept over on the beach. They discovered, in the course of years, that there was a little area of a few hundred yards wide that had very much less surf than any place else on the beach. Of course, their curiosity was aroused and they finally made soundings. They discovered there was a deep marine canyon that came right up almost to the shore, and that was the reason that there were no high breakers there because the water was deep close to shore. So, of course, they built the pier right out into the head of that canyon. When they got the pier done, they moved the harbor over there. As I remember it, that was 1888 - '89.

Of course, all of the transposition of freight from the landing down at Newport to Santa Ana and the rest of what's now Orange County and Riverside and San Bernardino Counties had to be by wagon. This whole area was served by this port because it was the closest port, but there was no other way to do it. Later, the Southern Pacific was built to

Santa Ana, about 1876, but the Santa Fe wasn't built till about 1884 or '85. Of course, when the Santa Fe was built, they had a railroad then that ran up to Corona and Riverside and San Bernardino, but when they finished building the wharf, the transportation was still by wagon train, in the interim, it was somewhat difficult.

This area was a part of Los Angeles County at the time. It was simply a tip of land that reached way down to the south. The Los Angeles Supervisors took very little interest in keeping good roads between Newport and Santa Ana, so the roads had to be improved by the private investment of the Newport Wharf and Lumber Company. I can remember that they had a big crew of Chinamen who graded South Main Street in Santa Ana so that it would be passable in the winter time.

I can also remember driving a horse and buggy at the head of a train of freight wagons across the terrain where Costa Mesa is now. We would drive ahead, and if our horse made it all right, the freight wagons followed us. If we started to bog down, we would get the horse out and back up. Then we would drive in bigger and bigger circles till we found a place where the wagons could get across. All this time, they would follow us around the circles,

which, of course, was a very unsatisfactory method. So, about 1889 or '90, they proceeded to build a railroad from Santa Ana down to Newport. It was built by the Newport Wharf and Lumber Company, partly on their own and partly by contract with a man by the name of Black from San Bernardino. After it was finished, they affiliated with the Santa Fe Railroad, so the Santa Fe sent their cars down there to be loaded with lumber. From then on, they could send lumber to Riverside and San Bernardino and anywhere else in the state without any difficulty.

The houses that were being built in Southern California at that time were ordinarily wooden houses such as you'd find on ranches in California at the present time. Some of them were pretty good houses. The original house at Newport landing that I spent the first three years of my life in was two stories high and had a stairway on the outside. That was a good deal more common in those days than it is now. It was just a wooden farmhouse without any embellishments or anything of the sort. It had a roof made out of redwood shingles, which was the universal roofing material for many years after that.

In fact, it was because of that that my father and my uncle started a wholesale shingle business. They built a dry yard against the hills, just east

of Corona which they operated as long as they operated the port of Newport. They'd bring a shipload of shingles down here, which would be dripping wet, and the bundles would weigh upward from sixty-five pounds when they took them off the ship. They'd take them up to the dry yard and stack them in an open manner and leave them in that Corona wind for six weeks. After that time, the shingles would weigh thirty-five pounds to the bundle. With that reduction in weight, they could ship them back east to the main market with a very great saving on freight, of course. That's a sample of the things that were done to carry on an efficient lumber business. They also had a wholesale lumber yard right at what we call "the top of the hill," which is toward the southwest edge of the present Corona del Mar. They stacked the shiploads of lumber there, and then sent it to retail yards in San Bernardino, Riverside, Corona and Santa Ana.

The pier at the port served what is now Orange County, Riverside County, and San Bernardino County quite efficiently as long as it was in operation, because it was very much shorter, of course, to ship from there to those places than it was from San Pedro or anywhere else in Los Angeles County. A few years after they'd constructed the railroad, the

Smeltzer and Westminster district of Orange County was quite intensively cultivated. It was largely given over to celery because, in those days, it could only be grown on peat land and this was all reclaimed peat land. In fact, for several years, they had to put big, wooden shoes on their horses to cultivate it and to keep them from bogging down. Well, Mr. Smeltzer, of course, was anxious to get some way to ship this produce out, so my Uncle Jim promised to build a railroad up there. This they proceeded to do. It was about ten miles to the Smeltzer tract, about the same distance as Santa Ana is from Newport. I carried a chain for the surveying of this railroad and also drove the team that carried the surveying crew during the summer of, I believe, 1897.

There were no people or buildings on the Huntington Beach mesa at that time except one farm-house on the top of a hill. The only thing in the so-called "river bottom" between the Newport mesa and the Huntington Beach mesa was a willow forest that had been there from the time of the founding of Santa Ana and remained there until about 1900. You see, when the Santa Ana River flooded, it spread out all over into this willow forest, and because there was no defined channel, all the silt that was in the water settled out of it. Then the water would

gradually filter out into Newport Bay. According to my father, because of this, the bay was filled up only an inch during the thirty years that he operated it. Well, of course, this river bottom area was gradually cleared of the willow forest because, for the first thirty years, the people of Santa Ana used the wood for their cooking. Then, after it was cleared, it was found to be very good farm land, so it was farmed. Meantime, of course, Newport Beach had developed quite noticeably, and a big flood occurred after this land was cleared. Instead of dropping the silt, the river carried it out into the bay. In some places they dredged as much as five feet in one winter.

Because of this, it became very apparent that that couldn't be allowed to continue or else Newport Bay would cease to be. So they cut a channel through the beach out into the ocean and closed Newport Bay off from the Santa Ana River entirely. It has remained that way till the present time. In fact, that area between the river bed and the road from Santa Ana that goes to Newport, clear to where the river used to enter the harbor is now entirely filled in.

But, in those days, all the drainage from that area clear down to the town of El Toro on the Irvine

Ranch had to flow into the Santa Ana River because there was a rise of land about fifteen feet high between what would seem to have been the natural drainage and the head of upper Newport Bay. As a result, every winter, there was a lake from where the south end of Main Street now crosses Newport Avenue, clear to the head of Newport Bay. This happened whenever we had floods, and it seemed as though that was nearly every winter in those days. That water stood there until the water drained out of the lowlands between Newport mesa and Huntington Beach mesa and then it gradually drained into the river bottom and went on out to sea. Well, sometime between 1900 and 1910, the Irvine Company cut a deep drainage canal through this area, so, now, all this drainage goes into upper Newport Bay and doesn't have to go out through the Santa Ana River and the lake doesn't form any more. All of the present Santa Ana--Orange County Airport would be in the middle of that lake if it was still there.

During the heyday of the Newport Harbor as a commercial shipping port, there was a continuous influx of steamers loaded with lumber and there were times that as many as ten boats would be waiting to unload there. Because only four could unload at the wharf at one time, the other six or seven would anchor off

and wait until there was a place for them. Then they'd come up to the pier and unload. If the pier was filled that way when one of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's ships would come in, it was allowed to come in right away. This was because the company's ships were the main part of the traffic north and south in the state. So, when they came along to make calls at the pier, the boat that was there would pull out fifty yards or so and the steamer would then come up alongside the pier and do its work and go on.

I suppose I shouldn't say this, but it seems like a crime that the labor unions in San Francisco succeeded in killing this coastwise freight and passenger traffic completely. They did that by making it absolutely too difficult to do business. No one can go to San Francisco on a steamer nowadays and no one has been able to for many years as a result of that, and most of the traffic was by steamer fifty or sixty years ago. It could still be that way, because you could make the trip in fifteen hours easily and that means you could leave Los Angeles in the evening and be there fairly early in the morning. You wouldn't lose any more time than you do by going up on the Lark. The same thing was true of going to Tacoma and Seattle and

Portland. But now, you can't go to Alaska on an American steamer any more, because there's just none running.

Schippers: Specifically, how did they make it impossible?

McFadden: By calling strikes on every conceivable occasion and demanding wages that made it so expensive to run the boats that there was no profit in it. This is just an aside, but I don't suppose you have ever heard of the Port of Christchurch. It's a port in the southern island of New Zealand, and it does twice as much maritime business as the Port of San Francisco does at the present time. Well that's just a sample of what has happened.

During the twenty years or so that the Newport Wharf and Lumber Company owned the wharf, it always made a profit. They never had a year in the whole time that it didn't show some profit. So, there was a place for a commercial port at Newport all right. There was no question about that.

The title to the land on the sand spit at Newport was quite a problem. When they decided to move over there, it didn't belong to any private individual and nobody knew just who it did belong to. Finally, it was decided that it belonged to the State or what was called "tide and overflow land." So, they bought the Newport peninsula and what's now

Lido Isle and Balboa Island (they were then simply swamp salt marshes) from the State, but they were somewhat doubtful of the validity of their title, because it could have been classified as something else just as well. Finally, they got a bill through Congress which was signed by the President. It confirmed the title to the Newport Wharf and Lumber Company. Senator [George Clement] Perkins was then Senator from California, and he was also the president of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company. He knew all about the Newport deal and was very friendly. As a result of all this, the title to the land down there is now beyond question. However, as long as the Newport Wharf and Lumber Company operated the port, they never sold any of the land at all. The houses that were built at Newport Beach were all on long-term leases and not on sales and fee simple.

At the old landing on Newport Bay, the land where the houses, piers, and warehouses were was part of the Irvine Ranch. I suppose it was occupied under a lease from the Irvine Ranch. At any rate, my father and my uncle and the other people who were interested in the Newport Wharf and Lumber Company always got along fine with Mr. Irvine and the Irvine Company, but there's not a scratch of a pen, as near as we can discover, in the Irvine Company

records showing any leases of that land. Of course, the records of the Newport Wharf and Lumber Company are all gone, and I never heard anything from either my father or my uncle about the arrangement that they had with the Irvine Company for the occupation of the land. When they moved out, of course, the Irvine Company occupied the land and that is the part that was sold to Costa Mesa. Most of it is now in private ownership, but it seems rather strange that that should have gone on for twenty years with no record being made of the title of the land at all.

Along about 1900, J. Ross Clark, a mining man of considerable wealth from Wyoming and Montana who had built a sugar factory over at Alamitos, made a deal with the Newport Wharf and Lumber Company to buy the port and the railroad in toto. He proceeded to do so, and immediately after he got the title, it developed that he was not acting on his own. They, of course, supposed he was acting on his own, because he was the promoter of what's now the Union Pacific Railroad--then known as Los Angeles and Salt Lake. My father and uncle supposed that Newport would be made an adjunct of the Union Pacific Railroad but it developed that he was just acting as a stooge for the Southern Pacific. He proceeded to turn the port over to the Southern Pacific, which, of course,

immediately killed the port as a commercial port and discontinued any commercial operations there. The railroad that had been built to the port, of course, then had no further excuse for existence. It's long since been taken up. Looking at it from the point of view of Orange County, this wasn't the calamity that it looked to be at that time, because Newport Harbor has become a leading pleasure port in California, and there's, of course, a very prosperous condition under its present setup. Maybe it's more prosperous than it would have been if it remained to compete with San Pedro as a commercial port.

