

OUR FAMILY TREASURY

THE RANCH

"The Largest Modern Diversified Farm in the World"

A collection of photographs, articles, and maps
of the operations of the
River Farms Company of California

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THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow



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THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

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THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

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This infobase is a sub-infobase of the infobase titled:

ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF OUR FAMILY



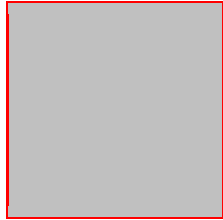
It is one of the infobases about my grandfather (my father's father), **Edgar Lawrence Dow** [RN 15], and is a sub-infobase of the infobase titled

EDGAR(4)



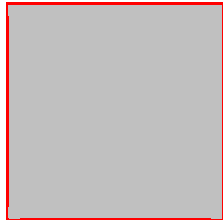
and is related to the other infobases titled:

HISTORY of RIVER GARDEN FARMS COMPANY



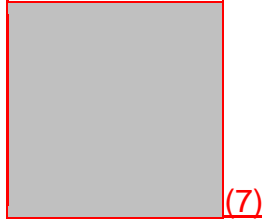
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RIVER GARDEN FARMS



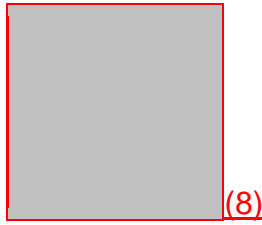
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BATTLING THE RIVER



(7)

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(8)

FOREWORD

This infobase and its linked sub-infobases were initially prepared in 1991. The "Revision date" on the "information" screen under "File", above, indicates when additions, revisions, corrections etc. were last made.

INTRODUCTION

In May of 1990, I [learned\(9\)](#) that the [County Archives in Yolo County\(10\)](#), California, held approximately 200 historical photographs that had been donated to the archives by the current owners of the River Garden Farms Company of California by its current President, Mr. [Harry Helan, Jr.](#) He had found the [Corporate Journals](#) and these photographs while cleaning out one of the company's barns.

It appears that these pictures, all of which were 8" x 10" black and white glossy prints, were taken in different years for the most part in the latter part of the period estimated to be between 1917 and 1925 by several professional, commercial photographers, including [R. J. Walters and Co\(11\)](#)., 717 Market Street, San Francisco, California, [W. W. Swadley](#) of San Francisco, and [McCurry Foto Co.](#) From a careful reading of the [Corporate Journals](#) (minutes of the Board of Directors meetings) of the River Farms Company of California one can surmise that these photographers were probably engaged to take this portfolio of pictures of the ranch and its extensive operations, particularly in the 1925 period, as an adjunct to the floating of bond issues and other forms of financing (such as the selling of shares of stock to the public) and/or in connection with the possible sale of the company that was considered (they actually engaged a sales agent) and abandoned at a point in time in the late 1920's. Reference is specifically made about the [Swadley photographs](#) being taken in December 1923 in the infobase titled [History of River Garden Farms Company](#).

When I learned of the existence of these pictures, even though I had never seen them, I realized they probably had historical significance for our family. I knew that my father was not aware of their existence and had never seen such pictures of the ranch (he had worked on the ranch a couple of summers when he was in school). I set out to somehow acquire copies for my document collection.

Initially, the archive would not permit the prints to be copied; later they took the position the prints should be sent to a commercial photographer in Sacramento for copying at a cost to me of \$14.00 for each picture. This was prohibitive from my standpoint and was obviously a way for me to pay for the creation of a photographic copy negative for the archive! Finally, the President of River Garden Farms (Mr. Helan) intervened with the archive - he was outraged when he learned they wanted to charge me so much for copies of pictures and documents that he had donated to them. As a result the archives agreed to let me copy the pictures for a fee of \$1.00 per pictures on the stipulation that I do the copying in their office under their purview, using my own equipment and that the copying be completed in one session. It was a one-time offer to be done in one day.

In June of 1990, I spent a very long day in Woodland at the Archive. I arrived before they opened in the morning and left only after they closed late in the afternoon. I worked the entire time without taking any break for lunch because it was apparent to me that I was running out of time. I set up my Leica copying board (with dual halogen lamps) on a small table in their very cramped office (the archives was in an industrial/commercial office/warehouse complex - it was primarily a records storage area for Yolo County) and took pictures of every print I wanted (approximately 72 different pictures) with both a Rolleiflex twin-lens reflex camera using 2-1/4" x

2-1/4"-120 size black & white negative film and my Leica R3 using 35mm black & white negative film. This required constantly switching the cameras on the copy board and the constant readjustment of focus and framing. It was a hot day (summers in Woodland are very hot), there was no air conditioning and the halogen lamps were very hot. I was exhausted at the end of the day.

The photographs were in kept in three-ring binders (each one inside a clear plastic pocket) and were in no particular sequence or order. An archive volunteer - an older man who was familiar with the ranch operations in the area - had spent time shortly after the photographs had been donated to the archive (ca. 1987) by [Mr. Helan](#) and had made attempts to identify as best he could the subject of each picture. Where he was able to identify the contents with some degree of certainty, he prepared typed captions on small slips of paper and slipped the papers in the plastic pocket with each respective picture. For the pictures that had these captions, I attempted to include the caption at the edge of the copy negative I was making on at least one of the two copy negatives I made of each print (i.e., I made a copy negative of each print both with and without the caption). Because I was pressed for time and unsure how long it would take me to copy the pictures that I knew I wanted, I had to hastily decided which of the approximately 200 prints I wanted to copy - there clearly would not be enough time to copy all 200 twice. Many of the pictures turned out to be slight variations of other pictures of the same subject - perhaps taken from a different angle or a different vantage point. I did not copy many of the pictures because there was nothing particularly notable about the content (they could have been taken in fields of any farm or ranch in the Central Valley of California). I made more than two copy negatives at different close-up ranges of a few pictures that contained subjects of particular interest, such as pictures of my grandfather. In total I made 79 2-1/4" x 2-1/4" negatives and 85 35mm negatives.

I had the 35mm film developed, printed with 3" x 5" prints and had the some, but not all, of the negatives digitally scanned onto a Kodak [PhotoCD disc\(12\)](#). I had the 2-1/4" x 2-1/4" film developed and printed with two sets of 8" x 10" matte finished prints, selenium toned on fiber based paper using archival processing methods by a [specialty photographer\(13\)](#) in New Hampshire. I gave my father one of the print sets and put the second set in my document collection. The quality and resolution of these larger archival prints are nearly as good as, if not better than, the original prints in the Yolo County Archives.

The portfolio of the all the pictures I copied are included in this infobase below. Each picture is included on-line with this text and both without and with captions, when captions existed. In addition, there are off-line larger versions of each picture which can be zoomed in and out to better see details.

The Yolo County Archive also had a file folder that contained copies of a few magazine/newspaper articles, as well as maps, related to the River Farms Company.

Additionally, there is included in this infobase both (a) a picture I took in 1947, near Knights Landing, of a bronze plaque with my grandfather's name included, and (b) color pictures I took in the ranch area in June of 1990.

Throughout this infobase, in picture captions as well as on maps, there are references to **Reclamation District No. 108**. My grandfather was the primary person involved in establishing Reclamation District No. 108. On 22 July 1919, district number 92, 94, 467, 729B and 108 were combined into one district known as District No. 108. This district covered portions of Township numbers 11, 12, and 13, North, Range 1 East and Range 1 West, Mount Diablo Base Meridian in Colusa and Yolo Counties, California.

THE CAST OF CHARACTERS

Listed here are some of the names of people mentioned in this infobase (**The Ranch**), as well as the infobases titled [History of River Garden Farms Company](#), [Corporate Journals](#), and/or [The Mines](#).

Dates shown in this list indicate a year or years when the statement about the person was found to be documented for the first time; these dates are not inclusive, however, and are not to be interpreted that these are the only years when these facts apply. Their names can be searched, using the **Search** or **Query** functions in any of these infobases to find references to them.

Where possible I have identified additional information about a few of these people or families in the infobase titled [Corporate Journals](#).

ADAMS Jr., K. S Houston oilman and rancher. One of the three original partners (with [WATERS](#) and [CANTOR](#)) who bought all interests in the River Farms Company of California in 1963.

ASHLEY, P. N. Director of Sacramento River Farms Company (1908); of Woodland; Yolo County Surveyor and Engineer.

[BALSDON, J. H.](#) Commissioner of the Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District (1913- 1927).

BERMINGHAM, MILDRED MAXINE (1892-1963) [[RN 27](#)]. Shareholder and director of Yolo Land Company in 1912. Married E. L. Dow, May 20, 1916. She was twenty years younger than my grandfather. My father told me: "I only saw her/ met her once in my whole life and I did not think much of her". End of discussion!

BERNHEIMER, ADOLPH Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918).

BIRCH, A. OTIS Partner of Birch Oil Company in Los Angeles along with his father-in-law, B. F. Conaway; Director of Yolo Land Company (1912); became interested in investing in Yolo Land Company through the efforts of Stine & Kendrick; and with [CONAWAY](#), owned about half of stock of Yolo Land Company.

BIRMINGHAM, MILDRED MAXINE (See [BERMINGHAM](#))

BOWLES, P. E. President of First National Bank of Oakland; original subscriber in River Garden Farms Company; two other members of family were original investors of the River Garden Farms Company and providers of part of starter capital; friends of E. L. Dow.

BREON, C. Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918).

BRITTON, JOHN A. Original subscriber in River Garden Farms Company and Vice-President Yolo Land Company (1912); Vice-President of Pacific Gas & Electric Company who shared my grandfather's interest in investing in gold mines.

BROWN, F. M. Director of River Farms Company of California; owner of F. M. Brown & Co., a bond house. Office: 300 Sansome Street, San Francisco.

BROWNE, T. M. Agent (with BURGER) for sale of subdivision No. 1 of Yolo Land Company in Colusa County; offices in same building with E. L. Dow.

BROWNING, J. W. Commissioner of the Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District (1913-1927).

BULLOCK, GEORGE Owned acreage next to Fair Ranch.

BURGER, C. A. Agent (with BROWNE) for sale of subdivision No. 1 of Yolo Land Company in Colusa County ; offices in same building with E. L. Dow.

BURPEE, L. G. Director and Vice-President of Yolo Land Company (1912). [there were many of the Burpee family who lived/intermarried with many of the families in the Lower Brighton, Carleton Co. NB area from which E. L. Dow came - none the least of which is the founder of the seed company. There may be some connection here between L. G. Burpee and my grandfather's New Brunswick, Canada, roots].

CAHN, JULIUS I. Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918); Director (1930). U.S. Congressman.

CAMPBELL, F. M. Stockholder in River Farms Company of California (1918).

CAMPBELL, A. N. Stockholder in River Farms Company of California (1918).

CANTOR, CURTIS One of the three original partners (with **ADAMS** and **WATERS**) who bought all interests in the River Farms Company of California in 1963. Cantor acquired Waters interest in 1969 and thus became an equal partner with Adams at that time.

CASE, J. Horse Foreman at the ranch (1926)

CERF, CEDRIC S. Hired as ranch manager in early 1915.

CHICKERING, ALLEN L. Attorney (Chickering & Gregory, Oakland, California). Attorney for the Yolo Land Company only; one of the incorporators of the Yolo Land Company, and the attorney that handled E. L. Dow's divorce from his first wife (my grandmother), Emily [RN 16]. Both my father and his older brother [RN 17] had been told by their father that they would "eventually get over a million dollars each out of River Farms". When my grandfather died, my father tried to get Chickering

to represent him in the estate settlement. Chickering told him at the time that although he had long been a friend and associate of E. L. Dow's, it was "a long time ago" and he felt that there may be a conflict of interest involved. As a result, my father engaged an attorney (for a very short time - until his first bill arrived!) recommended by Chickering by the name of [John L. Mc Nab](#), who happened to be the man who placed Herbert Hoover's name in nomination for the U. S. Presidency. The \$500 required to pay McNab's first bill was more impressive at the depth of the depression to my father than the remote prospect of \$1 million from River Farms; he and his brother gave up pursuit of the matter.

CONAWAY, B. F. Partner in Birch Oil Company of Los Angeles (along with his son-in-law, A. Otis Birch); Director of Yolo Land Company; became interested in investing in Yolo Land Company through the efforts of Stine & Kendrick; with [BIRCH](#), Conaway owned about half of stock of the Yolo Land Company.

COOKE, J. P. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1931).

CROCKER, C. H. Stockholder in River Farms Company of California (1918). [Member of the San Francisco Crocker family - including the founder of the Crocker National Bank and one of the "[Big-Four](#)" of railroading].

DARBY, EVERETT Ditcher at the ranch

DAUM, W. H. Real estate firm in Los Angeles engaged to sell ranch (1923).

DeSABLA, EUGENE Wealthy San Francisco backer of the Northern Electric Railway Company.

DOW, EDGAR LAWRENCE, Sr. My grandfather [[RN 15](#)]. Founder and president of Yolo Land Company, River Garden Farms Company, River Farms Company of California (with properties in Yolo and Colusa Counties). Principal investor in gold mines (Ralston and Goggins in Placer County and the Mayflower in Nevada County), Dickey Tile Company (Niles), [Piedmont Baths](#) (Piedmont/Oakland), Peralta Apartments (Oakland); Chairman 1st National Bank of Oakland (5-6 months). [Commissioner](#) of the Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District (1913-1927).

DOW, EDGAR LAWRENCE, Jr. [[RN 17](#)] Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1921); my uncle (my father's older brother and father of my cousin, Edgar L. Dow III [Ted] [[RN 19](#)]).

DRESCHER, P. C. Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918).

DUFFEY, WILLIAM H. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1926); "Bill" Duffey was manager of E. L. Dow's gold mines.

DUFFEY, M. T. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1931).