About 1905, the Pacific Electric built a road to Newport. That was what started the influx of population down there. The Pacific Electric has since been removed the same as it has been in most all of the rest of Southern California. Of course, the automobiles have taken its place, and the growth has gone on at a faster and faster rate, so that the town now embraces all of Corona del Mar and quite a bit of the mesa across the bay toward Costa Mesa. It has a very close relationship with the Irvine Company, so it will probably grow still more up toward the place where the University is going to be at the head of the bay.

The land where Costa Mesa and Corona del Mar are now located was all originally part of the Irvine Ranch. Mr. Irvine had a policy against selling any of the agricultural part of the ranch, but both of those places were practically worthless for agriculture, and, because the development of the high prices along the coast hadn't occurred yet, he was glad to sell that land off. Of course, whatever the land was worth in those days is unbelievable if you look at the present values. Both of those towns have developed as a result of that sale which, of course, was a good thing for the community. I think that about covers the development of Newport Harbor.

Schippers: Could you tell me something about what there was in the way of educational facilities and religious institutions at Newport Harbor?

McFadden: Well, in the earlier days, while the Newport Wharf and Lumber Company owned Newport, as I remember it, they had a grammar school there for the people of Newport and that was the only educational facility. I don't remember that there were any churches in Newport Beach at all in those days, and, of course, most of the people that lived in Newport were simply summer residents who lived in Santa Ana and other parts of Orange County the rest of the year. They

went down there to spend the weeks of the summer and then went back home in the fall. They kept their church affiliations wherever their homes were and consequently didn't need any down there at the beach. Of course, now the situation is entirely different; the population is thirty thousand, and most of the residents are permanent. They have the Orange County Coast College in Costa Mesa, a bible college, and two high schools. They're just finishing one of the high schools over on the Corona del Mar side down on the flat below the big Ford plant.

We lived in Santa Ana and just went back and forth between there and the harbor, so I got my education by going to grammar school and high school in Santa Ana. At that time, that was the only high school in Orange County, and there were less than a hundred students.

Gospel Swamp was the name given to all the land east of the Santa Ana River and south from the edge of Santa Ana down to where the present Corona-Costa Mesa begins. It was settled very early in the history of Orange County and was subject to floods from the Santa Ana River. Nearly every farm-house kept a boat turned up against the shady side of the barn so that they were able to get out if the flood came. The floods never had any current to them;

the water just raised up from the river and stayed there till it gradually drained out and cleaned off again.

The crops that were raised on this land were largely Indian corn, alfalfa, and other grains of one kind or another. The Lima beans didn't come in till after the year 1900. They were, of course, very much more profitable than these other crops, and they took over almost in toto after that, because that land down there proved to be very productive land for raising Lima beans. They still raise Lima beans on a lot of it. Of course, they grow vegetables for sale in Los Angeles, especially chili peppers. Chili peppers have occupied a lot of the land in recent years because they pay even more than Lima beans. That same thing is true of the Irvine Ranch land.

Schippers: How did this area get the name of Gospel Swamp?

McFadden: Well, it got that name because there was a Methodist Church colony there in the early days. They had a church, and I can remember seeing people being baptized in a pool that had formed around an artesian well in that churchyard when I was a small boy. That's the reason it was called Gospel Swamp. Westminster was the colony on the other side of the Santa Ana River, and it still goes by that name. It

was a Presbyterian Church colony, and that's the reason it was called Westminster.

CHAPTER II

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE EDUCATION

It's been my observation, in all the schools I've attended, that there's usually one outstanding instructor. This was the case in high school and college. When I was a boy in high school, it was a Miss Williams who was the Mathematics teacher. Later, she started a girls' school up in Oakland which has been very successful.

After finishing high school, I went to Pomona College. Of course, I didn't realize that I was in a pioneer institution, but I was in the eighth class that graduated from Pomona College. At the time I graduated, there weren't over a hundred people in the actual college. We had quite a large prep school as well as the college, and we had six or eight full professors.

Professor Brackett, who was a graduate of Dartmouth as I remember, was the instructor in Mathematics and also in Astronomy and Physics part of the time. In my opinion, he was perhaps the most outstanding teacher that I have ever sat under. He took me and another young man from Santa Ana High School under his wing and helped us figure out our

courses and so on. High schools were not as well standardized in those days as they are now. We had quite a number of courses which ordinarily were taken in college, so by taking twenty hours of work for a solid year and some extra instruction in language the first year, we succeeded in getting through in three years, much to the disgust of the Dean. Anyhow, we saved a year of college work, and it was largely due to his advice that we were able to do it. I've always held him in very high esteem as a wonderful instructor ever since.

Well, when I went to Harvard Law school, I think I can say without fear of contradiction that I attended during what amounted to maybe the golden age of Harvard Law School. On the faculty were Williston, Grey, Beal, and several more who were nationally known law school professors. I think perhaps Professor Wilfred Willison, under whom I studied Contracts, was one of the greatest ones. Also, we had a man by the name of Smith who'd been on the Supreme Court of either Vermont or New Hampshire who taught torts. He was a very outstanding instructor.

All-in-all, I figured that I was very fortunate to have attended Harvard Law School at that particular time, because the men that gave the instruction were certainly the best there were in the United States.

There was one other good thing about Harvard Law School, and that was that, if you succeeded in getting through, you'd never have to work as hard in your life again as you did during those three years that you were there. They said to us during one of the first sessions, "Look on each side of you. One of the men that's on one side or the other will not be here when you graduate." They knew that even though they were very selective in who they took into the Law School at that time, a good many of them would not be able to make the grade. The School came as near to being a one hundred per cent intellectual aristocracy as anything I ever saw. A person's whole standing amongst everybody depended on the grades one got during the examinations. These sets of examinations were very difficult. Usually people came through them alive, but it was a very common thing for somebody to commit suicide. They were corkers all right.

Of course, Law School had students from all over the United States, just as it has at the present time. I think that the kind of a college that you went to before you got there had quite a little bit to do with the way you got along in Harvard Law School. I think the fact that I had to take twenty hours one of the years I was going through Pomona did

me an awful lot of good, because I learned how to work. There were boys in my class at Law School who were just as good men as I was all the way around and probably smarter intellectually, but they flunked out because they'd never learned how to study during their college days. They were smart enough so they could just skate along, just go through college without having to work very hard. When they got in Harvard Law School, they just didn't know how to do it. So, the fact that I'd had to study pretty hard while I was getting through my extra year at Pomona did me a lot of good in the Law School.

Schippers: What area of law did you specialize in?

McFadden: Well, there wasn't as much specialization as you might think. After the first year, there was a selection of courses that you could take. It specialized to that respect, but you got a pretty general law education no matter how much you tried to specialize.

Schippers: But your intentions at that were to prepare for what?

McFadden: My father thought that going to a law school would be a good business preparation for me, and I didn't know whether I was going to practice law or not. I rather thought not. I did start practicing law, however, because I had everything in my favor in Santa Ana. I came from a pioneer family and everybody

knew us. I got plenty of practice without having to scratch for it all, but I also got ulcers in my stomach. I was told by my physician that I could either be a live outdoor man or a dead lawyer. I quite quickly made up my mind to go outside.

So, I quit the practice of law after about two years and a half, and I haven't been active in it since. But it hasn't done me any harm. As you can see from what I've already said, I either graduated or slid back into being more or less the political spokesman for the farmers of California within ten or fifteen years after I started my farm. In those activities, of course, a legal education didn't do me any harm at all. I was able to appear before bodies of people that had the yes and no to say without being unduly hampered by embarrassment which isn't the case with all farmers. Some of them just don't have the training that fits them for it.

Schippers: Would you say that the Law School forged any of your political views?

McFadden: No, I wouldn't say that it did. We had all kinds of political views amongst the law students. I think your birth and bringing up and the business that you're in has more to do with forming that than what you learn in college. My observation of college students as a whole is that they're pretty radical

to the year they graduate, but within five years after they get out in the world, they're mery much more conservative. [laughter]

CHAPTER III

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORANGE COUNTY

The town of Anaheim was founded about 1856. Up in San Francisco, some German residents who'd left Germany during the revolutions of 1848 formed a company. They conceived the idea of forming a farming colony down here, so they formed this organization and sent a man down who bought several thousands of acres where Anaheim is now located. He then proceeded to clear it up and put it under cultivation, and, in the course of the next few years, the people moved down in a body and took possession of the lots that were alloted to them. They proceeded to grow grapes and make them into wine. Anaheim remained a wine-grape-growing area for the first twenty years of its existence, and, as far as we know, it's the only case of a preconceived colony that was an unqualified success from the start. That town was occupied considerably in advance of any of the other settlements in Orange County.

Then (I don't know how it happened to be coincidental), the towns of Santa Ana, Tustin, and Orange were all started about 1870. Apparently there was no interrelationship between the towns

whatever. The town of Orange was laid out by a couple of men by the name of Glassell and Chapman from Los Angeles. Apparently, it was a successful real estate operation right from the start. The town of Tustin was started by Sam Tustin's father the same year that Mr. Spurgeon laid out the town of Santa Ana. Of course, for some reason or other, the town of Santa Ana (perhaps because it was more on the main trade route), grew quite rapidly, whereas the town of Tustin didn't make a town at all for many, many years. It is still a pretty small village at the present time.

The growing of grapes was the main agricultural industry of the east part of Orange County for quite a good many years after it was started up. All the area on this side of the foothills, from Tustin north, clear to the edge of Anaheim was in muscat grapes in the eighties and the early nineties. Of course, in Anaheim they made their muscat grapes into raisins and some of them into wine, and they were very successful. Well, about 1893, the so-called "Anaheim vine disease" hit the country, and in three years, it cleaned every vine there was in Orange County. It killed them all. It has since become known as Pierce's Disease, because it was named after the scientist that diagnosed it as a certain kind of a

virus. He didn't find a cure for it, but he found out what caused it and so on. The only cure for it is to plant the vines on a resistant root, but by the time they found that out, the vine business was a thing of the past in Orange County, including Anaheim. It's never come back.

You can readily imagine that the loss of all these vineyards which made a living for these people from the time they came here till 1892 or '93 was a catastrophe to say the least. After the vines were gone, there was a period of a good many years of trying to find some profitable tree crop that would pay on the land as well as the vines had paid. They tried olives quite extensively and they were not a success. They couldn't get enough olives to pay them a profit. They tried apricots and they did pretty well, so there was a very large apricot acreage in Orange County for quite a few years. But, walnuts were the thing that took more extensively than anything else. The result of this was that there was a very large acreage of walnuts planted out in Orange County. My recollection is that there were something like five walnut associations in Orange County at one time. There was one in La Habra, one in Fullerton, one in Anaheim, one in Garden Grove, one in Orange, one in Santa Ana, and one out at Irvine. That's seven.

At the present time, however, there's only one left and that's a little one out at Irvine. That's just hanging on by the skin of its teeth and takes care of Orange and San Diego Counties. Of course, the same thing is true of Los Angeles and Riverside Counties. There are no associations left in Los Angeles County and only one small one in Riverside County and it's out at Hemet. That wasn't because the walnut business met with any such catastrophe as the grape business had met, but found they could raise walnuts up in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys. They could get more walnuts than they could down here and the land wasn't worth near as much. So, the industry has moved to Northern California and there's very few walnuts left in Southern California.

There have been citrus orchards in Orange County since quite early in the American occupation, but Orange County was not on the map as a big citrus-growing district till after the freeze of 1914. It was by far the worst freeze we've ever had in California and the orchards which were in Orange County came through that freeze much better than they did anywhere else in Southern California. The result was that, after that was over, they proceeded to plant orange trees very extensively in Orange County--especially Valencia Orange trees. The result

has been that the walnut trees have gone out and orange trees have taken their places.

Now, of course, the orange business is apparently facing a very prosperous future in Orange County, and the only bad thing about it is the subdivisions. They have cut down the orange acreage in Orange County by nearly a third in the last ten years. You can't blame anybody who's offered twice as much as he thought his land was worth for subdivision, for selling it. But, it's a shame, because we've got foothill areas and coast areas that are just as good to live on as the six-thousand-dollar-an-acre orange orchard. But they haven't occupied them and they have occupied the orange orchards. Between the subdivision and the freeways, the orange orchards are having a pretty tough time.

On the present sites of Tustin and Santa Ana in their original condition, so I'm told, I can't remember this, very high patches of mustard grew in the summertime. In fact, the mustard was so tall that a man on horseback could just barely see over the top of it. There also were very large groves of native sycamore trees both in Tustin and in Santa Ana. I can remember myself there were a good many Sycamore trees scattered through what is now the main part of Santa Ana, and there were a lot of them

in Tustin. I suppose the fact that those groves were there was the reason they picked those particular aites for the beginnings of the towns.

It's an interesting sidelight on the conditions at that time, that around the edge of Santa Ana, about a quarter of a mile out from the middle of town, on nearly every street there's a slight crook. I always wondered why that was there. It wasn't very noticeable, but if you looked closely you could see it. I discovered that, at the time that the towns began to grow, there was an engineer (an Englishman born in Hawaii) who had the job of laying out these subdivisions. The courts in California in those days were not superior courts of the various counties; they were known as district courts and they traveled from district to district. They would come and meet here and in San Bernardino and San Diego and so on, and then would move on to the next place. Well, at the time these subdivisions were enlarging, the town of Santa Ana was enlarging rapidly and they were in a hurry to get the map ready so they could get it approved by the District Court. This engineer took his transit, put it in the buckboard, and drove out to the edge of the subdivision. He stopped his team and took his sights from the buckboard over the tops of the mustard. Of course, that wasn't

too exact a way to doing business, but they got the maps made up and took them before the District Court and got them approved.

Then the engineer said, "Now I'll go back and make this exact at every place."

The District Court said, "You won't do anything of the kind. This is the map that we've approved and this is the map that will remain."

That's the reason the crooks are in the streets. [laughter]

The Irvine Ranch land, up to the time it was cultivated, which was well within my memory, was covered with wild growth. From each canyon that came out of the foothills over at the east edge, clear across to what we now call San Diego Creek, which drained down onto the lake at the south side of Santa Ana, there were patches of cactus and sumac brush and wild tobacco about a couple hundred yards wide that followed each one of these washes across the ranch. The land between those washes was grass, and, of course, the land was only used for pasture in those days--mostly for sheep. It was not very difficult when they got ready to begin farming this land to clear this brush off because none of it was very big. It was easily pushed off and pushed up into piles and burned up. That clearing was done in

comparatively early days.

Prior to the time of what was known as the Big Flood of 1884, the Santa Fe Railroad to San Diego went down the east of Riverside approximately on the route of the present State Highway 395. Then it came down the San Luis Rey River from Temecula to the coast and on down to San Diego. Well, when the Flood of 1884 came along, it just washed that road out completely, and they came to the conclusion that it would be better to build it from Santa Ana across the Irvine Ranch and Capistrano and on down the coast than it would be to try to rehabilitate the other route. So, that's what they proceeded to do.

Of course, the Southern Pacific was the political owner of California in those days and for a good many years after that, and they were not able to do business with the owners of the Irvine Ranch. The owner at that time, the original owner, was James Irvine, who'd been a Forty-Niner in San Francisco. The railroad proceeded to get a gang together and were going to go right across the ranch and lay their railroad without any right of way or any right to do it. That was a very customary practice for the Southern Pacific in those days. They picked a Saturday morning when the courts were closed and when Mr. Spurgeon, who owned the land in Santa Ana

that they'd have to cross, was away in Los Angeles. Well, my Uncle Jim found this out through some of his henchmen, and he proceeded to get together fifty or sixty of his employees and friends and gave each one of them a shotgun and a box of shells. He lined them up along a cypress windbreak that was along the north edge of Mr. Spurgeon's land, and when the SP got from their station down to that point, which was about a quarter of a mile, they decided they wouldn't go any further. [laughter] They just held the line there until the court was open on the next Monday. By that time, Mr. Spurgeon was back, and, of course, the SP was out of luck, because the court wouldn't concede that they had any right whatsoever. That was the reason why the Santa Fe got the road from here to San Diego and why the SP still doesn't run any further than Santa Ana. That's just a sidelight on the way things were run in those days.

They had the same sort of battle up in Pomona while I was going to Pomona College. I fought in that one, which was between the Salt Lake and the Southern Pacific Railroad companies, when the Salt Lake line was being built. That hasn't got anything to do with the development of Orange County so I won't go into it. But that was a lot of fun. [laughter]

Well, when the Santa Fe Railroad to California

was completed in about 1884, there was a battle between the Southern Pacific and the Santa Fe for passenger traffic. They got fares down to as low as five dollars between here and Chicago. Well, of course, that was what activated the so-called "boom" of 1885, '86 and '87. It was something of a nature that we've never had in California since. For instance (well, I can remember this even though I was a very small boy), they ran an excursion train down from Los Angeles to Santa Ana on the Santa Fe. They brought a brass band along and had a sale of lots down southeast of town in an area which is still an orange orchard. They sold corner lots for as much as a thousand dollars apiece. Of course, when this boom broke, which was along about 1887 or '88, they discovered it'd been largely on paper. There was not an awful lot of cash that changed hands in these boom subdivisions.

They also built so-called "boom hotels" in places that are no longer in existence, such as ~~Almadena~~ El Modena, to the northeast of Santa Ana, and Fairview down to the southwest. When the boom broke, the Newport Wharf and Lumber Company owned all these hotels because they had to take them for the lumber bills. They were useless, of course, and most of them have burned down since. They were never of any

use to anybody because there was no call for them in the first place and there never has been since. But a lot of the land south of Santa Ana which was subdivided had cement sidewalks and curbs put in and it was there for twenty-five years after this boom broke, before the population growth reached the point where it was used. Of course, it's got a house on every fifty-foot lot now and has had for many years, but these boom towns like Fairview and ~~Almadena~~ El Modena just simply ceased to exist. It seemed as though there was little or no money in circulation for seven or eight years after this boom broke in Southern California; the country was sure dead from a progressive point of view.

The character of the land out toward Westminster and Smeltzer on the west side of the Santa Ana River originally was a tule swamp. The land was unfarmable because there was so much water there. No pump in the world could empty it or lower the water level in those days. Along in the very late nineties, they proceeded to dig drainage ditches in this land and drain the water off. They were able to reclaim this peat land which, of course, was the richest land in the state. It's just like the land in the delta between Stockton and San Francisco. So, the area changed very materially in just a few

years after they got this drained.

At the end of the last century, we had three dry years in succession. The total rainfall of Orange County for those three years was within half an inch of the total for the three dry years which preceded last winter. But there were no pumping wells in the country in those days, so the net result was vastly more disastrous than it was in these three dry years that we've just experienced, because, now, we have wells and Colorado River water and everything of that sort.

During one of these dry years, I graduated from high school. That was in 1898, and I went deer hunting up in the mountains back of San Juan Capistrano Hot Springs. The bottoms of the gulches that once had water in them were just lined with dead cattle. They'd been feeding on cactus and so on up on the mountainsides, and they'd go down in the bottom of these gulches to get a drink of water. Then, after they got the drink of water, they were too weak to back out, so they died off by the thousand.

It just so happened that the development of the gasoline engine as a source of power coincided with these three dry years, and the result was that when the three dry years were over, everybody that could beg, borrow, or steal enough money, bought

himself a well deep enough for pumping irrigating water. They put in a gas engine and pump, and, of course, the resulting agricultural development was vastly enhanced by the three dry years because everybody wanted to insure himself against a recurrence, so he proceeded to put in a pumping plant. Well, of course, with all this pumping, if we hadn't gotten Colorado River water, our underground basin would have been depleted within the last five or six years. We would have also had a considerable influx of salt water from the ocean to take the place of it. But by buying the Colorado River water and soaking it into the Santa Ana River bed at the very material rate that they've been going for the last eight or ten years, they have kept the water level up so that we haven't suffered any great damage. We can go through this winter if it doesn't rain and irrigate out of our wells and still not have any particular disaster. We could not have done that if we hadn't gotten the Colorado River water to supplement what falls.

I don't know how long these dry spells last, but judging from the rings on the old redwood trees which go back three or four thousand years, dry spells just come and go. We probably will get a long series of wet years after these dry years are

over. I hope I live to see them.

As I said before, the freeze of 1914 gave wonderful impetus to the planting of citrus orchards in Orange County. Most of the land to the east of Santa Ana, between Santa Ana and Anaheim, and quite a bit of land to the west of Anaheim has been planted to citrus and is still occupied by citrus orchards which are paying very well. Where they're going to be able to survive the subdivision influx, they'll undoubtedly pay even better for a good many years to come, because the supply of summer Valencia oranges, especially, is going to be a good deal less from now on than it has been in the past.

I came down through the San Joaquin Valley citrus district last week, and the freeze knocked out a lot of the young plantings up there. They shouldn't have been planted at that elevation in the first place, and they're going to have to get down to approximately where they were before. They've got all the land that's got a suitable climate for citrus planted already and that's where they're going to have to stay.

Schippers: Did the ownerships in Orange County change when the crops changed?

McFadden: No, not too noticeably. The same people that had been farming grapes went over to apricots, and to

walnuts and olives, and eventually to oranges. Of course, the core of the ownership changed due to the passage of time, because one generation passed on and the next generation took over. There's none of the first generation left now.

Schippers: But it does take different skills to grow different crops.

McFadden: Well, you have to accumulate them.

Schippers: Where did people acquire them?

McFadden: They got them the same way I did. I started out in 1907 to be a Lima-bean farmer, out on the Irvine Ranch, and I think I and my next door neighbor were the first people that irrigated Lima beans in Orange County. I don't know whether they irrigated them in Ventura County or not, but, of course, that's become universal since. We became, we thought, pretty expert bean growers in the course of fifteen years or so.

Then, I had my land in walnut trees, and I gradually made it over into oranges. I had a partner who had been an orange grower since his youth, and between him and my manager, I absorbed the knowledge of how to grow oranges. We've been going on ever since. Of course, now we're considered to be old-timers, because we've been growing oranges for about thirty-five or thirty-seven years, but

when we started, we were bean growers being made over into orange growers. The same thing was true of a lot of other people, but, of course, the farming business is something that you acquire by observation and experience anyhow. That changeover was just the same all over the country I suppose.