DUFFY, D. M. (DUFFEY) Director who signed the River Garden Farms Company articles of incorporation and friend of E. L. Dow;

DUKE, ROBERT D. Director who signed the River Garden Farms Company articles of incorporation and friend of E. L. Dow

DUNKER, JOHN A. Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918).

DWYER, WILLIAM P. President of the Sacramento Transportation Company which operated steamboats and barges on the Sacramento River; owner of ranch bought in 1913 by River Garden Farms Company; stockholder of Yolo Land Company (1916).

EDSON, FRANK Yolo County Supervisor from Knights Landing (1908)

EGBERT, ALVIN Brother of Walter Egbert.

EGBERT, WALTER Hired as resident farm manager (1912); his brothers, Alvin and Warren filled in for him from time to time; he resigned in 1914 due to "anxiety"; later committed suicide.

EGBERT, WARREN Brother of Walter Egbert; Engineer of the River Farms Company ranch (1913-1916).

ERICKSON, CHARLES. Pumper at the ranch.

FAIR, JIM Senator and owner of original Fair Ranch; Silver King of the Consolidated Virginia mine.

FAYE, H. P. Stockholder of River Farms Company of California and Yolo Land Company (1917)

FENTRISS HILL San Francisco representative of the Kunh Bank of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

FISH, ED. Originally a ditcher at the ranch. Later he was Dairy Foreman at the ranch. His responsibilities included raising alfalfa, selecting, breeding and raising dairy cows and hogs; running the dairy and shipping out dairy products and hogs. (1926).

FOOTE, ENID Stockholder in River Farms Company of California (1918).

FORSYTH, E. K. Assistant Secretary of River Farms Company of California (1923), in the Farm Office, responsible for all records related to cost accounting, timekeeping and payrolls(1926).

FRANKS, J. C. Owner of Argyle Dredging Company, which worked for Reclamation District No. 108; owned the ranch bought by River Garden Farms Company in 1913.

FREAR, F. W. Associated with Bishop Trust Co. Ltd., Honolulu, Hawaii, in handling the estate of John A. McCandless.

FROWENFELD, J. Stockholder in River Farms Company of California (1917).

FUSCHILIN, ANDREW. Master Mechanic at the ranch (1926).

GAGEN, BRIAN E. Stockholder and Director, River Farms Company of California (1928).

GAY, FRANCIS. Stockholder in River Farms Company of California (1917). Next door neighbor and life-long friend of my uncle, [Edgar Lawrence Dow, Jr.](#), in Alameda CA. [Other than my [uncle](#) and my [step-aunt](#), this is the only person on this list that I ever met].

[GEER, ROBERT H.](#) Started as a swabber on a ditch digging machine and became manager of Fair ranch four years later. Ranch Manager, stationed at Company Headquarters near Knights Landing; later a director of the company. My father had nothing but good, glowing terms about him. He said E. L. Dow had great confidence in him. Bob Geer bought 300-500 acres of adjoining (to River Farms) land that he farmed himself. His son, Orville, was about my father's age and my father said that Orville was driving truck on the ranch the same two summers that my father drove truck hauling barley and rice (along with Loring Mac Hugh, the brother of my father's best friend, Frank Mac Hugh). The Mac Hugh brothers went to the Montezuma School for Boys in Los Gatos with my father. My father and his friend, Loring Mac Hugh, slept on bedrolls out under the trees the two summers they worked on the ranch - not in the bunk house with Orville and the rest of the hands; my father said he wore his Montezuma school large belt buckle on his corduroy pants all summer loading rice sacks on and off trucks - and as a result suffered both summers from massive skin irritation from the rice hull/chaff that got in his waist band!

GREENE, HOWARD J. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1926).

GUMP, W. E. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1925). [This is a member of the Gump family who started and owned the world famous Gump's (store and trading company) in San Francisco.

HAAS, L. S. Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918). [This is a member of the Haas family who owned the Levi Straus jeans and clothing manufacturer in San Francisco, as well as the Oakland Athletics professional baseball team]

HACKFORD, J. F. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1928).

HAGENS, J. F. C. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1921)

HAMMON, W. P. Wealthy San Francisco backer of the Northern Electric Railway Company.

HARGEAR, W. A. JR. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1929).

HARGEAR, FRANK F. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1930).

HAWLEY, STUART S. Commissioner of the Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District (1913-1927).

HELAN, HARRY JR. President of River Garden Farms Company in 1990.

HIATT, CHESTER Ditcher at the ranch

HOLLAND, EVELYN Stenographer and bookkeeper hired by E. L. Dow for his office in San Francisco in 1921. Later became assistant secretary-treasurer and general manager, then President of the Company. My father describes her as the most competent woman he has ever known. In reality, my father spent more time with her than he did with his own mother. He said that E. L. Dow had the utmost confidence in both her and **Robert Geer** and that the two of them contributed a great deal to the success of the Yolo Land Company/River Farms Company. One of my grandfather's talents was finding and retaining people like the two of them. Evelyn Holland retired from company about 1961. Stockholder and director of River Farms Company of California at time of its dissolution in 1964. **She died in 1969.**

HOLLOWAY, C. K. Stockholder and director of Yolo Land Company (1912).

HUMBURG, J. F. My father remembers the name and remembers he saw/met him once - probably up at the mines. He was still a stockholder and director of River Farms Company of California at the time of its dissolution in 1964; stockholder and director of Yolo Land Company (1914). Office: 310 Sansome Street, San Francisco.

HUTCHINSON, MAXINE DOW. **[RN 28]** Daughter and only child of my grandfather and **Mildred Maxine Bermingham** (his second wife) **[RN 27]**. Stockholder and director of River Farms Company of California at the time of its dissolution in 1964.

ISENBERG, PAUL Original subscriber in River Garden Farms Company; stockholder of Yolo Land Company (1913).

ISENBERG, DANIEL PAUL RICE Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1926).

ISENBERG, DORA R. Stockholder in River Farms Company of California (1918).

JACKSON, BERTHA F. Stockholder in River Farms Company of California (1918).

JOHNSON, MINNIE L. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1925-1929).

JOHNSON, HIRAM WARREN Jr. (JACK) Director who signed the River Garden Farms Company articles of incorporation and friend of E. L. Dow. It was a result of E. L. Dow's close friendship with Hiram W. Johnson, Sr. that Hiram Jr. (Jack) was brought into the Yolo Land Company/River Farms Companies' operations as the company attorney. Jack had his offices in the Mills Building in San Francisco also, down the hall from my grandfather's.

JOHNSON, HIRAM WARREN Sr. Governor of California (1911); signed the California Reclamation Act (1911). My father believes my grandfather invested in farmland in Yolo County as a result of Hiram Johnson, Sr. Hiram, Sr. was my grandfather's closest friend and it was Sr. who pulled all the political strings vis-a-vis the reclamation district acts etc. and obtaining the federal/state funding for the capital investment that supported the drainage and reclamation. [The man in the [picture](#) of all the River Farms Model T trucks in front of the San Francisco Library is Hiram Sr.].

KAHN, J. I. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1926).

KELLEY, PAUL B. Stockholder and director of River Farms Company of California at the time of its dissolution in 1964.

KENDALL, W. S. Commissioner of the Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District (1913- 1927).

KENDRICK, CHARLES H. With O. C. Stine, owned Stine & Kendrick, land agents in San Francisco.

KUHN BANK of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; bought warrants of Reclamation District No. 108.

KUNZ, HARRY A. Bookkeeper of my grandfather's mining operations, Secretary-Treasurer of Yolo Land Company, River Garden Farms Company and River Farms Company of California (1912-1940). Mentioning this man's name to my father gave rise to an interesting reactions from my father: "He was nothing but a bookkeeper"; "what is this Secretary-Treasurer business?" ; "I never heard of him even going up to the ranch - there was another man at the ranch ("bookkeeper"?) who committed suicide" ([Egbert?](#)). Harry was in a cable car accident on the California Street line near Montgomery Street - he was severely injured and sustained brain damage [it was unclear to me when this occurred but I got the impression from the reaction his name elicited from my father, that this accident occurred early rather than later in life, and that E. L. Dow gave him the "bookkeeping" job because of the permanent injury.

LEE, WING Chinese cook at the ranch.

LEVY, DAVID L. Director who signed the River Garden Farms Company articles of incorporation and friend of E. L. Dow.

LILLIENTHAL, ALFRED Wealthy San Francisco backer of the Northern Electric Railway Company.

LOVELL, ROBERT D. CAVERHILL Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1929).

LOWE, FRED. Sheep foreman at the ranch (1926).

LOWENBERG, EMIL Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918).

LOWENBERG, GEORGE Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1925).

MacINTYRE, MALCOLM Associated with Bishop Trust Co. Ltd., Honolulu, Hawaii, in handling the estate of John A. McCandless

MANSON, PHILIP I. Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918).

MANSON, OLGA SUTRO Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1925).

MC CURRY FOTO CO. Photographers

McADOO, A. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1931).

McCANDLESS, JAMES S. ("SUNNY" JIM) Initial subscriber in River Garden Farms Company. In 1906/1907, he was Imperial Potentate of the Shriners when they had their convention in SF. Large owner of shares in Yolo Land Company/River Farms Companies. James was another very close friend of E. L. Dow's - my father believes that E. L. Dow visited the McCandless and the [Dillingham\(14\)](#) families in Hawaii when he and my grandmother made their grand tour to the Orient. Both my grandfather and Evelyn Holland wrote letters for Jim McCandless - hundreds of them! Apparently Jim McCandless had an extensive amount of correspondence (personal and business) but either did not know how to write business correspondence or could not write - in any event, my father says virtually all of the McCandless' correspondence and letters were done for him by my grandfather and/or Evelyn Holland throughout their long association. McCandless had "pull" and "connections", particularly in the Hawaiian Islands - and it is undoubtedly this connection (along with the Dillingham family in Hawaii) that led to so much of the Yolo Land Company/River Farms Companies financing coming from the Islands. The McCandless brothers (James, John and Link) made an enormous amount of money in Hawaii supplying (drilling and delivering) water to the sugar plantations. Office: P. O. Box 515, Honolulu, T. H.

McCANDLESS, LINK Brother of James McCandless; also stockholders in three of my grandfather's gold mines. My notes have after Link's name "governor of Hawaii/water well drilling in the Islands" The McCandless brothers made an enormous amount of money in Hawaii supplying water to the sugar plantations.

McCANDLESS, JOHN A. Brother of James McCandless; also stockholder in three of my grandfather's gold mines; he died January 30, 1930. My father has recollections of being asked to show John (when he was up at the mines) the last horseshoe bar mine going in the area. The McCandless brothers made an enormous amount of money in Hawaii supplying water to the sugar plantations.

McGILVRAY, JOHN D Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1931).

McMILLAN Owner of ranch bought by River Garden Farms Company in 1913.

McNAB, JOHN L. Attorney. Stockholder and Director, River Farms Company of California (1930). The man who placed Herbert Hoover's name in nomination at the Republican Convention for Presidency of the U.S.

MENDENHALL, RAY Ranch superintendent (1956); with the company since 1938).

MERCHANTILE TRUST COMPANY OF SAN FRANCISCO Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918).

MEYER, MARIE LOUISE Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1926).

MIKULICH, WILLIAM Director who signed the River Garden Farms Company articles of incorporation and friend of E. L. Dow; was the representative of the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company in Northern California, who in turn was a great buddy of Governor Rolf of California. Fireman's Fund was the insurer of River Farms. The settlement they had to make in connection with the rice warehouse fire was the largest single settlement their company had ever made (second only to the 1906 earthquake losses Fireman's Fund sustained). My father says "Dad saw him frequently in the Mills Building office". He was in the office many times when my father was there.

MILLER, C. A. Director of River Farms Company of California. Office: Kohl Building, San Francisco.

MIYAKE, E. Tenant rice farmer at the ranch (1926).

MOORE, CHARLES C. Owner of Charles C. Moore & Co., an engineering firm that installed the pumping plant for Reclamation District No. 108; owned the ranch bought by River Garden Farms Company in 1913.

MORRIS, H. C. Original subscriber in River Garden Farms Company; stockholder of Yolo Land Company (1917). Morris lived across the street from E. L. Dow at the intersection of Vernon & Perry [apparently at the time all these mansions were built in that development the area was home to a lot of wealthy, influential people]. He was an "older" man at the time, married to a "younger" woman who took care of his financial affairs for the most part. She was "unusual" for her time - she had a law degree and was an extremely astute business woman. She is the one (according to my father) who attended the stockholder meetings and was actively interested in the company as a stockholder. H. C. Morris took over as acting President of River Farms Company of California when my grandfather died in 1930. Office: Syndicate Building, Oakland CA.

MORROW, R. H. Director who signed the River Garden Farms Company articles of incorporation and friend of E. L. Dow.

MURPHY, G. M. One of the incorporators of the Yolo Land Company, associate of Allen L. Chickering.

NAVIN, R. J. Rice Foreman at the ranch (1926)

NEWMAN, FANNY Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918).

PARKER, O. Orchard Foreman at the ranch, supervised company nursery, planting, cultivation, drying and shipping of all fruits (1926).

PARTAIN, FRED Warehouse Foreman at the ranch (1926).

PFOTENHAUER, HANS Stockholder of Yolo Land Company (1916).

PFOTENHAUER, MRS. ANNIE Stockholder of Yolo Land Company (1916).

PFOTENHAUER, FRANCIS Stockholder of Yolo Land Company (1916).

POUNDSTONE, JESSIE President of Reclamation District No. 108 (1931);
President and commissioner of the Knights Landing Ridge Drainage
District (1913-1927).

PUJOL, A. Headquarters General Foreman, supervised grain growing in Yolo
County (1926).

PUTMAN, W. H. Bonded employee of River Farms Company of California (1923).