A lot of this river-bottom land (the Santa Ana River bottom between Costa Mesa mesa and the Huntington Beach mesa), has undergone a one hundred per cent transition since it was cleared of ~~walnut~~ willow trees. That land was originally planted to alfalfa and grain crops, principally barley and some oats. Then it gradually went over almost exclusively to Lima beans, and it has since become a combination of Lima beans and chilis and vegetables such as carrots and so on. These are grown for sale in the Los Angeles markets to a very large extent.

The Costa Mesa area, of course, has changed over into a town which is the thing it was best suited for, because it wasn't worth a great deal as agricultural land.

The Huntington Beach mesa was originally just a grazing area, and it's been completely made over into oil fields and a town. It's not the best land in the country, but I think it would do fairly well as farming land. Of course, the low end, the bottom,

is very excellent farming land and always will be as long as it's used for that purpose. The same thing is true of most of the flat land that's left on the Irvine Ranch. The flat land that's due south of Santa Ana, on each side of MacArthur Boulevard, is not suitable for citrus because it is too cold, but it will grow beans, grain and vegetables in the winter time and it's going to be used for that sort of thing.

The institution of the Lighter-Than-Air Base between here and the El Toro Marine Base was an economic crime. That land, which is now the base, previous to World War II, and not under war prices, produced a hundred and fourteen thousand dollars worth of sugar beets and other crops. It's been put out of production completely, and you know how much good the Lighter-Than-Air Base does the country. They could have forty acres out on the El Toro Marine Base and do the whole job just as well as they're doing it there, or they could be out on the edge of the desert where they wouldn't be interfering with anybody.

I suppose that the change in the physical character of the county, what's cultivated and where people live and so on, will continue at just as fast a tempo from now on as it has for the past seventy-five

years, but nobody knows just exactly what lines it may take, except that there seems very little likelihood that the good orange orchards will be changed by anything except subdivisions. Bringing in the Colorado River water, of course, has been a Godsend to Orange County. If it hadn't been done, our underground basin would have been almost completely depleted before now, and we'd have been out of luck for a source for our irrigating water. Now, what's going to happen in the course of the next thirty years on this Colorado River water is anybody's guess. It doesn't look as though the present plan of bringing water over the Tehachapi Mountains and distributing it down here would help the farmers any because the price they'll have to charge for that water is going to be prohibitive.

Schippers: What about the salt deposition in the water?

McFadden: Well, as long as we get a wet year every four or five years, that's not going to be too serious, because, when we get a good wet year, the rain water carries that salt on down. But at the end of the three dry years that were interrupted by last winter, the salt was beginning to show quite a little effect on some of the orchards. Last winter, most of the salt was carried on down, so we can stand a dry year this year without the salt doing us any serious

injury. Now, that seems to have covered pretty much of that.

I don't know how many people are interested in that sort of thing, but some of them probably are. At the time that I was a small boy, of course, the Irvine Ranch, for instance, was practically completely uncultivated. All the foothills that have houses, like Lemon Heights and north of La Habra, were in a state of nature. The rabbit and quail population would be completely unbelievable to the people who have grown up since it ceased to be, but it seems to me, as I look back on it, that we almost lived on rabbits and quail when I was a growing boy.

I lived on a little eleven-acre ranch about a mile west of town, which, of course, is right in the middle of town now, but it was way out in the country in those days. In the wintertime, of course, all this swamp land and the river bottom and over at Smeltzer and these lakes that were down south of here that were the result of not having any drainage into Newport Bay, were a mass of ducks and geese. The Costa Mesa area and this side of Laguna Hills was the wintering place of many hundreds of thousands of geese. If anybody in those days would have predicted that there'd soon come a time when there wouldn't be any geese in Orange County, they

undoubtedly would have had their heads examined, because they counted the geese that wintered where Costa Mesa is now, not by the hundreds or by the thousands, but by the acre. They would say that there was three acres of geese over here, and ten acres of geese over here, and so on.

The geese came down every winter and stayed all winter. Upper Newport Bay was a haven for both ducks and geese; they just sat out there during the day time. In the later years, the ducks and geese moved out to the ocean and stayed during the day and, when evening came, moved back in and went out into the fields to feed. I can remember, along about 1896 or so, when I was over hunting ducks on what is now Balboa Island, the Santa Ana wind started, and, of course, when the Santa Ana wind started, every duck and goose that was out on the ocean came ashore right now. If they hadn't, they'd have been blown out to sea, you see. Well, I lay on my back and shot geese there as long as I had shells. They were flying so low down as they came in off the ocean, I could see them blink their eyes as they went over me. Lots of times, I'd hit a goose that was two or three geese behind the one that I was shooting at because the wind was blowing so hard.

When the country was settled, the wildlife

population, the water birds, decreased very rapidly because there wasn't any place for them to harbor. They diminished until, now, there aren't any geese in Orange County and the ducks are down to the place where gun clubs furnish ponds for them to settle on, and so forth. But, of course, the rabbit population decreased very rapidly as the human population increased.

When I was a boy in grammar school and high school, I ran with a bunch of four or five other boys. We graduated from shotguns to twenty-two rifles fairly early in the process. Two or three of us would take a horse and buggy and drive down to what would be the southeast side of the Irvine Ranch where the foothills start and shoot during the afternoon. We would come back the next morning, and if the three of us didn't come back with seventy-five rabbits, why, it was a very poor day. That was just a normal thing.

But quite a good many years ago, the State undertook an extermination campaign against ground squirrels. Theoretically, the squirrels were supposed to be carrying the bubonic plague. The State proceeded to poison all the ground squirrels in the valley as near as they could, and, in my opinion, they poisoned nearly all the rabbits and most of the quail at the same time. Now they don't

admit that, but the number of quail has never been equal to what it was before. Down in the Laguna Hills, for instance, it certainly wasn't hunting that depleted them, because they didn't allow hunting there. But the quail have never come back to where they were before that poison campaign. They came nearer doing it last winter than any time yet, and if we'd have had a decent winter this winter, I think in another year or two they'd be back to pretty near normal conditions. But if it doesn't rain any more than it has so far, the quail, of course, will not pair off and breed at all next spring because they don't do it on a dry year. But when we used to go down to the foothills to hunt rabbits, the chief detriment to the rabbit hunting was the fact that the quail kept flying up in front of you by the thousands. That scared the rabbits before you could get a shot at them. [laughter]

There were also lots of coyotes and a good many wildcats in the hilly part of the country in those days. The wildcats are pretty near a thing of the past and the coyotes are very much lessened because of the influx of population. Sixty years ago, the deer population was down to the point of near extermination in Orange County because everybody that carried a gun, shot any deer he saw, any time he saw

him. When I was a boy, I was taken out deer hunting by some of the old-timers and hunted as much as two or three days without seeing a deer. Now there are at least a hundred times as many deer in Orange County as there was in 1900. Lots of people who can remember back to that time think that's a very great understatement. The extent of the deer population at the present time I think is largely due to the fact that there's so many people in the country that nobody dares to shoot deer out of season or anything of that sort for fear somebody is looking. As a result, the deer have increased to the point where there's a good many times as many deer in California as there were when the first white man hit the country. Of course, the fact that they've killed off the predators such as the mountain lions and the coyotes has had a good deal to do with that, but it's very noticeable that the deer is one game animal that has increased vastly since the country has become populated. I think that most of that increase has taken place in the last twenty-five years because the law has been vastly better enforced than it was before then.

The only other game creatures that have survived in anywhere near their original quantities are the mourning doves. You read about it being a crime to

shoot the poor birds. The do-gooders and sentimentalists have got something there because the mourning dove is an innocent sort of a bird, but the mourning dove has held its own in numbers vastly better than the quail or any other game bird that we've got. [laughter] I think that is due to the fact that they can fly practically unlimited distances to water and that they don't gang up in big flocks the way the quail do when there are large numbers of them. You can't shoot as many of them in one place. Of course, anybody that is a hunter and loves to see this wildlife is very glad to see that condition prevailing. But as far as Orange County is concerned, it's gotten to be too much of one big city to ever hope to see the game animals come back in the numbers they were sixty or seventy years ago. As I said, the water birds are practically a thing of the past as far as we're concerned.

I understand that, in the early days, they had elk in the mountains over east of here, and they no doubt had antelope out here in the flat, but both of them have been gone as long as I can remember--that means sixty-five years or so. There also were some bears in these mountains, but they killed the last bear more than sixty years ago. So, they're a thing of the past also, as far as the South is concerned.

Originally, what is now Orange County was part of Los Angeles County. Of course, it was then just an excrescence on the south side of Los Angeles County. Of course, the people that were the leaders down here had been treated as members of a more or less submarginal area by the governmental agencies in Los Angeles County, who weren't interested in this tip that stuck out toward San Diego. So, the people in this area were very anxious to have a county of their own. Most people around the state thought that was an impossibility, because Los Angeles then had quite a big population, comparatively speaking, although I suppose it didn't have more than fifty thousand people in it. But that was a big city in those days. The concept of a new county, however, was built up down here, and they finally agreed to go ahead and see what they could do.

They sent a committee composed of Mr. William Spurgeon (the founder of Santa Ana) and James McFadden (my uncle and also one of the four or five first families that came into the neighborhood that Santa Ana occupies at the present time) to go to Sacramento and see if they could get a bill through the Legislature for setting up a separate county. My Uncle James was more or less a political boss at this end of the state at that time, and he knew his

way around Sacramento quite well. He was a Republican and Mr. Spurgeon was a Democrat, so they made a very ideal team to work this over.

After they'd been up there about a week, they sent a telegram down to Santa Ana to send them ten thousand dollars. They needed the money to hire an attorney. Well, the people down here raised the ten thousand dollars and sent it up to them, and they hired the man who was the labor union boss of San Francisco as an attorney. He was an attorney all right, but, as you can readily surmise, as a result of that selection, they got all of San Francisco's votes in favor of causing Los Angeles County to be divided. That, in connection with the country votes from around the state, enabled them to line up enough votes to get the bill through the Legislature, much to everybody's surprise.

Well, then they talked over what the boundaries of the county were going to be. Of course, the logical place to cut the county off would have been at the San Gabriel River. This would have put Whittier in this county, and, of course, what is now Long Beach. Long Beach wasn't there yet, so that wasn't taken into consideration. But it was thoroughly understood that there'd be an election after the county was constituted, to decide where the

county seat was going to be. Well, of course, Mr. Spurgeon and Uncle Jim wanted the county seat to be Santa Ana, but Anaheim was nearly as big as Santa Ana, even at that time, and, of course, was the oldest town in the district. If they had taken Whittier in, Anaheim would have been the county seat. There's no question about that because the Whittier area would be all for that. So, instead of making the San Gabriel River the boundary, they made Coyote Creek the boundary. That is about a mile and a half the other side of Buena Park. Of course, Buena Park was just vacant land in those days, but that was made the boundary. As a result, the county has a little less than eight hundred square miles in it, and that makes it one of the smallest counties in the state. I guess the smallest is San Francisco County. Population is another matter. I believe there are now eleven states that haven't got as great a population as these eight hundred square miles have. Of course, that growth has taken place very largely within the last eight or ten years.

When the county began operations in 1889, there was no courthouse, so they rented a building down in the business part of Santa Ana for their operation. Mr. Spurgeon, however, had kept the block where the courthouse now stands, vacant during all the years

from the time town was started in 1870 till the time the county was founded hoping that sometime it would be a county and that that could be the site of the courthouse. Well, of course, for many years, that block was ample for the courthouse and the county jail and everything else they had. He sold it to the county at a very reasonable price and they proceeded to build a courthouse there. Now, the civic center is spreading out toward the west and has already gone a half a mile and is rapidly going further. But that is just a matter of the development.

It's almost inconceivable that at the time I spent my boyhood days on the Newport Landing, there were nine or ten people within a radius of eight miles. Now look at it! Also, the town of Garden Grove, during most of my life, was a post office and a general store and a school house. After 1905, they had a packing house there because the Pacific Electric came through it. It's now bigger than the city of Stockton, which was always thought of as one of the big cities in the State of California. It's almost inconceivable. The population is over a hundred thousand according to the latest estimates. I don't know where it's going to stop, but it seems terrible, in some respects, to an old-timer that's seen the whole thing. But it's just a matter of progress I guess.

Schippers: In this context, I wondered if you would comment on what you think about growth in government institutions and so forth?

McFadden: Well, of course, to a person who grew up in California during the pioneer days, it seems as though there's a terrific amount of government interference over things that we ordinarily did for ourselves over most of our lifetimes. I don't think it's any worse in California than it is in all the other states in the Union, but I hope that it doesn't go much further than it's already gone. This business of making it more profitable for a man to be out of a job than to have a job on account of the employment insurance that he gets, in my opinion, is a very bad thing for a private enterprise system. We sure look askance at that sort of thing.

It seems to me, as I've observed it over the twenty-five years, that Texas and California are the two states in the Union that bear down on states' rights more than any of the other states in the Union, and I hope that they continue to do so. I think they will. Of course, we've had such an enormous influx of eastern people within the last ten years, that it has been pretty hard for the state to absorb them and make them over. This was done more easily in the first half of the century

when they came in more gradually. I think the people that came in from the East and started to live here absorbed the California tradition and fell in with the California ideals pretty generally up till the last ten years. But, I just wonder with the influx in the last ten years which has been so rapid, whether they're going to be educated into California ideals or whether it's going to be the other way around. I hope it'll not be the other way around, and I don't think it will be. I think that we will make them all into Californians eventually, and if we do, I think our independence as a state will be preserved and the government won't interfere too much with our business affairs and our private affairs.

There isn't any question that our present system of taxation has a very evil effect on the free-enterprise system. I saw that as president of the Irvine Company, and it's still just as much the case as it was then. You hate to start a new enterprise because if you make a profit, the government will get half of it, and if you make a loss, you stand it all. That seems to be universal in the United States at the present time. I don't know how a young man can go out and buy himself a farm the way he has been able to during most of my life, because the ups and downs and the vagaries of farming no longer balance out.

As I say, whenever you have a good year, the government takes a lot of it, and whenever you have a bad year, it's all your loss. So, it's almost impossible to pay out on a farm deal. You pretty nearly have to inherit either the money to buy a farm or inherit the farm itself if you're going to get into the farming business at the present time. Maybe that isn't so much the case up in northern California where prices haven't increased as much as in the south half of the state. At any rate, I think the prices of farm land are completely out of reason at the present time. There's no justification for them economically, and I think they'll have to come down.

Schippers: You mentioned free enterprise, which brings to mind that Walter Knott, over in Buena Park, is also a strong advocate of this ideal.

McFadden: He's a very able free-enterpriser and feels very strongly about it. He was raised in the pioneer days the same as I was and has got the same ideals. We see eye to eye on all these things. He's had a very great influence here in Orange County and it's all to the good in my opinion. I'm quite a close personal friend of his, and I've known him, of course, for a good many years.

Schippers: Would you say he's had a rather heavy political impact in recent years?

McFadden: Yes, it's only been during the last three or four years that he's had the time to take an interest and take part in these things, but he's doing it very actively at the present time, and it's doing a lot of good. Of course, he has a lot of influence in the county. I don't think you could put your finger on another man in the United States that's made the success of an enterprise that he's made out of Knott's Berry Farm. It's just fantastic. People can't fail to have a lot of respect for anybody that's succeeded in doing that sort of thing. It's certainly a great benefit to the community that his sentiments are what they are and that he's taken the time now to put in quite a little time on public leadership, and he's certainly on the right track in every case.

Schippers: I wonder if you would give some of your views about government and agriculture.

McFadden: Well, I think the government has concerned itself with agriculture because it is politically expedient. This great farm problem that we read about in the papers all the time and that is being batted back and forth in Washington has a very small impact on the State of California politically and economically speaking. The only people in California who get any great income from the government subsidies are the cotton growers, and they'd be far better off if they

didn't have any interference at all, and they'll all tell you so.

When Ezra [Taft] Benson was the Secretary of Agriculture, I think he went through the toughest time that any Secretary has ever had to. Nearly every year he came out to California and made an address to some large farm organization here in California, and I've always felt in the back of my mind that maybe one reason he did it was because that was his one chance during the year when he had a chance to talk to a big audience that was practically solidly with him all the time. But, while the farmers in California were behind his policies, they were against the subsidies and interference with private enterprise that we've got so much of now. But, in California, we're lucky that we've only got one big industry that's affected by that, and that's the cotton industry. Of course, if the cotton industry was left to the free-enterprise system, it would be far better off in California than it is now.

Schippers: You think then, that the free-enterprise system is essential to a healthy economy?

McFadden: I think so. Of course, it's more and more difficult to maintain as this government interference goes on year after year, because it makes it harder on the people that have been getting government help to cut

it out. If they hadn't started in the first place, we'd have had these problems solved long ago.

CHAPTER IV

CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE; LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

I'd like to comment on the influence of Mr. Charles Teague on California agriculture. He was the president of Sunkist for I think forty years and president of the California Walnut Growers Association for about the same length of time. In my opinion, he's been by far the most influential and far-seeing farmer that we've had in the State of California. He, of course, had a great impact on the citrus industry as president of Sunkist and as a leader in the walnut industry. I was present at the meetings that were held back in 1916, when the California Walnut Growers Association was formed. Mr. Teague was chairman of those three or four meetings that were held in Los Angeles and that were attended by the people from all over the walnut-growing country, which was all of Southern California in those days. I'm telling you that if it hadn't been for the sheer force of Teague's personality and determination, they never would have been able to form an association. I never have seen anything equal to the rugged individualism that was manifested,

but he still fought for the concept of a central organization and finally succeeded in getting it on its way. After it was once on its way, some of the people that had been the strongest individualists in the first place were strongest for the organization after they'd had two or three years experience with it. But it was his guidance that kept it on an even keel and going forward during the first fifteen years or so of its existence.

Mr. Teague was not too able a politician in the sense of being able to go out in the country and talk to the individuals and get them over on his side. So, because my experience was more intimate in the Walnut Association than anywhere else, I helped out. Both myself, down here, and Doc [Hubert] Sharp up in Ventura County were pretty good at that sort of thing and we were his chief lieutenants. We did that work and he did the steering from the top for the whole thing. There were others besides Doc Sharp and myself, of course, who were willing and glad to do it. But the results were very outstanding.

During the Depression Mr. Teague was appointed by President Hoover to a national committee of five, I think, to help out distressed areas and so on. He was not chairman of the committee, but it was very apparent, after a few months, that he was the leading

personality on the committee. He spent nearly all of his time for two or three years in Washington and in Florida and in various places in the east getting co-ops going and getting movements going in farming areas. I'm sure he did the agriculture of the United States a lot of good. He also served on the State Chamber of Commerce and on the Board of Regents for a long time and had a very great influence on both of those institutions. I think he was by far the most influential farm leader, politically, we've had here in California. He was so far ahead of everybody else that there was no comparison to be made at all. I've had farmers tell me that I've had more influence in California than Mr. Teague did, but I don't believe that at all. The reason that they said that was because I have held a lot more appointed political positions than he did, but I think his influence, especially here in California, has been far greater than anybody else I've known in my lifetime.

Schippers: What kind of things did he advocate?

McFadden: He was a free-enterprise man, but he was a very strong cooperative man too. He had a very correct business judgement, and when he had to make a decision it was nearly always right. Of course, the Limoneira Company in Ventura County was the

biggest citrus organization in the United States during most of his lifetime. The Irvine Company may have a lot more oranges than the Limoneira Company, but because the Limoneira Company grows mostly lemons, I don't know whether the total tonnage in citrus is any greater in one case than the other at the present time. Of course, the Irvine Company has come ahead a whole lot in the last few years and will come ahead a lot more.

A. C. Hardison, up in Santa Paula, was another very able leader. He hasn't had anywhere near the influence that Mr. Teague has had, but he's had a lot of influence. He was on the State Board of Agriculture long before my time and was a very influential man there. He was a director from California in the United States Chamber of Commerce.

In this connection, I had a very interesting experience. He got me to go back to Washington and make a talk before the Agricultural Committee of the United States Chamber of Commerce on prorate law. Well, of course, that was looked on as a very radical law and I suppose there were five hundred people in the audience when I gave them our resume of our experience. At this time, I discovered that the agricultural bloc in the United States Chamber of Commerce consisted largely of stockbrokers from

Chicago who were dealing in agricultural products rather than with real farms. They didn't go with me at all, and I made no impression on them whatever with this talk. But the trip was well worthwhile because all the New Dealers in Mr. Roosevelt's setup were present, and they went along with me a hundred per cent. As I said before, they took up the idea of these prorate agreements and made the marketing agreements which have had a vast influence on agriculture in California and other places ever since. So, they all came around and made my acquaintance and shook hands with me when it was over. It was a very funny experience. [laughter]

I think my friend Paul Dodson, who's now president of the Diamond Walnut Grower's Association, is making quite an impact on agriculture in the State of California. He's doing a swell job as president of the Diamond Wahut Growers, and I think he's doing a swell job as a director in the National Council of Farm Co-ops. He was elected vice-president at the last annual meeting. He's a comparatively young man, and I think he's likely to go quite a long way. He has quite varied interests here in California that are scattered all over the state. He seems to be successful in most of them, so I think he's going to go quite a long way. Of course, I know all the

leadership in agriculture in California.

Bill Cosart, president of the California Fruit Exchange, which ships deciduous fruits (the headquarters are in Sacramento), is a very able citizen. I think he has had quite an influence both in California and the nation as president of the Agricultural Council of California and because he is quite influential in the National Council of Co-ops.