RAND, GEORGE H. Owned option from Tubbs-Tuttle properties that was sold to
Yolo Land Company.

RIGGS, CARRIE B. (CAMP) Stockholder River Farms Company of California
(1921- 1931).

- RIGGS, J. M.** Stockholder of Yolo Land Company (1915); River Farms Company of California (1917).
- RODIEK, GEORGE** Stockholder of Yolo Land Company (1917).
- ROSENBLATT, M. N.** Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1918-1931).
- SAMUELS, FRED S.** Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918).
- SCHINDLER, A. D.** President of Northern Electric Railway Co.
- SCHWARTZ, ALICE** Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1928).
- SCHWARTZ, SIDNEY L.** Stockholder and director of River Farms Company of California at the time of its dissolution in 1964.
- SCHWARTZ, HELEN SUTRO** Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1925).
- SCHWARTZ, ELIZABETH** Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1925).
- SCHWARTZ, MARIE LOUISE** Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1925).
- SCHWARTZ, GUSTAV SUTRO** Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1925); Director (1930).
- SCHWARTZ, HENRIETTA G.** Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1925).
- SCHWARTZ, MRS. WILLIAM** Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1925).
- SCRIBNER, FREDRICK F.** Stockholder and director of River Farms Company of California at the time of its dissolution in 1964.
- SHANKLAND, MRS. B. R.** Stockholder in Yolo Land Company (1912)
- SHARPE, DR. OTIS A.** Friend of my grandfathers who was with him on trip to Los Angeles at the time of my grandfather's death.
- SHIBAO, H.** Tenant rice farmer at the ranch (1926).
- SHINGLE, ROBERT W.** Stockholder in River Farms Company of California (1918).
- SILVA, C. F.** Mule driver at the ranch.
- SILVA, TONY** Master Mechanic at the ranch (1956); with the company since August 1918.

SLOSS, LEON Wealthy San Francisco backer of the Northern Electric Railway Company.

SMITH, C. N. Boyer General Foreman, supervised grain growing in Colusa County. (1926)

SMITH, SIDNEY Partner in Piedmont Baths.

STINE, O. C. With Charles H. Kendrick, owned Stine & Kendrick, land agents in San Francisco.

SUGITA, H. Tenant rice farmer at the ranch (1926).

SUTRO, CHARLES San Francisco banker and broker; with his two brothers, Amio and Gus (Gustav) were partners with E. L. Dow in many promotions (they also had interests in a copper mine in Arizona); Charles was an original subscriber in River Garden Farms Company; stockholder, director and assistant secretary of Yolo Land Company. My grandfather was very close to the **Sutro brothers**. Office: 410 Montgomery Street, San Francisco.

SUTRO, AMIO Brother of Charles and Gus Sutro.

SUTRO, GUS Brother of Amio and Charles Sutro.

SWADLEY, W. W. San Francisco commercial photographic firm.

SWIFT, T. J. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1925).

TAYLOR, H. C. Director of River Farms Company of California.

TAYLOR, BESSIE KITTLE Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1928).

TAYLOR, W. H. Original subscriber in River Garden Farms Company. Office: 29 Glen Alpine, Piedmont CA.

THORNTON, H. A. One of the incorporators of the Yolo Land Company, associate of Allen L. Chickering.

TRUMAN, I. J. Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1931).

TUBBS, ALICE HAGGAR Owner of part of the Jimeno Rancho land grant sold to Yolo Land Company (1911).

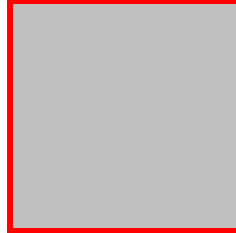
TUTTLE, CHARLES W. Owner of part of the Jimeno Rancho land grant sold to Yolo Land Company (1911).

TUTTLE, NETTIE A. JORDAN Owner of part of the Jimeno Rancho land grant sold to Yolo Land Company (1911).

- UNION TRUST COMPANY** Stockholder of River Farms Company of California (1918).
- VOUGHT, RUSSELL R.** Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1931).
- WALTERS, R. J. & Co.** San Francisco commercial photographers.
- WARD, DR. JAMES W.** Stockholder in River Farms Company of California (1918).
- WATERS, FRANK B.** Houston oilman. One of the three original partners (with ADAMS and CANTOR) who bought all interests in the River Farms Company of California in 1963.
- WATERHOUSE, JOHN.** Stockholder River Farms Company of California (1928).
- WESTERVELT, B. E.** One of the incorporators of the Yolo Land Company
- WHEELER, BENJAMIN IDE** President of the University of California; original investor in the River Garden Farms Company and provider of part of starter capital; friend of E. L. Dow.
- WHITE, CLINTON** President of Sacramento River Farms Company (1908)
- WILD, U. E.** Associated with Bishop Trust Co. Ltd., Honolulu, Hawaii, in handling the estate of John A. McCandless
- WILLIAMS, EVAN** One of the incorporators of the Yolo Land Company; associate of Allen L. Chickering.
- WILSON, ALEXANDER** Director who signed the River Garden Farms Company articles of incorporation and friend of E. L. Dow.
- WISEMAN, THOMAS T.** Of New York; sold Fair Ranch to Sacramento River Farms Company (1908).
- WISEMAN, JOHN H.** Sacramento businessman and land agent with H.F.G. Wulff; director of Sacramento River Farms Company (1908).
- WULFF, W. G.** (Horace G. ?) Secretary Sacramento River Farms Company (1908)
- WULFF, H.F.G.** Sacramento businessman and land agent with John H. Wiseman; director of Sacramento River Farms Company (1908)

CORPORATE ENTITIES

This chart shows the two companies that my grandfather formed in 1911 (Yolo Land Company formed to purchase the Tuttle-Tubbs properties in Colusa and Yolo Counties) and 1913 (River Garden Farms Company formed to purchase the Fair Ranch in Yolo County) and the subsequent corporate and name changes that were made.



LOCATION

This map shows the location and extent of the ranch, at the peak of its land holdings, in relation to where my grandparents lived (until 1916 when my grandfather moved with his second wife to San Francisco) and to the Ralston and other mines that my grandfather also owned and operated (the Goggins mine was about 11 miles northeast of the Ralston; the Mayflower mine was about 30 miles as the crow flies to the northwest from the Ralston). The corporate office of the ranch operations was moved from Oakland to San Francisco in 1916, also.

[\(larger version\)](#)



THE NATION'S LARGEST RANCH?

After I had been working for about ten years (i.e., sometime around 1970) at the Standard Oil Company of California in San Francisco (see infobase title [STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA](#)), my cousin Ted (**Edgar Lawrence Dow III [RN 19]**), who was an Assistant Comptroller at the time, brought to my attention this April 1926 edition of the Standard Oil Bulletin. He had been doing some financial research in the company's library and had come across this issue. It is of particular historical significance to the Company because it reported to the stockholders for the first time the change from the old company - Standard Oil Company (California) - to the new company - Standard Oil Company of California. What really caught his eye, however, was a feature article about our grandfather's business - River Farms.

Most of the bulletin is reproduced below (including the [historical financial information](#) about the company) and the text of the article about River Farms has also been transcribed.

RIVER FARMS ARTICLE

COVER

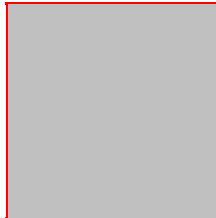
(15)



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[\(larger version\)](#)

"Eight Combine Harvesters, each drawn by a Holt 75-h.p. Caterpillar, in operation on River Farms, which has an annual production of a million bushels of grain."



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"An Austin Ditcher at work on the River Farms. This machine is capable of excavating from forty-four to sixty linear feet of canal per hour."

([larger version](#))



THE NATION'S LARGEST RANCH?

BORDERING the western bank of the Sacramento River, in central California, for a distance of over nineteen miles, is the River Farms, one of the largest ranches in America. Perhaps if you take this farm's varied activities and diversity of crops into consideration, it is many farms in one. One of its crops is grain. It is said to maintain a production of a million bushels annually.

Despite its plural name, River Farms is a single ranch, operated by one company and farmed entirely with its own equipment. In this it differs from the famous old-time San Joaquin grain ranches of vast areas, now cut up, where anybody and everybody took a hand in the tilling at so much per furrow - some with gang plows and jerk-line mule teams, others with a single team and the kind of plow you follow on foot.

The River Farms property, which comprises 32,000 acres, is situated in a region famous for the fertility of its soil, and on this account the locality is often compared with the Valley of the Nile. In each instance the amazing fertility was brought about by nature and in the same way. For untold centuries the Sacramento River deposited the richest silt over this plain. Until a comparatively few years ago, when levees were constructed to keep it in its channels, the river spread out each season of high water and deposited succeeding layers of fabulously rich soil over the surrounding country. Part of this area of alluvial land is the River Farms, in Yolo and Colusa counties.

The greater portion of the ranch, about 26,000 acres, is now given over to the raising of grain, including barley, wheat, and rice. But each year more and more of this acreage is planted to fruit trees. Here the first fruit trees were set out in the spring of 1918. More than 1400 acres are now in bearing, and 700 acres more well on their way toward the bearing stage. Pears, peaches, and prunes are the fruits grown.

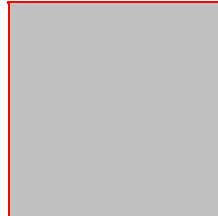
In addition to its grain and fruit activities, River Farms engages in livestock raising, handling only pure-bred strains. On the ranch at the present writing are some 4500 Hampshire sheep, 1300 hogs (Red Duroc and Poland-China), 120 head of horses (breeding stock), and 175 head of Holstein dairy cattle. A very complete modern dairy is maintained, and dairy products are shipped to markets as well as supplying the ranch needs. Last year 675,000 pounds of

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"Some 4500 Hampshire sheep heighten the pastoral aspect of the River Farms."

"A herd of 175 Holstein dairy cattle supply the raw product for a plant on this ranch that is a model of its kind."

[\(larger version\)](#)



milk and 27,000 pounds of butter-fat were shipped to outside markets.

Operation of a farm of this magnitude requires a small army of men; an average of 350 men are on the payroll, and at the height of the harvesting seasons the figure is far in excess of this. There are 295 buildings on the one ranch, located at Headquarters, Tindall (sic. Tyndall) Mount, Boyer's Landing, and at other points on the property.

With its varied large-scale operations, River Farms requires an amazing amount of farm equipment, and machinery that ordinarily would not be owned by agriculturists. In the latter class is the Austin Ditcher, a photograph of which heads these notes. This machine is capable of excavating from forty-four to sixty linear feet of canal per hour. Last year approximately sixty miles of new ditches were constructed on the ranch; its present total of completed ditches and canals is about three hundred miles. This company builds its own ditches, canals, and roads with its own machinery.

Aside from tractors and harvesters, the River Farms owners have over \$50,000 in vested in farm implements, such as plows, harrows, seeders, and the like. Most of the tractors - there are thirty of them - are of the larger type - 60- and 75-h.p. Caterpillars, capable of drawing lengthy hook-ups of loaded trailers. They also furnish the motive power for the large harvesters and the gang-plows. Smaller tractors are used for the orchard work and other cultivation.

Eleven Combine Harvesters are used in the grain-fields. An accompanying photograph shows eight of them cutting the crop

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"Health and productivity are exemplified by the River Farms' "pigs in clover".

"Mules and horses have not yet become only a memory on California ranches, but in most cases they are conspicuous by their absence."

[\(larger version\)](#)



last harvest. Each is drawn by a Holt 75-h.p. Caterpillar, and each is accompanied by a grain truck, on which the sacked grain is deposited as harvested.

Seven large pumping plants of 150 to 350 horsepower are used to draw water from the Sacramento River into the irrigation canals. Reversed, these same plants drain surplus water from the lands, when it becomes advisable to do so. In the ranch's new orchard district seven miles of underground irrigation system have been installed.

River Farms is ideally situated on the Sacramento River, for all of its products may be shipped direct to the markets on river barges and steamers with the minimum of handling and expense. Five large warehouses, each with a capacity of 150,000 sacks of grain, or a like amount of other produce, are conveniently located at points along the river, with docks for loading barges. Four of these warehouses are equipped with monitor grain-cleaners, and all grain is cleaned before shipment.

Operations on River Farms were begun about fourteen years ago, and since their inception Standard Oil products have been used almost exclusively in the development of this great agricultural enterprise, supplied direct from the Standard Oil Company's substation at Knights Landing.

Each of the River Farms tractors has its tender wagon, which it tows out to its particular job and parks close by. These wagons are marked with the tractors' respective numbers in figures two feet high, so that the

PAGE 16

[\(larger version\)](#)



Standard Oil area salesmen filling orders can distinguish them from a considerable distance. The making of deliveries in a 32,000-acre field to equipment always on the move, and in most instances differing in appearance no more than bull elephants, is greatly facilitated by the distinguishing numbers, so our salesmen report.

The officers of the River Farms organization are: Dr. E. L. Dow, president; Harry Kunz, secretary; R. H. Geer, ranch manager.

OTHER CONTENTS

INSIDE FRONT COVER



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INSIDE BACK COVER



1916 MAP of COLUSA and UPPER YOLO BASINS

(16)

This January 1916, map of the Colusa Basin and Upper Yolo Basin showing the Sacramento River West Side Levee District and the Knights Landing Ridge Drainage District in Yolo and Colusa Counties of California shows the River Farms Company of California lands (as of 1916) in green. Of course, as they continued to purchase land after 1916, they eventually owned most of the parcels all the way to Colusa. The red colored pencil line through much of the green area roughly shows the route of the highway later put through the area (shown as California State Highway 45 in 1996). The map was prepared by Haviland & Tibbetts, San Francisco, California, Engineers for both Districts.