California, of course, has a good deal more influence in the National Council of Co-ops than any other state. We've got more successful co-ops here than any other state in the Union, especially marketing organizations. They do a bigger business in volume and money than any other state in the Union. The result is that we have about a quarter of the directors in the National Council, and I think more than a quarter of the influence. A rather strange thing about this is the fact that, while we talk about our bitter rivalry with Florida in the citrus business, when it comes to the National Council, we're just like two peas in a pod with all the Florida people because our interests, nationally, are absolutely identical. We even succeeded in electing the manager of one of the co-ops in Florida as president of the National Council for this year, and he'll be president again next year. We've been

anxious to see him as president for the last five or six years, and we figure that having him as president is just the same as having a Californian.

Schippers: You said earlier that you would like to make mention of Mr. Bancroft.

McFadden: Yes. Phil Bancroft and I were in the same class in Harvard Law School, and we've been very close friends during the fifty-nine years since then. I think Phil has had quite a noted influence on California. He ran for Senator the year that Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected President, and if it had been any other year in the last sixty years, he'd have been elected. It would have been a great thing for the State of California if he had been elected because he could have been a much more able Senator than some of the ones that we have and have had.

In California we have an organization that is known as the Agricultural Council of California and that is composed of an association of all the state farm cooperatives that want to belong. I suppose that constitutes more than ninety per cent of the active co-ops in the State of California. It has been active for about twenty-five years, and at the present time, there is a staff of four or five people--the director, secretary, his assistant, and then another assistant who has charge of the

relationship with the young people in educational institutions throughout the state. The organization does all the political work for practically all of the cooperatives in the state which do a six or seven hundred million dollar business a year. Of course, during the sessions of the Legislature, the secretary and his assistant are very active all the time. Then, during the times that Legislature is not in session, the organization acts as a coordinating body to keep co-ops in the state informed as to what's going on amongst their neighbors and any jobs that need to be done as far as their relationships to each other is concerned. They also carry on this educational program with the young people of the state.

Mr. Charles Teague was president of this organization for quite a good many years, and when he retired, I was elected president and served for quite a long time. I guess it was eight or ten years and, then, I also retired voluntarily. At the time I retired, I was made honorary life president, so I still go to the annual meetings and some of the meetings in between. The organization is still very active.

We also have a national organization which is known as the National Council of Farmer-Owned Cooperatives which has been operating for twenty years

or more. It just so happened that I attended the second meeting of this organization which was held in Chicago. At that time, I believe there were only two people from California and I represented the Sunkist Organization, the Walnut Growers Association, the California Fruit Exchange in Sacramento, and Calavo as I recall. I think there were only ten or twelve delegates at the meeting. Well, of course, since that time, it's become a very powerful organization and has an annual meeting every year somewhere in the United States. Their annual meetings are usually attended by not over a thousand people. I became president of the organization in 1950, and in accordance with the custom which was just getting started at that time, I served for two years and then retired. That's been the custom ever since. The members of this organization do about seven billion dollars worth of business every year, so it is really the chief speaker, in Washington and Congress, for the cooperative business of the farmers of the United States.

The Farm Bureau and the National Council, I mean the Grange and the other organization, which is headed by Jim Patton, is more radical than any of the others. They quite largely represent educational and social relationships of the agriculture interests,

but the National Council of Co-ops is solely a business organization and speaks for the business side of the cooperative movement in the United States.

Quite a good many years ago, prior to the installation of the New Deal in the United States when Franklin D. Roosevelt became President, we had a law, promulgated by the State Farm Bureau and passed by the Legislature, which was known as the State Prorate Commission Law. It was a very radical law at the time, but was administered by a very conservative committee, and the consequence was that after a year or two it worked very well. We had quite a good many of these prorate agreements in the state, covering such things as the lettuce growing in the winter down in Imperial Valley. Strange to say, that was the first one and then there was one on milk in various places. One of the things that was demonstrated was that there was value in these marketing agreements, and it was the genesis of our present marketing agreements that we have all over the United States. It turned out that these marketing agreements worked while you had a monopoly within a certain area of the product and, of course, it was confined to the State of California. They worked still better if you had a good, strong co-op that had had business experience in marketing that product

for several years and that could take an active part in the operation of the agreement. The same thing has proved true of the marketing agreements which have grown out of this in the United States. They wouldn't work in something like potatoes or peanuts or things that are growing all over the country, but they do work where all the stuff is grown in one comparatively limited area, such as almonds and walnuts which are grown in California and Oregon. It also works pretty well with raisins, which are all grown in California. There are more marketing agreements that are successful in the State of California than all the rest of the United States put together. The New Deal took up this idea from our prorate agreement in California.

This commission was quite active during the years of its existence, and I was president for six years or a little longer. Soon after that, its functions were taken over by the State Board of Agriculture and they're still maintained by the State Board and the U. S. Board, because, in most cases, where we've got a state agreement, we also have a United States market agreement which works along with it.

Then, during World War II, we had a committee that was appointed by the Legislature and by the

Governor which was given three million dollars to be dispensed to aid agricultural production during the war. This also was quite a conservative committee and was composed of experienced farm operators in various commodities and from various parts of the state. It did, I think, a very great service to agriculture during the war. We dispensed the three million dollars in very large variety of places, and, when it was gone, the Legislature proceeded to appropriate another three million dollars and turned it over to us. But, by that time, the war was pretty well over, and we had the operation going in pretty good shape, so we turned the three million dollars back to the Legislature. I think that's the only case in history that that sort of thing happened. I'm sure that everybody that went through the organization and its operation is agreed that it was a vast help to agriculture during the war.

Then the California State Chamber of Commerce has been in operation for a good many years. I suppose somewhere in the neighborhood of forty years. I became a director of that in 1936, and a couple of years later, I was elected president. I succeeded Mr. Joseph Russell Knowland. At the time that we all retired last year, of all the past presidents Mr. Knowland was the only member of the Board that

had seniority over me. All the other members had been elected since 1936. Up to the time that I was elected president, the organization had been directed by a man named Sloane who had been secretary since the beginning. He did a swell job, but it was more or less a one-man operation.

I think the chief reason for the beginning of the State Chamber of Commerce was to reconcile the differences between the north and south--San Francisco and Los Angeles; I think it's done a wonderful job. I don't think there's any danger of a state division that we used to hear talk about thirty or forty years ago. We never hear it any more. I think that that's due to two things. One of the reasons is that the influence of the State Chamber of Commerce was effective, and the other reason is the great increase in the number of Native Sons who were, of course, proud of the state's history and wouldn't think of seeing it divided.

Well, a little longer than a year and a half after I was elected, Mr. Sloane suddenly passed away and it was necessary to find a new man to take his place. In conjunction with Mr. Harry Chandler of Los Angeles and Rueben Hale of San Francisco and several other leaders in the state, we succeeded in getting James Mussatti to come as the active head

[General Manager] of the State Chamber. He had a long and successful term, and just retired less than a year ago on account of health.

Also, during my term as president, we bought an office in San Francisco, on Bush Street, as I remember it, and then one in Los Angeles just west of the present Statler Hotel.

Of course, the State Chamber of Commerce still takes quite an active interest in the direction of how the state government operates. For instance, they have a Committee on Highways that goes over the highway question very meticulously all over the state every year, and it makes recommendations to the State Highway Commission. These recommendations are very carefully considered by the State Highway Commission, and the State Highway Commission is very grateful for this assistance that they get from a representative body that they feel does represent public sentiment pretty much from all over the state. Then, the State Chamber of Commerce takes an active stand on a great many of the questions that come up before the Legislature, affecting the state's welfare. We have, of course, a man in Sacramento that watches what goes on in the Legislature very carefully. Then, each one of the various committees of the State Chamber of Commerce (they have quite a

number of them) watches the thing that's under its particular jurisdiction. The regular routine is that the committee calls meetings of its membership, sometimes public meetings, and comes up with a recommendation from the committee which is brought before the State Board. It is either accepted or rejected by the State Board. That happens at practically every committee meeting, and they have five or six meetings every year. I think the State Chamber of Commerce is probably the most influential semipublic body that we have in the State of California as far as Legislature and public sentiment is concerned.

Schippers: How about the membership composition of the State Chamber, such as rural versus urban areas?

McFadden: Well, up to fifteen years ago, the State Chamber of Commerce directors were almost exclusively composed of people from the Los Angeles and Bay area. I think I was the only director in the southern half of California that lived outside of Los Angeles County for many years, but in the last eight or ten years that has been quite largely overcome. I think now we have two directors from San Diego, one from San Bernardino, one from Bakersfield, one from Fresno, one from Sacramento, and one from Chico. Those are ones I can just think of offhand, but that

shows that the directorship is very much better disposed over the state than it was twenty-five years ago. As I said, I think the original and chief business of the State Chamber of Commerce was to resolve the difference between Los Angeles and San Francisco, so it was just as well that most of the directors came from those two areas. But that time is past, and it now represents the state as a whole, and I think the directorship quite largely represents the state as a whole also.

Schippers: Has there been any internal antagonism between urban and agricultural interests?

McFadden: Very little in the State Chamber of Commerce. There were about five directors of the State Chamber that represented agriculture on the Board of Directors during most of my many years there. There were perhaps three that were agriculturalists in toto. Then there would be three or four more that represented both agriculture and the city. The typical example of that would be the president of the Bank of America. As you may know, he and his brother run a big winery in Livermore. He was born and brought up on this ranch that his father had started in Livermore and that his brother and he still do operate. So you see, while he probably represented the Bank of America whenever any agricultural question came up, he was just as thoroughly conversant

with it as the people that were a hundred per cent farmers. There were three or four other members of the Board that were in the same general situation. So, there has been very little antagonism between the urban sections of the state and the farm sections.

Schippers: In your experience in all of this development, what have you found the balance between these interests to be?

McFadden: Oh, I think there's been quite a good balance. Of course, we've the example in Los Angeles City, where this fight on reapportionment has come up and represents one hundred per cent antagonism between the city areas and the country areas, but the country areas in this particular case also have San Francisco on their side, so I don't know what will come of it. But I don't think anything very radical will be done. It hasn't been so far. That's the most extreme example that I can think of. I certainly hope that the State of California will never become like the State of New York where one big city dominates the whole state. It's bad for the state as a whole. There's no question about that.

Schippers: Then you think California has been rather temperate politically?

McFadden: Oh, I think so, as far as their internal affairs are concerned, and that's the case even when you get

somebody quite radically to the left as the Governor. It was the case even with Brother Olson, who was exceedingly radical. By the time he'd been Governor for a couple years, the responsibilities of the job had tempered his radicalism very greatly, and the same thing is true to an even greater extent with our present Governor.

Then, we also had a State Board of Agriculture as everybody knows, and it has been in operation for a great many years. During my term, which was sixteen years, I served under both Earl Warren and Governor [Goodwin] Knight. Our chief functions were first to advise the Governor on agricultural questions that came up and needed solving; secondly, we were to act as a hearing committee for any agricultural segment of the state that had a matter that it wanted taken up by the Department of Agriculture and who wanted a hearing by a jury of their own peers. Of course, that's what the State Board of Agriculture was, because it was composed of people from all over the state who had experience in farming operations. I was Chairman of the State Board of Agriculture during the entire term of Governor Warren and also during the term of Governor Knight, which constituted sixteen years altogether. So I had a pretty long job there, and I think that the

State Board did quite a beneficial job during those sixteen years.

Mr. Frank Shay was President of the Prune and Apricot Growers during this time, and I usually acted as spokesmen for the State Board of Agriculture with both Governors. I can truthfully say, without fear of contradiction, that we never went to either one of the Governors on an agriculture matter that the State Board had considered and taken action on and went over with the Governor, that our advice was not taken. That is a pretty good record I would think, The State Board of Agriculture hasn't got any power as such, but it has a very strong influence both on the Department of Agriculture and on the agriculture of the State of California. Mr. Shay was also chairman of this committee that dispensed money during World War II. Well, I think that pretty well covers the state activities.

Schippers: While you were a member of the State Board of Agriculture, do you recall any specific issues that represent the problems or some of the goals of the Board?

McFadden: Well, one of the cases that was acute was the dissatisfaction caused by the milk industry up around San Francisco. This was a result of some of the rules and regulations that the State Department of

Agriculture made as the operators of the State Marketing Agreement Law. They came to the Board with their complaint, and we set a public hearing and held it. The members of the Board of Agriculture were all present, and then the people of the milk industry came and presented their case. We took it under consideration and formulated what we thought was the best possible solution and made it as a recommendation to the Department of Agriculture. There was no further trouble at all on the milk deal, because these people felt that they'd had their fair and full hearing by what amounted to a jury of their peers and they were satisfied with the results.

Now, these results may not have been any different from what the Department of Agriculture would have put out on their own, but we found by experience that people in agriculture all over the state were very much better satisfied when they'd had a hearing and a recommendation by a jury of their own people, such as the Board of Agriculture, rather than by what they look on as a bunch of bureaucrats, such as the State Department of Agriculture. I don't think that's entirely a fair attitude, but it's the universal attitude in the state.

Schippers: Did you get any partisan opposition?

McFadden: No, very little. Very little. I think the State

Board of Agriculture had considerable respect for agriculture all over the state and there was very little disposition to criticize their actions.

CHAPTER V

ACTIVITIES AS A REGENT

The Board of Regents of the University is composed of twenty-four members. Six members of the Board of Regents hold membership on account of being in some other office. Among these are the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the President of the State Board of Agriculture. When I became President of the State Board of Agriculture, I naturally became a Regent. Mr. Charles Teague had been a Regent for a good many years at that time, and he was the Chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the Board of Regents which, naturally, the farmer members were more interested in than anything else.

Very soon, within a few years after I became Regent, Mr. Teague retired from the Board, and I was elected in his place as Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture. I occupied that position for the remainder of my sixteen-year term on the Board of Regents. As far as agriculture is concerned, that's a very powerful job on the Board of Regents. It's too powerful, but as long as the Board is largely composed of non-farmers, I don't see any answer to

it because, naturally, if there are only one or two Regents that are farmers and one of them is a Chairman of the State Committee on Agriculture, the other Regents look to him for advice and almost always follow his recommendations.

I can think of several activities that I engaged in as Chairman on Agriculture. The first one was when Mr. Teague was still Chairman. That had to do with the disposition of the ~~Curnate~~ Kearney property in Fresno County, which was about ten miles west of Fresno. It had been left to the State University by Mr. ~~Curnate~~ Kearney at the time that he died. As I recollect, it constituted four or six thousand acres of farming land. It was leased out to farmers and had been for many years. The land was not doing the State University any good because it was not suitable for an experiment station and it was considerably too big anyhow. There had been quite a bit of question over the years as to what should be done with it. So the Regents appointed Mr. Teague and myself to go out and make a survey of this land and to come back with a recommendation to the Board.

We made the survey of the land. Of course, both of us had a lifetime of familiarity with California agriculture, and it was our conclusion that the best thing for the University to do would

be to sell the land at the best price that could be gotten for it and put the money out where it would bring in a bigger return. We made that recommendation to the Board, and it was unanimously adopted. Mr. Robert Underhill, who was the Business Manager of the University, was given the job of selling this land. My recollection is that he had it all sold within a year or just a little more than that (most of it was sold to the tenants who were occupying it), at a very fair price. My recollection is that we got in the neighborhood of four million dollars out of the land and that the money was invested in a separate fund and put under the direction of the Giannini Foundation. Of course, it does the University's activities along agricultural lines a great deal of good. So that problem was solved quite rapidly.

Then, after I became Chairman of the Committee, it was very apparent that we needed a considerable extension of our agricultural acreage up at the State College of Agriculture in Davis. Well, a man by the name of Harold Hopkins, whom I had known ever since he was a small child (he was raised in Santa Ana, and his wife was also born and raised here), had a very highly improved ranch about a mile and a half west of Davis. It had three or four

very good wells on it that would irrigate all the land they had. They also had several orchards that were in good condition and buildings that were in good condition. They also had an airport. So they deputed me to see what I could do about it, and I made a deal with Harold Hopkins for the land. As I remember it, it was just under a million dollars that we paid for the land. I've forgotten the exact date. Originally, it was somewhere one and two thousand acres as I remember it, and he threw in the airport. [laughter]

I thought it was a very fair deal, but during the next year or so some of my legal friends from San Francisco intimated to me that I paid him too much for the land because he was a friend of mine. That didn't sit very well with me because there was nothing to that at all. Well, between Davis and the Hopkins' Ranch there were a couple of thousand acres of equally good land, but it was entirely unimproved. It belonged to several maiden sisters named Campbell, and as you can judge by their name, they were Scotch. The Regents deputed Mr. Underhill to see if he could make a deal to buy that land, because it was a foregone conclusion that we would have to buy that land when we got the Hopkins Ranch.

I have always considered that Bill Myers, who

was Dean of the College of Agriculture of Cornell, was the leading authority on agricultural education. He was a good personal friend of mine, so I wrote him and asked him what he thought was the right amount of land for a first class college of agriculture to have, and he said three thousand acres. Well, in conjunction with what we already had in addition to the Hopkins place, this Campbell land would just about make three thousand acres, maybe a couple of hundred acres over.

But, Mr. Underhill didn't have any luck with the Campbells in making a deal to buy the land, and we had to condemn it. The condemnation suit was tried, and the net result was that we paid, as I remember, between one and two hundred dollars an acre more for this entirely unimproved land than I'd paid for the Hopkins Ranch, so I didn't hear any more objections. [laughter]

I think that as a result of both of these operations, the State College at Davis has got as fine a piece of land of just the right size as any college of agriculture in the United States. I think that's the consensus of opinion of all the people that run that place there. Of course, I kept a very active interest in the College of Agriculture during all the time that I was on the

Board and had many friends on the faculty there. It was very interesting and rewarding position to be in.

During the last year or so of my presence on the Board, this expansion deal came up, and we expected to make at least three or four new campuses. The first thing they did was to put a College of Liberal Arts at Davis, which was just an expansion of the Davis campus. They also undertook a considerable expansion over what they had been doing with the colleges in Santa Barbara and Riverside. In addition to that, they were expecting to make three more. One was to be somewhere south of San Francisco, and they finally settled on an area in the neighborhood of Santa Cruz. One was to be down in San Diego County, and they are, as you know, expecting to operate on some land that is east of the Oceanography Institute at La Jolla. The third one has finally settled on a piece of property at the head of Newport Bay on the Irvine Ranch.

Well, I was appointed by the Chairman of the Board as a member of the committee to make these selections, and I was actively a member of that committee until they began to consider the site on the Irvine Ranch. At that time I immediately resigned because I was also director of the Irvine Company and

it's very apparent that there'd be a conflict of interests. Before they got very far, I became President of the Irvine Company, and, of course, handled the whole operation from the Irvine Company point of view. It was while I was President of the Irvine Company that we negotiated the deal under which the University gets a thousand acres of land. We agreed to develop another five or six or ten thousands acres in the neighborhood in conjunction with that and with the advice of the Board of Regents. I had the pleasure of signing the deed from the Irvine Company to the Board of Regents which, of course, was a very great pleasure to me, although at that time I was no longer a Regent because of the change of administration. But you can readily imagine, I will, as long as I live, take a very great interest seeing the development of this operation down in the Newport Bay area.

Schippers: What is your feeling about each new campus specializing in its curriculum?

McFadden: I think that the probability is that the bigger ones should concentrate on one or two lines--such as a College of Medicine down at San Diego and possibly some agricultural interests down here at the one at Irvine. Of course, the one at Riverside is right in conjunction with the Experiment Station

at Riverside, but, as I understand it, the one at Irvine will eventually be a great deal larger than the one at Riverside. Eventually, it is supposed to be the same size as the one in Berkeley and the one at UCLA. Of course, we have an experiment station of a couple hundred acres on the Irvine land that's only three or four miles away from the campus site, so I have an idea that they will concentrate to some extent on agriculture, although they will no doubt have all the things that the big campuses have to have.

Schippers: How much of a contribution do you feel the schools of agriculture have made to agriculture in the state?

McFadden: Well, I think they've made a very great contribution, because we've got a lot of men who are now prominent leaders in the agriculture of the state who are graduates of the College of Agriculture at Davis. Most of them still maintain a very active interest in Davis, and they also apply, to the benefit of the state agriculture, what they learned while they were going through the college. I doubt if there is any state in the Union where the state university has had more of an impact on agriculture than it has here in California. Of course, California is the leading state in the union in agriculture anyhow, so that follows more or less as a matter of necessity.

Schippers: Of course, with the regional differences in California, it is going to be very important to have some agricultural activities down here.

McFadden: Yes, that's the reason. It's on account of the regional differences in climate, principally, that we have the two-hundred-acre experiment station out at Irvine. There are a lot of things such as avocados and to some extent strawberries and things of that sort that should grow on a coastal climate. They don't grow behind the first range of hills such as is the case with Riverside. The same thing is true in the San Joaquin Valley up in northern Tulare County where you've got an experiment station now. Things there are quite a little bit different from the one that's up at Davis even though it's in the same general valley. I think that it's a good thing that we've got them scattered over the state. We've also got a range experiment station up by Hopland there, at the south end of Mendocino County, which carries on investigations that are entirely different from the ones where you have active cultivation of the soil. But they're able to solve a lot of range problems, especially for the coast range, that wouldn't be possible to solve if there wasn't this hill range land to operate with.

Schippers: As a Regent what other things besides agriculture

were you consulted about?

McFadden: I had the same part in the educational activities of the University as all the rest of the Regents, and the fact that I happened to be a farmer I don't think had any particular influence on those activities. I was a graduate of a small college, Pomona College, and I had had many years of experience as a trustee of that college before I became a Regent. I also had experience as an undergraduate in a big university when I went to Harvard Law School, so I suppose I had training that was as good as anybody else who was a Regent of the University. I think the point of view that I got as a graduate from and during the many years as a trustee for an independent and privately endowed institution was of considerable benefit to the University. That is because privately endowed institutions are a coordinate part of education in the State of California, and there's not only no competition between the two systems, but they complement each other to quite a large extent. I think that that experience was of considerable benefit to me.

Schippers: I wonder if you'd care to comment at all on what some have called a rivalry between UCLA and Berkeley?