(17)

TOP OF MAP

[\(Very large version\)](#)



BOTTOM OF MAP

[\(Very large version\)](#)



THE LARGEST MODERN DIVERSIFIED FARM IN THE WORLD

This copy of a newspaper article was found in the Yolo County Archive. It is dated September 28, but no year was indicated. There also was no indication what publication this appeared in, but it was probably a Sacramento or Woodland, California, newspaper, or a California farm journal. From the content it is clear, however, that it had to have been published prior to my grandfather's death, in December of 1930 and most likely was published around 1923. A transcription is below.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(18)



TRANSCRIPTION

THE CALIFORNIAN
The Largest Modern Diversified Farm in the World
By Earnest Hopkins

KNIGHTS LANDING, Sept. 28.

Where "Jim" [Fair](#) once raced his fancy trotters - where Tubbs and Tuttle and Colonel Hagar viewed their broad grainfields - where Dwyer's steamboats once could ply over [Dwyer's land\(19\)](#) when the Sacramento River went rampaging - here, today, is the largest modern diversified farm in the world.

You can, of course, find cattle ranchers, land colonies or private estates that are larger than 30,000 acres.

But Yolo County's River Farms, 32 miles along the Sacramento River and 30, 876 acres in extent, is exactly the same kind of farm that hard working John Smith operates on his twenty acre bit.

A diversified farm is a farm of many parts, that fit into each other like the parts of a watch. River Farms is a Ferry clock. The same thing as a watch, only bigger.

* * *

AND its mighty big. River Farms is the Ford factory among farms. Not a show place - there isn't a fancy house or a needless bit of decoration on it.

For several years past, its gross income has exceeded \$1,000,000 a year from products grown and sold.

You stand on a warehouse roof and look down on a single peach orchard with straight rows two and a half miles long, and it makes you dizzy.

You drive along a levee and stare at a single grainfield with 10,000 acres of barley,

THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

8,000 acres of wheat and 3,000 acres of rice, and it makes you want to shout because it's so darned big.

* * *

THE "family orchard" has 2,100 acres of 150,000 trees. This year, they're just coming into bearing. Out in the chicken yard are 4,000 hens. In the barn are enough cows so that 80 are always being milked. The pigsty holds 1,200 hogs and ships a carload of pork every month.

The garage has \$75,000 worth of auto and tractor parts, also \$250,000 in tractors, ditching machines and trucks, and \$70,000 worth of combined harvesters.

On the stubble fields at this moment are 11,000 turkeys, and goodness knows how many sheep.

Instead of one warehouse, there are a half dozen - huge ones, right on the riverbank, each with its wharf where the barges can tie and load.

* * *

YET it's all one farm, and Robert H. Geer runs it. He is the manager of it all.

A young man, too; came to River Farms 14 years ago as a swabber on a ditch digging machine. Rose four years later to be the farm manager.

Dr. E. L. Dow of San Francisco is president and manager of the corporation; the directors include H. C. Morris, James McCandless, Charles Sutro, J. F. Humburg, Hiram W. Johnson Jr., and Harry A Kunz as secretary. This is a San Francisco enterprise.

* * *

FIVE MILLION DOLLARS in net profit has been earned by River Farms in the last ten years, according to Dr. Dow.

Every cent of the \$5,000,000 has been put back into the farm - for planting orchards, extending the irrigation system, installing machinery, buying equipment, getting everything in proportion.

Development is about through, now; 324 acres of young prunes yielded 1,000 tons of dried prunes this year; and the first dried peaches went down to the Winters packing plant. Next year, the orchards yields will be heavier and the pears will start coming in. Also the profits; for building time is just about over.

* * *

"BOB" Geer can tell you to a fraction of a cent, how much it costs to grow a pear tree, a car-load of shoats or an acre of cotton. Keeping down costs, while getting production, is his job.

His cost finding system - with each division of produce on a separate basis, and each paying its pro rata of the general "overhead" - is certainly among the largest compilations of farm cost figures in the world, and is a big contribution to agricultural data.

* * *

AND how it all interlocks! Four hundred hogs were in the young pear orchard, eating pears that were too juvenile to be picked. Grain stubble went into the turkeys and sheep.

The output of the Holsteins goes to market as butter fat, and the skimmed milk goes into

THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

the pigs. Enough hens for a young Petaluma are supported entirely from by- products that would otherwise be wasted.

If a thing that grows on this ranch can't be sold for profit directly, it is translated into some animal that can be sold. And the size of the herds and flocks is regulated, directly, by the quantity of such available feed.

The permanent staff of only 125 men - an amazingly small number - is busy at one thing or another, all the year round. At "peak", the farm employed 1,200 this year.

* * *

SPEAKING largely, there are two ideals at work in California's farming progress - one, to get the farm lands settled up with as much happy family population as the small farms will support; the other, to turn out maximum produce with minimum human labor and at minimum cost.

River Farms has gone several steps farther, along the latter path, than any other organization to be found.

RICH HARVEST HERE

This article was found in a file folder at the Yolo County Archive. It was labelled as being a copy of an article that was published in the *Daily Democrat Farm Report*, 1916 issue. This seems highly unlikely, however, since text on the second page in an unrelated article refers to a November 1919 date. My guess is that it was published in early 1922. Transcriptions appear below each page.

PAGE 1

"Sheep find plenty to eat and drink."

"Orchard trees sturdy and heavy bearing."

"At the River Farms the sixth alfalfa crop of the season nearly always stands knee high."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(20)



TRANSCRIPTION

"RICH HARVESTS HERE

River Farms Tract Proclaims Remarkable Changes Which Have Transpired in Northern Yolo Section

An agricultural empire, embracing every modern idea of farming environment, is the River Farms Company's tract of 30,000 acres, extending from Knights Landing north along the Sacramento river for a distance of 30 miles and reputed to be the largest ranch of its kind in the United States. Unique in that it is farmed by the owners as a single unit, the ranch is operated under one management and by its own equipment.

Dr. E. L. Dow of San Francisco, is the president of the company and to him is given most credit for the recent development of the project. Dr. Dow represents the true California spirit. His plans are comprehensive and based on common sense and with unlimited capital at his command, he is carrying out a program of development and improvement that is conducive to the prosperity and growth of the Knights Landing district and the cumulative advantage of Yolo county as a whole. Associated with Dr. Dow in the farming venture are H. C. Morris vice-president, Charles Sutro, J. S. McCandless and Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., directors, H. A. Kunz secretary and R. H. Geer ranch manager.

During the past nine years the River Farms Company has expended several million dollars in reclamation, irrigation and drainage, carrying to a realization the plans of the most skilled engineers and the best qualified reclamation experts in the country. Many more millions are to be spent in the completion of their project. By practical tests the whole scheme of reclamation and irrigation has proved successful and has fully lived up to the expectations of the men who recommended and installed it.

In all there is upwards of 200 miles of irrigation and drainage ditches on the tract, together with bulkheads, diverting dams, gates and other equipment for conveying the water to whatever section it is needed. The whole property is criss-crossed with irrigation canals that have been built of durable material and of the proper depth and grade to assure a free flow of water.

Affording ample water supply regardless of how dry the season might be, five 50-inch centrifugal pumps with a capacity of pumping 300,000 gallons of water per minute, have been installed and operate with great success. At the time of its construction, this pumping plant was one of the largest of its kind in the world and irrigation and reclamation experts from all over the country came here to inspect and watch its operation.

Electric light and power service extends throughout the whole property. The Knights Landing substation of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company is but a few miles away, enabling the River Farms to increase its power service upon short notice if it becomes necessary.

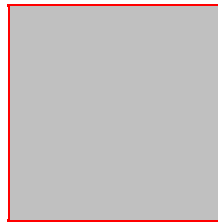
Crop Yields Tremendous

Wonderful crops have been taken from the land. Last year the barley and wheat yields were enormous, running in some sections as heavy as 50 sacks to the acre. Six and seven crops of alfalfa have been taken off in a single season from certain sections. Rice, too, has proven a successful crop.

But the grain crops do not represent all the possibilities of the land, for 350 acres are in prunes and 300 in pears; besides there is range land where 600 head of cattle.."

PAGE 2

[\(larger version\)](#)



TRANSCRIPTION

".....[one or two lines appear to be missing]..... anywhere and 4500 head of sheep are nibbling off the earth's choicest green feed.

Dairying and hog raising are other industries on the ranch that are winning more attention and yielding profitable returns. The dairy has a capacity of 240 cows and is as sanitary and up-to-date in mechanical equipment as any in the state.

Anticipating the best year in its history, the company has already seeded 14,000 acres of barley and 4000 acres of wheat, while the rice acreage will be 7500 acres, thereby assuring a food production off this one ranch equivalent to the entire output of some of the less productive western counties and of many of the smaller eastern counties.

Points of production are connected by river boats and by well-constructed gravel roads, enabling the big motor trucks to convey the crops to market with rapidity and the least possible inconvenience and expense. The company has its own warehouse. This granary has a capacity of 400,000 bags, ample to take care of crops that have been harvested but not sold or delivered.

Model in Sanitation

Cognizant of the things conducive to right living and pleasant living, Dr. Dow and his assistants have at great expense provided for the comfort and convenience of the hundreds of employees. Model and sanitary housing conditions prevail and there are green lawns and flowers, shade trees and garden plots to give the workers the homey environment and atmosphere that makes life worth while. Fair wages and just treatment have gone a long ways toward solving the help question for the River Farms Company and between 150 and 500 men are given employment, the number depending upon the season.

Demonstrating in no uncertain manner what western grit can do when backed by capital and common-sense judgment, the success of the River Farms Company has been all the more remarkable by reason of the fact that originally the property was an overflow swamp, considered good only for duck shooting and highly impossible for farming. The properties represent a consolidation of lands formerly owned by Senator Fair and Colonel Hager and in early days was a Spanish grant known as "Jimeno Rancho."

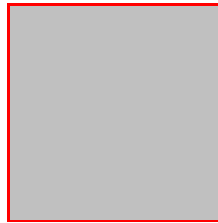
It is the aim and purpose of the River Farms Company to make River Farms as nearly ideal as the incorporation of modern farming ideas will permit. Absolutely no detail has been overlooked by Dr. Dow that will tend [to] increase its productivity and its usefulness. Sanitation, sewerage, uniform buildings, fences and other essentials are being insisted upon so that the whole development may work to an harmonious result."

CEREAL OUTPUT and ACREAGE

This newspaper article copy was sent to me in May 1996, by my cousin Ted, **Edgar L. Dow III** [RN 19]). While on vacation in Hawaii in 1995, Ted had quite by accident met a woman who turned out to be the daughter of **Robert W. Geer**, former manager of the ranch. **Her brother(21)**, had found this clipping from an old newspaper and they had sent Ted a copy.(22)

The source and date of this article is unknown (probably around 1926). Note that the acreage mentioned totals 22,225 acres.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



TRANSCRIPTION

"It is conservatively estimated that the cereal output from River Farms company's property, northwest of Knights Landing, will total 500,000 sacks with the rice crop being half that total. The company farms 10,500 acres of rice, 5000 acres of wheat, 5000 acres of barley, 500 acres of alfalfa, 325 acres of prunes, 300 acres of pears and 600 acres of peaches. In addition, there are 3500 head of sheep, 1000 head of hogs, 600 head of range cattle and 100 dairy cows. Robert W. Geer is ranch manager and Ed. Fish is in charge of the hog farm. A syndicate of San Francisco capitalists own the farm. Dr. E. L. Dow is president, H. C. Morris vice president and H. A. Kunz secretary."

RANCH 1915-1925 PHOTOGRAPHS

It is difficult to determine exactly when these pictures were taken, but based on the subjects they contain my best guess is that many of these pictures were actually taken around 1925.

Because each picture (and caption when there is one) may contain multiple subjects and/or references, the title of each picture as shown below cannot adequately describe each picture. Additionally, because each picture contains multiple elements, it is impossible to group the pictures in a manner that logically will lead viewers to their full content. Listed below, therefore, are suggested key **words** and **combination of words** which can be used in the **SEARCH** (or **QUERY**) function to lead you to pictures and/or picture captions containing multiple instances referencing these subjects:

1869
1902

1877
1908

1879
1909

1887
1912

1890
1914

THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1915 | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 | 1919 |
| 1920 | 1925 | 1926 | 1927 | 1939 |
| 1947 | 1958 | 1972 | 1974 | 1987 |
| 1990 | CR 112 | highway 113 | Fair | Boyer's |
| Civic Center | Colusa | Yolo | Comstock | Craig Well |
| El Dorado Bend | Howell Point | Knights Landing | Lake Spaulding | Marysville |
| Menzie | Sacramento River | San Francisco | San Joaquin | Sycamore Slough |
| Tyndall | Pacific Gas | River Farms | River Garden | Snowball Mansion |
| Robert H. Geer | Dow | Hiram Johnson. | Holstein | Holt |
| alluvial | men | people | workmen | superintendent |
| acquired | purchased | build | sold | cost |
| raised | crop | yield | acre | land |
| soil | property | field | corral | fallow |
| rotation | disc | plow | harvest | alfalfa |
| wheat | barley | rice | grain | stubble |
| herd | drove | animal | beef | cattle |
| dairy | chickens | hog | pig | horse |
| livestock | sheep | orchard | peach | pear |
| prune | bank | ditch | slough | canal |
| drainage | frontage | head gates | irrigation | irrigate |
| landing | platform | steamboat | riverboat | transport |
| bridge | river | flooding | levee | ditch |
| water | barge | barn | cottage | boarding house |
| house | building | garage | ranch | bungalow |
| bunkhouse | living quarters | camp | home | headquarters |
| ranchhouse | warehouse | shop | store | sub-station |
| system | plant | depot | barn | elevator |
| road | railroad | rail | trains | truck |
| vehicle | tractor | fleet | transport | equipment |
| generator | pump | harvester | machines | threshers |
| binders | sack | bushel | miles | disease |
| plaque | clay | electric | power | towers |
| lines | reclamation | district | milking | sediment |
| bulk | | | | |

ENTRANCE TO FAIR HOME

"Road leading up to the old Senator James Fair home."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(23)

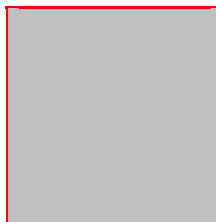


SENATOR JAMES FAIR HOME

"Another of the Camps owned by the River Farms Company. This particular one was the Country Home of Senator James Fair of California, who originally owned a large part of the holdings of the River Farms Company."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(24)



FAIR HOME - FRONT

"This was the old Fair ranchhouse, on Highway 113 west of Knights Landing. It was built about 1890 for Senator James G. Fair, one of the Comstock Lode Silver kings. Fair had acquired the ranch in 1887 and he raised race horses there. The 10,000-acre ranch was purchased in 1908 by the River Garden Farms Company, which reclaimed the land for agricultural development. The ranchhouse was used as a camp for the company's workmen."