McFadden: Well, we didn't get very much of that in the Board of Regents. I was one of two speakers for agriculture

who actively fought the location of the southern part of the University at Westwood. We very, very plainly saw some of the limitations that were going to result from putting the University in the middle of what was already a well-developed city. The farmers of the state felt that the University ought to be put out at least on the edge of the city where they could have a whole lot more room to grow and where they could get a bigger piece of land to start with. That's the point of view that Mr. Hardison, of Santa Paula, and I presented to the Board of Regents. We got a cold reception. I think it was about as cold a reception as I ever got in my life. Mr. Crocker of the Crocker Bank in San Francisco was Chairman of the Board at that time and he and the Board had their minds made up that they were going to put it where they did. They put it there and all the things that we foresaw and told them would happen have happened. But, of course, it's become a great university in spite of these handicaps. But I'm still of the opinion, and I think most people agree with it now, that it would have been better for the southern branch of the University if it had been put out in the San Fernando Valley, for instance, where there was really more room for them to expand.

Schippers: Were there any other important issues during your time as a Regent that come to mind? For example, I recall that the loyalty oath controversy came up during your term as Regent.

McFadden: Well, I've always had a suspicion in the back of my mind that, because I was president of the State Board of Agriculture, possibly because President Sproul was rather anxious to have me on the Board of Regents. We'd been very good friends for many years before that, and we still are. I'm sure this was the case even when the controversy over the loyalty oath came up. My opinion of the thing was largely formulated on paper and there wasn't anything about the issue that justified such ruckus as they had.

President Sproul and Governor Warren were on one side of the controversy, and I was on the other, and I was the only member of the Board of Regents whom the Governor could have removed any time without cause and without anybody being able to interfere with it. I felt, at the time, that the Governor was too big a man to kick me off the Board just because I was on the opposite side and that proved to be the case. After the thing was over, I halfway apologised to the Governor for being on the opposite side, but told him I couldn't have

conscientiously done anything else.

He said, "Well, that was just fine. We don't want the Board of Regents composed of a bunch of 'yes' men."

He was, of course, undoubtedly right, but this was a very bitter and personal controversy. I remember one of the Regents and I were coming over the bridge from a meeting. There had been a red-hot row at that particular meeting. Sam Collins, Speaker of the Assembly, and Goodie Knight, then the Lieutenant Governor, were both in the car along with Ed Heller and myself. Ed Heller had been much disturbed and he was on one side of this and I was on the other.

After the other two members of the Board had gotten out of the car and Ed and I were left there alone, I said, "Ed, you went to Harvard Law School, the same as I did, didn't you?"

He said, "Yes."

I said, "I got one thing out of Harvard Law School that you apparently didn't get."

He said, "What's that?"

I said, "I can go through one of these red-hot discussions where they're calling names and everything on each side without getting my emotions disturbed at all. That's part of what a lawyer ought to be able to do." I said, "You haven't got that

yet. You'd better cultivate it." I said, "It'd be a whole lot better for you physically if you do it."

He said, "I guess you've got something."

I always thought that had a pretty strong influence on Ed's further conduct because he held himself down a good deal better from then on.

But it was a rather bitter controversy and, I think, with the exception of three or four persons who were not on the Board of Regents, there wasn't any occasion for it. But it continued for quite awhile, and it left a bitterness that some people didn't ever get over, I suppose.

As I remember it, the oath came from somewhere outside the Board of Regents entirely and they took it up. As I remember it, every single Regent signed the oath without any hesitation at all and that was before any controversy had arisen. The controversy that did arise was pretty largely stirred up in the first place by one or two professors who were quite radical in their ideas, and was on a more or less theoretical basis. I don't think practical people felt that it made very much difference.

Schippers: Some have claimed that it was an extension of McCarthyism.

McFadden: There isn't anything to that at all--nothing of that sort.

Schippers: But the Regents did eventually withdraw the oath.

McFadden: Yes, in the light of some court decisions, they withdrew it, but that didn't make any difference one way or the other.

Schippers: Would you say anything about the issue involved in the controversy?

McFadden: Well, the issue was quite entirely a theoretical dispute as to whether it was an infringement on the personal liberty of an American citizen. Well, if you're radical enough on that side, you can take the point of view that it is, but to the common, everyday businessman, who has to make decisions on a factual basis, it was too theoretical to cause very much disturbance. I think the division on the Board of Regents was more or less along those lines.

Schippers: Do you think there is any real worry about radicalism in the University system?

McFadden: Oh, I don't think it's any worse or prabably as bad as the average state university in the United States. I think it can be said that they've got a more heterogeneous student body at UCLA than any place I've ever been and that the radicalism is probably confined pretty largely to UCLA and to a fairly small segment of the student body and faculty down there. But, boy, you can go to UCLA and find

anything you want to find in the world!

Schippers: It's a big-city college.

McFadden: Yes, it is and it's much more so because it's got that reputation. People that are inclined that way go there, I think, from preference. But it's doing a swell job. I'm not criticizing it on that account. We have graduated more leadership in the colored race from UCLA than all the rest of the colleges in the country put together. That's something I'm not ashamed of at all.

Schippers: Would you say something more about your trusteeship at Pomona College?

McFadden: Well, I became a trustee of Pomona College about 1919, and I've been one ever since. Of course, I've taken a very strong personal interest in the development of Pomona College. I was a close personal friend of President Blaisdell who originated the idea of having an association of independent colleges all in the same place and served by the same library, heating plant, auditoriums, and things of that sort. That is, of course, how it has developed out in Claremont since. They now have five colleges, and they're in the process of starting another women's college. I've been very much interested in that concept. I've been on the Board of Trustees of the graduate school, which is

a coordinated institution, for quite a number of years and still am. I think this concept has taken hold in the United States to a very considerable extent, and I'd be very much surprised if they didn't eventually follow. It's being followed now, to some extent, in other places in the United States. Of course, the great benefit of it is that it gives the students some of the benefits of being at a big university, while, at the same time, they get the individual instructions and contacts that go along with a small college.

I'm not handing myself any bouquets, but I've always felt that one of the ideal ways of doing things was to go to a small college for your undergraduate work and then go to a big university for your professional education. That way, you get contact with both of them. It's probably better if you go to a big university in some other part of the country. I think that's also an advantage. I found out pretty quickly, for example, that because a fellow wore a derby hat, it didn't prove that he was a numbskull or a snob. Of course, in the early days in California, if you wore a derby hat, they thought there was something the matter with you because nobody else did it. In Boston, that was a common, everyday thing. In fact, I wore one myself.

[laughter] Following the development of Pomona College over the many years that I've been connected with it has been an exceedingly interesting experience. At the time I graduated from Pomona College, Stanford was the richest university in the United States, but, now, even though money isn't worth what it was then, the colleges out in Claremont have more endowment than Stanford had then. Of course, they've grown gradually and by small increments. It's been a very interesting thing to watch. As I said before, I think the universal concept in California held by both public educators and private, is that there's no competition between the two systems whatever. There's more demand for facilities in the state than both of them together can provide.

Schippers: As president of the Irvine Company, what were some of the problems you encountered?

McFadden: Well, of course, I've been a director of the Irvine Company ever since Mr. Irvine died, which was in 1947, as I remember it. I had no business connections with the ranch before that, but I owned a place right in the middle of the ranch, and I was a very close personal friend of Mr. Irvine, Senior, for many years before he died. So, I was in very close touch with what went on.

Since Mr. Irvine's death, there have been two

things that have occupied a good deal of our attention--maybe three. One of them is the change-over and expansion of the agricultural part of the ranch. We've been able to do this and are in the process of increasing our orange acreage very materially on account of having obtained Colorado River water for use all over the ranch. Before, some of the best land and climate we had on the ranch was simply cultivated for annual dry farming crops because we had no water to irrigate. Now, we've got water for all of it, and we're planting out more oranges. Both the land and the climate are as well suited to them as anywhere in the world. That's going to be a vast economic advantage to the ranch not too far in the future.

In addition to this, about the time I started to farm out there, which was 1907, they changed over from grain to Lima beans which, of course, was very much more profitable. I think I irrigated the first Lima beans that were irrigated in Orange County, and, of course, that practice has become universal since. It results in about a third more tonnage per acre each year. But in the last eight or ten years, there's been quite a movement away from Lima beans and toward winter vegetables and things of that sort--chili peppers, strawberries,

and things of that kind. They bring more money than Lima beans because of the Los Angeles market. That also has already resulted in quite a little additional income to the ranch. Of course, whoever is in charge of agriculture has to be quite a little more varied in his knowledge and ability to supervise operations than was the case when it was just Lima beans.

We've gone out of the lemon business to quite an extent, and, also, out of the walnut business to a very large extent. We're putting that land into Valencia oranges where the climate is right, so there is going to be quite a big increase in that respect. This is a good thing, because the subdivisions have cut down the acreage in Southern California to a vastly greater extent than we'll be able to make up for.

The second thing that concerns us is the advent of manufacturing plants on the ranch lands, which has become of very great importance to the ranch. We have a big Ford plant, as you know, which employs two or three thousand men. We have Collins Radio, which has quite a large bunch, and we're getting quite a number of small plants and two or three more big ones in the immediate future. It's a very opportune place for these factories, because the

climate is as near perfect as you can get in the United States. They're immediately adjacent to the town of Santa Ana, where people can go for shopping, amusement, and everything of that sort; and if they want to live in town, they've got only fifteen minutes driving time going back and forth.

Now, the third change is the development of the coastal areas as residential districts. This is, of course, making a vast difference in the looks of the country and in the population of the ranch. It will also eventually make a big difference in the income. We've tried to follow the policy of making this development right along with the demand. We've tried to keep from getting ahead of the demand and tried to keep from lagging too far behind it.

Now, the University city which is going to come in the next ten or fifteen years is something which is pretty hard for anybody to define or to say what it's going to be because it's never happened in the world before. A university has never been put in the middle of a big piece of vacant land where a city could be developed around it in a planned operation. That's also going to have quite an effect on these manufacturing plants which are nearly all semi-experimental. In other words, they're

mostly electronic plants, and the fact that the University is right there is going to be a big advantage to them and visa versa. That's going to be a very interesting development.

Schippers: You have pointed to this liaison between the University and the business community. Is this something that is growing?

McFadden: It's going to be marked in the future, and I think it's going to more marked in this particular situation than many of the others. They're finding out right now in new universities which are surrounded with people who own little, small pieces of land, that the owners are only interested in making as much money out of the university as they possibly can. As a result, they run into a lot of difficulty that they're not going to run into down here where the whole business is planned mutually in advance. It's going to be very interesting to see how the thing works out.

Schippers: You do think it's a healthy relationship, though?

McFadden: Yes, I do. No doubt about it.

Schippers: In closing this account of your activities, what would you say has been your guiding principle?

McFadden: The only concrete philosophy of life that I've tried consistently to follow out is the verse in the Bible that says, "Sufficient unto the day is the

evil thereof." I try to do the job that the day has for me to do and then, when that day is over, I forget it and start the next morning over again. Maybe that's the wrong philosophy, but I've got along fairly good by following it. There's always plenty to do each new day that comes along--for me anyhow.

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