([larger version](#))

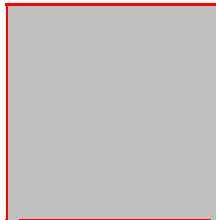
(25)



Note [front of car](#) on left.

([larger version](#))

(26)



FAIR HOME - BACK

"Back view of the old Fair home. Hamilton Ranch Highway 113."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(27)



[\(larger version\)](#)

(28)



HOUSE AND WATER TOWER

This house and water tower are not identified.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(29)



DR. DOW IN WHEAT FIELD

"In 1918 the River Garden Farms Co. had over 5,000 acres planted to wheat. Here [Dr. Dow](#) is shown in a Company wheat field that yielded about 60 bushels per acre."

([larger version](#))

(30)

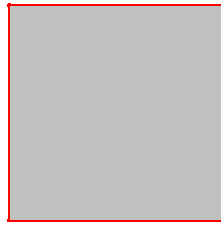


THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

"In 1918 the River Garden Farms Co. had over 5,000 acres planted to wheat. Here Dr. Dow is shown in a Company wheat field that yielded about 60 bushels per acre."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(31)



"One of the wheat fields which ... yielding about 60 bushels per acre. There is over 5000 acres in wheat on the property this year."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(32)



MEN IN WHEAT FIELD

None of these men can be identified.

(33)

[\(larger version\)](#)



THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

[\(larger version\)](#)



BARLEY FIELD JUST PRIOR TO HARVEST

([larger version](#))



ADJOINING LAND

"SIX HUNDRED DOLLARS PER ACRE. This property adjoins the River Farms property, and land of this type has sold for as high as \$600.00 per acre."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(34)



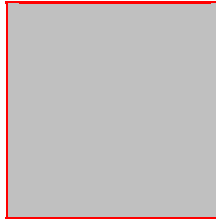
SYCAMORE SLOUGH

"The main drainage canal which is known as Sycamore Slough in Reclamation District No. 108. This canal takes care of any excess of water, which may go onto the land either in the nature of heavy rains or other causes, and is then pumped back into the River. This main canal and lateral drainage ditch is one hundred and eighty-eight miles in length, of which something around one hundred miles is on the property of the River Farms Company."

[This enlargement](#) of the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin](#) shows the location of Sycamore Slough passing through the southern part of the River Farms property.

([larger version](#))

(35)

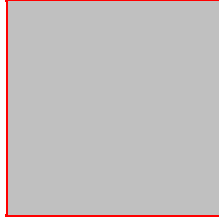


SYCAMORE SLOUGH CAMP

"Sycamore Slough Camp; one of the working camps and living quarters for the men belonging to River Farms Company. There are several of these Camps on the property."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(36)



EL DORADO BEND PUMPING AND DRAINAGE PLANT

"The Reclamation District 108 combined drainage and irrigation plant at El Dorado Bend. The plant and system cost \$400,000 to build in 1919. Water could be drained off the land in winter at the rate of 400,000 gal. per minute. The pumps could be reversed in summer to irrigate 8,500 acres belonging to the company."

[El Dorado Bend and this plant is shown on this enlargement](#) from the [1916 Upper Yolo Basin map](#). (see also [1990 photographs](#))

[\(larger version\)](#)

(37)



IRRIGATION DITCH HEAD GATES

"Picture of Head Gates on an irrigation ditch. This gives one an idea of the quality of work on the land of the River Farms Company. In the center of the picture is a field that was put out in grain and on the left corner is a portion of young peach orchard."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(38)



AUXILIARY STEAM TURBINE ELECTRIC GENERATOR

"Exterior view of the Auxiliary Steam Turbine Electric Generator owned by Reclamation District No. 108, and used in case of emergency; such as failure of electric power. This picture also shows head gates of one of the irrigation systems in District No. 787, owned by River Farms Company. At the rear of the building, (not shown in this picture) is one of the drainage pumping plants of District 787."

The area of Reclamation District No. 787 is shown on [this enlargement](#) from the [1916 Upper Yolo Basin map](#).

([larger version](#))

(39)



TYPICAL VIEW OF SACRAMENTO RIVER

"The River Farms Company has a frontage of approximately thirty miles on the River. Both of these pictures are taken on the property, and the land to the left is what is owned by the River Farms Company."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(40)



POWER LINES OVER SACRAMENTO RIVER

"The towers in the distance are the Power lines of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. This is the main trunk line from Lake Spaulding. This line extends over the entire property owned by River Farms, thereby affording cheap, certain and convenient power for any and all purposes. Two sub-stations of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company are located on the property."

This is a [Swadley](#) photograph.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(41)



FLOODING RIVER LEVEE - #1

This picture, and the other two with it, did not come from the Yolo County Archives. It is from the family photo album of Edgar Lawrence Dow II (my uncle known as "Sally"), owned by his son, Edgar Lawrence Dow III, my cousin known as "Ted". These picture are believed to have been taken around 1925.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(42)



FLOODING RIVER LEVEE - #2

This picture, and the other two with it, did not come from the Yolo County Archives. It is from the family photo album of Edgar Lawrence Dow II (my uncle known as "Sally"), owned by his son, Edgar Lawrence Dow III, my cousin known as "Ted". These picture are believed to have been taken around 1925.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(43)



FLOODING RIVER LEVEE - #3

This picture, and the other two with it, did not come from the Yolo County Archives. It is from the family photo album of Edgar Lawrence Dow II (my uncle known as "Sally"), owned by his son, Edgar Lawrence Dow III, my cousin known as "Ted". These picture are believed to have been taken around 1925.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(44)



RAILROAD BRIDGE OVER SACRAMENTO RIVER

"This bridge was built across the Sacramento River in 1869 to carry the railroad line from Woodland to Marysville. Trains ran regularly on this line until 1972, and the bridge was torn down two years later. Note the Snowball Mansion in the background. It was built by John W. Snowball in 1877 and is still standing."

This view is looking towards the southwest from the east side of the Sacramento River towards Knights Landing and the Snowball Estate on the left, as shown on this [1912 map](#). Note the "[Mica Axle Grease](#)" tank (a brand name product of Standard Oil Company of California, now Chevron Corporation, my former employer): the date "[1902](#)" in the steel at the top front and on a diamond shaped board in the middle of the bridge; the [sign on the bridge on the far right edge of the picture](#) that says " \$25 fine for running over fasteners." This bridge crossed the Sacramento River at Knights Landing, as indicated on the October [1958 highway map](#), and near Merchant Siding turned northwest to Robbins and on towards (or to) Colusa and then east to Marysville. This January [1939 map](#) of the Sacramento Northern Railway shows the tracks stopping at Robbins. [This enlargement](#) of the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin](#) shows this was the Oroville Branch (Oroville is due north of Marysville) of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

([larger version](#))
([Larger Version from Print](#))

(45)



LOADING HAY ON BARGE

[\(larger version\)](#)

(46)



STEAMBOAT "SAN JOAQUIN NO. 3" PULLING BARGES

"The 'San Joaquin No. 3' was a paddle wheel steamboat, built in 1879. Steamboats like these were a familiar sight on the Sacramento River near Knights Landing, which was a busy river port during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries."

The second boat is the "[San Joaquin No. 2.](#)"

([larger version](#))

(47)



[\(larger version\)](#)

(48)

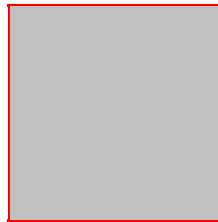


KNIGHTS LANDING RAILROAD STATION

"Looking up the railroad tracks toward the Sacramento River. The sign on the depot reads: 'Knights Landing, elevation 43 feet. To San Francisco, 94 miles; To Marysville, 54 miles.' The tracks were removed in 1974, and the right of way is now Railroad Street."

"RAIL HEAD OF THE RIVER FARMS COMPANY. Knights Landing is the depot for the River Farms Company, and the Town of Knights Landing is a thriving little community. A portion of the land in the town itself is owned by River Farms Company. The bridge in the center of the picture bridges the Sacramento River, and the land owned by the River Farms Company is just to the left of this depot."(49)

[\(larger version\)](#)



THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

[\(larger version\)](#)



KNIGHTS LANDING STORE

([larger version](#))



KNIGHTS LANDING STREET SCENE

Note the side of the railroad bridge in the background. This street paralleled the Sacramento River. The white bill board on the wall of the building on the right reads: "Beeson Bros Big Uncle Tom Cabin Co. Opera House .." It is difficult to read the [numerous signs](#) on the buildings in the right background, although one can be made out to read "Star" and another "Bakery".

([larger version](#))

(50)



CAR ON KNIGHTS LANDING STREET

The [license plate](#) on this car has no year date on it.

([larger version](#))

(51)



HAY WAGON ON KNIGHTS LANDING STREET

[\(larger version\)](#)

(52)



BOYER'S CAMP - LEFT SIDE - RIVER FARMS CO. STORE

"Boyer's Camp in southern Colusa County. Most everything was raised by the Company in the 1920's, including chickens."

This picture connects with and is immediately to the left of the picture below it. [This enlargement](#) of the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin](#) shows the location of the camp in relation to the line between Yolo and Colusa Counties. Enlargements of cars on [left](#), [center](#) and [right](#).

[\(larger version\)](#)

(53)



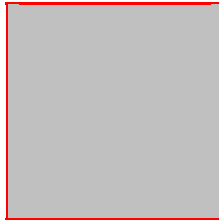
BOYER'S CAMP - CENTER

"Boyer's Camp in southern Colusa County. Most everything was raised by the Company in the 1920's, including chickens."

This picture connects with and is immediately to the right of the above picture and to the left of the picture below. [This enlargement](#) of the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin](#) shows the location of the camp in relation to the line between Yolo and Colusa Counties.

Note the ["Red Crown Gasoline" sign](#) near the center of the picture. This was a [brand name product](#) of the old Standard Oil Company (John D. Rockefeller's company) which owned Standard Oil Company (California) prior to the anti-trust break-up (1911) of the company and the creation of the separate company, which in 1926 became the Standard Oil Company of California (now ChevronTexaco Corporation) which I worked for.

[\(larger version\)](#)



BOYER'S CAMP - RIGHT SIDE

"Boyer's Camp in southern Colusa County. Most everything was raised by the Company in the 1920's, including chickens."

This picture connects with and is immediately to the right of the above picture. [This enlargement](#) of the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin](#) shows the location of the camp in relation to the line between Yolo and Colusa Counties. This is an [enlargement of the car](#) in the center of the picture.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(54)



BUNKHOUSES - LEFT SIDE

There may have been an identification caption on this picture but I do not have it. I do not know where this picture, and the adjoining picture (below) to the right were taken.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(55)

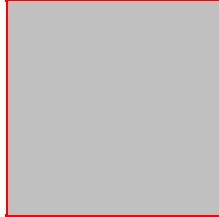


BUNKHOUSES - RIGHT SIDE

There may have been an identification caption on this picture but I do not have it. I do not know where this picture, and the adjoining picture (below) to the left were taken.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(56)



INSIDE TYNDALL MOUND PUMPING PLANT

"Drainage pumps and motors inside the R.D. 108 pumping plant at Tyndall Mound. With water pumped from the Sacramento River, this equipment irrigated 4,000 acres belonging to the Company."

Note in bottom left corner, the embossed name of the photographer, "[Swadley, San Francisco](#)." Note also the three men in the picture: the man in the foreground is unidentified; the [man in the center in the straw hat](#) is my grandfather, Dr. Edgar Lawrence Dow [RN 7]; the man on the right is believed to be the Company's attorney and my grandfather's good friend, [Hiram W. Johnson, Jr.](#), son of the Governor of California.

Tyndall Mound (and Tyndall Landing) are not shown on most maps of the area, but it does appear on this [1996 map](#). [This enlargement](#) of the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin](#) shows the location of Tyndall Mound.

([larger version](#))

(57)



TRUCK FLEET IN SAN FRANCISCO

"This fleet of 24 shiny new trucks is shown in front of the San Francisco Civic Center at the time they were purchased, about 1918. Each truck is numbered and bears the name "River Farms Co. of California."

This caption is in error since these trucks were purchased on or after March, 1927, and there may have only been 200 of them.

This picture shows my grand father, Edgar Lawrence Dow I [RN 15], on the left, and my grandfather's close friend Hiram W. Johnson, Sr. (Governor of California in 1911 and a U. S. Senator in the mid 1920's).

This picture was taken in front of the old(58) San Francisco Public Library building in the Civic Center of San Francisco in 1927. My father, Gerald Hathaway Dow [RN 7], remembers being one of the people who drove these trucks from Civic Center to the ranch at Knights Landing, California. Note the men sitting on top of the wall in this picture.

These were 1927 Ford Model TT closed-cab flat bed trucks, without any bed on the back. The Ford Model T was made at least from 1909 through 1927. Over that period many different truck models were made, including the closed-cab trucks shown here. These were the larger, commercial, Model TT models, but still had four cylinder, 20 horse power engines. the same as the Model T.

This photo was taken by R J. Walters(59) & Co., 717 Market Street, San Francisco.

THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

[\(larger version\)](#)

(60)



[\(larger version\)](#)

(61)



THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

[\(larger version\)](#)

(62)



[\(larger version\)](#)

(63)



THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

[\(larger version\)](#)

(64)

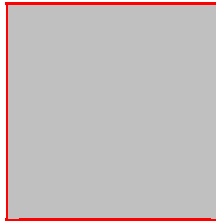


CATERPILLAR TRACTOR AND GRAIN WAGON TRAIN

Enlargement of [top front](#) of tractor. Note the folding "pocket" Kodak model A-1 camera the woman is holding. The people are unidentified. Note also the word "Caterpillar" on the bumper on the front wheel.

([larger version](#))

(65)



[\(larger version\)](#)

(66)



WHEAT WAGONS AND TRACTOR

"This is how sacked wheat was transported from the fields to the warehouses at the beginning of the Company's operations. After 1918, the wheat was carried by the Company's fleet of 24 trucks."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(67)



WHEAT WAGONS NEXT TO WAREHOUSE

([larger version](#))

(68)

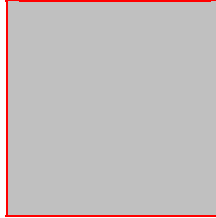


GRAIN STACKED NEXT TO RIVER

"Sacks of grain stacked on the bank of the Sacramento River preparatory to being shipped by water down to San Francisco. Note the cupola of a barge in the middle of the picture above the sacks of grain. Grain was shipped by riverboat from the Company's landings, or by rail from the Knights Landing depot."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(69)



GRAIN SACKS INSIDE WAREHOUSE

"Wheat and barley were important crops for the Company. Grain was put into sacks in the fields and the sacks were stored in warehouses along the Sacramento River until they were shipped out by riverboat or by rail. This photo shows the interior of one of the smaller warehouses 150 x 150."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(70)



COMBINE HARVESTER FROM SIDE

[\(larger version\)](#)

(71)



HOLT COMBINED HARVESTER

"Combined Harvester at work. This machine cut, threshed and sacked the wheat. After sacking the wheat, the bags were dumped onto the ground and were picked up later by a truck. The front portion of this Combine is a Holt 75 H.P. tractor. The Company owned 10 of these machines, which together could handle 20,000 bushels per day."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(72)



RICE EQUIPMENT

"RICE EQUIPMENT. Two pictures of Rice Binders and Threshers belonging to the River Farms Company."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(73)



SUMMER FALLOW LAND

"The last two years this land was planted to rice. This year it is being used as summer fallow, and will then be planted to wheat and barley. This land will yield very large crops owing to rotation. If planted to barley a very conservative estimate of the crop will be from eighty to one hundred bushels per acre. There are 4000 acres in this one piece. Possibly something less than 1000 acres can be seen in the picture. All the land on River Farms is just as level as this."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(74)



HOLT TRACTOR AND DISC PLOWS

"THE WAY THEY PLOW ON RIVER FARMS. A big Hlt 75 H.P. Tractor is here seen pulling four big disc plows. On a property of the size of River Farms Company, the farming operations are carried on in such a way that the cost is cut to the minimum."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(75)



CRAIG WELL BARN

"Craig Well barn at one of the Camps on the Company's property."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(76)



SMALL WAREHOUSE AT HEADQUARTERS

"One of the smaller Warehouses, 150 x 50 Capacity 150,000 bushels. At Headquarters."
This is one of the [Swadley](#) photographs.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(77)



MACHINE SHOP AND GARAGE AT HEADQUARTERS

"The Company housed machines and vehicles as well as people, animals and crops. Shown here are the machine shop and garage for trucks at the Company Headquarters."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(78)



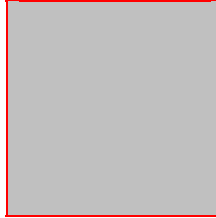
HOWELL POINT WAREHOUSE

"Warehouse with elevator on one end for receiving grain in bulk. All grain and rice is now brought to warehouses in bulk from harvesters -- goes through elevator and cleaners and is then put in bags. Howell Point - Colusa Co."

This is a [McCurry Foto Co.](#) photograph.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(79)



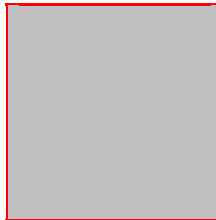
LARGE TYNDALL WAREHOUSE - END VIEW

"End view of one of the large Warehouses 300 x 100 feet. This is one of three Warehouses of this type and size owned by the River Farms Company. This Warehouse has a capacity of 350,000 bushels. The Company also owns two smaller ones. All these Warehouses face on the River, and the three large ones each have six loading platforms running out into the River. Tyndall."

[This enlargement](#) of the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin](#) shows the location of this large warehouse at Tyndall Landing.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(80)



TYNDALL WAREHOUSE NO. 2

"The third big Warehouse capacity 350,000 bushels. Tyndall #2."

[This enlargement](#) of the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin](#) shows the location of this large warehouse at Tyndall Landing.

([larger version](#))

(81)

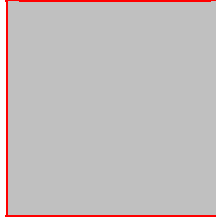


ROAD NEXT TO PRUNE ORCHARD

"A typical Road on the River Farms property, showing a portion of the five year old Prune trees on one side, and a stubble field on the other. Property as far as can be seen all belongs to the River Farms Company. The roads through the property are all in excellent condition and cover many miles of ground."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(82)



MENZIE PEACH CAMP

"Menzie Peach Camp in southern Colusa County. During the 1920s, the River Garden Farms Company was one of the largest agricultural operations in the world, farming 32,000 acres in Yolo and Colusa Counties. The company built 295 buildings on the ranch, including these bunkhouses for peach workers."

This is a [McCurry Foto Co.](#) picture.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(83)



MENZIE PEACH CAMP COTTAGE

"Cottage and garage for foreman of peach orchard. Menzie Peach Camp, Colusa Co."
Taken by [Mc Curry Foto Co.](#)

[\(larger version\)](#)

(84)

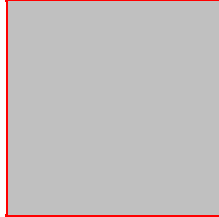


DR. DOW BY PEACH TREE

Dr. Dow, my grandfather on right, and it is believed to be Hiram W. Johnson, Jr., on the left.
This is a [Swadley](#) photograph.

([larger version](#))

(85)



[\(larger version\)](#)

(86)



ROBERT H. GEER BY PEACH TREE

Robert H. Geer, Ranch Manager is standing on the left; the other man is unidentified. This is a [McCurry Foto Co.](#) photograph. Note the early "Del Monte" label on the [peach box at Mr. Geer's feet.](#)

([larger version](#))

(87)



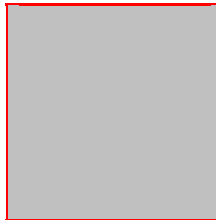
MEN IN PEAR ORCHARD

"The Company found that the soil next to the Sacramento River, known as Sacramento heavy clay, which was a mixture of sediment, alluvial soil, clay and decayed vegetable matter, was excellent for growing pears, prunes and peaches. This picture shows five-year-old pear trees bearing their first crop. The Company had 350 acres planted in Bartlett pears."

Of the four men standing in the tree shadows in this picture, the only one that is identifiable is Dr. Dow, standing behind the other man on the left side of the picture. The man in the high boots on the right is believed to be Robert H. Geer, Ranch Manager.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(88)



MAN STANDING IN PEACH ORCHARD

"Peaches were another valuable orchard crop for the Company. This peach orchard was three years old when the picture was taken."

The man is not identified but it is probably the Ranch Manager at the time, Robert H. Geer.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(89)



FRUIT ON DRYING RACKS

There was no indication what fruit was being dried here, but it probably is prunes (although it looks large enough to be peaches).

This is a [McCurry Foto Co.](#) photograph.

([larger version](#))

(90)



RANCH MANAGER NEXT TO PRUNE TREE

"Orchard crops flourished in the Company's fields near the Sacramento River. Here the Company Manager, Robert H. Geer, holds a branch of Imperial prunes."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(91)



RANCH SUPERINTENDENT'S HOME AT HEADQUARTERS

"This home was built at the Company Headquarters for the Ranch Superintendent in 1927. It is still standing near the Sacramento River at the eastern end of CR 112."

The location is shown on [this enlargement](#) of a current map the Knights Landing area. [This enlargement](#) shows the people in this picture who are believed to be Robert H. Geer and his children.

([larger version](#))

(92)



SUPERINTENDENT'S BUNGALOW

"Bungalow occupied by the Superintendent of the Dairy and Hog Industry, also boarding house and bunk house for men at this plant. Note how well kept up and in what good condition these buildings are."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(93)



DAIRY CATTLE OUTSIDE MILKING SHED

"Dairy cattle in the corral outside the milking shed. The Company owned 125 head of dairy cattle, all Holsteins."

[\(larger version\)](#)



MILKING BARN INTERIOR

"Interior of the Company's milking barn. This was the latest thing in the 1920s. The cement floors, modern milking equipment, and efficient ventilation system made maintaining A-1 sanitary conditions easy."

This was a [Swadley](#) photograph.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(94)



HERD OF PIGS AT HOG PLANT

"Herd of pigs in corral at Hog Plant."
This is a Swadley, San Francisco, photograph.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(95)



HOGS FEEDING ON ALFALFA

"A few hogs belonging to the River Farms Company, feeding on an alfalfa field. The dairy plant belonging to the Company is in the distance. The River Farms Company owns about one thousand head of these hogs."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(96)



HERD OF HORSES

"The Company owned and raised all kinds of livestock: pigs, sheep, beef cattle, dairy cattle -- and this herd of horses."

Note a photographer's logo in the bottom right corner. It reads "[Mc Curry Foto Co](#)".

([larger version](#))



DROVE OF SHEEP

"A drove of sheep belonging to the Company. The land on the far side of the irrigation ditch is planted to rice, part of the 10,000 acres planted in 1918."

[\(larger version\)](#)



DROVE OF SHEEP ON STUBBLE FIELD

"Another drove of sheep belonging to the River Farms Company, on a stubble field after the grain has been harvested. The River Farms Company owns between four and five thousand of these sheep."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(97)

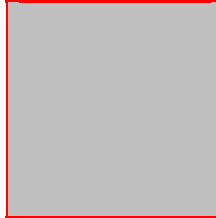


BEEF CATTLE HERD

"Shown here is a part of a herd of about 500 beef cattle owned by the Company."

[\(larger version\)](#)

(98)

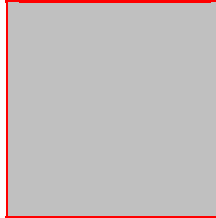


KILLING DISEASED CATTLE

There is no caption with this picture, but my father distinctly remembers that the area had an outbreak of disease and that a large part of the ranch's herd of cattle had to be destroyed to prevent the spread of the disease. This occurred in February 1924 and is [commented upon](#) in the infobase titled [*History of River Garden Farms Company*](#).

[\(larger version\)](#)

(99)



POLITICAL CAMPAIGN PROCESSION

It is not entirely clear what this picture is of or who the people are but the photograph and the one below it were included with the other River Farms Company pictures. The Yolo County Archives believes this is a picture of some of the participants in a political campaign. Two of the cars carry a "Winters" sign and one carries a "Woodland" sign. Woodland is a large town south of Knights Landing and Winters is further to the southwest, both in Yolo County.

The cars bear 1914 license plates.

[\(larger version\)](#)



POLITICAL CAMPAIGN RALLY PAGEANT

It is not entirely clear what this picture is of or who the people are but the photograph and the one above it were included with the other River Farms Company pictures. The Yolo County Archives believes this is a picture of participants in a political campaign rally and pageant. It is believed that the man sitting in the chair is Hiram W. Johnson (father of the Company's attorney), Governor of California.

[\(larger version\)](#)



KNIGHTS LANDING RIDGE CUT PLAQUE

In [1947\(100\)](#), while [visiting\(101\)](#) in the San Francisco Bay area with my parents, I took this picture of a bronze plaque embedded on a concrete pillar at one end of a small two-lane bridge over an irrigation ditch or slough on the western outskirts of the town of Knights Landing. One day my Dad said he wanted to drive over to the Woodland/Knights Landing area to attempt to contact [Evelyn T. Holland](#), whom he [remembered from childhood\(102\)](#) and who in 1947 was the President and General Manager of the River Farms Company.

While driving around the ranch my father stopped the car at one end of a two-lane bridge over a large irrigation ditch (the Knights Landing Ridge Cut) and we got out for him to show me a bronze plaque mounted in the concrete pillar at one end of the county road bridge. It was late in the day and a shadow had fallen across half of the plaque, making it difficult to take a readable picture. I only took one picture and it sat for years in my collection without much interest from me.

In the latter part of June, 1990, when I returned to take the pictures of the area that are included in this infobase, below, I attempted to find this bridge and plaque. After driving around the area for hours I finally found the [bridge on the western outskirts of the town of Knights Landing \(what was then State Highway 113 at the point where it crosses the Knights Landing Ridge Cut\)](#). The plaque was no longer mounted on the bridge pillar, although I could see the place where it had once been mounted.

I enquired at the Yolo County Archives about the plaque. There were people there that remembered the plaque and who said it had been removed during bridge repairs. They also remembered the plaque was stored in a barn or warehouse for sometime, but no one knew what had happened to it or whether it still existed in 1990.

LOCATION

LARGE AREA MAP

[\(larger version\)](#)



KNIGHTS LANDING AREA MAP

[\(larger version\)](#)



TRANSCRIPTION

**KNIGHTS LANDING RIDGE CUT
CONSTRUCTED 1914-1919**

BY KNIGHTS LANDING RIDGE DRAINAGE DISTRICT, AREA 73,000 ACRES TO PERMIT THE RECLAMATION OF COLUSA BASIN BY BY-PASSING INTO YOLO BASIN FLOOD DRAINAGE FROM THE WESTERN HILLS. CAPACITY 20,000 SEC. FEET OR ABOUT EQUAL TO THAT OF THE RIVER AT KNIGHTS LANDING.

LENGTH 10 MILES EXCAVATION 4,600,000 CU. YDS. COST \$1,000,000

COMMISSIONERS 1913-1927

[JESSE POUNDSTONE\(103\)](#) PRES.
[J. H. BALSDON\(104\)](#)
[J. W. BROWNING\(105\)](#)
E. L. DOW
STUART S. HAWLEY
W. S. KENDALL

ATTORNEYS

DEVLIN & DEVLIN
JOHN F. PARTRIDGE
ELMER ARMPFIELD
THOMAS RUTLEDGE
ARTHUR C. HUSTON

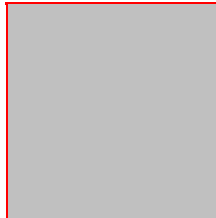
ENGINEERS

FRED H. TIBBETTS
CHIEF ENGINEER
RALPH G. WADSWORTH
ASST. CHIEF ENGINEER
GUY FRASER
RESIDENT ENGINEER

PLAQUE ON BRIDGE

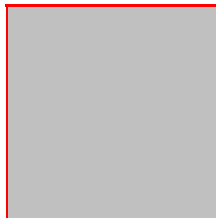
[\(larger version\)](#)

(106)



PLAQUE

[\(larger version\)](#)



RIGHT SIDE OF PLAQUE

THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

[\(larger version\)](#)



LEFT SIDE OF PLAQUE

([larger version](#))



KNIGHTS LANDING CUT PROJECT

These maps were found in a file folder at the Yolo County Archive. They were large, not very clear (i.e., sharp) and therefore very difficult to make reduction copies of. Some of the detail is unreadable in these copies. The color notations were placed on them by a [researcher\(107\)](#) I engaged and I am not certain these notations are accurate.

LOWER END OF KNIGHTS LANDING RIDGE SHOWING LOCATION OF PROPOSED CUT

This is Plate 3. Map is dated November 1912.

The words [highlighted in yellow](#) should read "Yolo Land Company" and "River Garden Farms" instead of the older names printed on the map.

The lines [highlighted in violet](#) indicate drainage ditches already in place [on the "Old Fair Ranch"\(108\)](#) before 1912.

THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

[\(larger version\)](#)

(109)



**DISTRICT AFFECTED BY CUT FROM SACRAMENTO-WOODLAND R. R. TO
COLUSA LAKE R. R.**

(110) This is Plate 2. Map is dated November 1912.

TOP HALF

THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

[\(larger version\)](#)



BOTTOM HALF

The area **circled in yellow** outlines the original Fair Ranch.

THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

[\(larger version\)](#)



RANCH 1990 PHOTOGRAPHS

In June 1990, a week after I had visited the Yolo County Archives to copy the photographic portfolio, I made another trip from my home in Walnut Creek to the Knights Landing area in Yolo County (on the west side of the Sacramento River, north of Sacramento, known as the "right" bank of the river) to take these color Kodachrome slides. For the most part they were taken along the Sacramento River Levee (all on the west bank), in the area both south and north of Knights Landing.

ALONG SACRAMENTO RIVER LEVEE

Near intersection of Yolo County roads 16 and 116, south of Knights Landing.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(111)



ROAD 116 ALONG SACRAMENTO RIVER WEST BANK

Looking South along road 116, south of Knights landing ([see map - larger version](#)) from same point as picture above.

([larger version](#))

(112)



SACRAMENTO RIVER LEVEE LOOKING EAST

On the levee looking east over west side Sacramento River, south of Knights Landing at the intersection of Yolo County roads 116 and 116A ([see map - larger version](#)).

([larger version](#))

(113)



LOOKING NORTH WEST FROM LEVEE

Looking northwest from top of levee at the intersection of Yolo County Roads 116 and 16
([see map - larger version](#)).

([larger version](#))

(114)



FLOODED RICE FIELD

From Yolo County Road 112, north of Knights Landing. Note large bird landing in center of picture ([see map - larger version](#)). This whole area is on the North-South wild bird migration flyway where they find tremendous amounts of food to feed on.

([larger version](#))

(115)



SYCAMORE SLOUGH ALONG ROAD 112

Taken North of Knights Landing along Sycamore Slough along Yolo County road 112 ([see map - larger version](#)).

[\(larger version\)](#)

(116)



WEST SIDE OF LEVEE SUPPORTING ROAD 116

Looking north towards Knights Landing along west side of levee supporting Yolo County road 116 ([see map - larger version](#)).

(117)

[\(larger version\)](#)



SACRAMENTO RIVER

Sacramento River near Knights Landing. The river does not look very big at this point both because it was June, because much of it is diverted around this point by cuts and by-passes and because much of the river is pumped for irrigation throughout this whole district.

[\(larger version\)](#)

(118)



ROAD 16 BRIDGE OVER KNIGHTS LANDING RIDGE CUT

[\(larger version\)](#)

(119)



LOOKING NORTHWEST TOWARDS KNIGHTS LANDING FROM ROAD 116

[\(larger version\)](#)

(120)



LOOKING SOUTHWEST FROM ROAD 116 SOUTH OF KNIGHTS LANDING

[\(larger version\)](#)

(121)



FLOODED RICE FIELDS

Flooded rice fields north of Knights Landing from Yolo County Road 108 ([see map - larger version](#)).

([larger version](#))

(122)

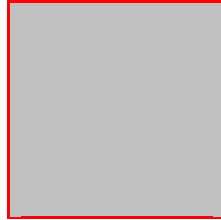


RICE FIELDS FROM ROAD 111 #1

From Yolo County Road 111 north of Knights Landing ([see map - larger version](#)).

[\(larger version\)](#)

(123)



RICE FIELDS FROM ROAD 111 #2

From Yolo County Road 111 north of Knights Landing ([see map - larger version](#)).

[\(larger version\)](#)

(124)



FROM ROAD 108 #1

Fields from Yolo County Road 108, northwest of Knights Landing ([see map - larger version](#)).

([larger version](#))

(125)



FROM ROAD 108 #2

Fields from Yolo County Road 108, northwest of Knights Landing ([see map - larger version](#)).

([larger version](#))

(126)



ROUGH AND READY PUMPING STATION ENTRANCE

Reclamation District #108's Rough and Ready Pumping Station entrance on the Sacramento River west bank on the road (not shown on most road maps) on top of the west bank levee near the intersections of of State Highway 45 and Yolo County road E11 (98A). ([see map - larger version](#)). [This pumping station is shown on this enlargement](#) from the [1916 Upper Yolo Basin map](#).

([larger version](#))

(127)



FRONT of EL DORADO BEND PLANT

Reclamation District #108's El Dorado Bend Plant, front. [El Dorado Bend and this plant is shown on this enlargement](#) from the [1916 Upper Yolo Basin map](#).

[\(larger version\)](#)

(128)

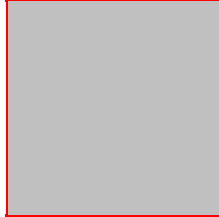


BACK of EL DORADO BEND PLANT

Reclamation District #108's El Dorado Bend Plant, back side (see [1927 photograph](#)). [El Dorado Bend and this plant is shown on this enlargement](#) from the [1916 Upper Yolo Basin map](#).

[\(larger version\)](#)

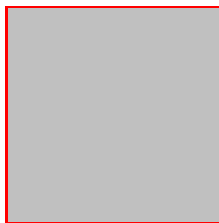
(129)



ARTICLES/LETTERS/PHOTOGRAPHS

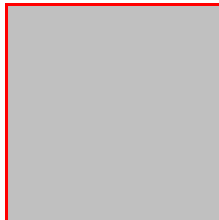
EVELYN T. HOLLAND PHOTOGRAPH

(130)



EVELYN T. HOLLAND LETTER TO GERALD H. DOW

(131)



Calif.

Knights Landing,

April 25th, 1951

Dear Gerald: [RN 7]

This morning there was delivered to me a crate of the most wonderful oranges I have ever seen - - their size and flavor are certainly most unlike the variety to be found in the vicinity. I am sharing them with the boys here at the ranch and we are enjoying their goodness --the boys join me in sincere thanks and appreciation for your thoughtfulness. It was so nice of you, Gerald, to remember me--but, then, you have always been one of my favorite people.

This has been a rocky year so far for the ranch--too much rain for too long, then no rain for too long, so that we didn't get our grain crop in until March, and with no rain since, we don't have a grain crop, except for a small acreage of wheat we managed to get in before the rains came along the first of November. We are putting in an extra large acreage of

rice, and with other crops like alfalfa, melons, beans, etc. we may still have a fair year. I have never been able to determine in my own mind why I have stuck with the farming business! It is just one headache followed by two more.

How are things with you and Ruth [RN 8], and how is your youngster [RN 1] doing in College, or will the Service get him? It is such a topsy turvy old world, one wonders whether we will survive it all.

Again many, many thanks for the delicious oranges and your kindness. My best to you and Ruth.

As ever, s/ Evelyn [RN4247]

P.S. When melon time comes around, I shant forget you -

[Note: the [photograph shown above](#) was enclosed with this letter]

SHE RISES FROM THE RANKS; NOW MANAGES HUGE CALIFORNIA FARM

This copy of a newspaper article published April 6, 1956, in the Record-Enterprise-Record, National Rice Edition was found for me by Shipley Walters. It appears to have originally published in the house-organ, Rice Journal in March 1956.

"(From the Rice Journal, March, 1956, Edition)

Not many women have the courage and ability to manage a 14,000 acre farm. However, in California's Sacramento valley there is such a woman. She is Miss Evelyn Holland, secretary-treasurer and general manager of the River Farms company of California.

This charming and versatile woman literally came up through the ranks. After attending business school, Miss Holland went to work for River Farms at its San Francisco office in 1921 as a stenographer and bookkeeper. As time went on she proved her worth and became assistant to the secretary-treasurer and manager of the farming corporation. Then, in 1940 she was appointed to her present position. From 1940 to 1949, when she moved to Woodland, 12 miles from the farm, she regularly drove from San Francisco to the farm to keep track of the operations.

ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY

In addition to being responsible for the operation of this large farm, she is active in community affairs. She is an active member and past president of the Woodland Soroptimist club, a service organization of professional women, and has been active in organizing the Second Horizons club, a social organization for elderly men and women sponsored by the Soroptimists. She is also chairman of the Woodland Planning commission.

The River Farms company of California, a farming corporation of over 100 stockholders, was formed in 1916. Two large farming operations, the Yolo Land company and the River Garden Farms, were merged to form this company and included 33,000 acres. During the depression a large acreage was lost because of non-payment of reclamation assessments,

and immediately after World War II some land was sold, so that now there are 13,857 acres in the farm.

The farm is located along the Sacramento river beginning at Knights Landing, Yolo county and runs north about 10 miles into the southern part of Colusa county. Of River Farms' total acreage, 6,564 acres lie in Reclamation District 108 and 7,294 acres in Reclamation District 787, better known as the old Fair ranch. Originally, the Fair ranch was to be subdivided and sold off in small acreage parcels so an irrigation and drainage system of its own was developed. The present system owned and operated by River Farms services the entire acreage in this reclamation district.

STAY ON THE JOB

The farm employs about 100 men during the peak seasons with a year round complement of 40 to 50 men. Many of the men have been with the company for a long time. Although the farm does not pay higher wages than other farmers in the area, men seem to stay with it. Miss Holland feels that perhaps many of the single men stay on because of the excellent room and board that is provided for \$1.75 per day. Married men are provided with cottages for their families.

Ray Mendenhall, ranch superintendent, has been with the company since 1938. Tony Silva, master mechanic, holds the record for service, beginning work on the farm on Aug. 19, 1918. There are six other foremen in charge of the different farming operations and there has been no changes in this staff since 1940, another example of the good employee relations enjoyed by the company.

The company also allows the foremen to jointly farm about 300 acres a year. In the past, they have planted rice on their acreage but with acreage allotments they raised safflower in 1955 and will probably continue to raise that crop in this cooperative venture.

COMMERCIAL WORK

The farm has its own warehouse and rice dryer where it also does commercial drying and storage. This enterprise, located on the Sacramento river, allows for barge shipment of rice to the mill. All equipment is repaired in the farm shop under the direction of Tony Silva. Much special equipment is built in the shop or purchased equipment rebuilt for maximum efficiency. Four of the five harvesters were built in the shop as were the rice checkers, equipment carriers, rollers, bankout wagons, harrow carts and fuel wagons. Approximately 10,000 acres of the land is farmed by the company while about 3,000 acres is leased to other farmers in the area. The leased land is usually leased specifically for rice, safflower, tomatoes, or sugar beets. The crops and their acreages in 1955 were rice, 1530; safflower, 1286; barley, 1333; wheat, 850; milo, 496; melons, 511; alfalfa, 872; irrigated pasture, 172. Land leased to others was 2,286 for rice, 680 for safflower, 116 for melons, 308 for tomatoes, and 249 for sugar beets.

SHEEP ARE PROFITABLE

In addition to the crops raised, a flock of sheep varying from 1,000 to 1,200 ewes is kept. Miss Holland feels that sheep are a profitable enterprise for they utilize crop residues and by-products. They also help to keep down weeds which are a continual problem on any farm.

Rice, one of the main crops, is part of their rotation program. The rotation is rice for two years; fallow or melons or sometimes safflower; barley, wheat or safflower (possible two years now with a curtailed rice acreage); then, back to rice. Whenever possible, a cover crop of

vetch is planted to build up the soil and to reduce the amounts of commercial fertilizers used in the crop immediately following the vetch. Water costs for rice are relatively low. In District 108, water costs are \$8.25 per acre while in District 787, where River Farms supplies its own water, the cost is less.

WEEDS ARE PROBLEM

Weeds are a continual problem. Major weeds are arrowhead lilies, watergrass, cattails, and tules. Weed control of the broadleaf weeds is difficult because of the hazard of using 2,4-D in this area where there are nearby susceptible crops such as tomatoes, sugar beets, and beans.

With a further cut in rice acreage, plans for 1956 include expanded acreages of safflower and other crops. Calora and "1600" rice are the two varieties grown. Calora is the main variety while "1600" is raised on exceptionally fertile rice land where Calora may not fill or when it is necessary to plant late in the season since "1600" will normally mature about two weeks earlier than Calora.

The crops other than rice fit well into the farm's overall rotation program. Barley, wheat, safflower, and milo all do well. Last year, barley averaged 3,600 pounds per acre, milo 3,500 pounds (150 acres of the 496 of milo were not irrigated), and safflower 2,650 pounds. These crops also prolong the harvest season since they all have different maturity dates.

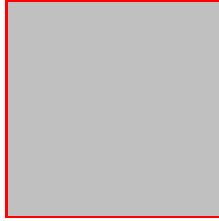
LONG HARVEST

Harvest begins in June with barley and ends in October with the rice. The long harvest season makes best use of equipment and allows the farm to keep the harvester crews busy all summer.

Alfalfa plays an important part in the cropping program. An increase of 850 to 1,000 acres is maintained. The stand is usually kept for five years with hay being harvested the first four years, and usually a crop of seed being taken in the fifth year. The alfalfa acreage is rotated from field to field as land is leveled and is valued as a soil building crop on the farm."

THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow

[\(larger version\)](#)



THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow



"Headquarters of the River Farms company in California (the two-story building), as seen from the Sacramento river levee."

THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow



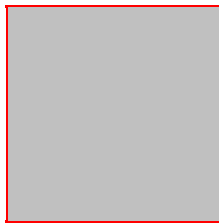
"Evelyn Holland."

RICE HARVEST

This copy of a newspaper picture was found in a file folder at the Yolo County Archive. It was published in the **Sacramento Bee** newspaper on September 27, 1958.

"FULL SPEED AHEAD - The rice harvest in Superior California gained momentum this week as massive harvesters started moving into the drained fields. This line of harvesters started work on the River Farms Company holdings near Knights Landing, Yolo County. The harvest is expected to be somewhat slowed this year because extremely heavy yields, hitting 60 to 70 bags per acre in some areas, have caused that stalks to lean almost on the ground. If normal temperatures and light rain prevail, no major problems are expected."

(132)



EVELYN T. HOLLAND OBITUARY

This incomplete copy of a newspaper obituary was found in a file folder in the Yolo County Archive. No date or indication of the publisher was with it. It was, however, probably published in a Woodland or other Yolo County paper. [Evelyn Holland died\(133\)](#) 18 May 1969. She initially had been my grandfather's secretary in his San Francisco Mills Building office. My father remembered her from his youngest boyhood days in his father's San Francisco office; he considered her the most capable business women he had ever met. It was very unusual, in her day, for a women to be running as large an agricultural operation as this one was.

"Evelyn Theresa Holland, a long time Yolo county resident, died May 18, at the Woodland Memorial hospital at the age of 67.

A native of San Andreas, she was president and general manager of River Garden Farms for 40 years. She lived in the county 25 years and in the state her entire life. Her last address was in Woodland at 1212 Midway drive.

She is survived by a brother, Judson E. Holland.

A rosary will be said Tuesday night at 8 p.m. at the Kraft Bros. chapel and requiem mass will be celebrated Wednesday at 11 a.m. at Holy Rosary church with burial to follow in St. Joseph's cemetery.

Miss Holland had been ill for about a month. She underwent surgery at that time.

She was a prominent member of Holy Rosary church and was active in community and agricultural groups. She was a past regional governor of the Soroptimist club and had served on several committees for Soroptimist International.

Miss Holland was an office of the Woodland Memorial hospital foundation and she .."

(134)



RIVER FARM LABOR CAMP BANDITS

This newspaper clipping was found in a file folder at the Yolo County Archive. It was published in 1970. There was no indication what newspaper it was published in.

"50 years ago - 1920. Five masked bandits, revolvers drawn, held up 20 poker players at a labor camp of the River Farms company near Knights Landing and walked away with \$800 in cash."

(135)

THE RANCH
G. Wayne Dow



SALE OF RIVER FARMS

1963 Wall Street Journal Article (exact date unknown)

(136)



Bid to Buy River Farms' Property, 'Other Assets' Is Accepted by Board

By a WALL STREET JOURNAL Staff Reporter

SAN FRANCISCO - Directors of River Farms Co. of California, Knight's Landing, Calif., accepted an offer to purchase the real property "and certain other assets" of the company for an indicated figure near \$10 million, subject to shareholder approval.

Evelyn Holland, president of the 13,800-acre diversified farming and warehousing operation on the Sacramento River, declined to disclose the exact proposed sale price, but said it was "considerably in excess of \$200 a share." She said River Farms has 44,823 shares outstanding among "over 100" shareholders.

Bidders for the farms are K. S. Adams, Jr., Houston oilman and rancher, and Frank B. Waters, Houston oilman. They said the purchase price will be approximately \$10 million.

Shareholders are being asked to vote on the purchase offer by mail. If approved, the company will be dissolved and "initial liquidating payment will be paid to shareholders prior to Feb. 1, 1964," the company announced.

TRUCK MUSEUM

This museum in Woodland, according to its curator Nord Johnson who used to do contract spraying work for the River Farms Company, contains early vehicles from the River Farms property.

(137)



APPENDIX

STOCK CERTIFICATE INQUIRY

On 21 May 2003, I received the following email inquiry about a stock certificate of the Sacramento River Farms Company from a woman in Sacramento:

Subject: Purchase of 100 shares of corporate stock in sacramento river farms certificate

Date: Wed, 21 May 2003 00:18:55 EDT

From: Dumpstr@aol.com

To: wayne@gwdow.net

Hello, My mother died this year, while going through her things I found a certificate No. 28, dated May 13, 1908, shares 100 of Sacramento River Farms Company, Capital Stock, \$400,000.00 were purchased by a Georg Schelcher or Georg Schelchen. The certificate is signed and dated September 28, 1910. It has the stamp; incorporated May 11, 1908. On the reverse side there a payment list beginning :

the rest) Nov. 28, 1910 paid to Daly \$50 on share on the written shares (I can't read

March 29, 1910 of \$1750 by cash on call #6

May 8, 1911 by cash #7 \$1500, #8 \$500

There are several more entries until paid in full Dec 1, 1911. All of the payment were accepted and signed by the same person, I can not read his signature, but it is something like, Kif (maybe kirk?) Wulff ,Sec.?

My mother has had this certificate for as long as I can remember, she found it in our back yard, a fence seperated it from the play area of an elementary school, in Sacramento. At least 45 years.

I have tried looking up stockholders, but there is no mention of this Geo Schelcher or Schelchen, should'nt he be listed?

I now have it framed and hanging on my wall, it looks great. I would like to know if it has value? As I have done some research and this stock has developed into one of the largest farming corporations in the world. Is this correct?

What I have read on corporate stock back then, it was a shady dealings. I would like all or any information you can provide regarding this certificate of stock purchase. What happen to this person claim to this stock? It states on the certificate, transferable only if surrendered, properly endorsed. So this stock is still available but too whom?

I will be waiting to hear from you, until then I will hang it back on the wall, and admire it.

Thank you Kathy

On 30 May 2003, I sent the following email replay to her:

Kathy:

I will try to answer the questions you raise below, but before I do, save me some time and clarify a couple things you mention below (or don't mention):

a. You say you "...I tried looking up stockholders, but there is no mention of the Geo Schelcher ...". Where did you look? What were you looking at that purported to be a "list of stockholders" of Sacramento River Farms Company?

b. Have you read the "History of the River Garden Farms Company" that is on my web site at ?

http://www.gwdow.net/river_garden_farms_co_.htm

Based on your answers to the above two questions, I will get back to you as soon as I can with what I know about the subject.

Regards, G. Wayne Dow

On 2 June 2003, she sent me the following email reply to my questions:

Subject: Re: Purchase of 100 shares of corporate stock in sacramento river farms cert...

Date: Mon, 2 Jun 2003 02:17:32 EDT

From: Dumpstr@aol.com

To: wayne@waynedow.net

Hello,

Yes, I have read the History of Sacramento River Farms Company in part, and it is in that list of stockholders he is not mentioned. I did see the man who accepted Mr. Schelchner's payments, Mr. Wulff, as he was secretary in 1908 - 1911, when the last payment was recorded.

The history was composed in 1993 at your request. It say the ranch was sold off and given a new name, years later. That does not answer my question, but those shares are still not shown and should be. Don't you think? There is a letter written by a person for his grandfather, stating a claim to Sacramento River Farms stock, he claims to have known Wulff,(who was injured and given the secretary job because of that) and was one of the orginial investors or workers, given a promise to share the wealth.

I am new at using a computer so I really don't understand how to get to places, it is not as easy as it is seems. It says to double click on colored areas you would like to view, I have and I don't view it just makes it bigger.

Another question: Did any one that had interest in these shares or the ranch ever live in Sacramento, by 22nd Ave and Sacramento Blvd. back in the early fifties? That is were my mother found it.

Curious, Kathy

I then sent her the following reply on 3 June 2003 and I did not hear from her again.

Subject: Re: Purchase of 100 shares of corporate stock in sacramento river farms
cert...

Date: Tue, 03 Jun 2003 17:19:14 -0700
From: "G. Wayne Dow" <wayne@waynedow.net>
To: Dumpstr@aol.com

Kathy:

I will try to answer your questions in this, as well as your initial email, as best I can. Before I do, however, I must point out that your statements in your last email, as well as your initial one, indicate confusion about the various company names and some of the facts related to these entities.

The "history" that I asked whether you had read is in fact only three selected chapters from the "History of the River Garden Farms Co" (not the Sacramento River Farms Co) by Shipley Walters and it does not contain any list of stockholders that I can find. [there are lists of stockholders of the River Garden Farms Co shown in the Corporate Journals on my web site, however - I have never seen a list of the stockholders of the Sacramento River Farms Co]. The history written by Shipley Walters was written by her for the current owners, not at my request. Included in those three chapters are the following, which I quote:

"CHAPTER II. ANCESTOR COMPANIES

Reclamation and Development

On April 8, 1908, Frank Edson, who was the Yolo County Supervisor from Knights Landing, announced proudly, "Today the negotiations are on the road to completion relative to the purchase [of the Fair Ranch]. Ten thousand acres or more are to be reclaimed, and it is considered that this will be one of the most valuable reclamations in the State."

Most everyone knew what Edson was talking about for "Reclamation" was a popular word at the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1901 when Theodore Roosevelt became President of the United States, he embraced a policy of conservation of natural resources, which meant, among other things, preserving the forests, taming the rivers and making the deserts bloom. In 1902 he succeeded in getting through Congress the Reclamation Act which made the federal government an active participant in flood control and irrigation. The act created the Reclamation Service and set up a fund from the sale of public lands to finance construction of irrigation projects.

That same year in California, the River Improvement and Drainage Association (RIDA) was organized to consider ways to deal with the problems of flooding along the Sacramento River. Robert H. Geer, manager of the Fair Ranch, was appointed to the association, as were the owners and managers of other large farms along the river. They proposed solving their flooding problems by widening the mouth of the Sacramento River, realigning the river channels and building higher levees.

In 1903 the Commonwealth Club, the influential businessmen's club in San Francisco, set up a committee to study reclamation. The club's committee reports, along with the surveys

of the Sacramento Valley conducted by the federal government and the California Debris Commission in 1904 and 1905, awakened the interest of wealthy business people who were looking for places to invest. They soon became convinced that if flooding could be controlled in winter and the soil irrigated in summer, fortunes could be made in the Sacramento Valley.

During this period, however, flooding along the Sacramento River was still a major threat. Levees were minimal - four to five feet high in most places. In the major flood of 1907 they proved to be woefully inadequate to protect the Sacramento Valley. After this flood, RIDA proposals to reclaim the American and Yolo Basins by building higher levees without planning for "overflow channels" led to pressure for state control of reclamation. One of the first reclamation projects undertaken by the State of California was construction in 1908 of the 1200- foot Tisdale Weir on the Sacramento River north of Steiner Bend.

Even though the federal government now had a legal mandate to participate in the mammoth job of reclaiming the Sacramento Valley, it would be several more years before it actually did so. In the meantime, private enterprise started the job. During the first decade of the twentieth century, capitalists rushed to invest in companies formed to reclaim and develop land along the Sacramento River. Between 1907 and 1911, three reclamation companies were founded in Yolo County alone. Unfortunately they underestimated the size of the job and the costs involved and eventually all three companies had to be reorganized and refinanced. One of those corporations was the Sacramento River Farms Company.

Sacramento River Farms Company

The Sacramento River Farms Company (SRFCo) incorporated on May 11, 1908, in Sacramento with 4,000 shares of stock, at \$100 a share. At the time of incorporation thirteen shares had been subscribed, and the company began business with \$1300.

The subscribers were primarily Sacramento and Woodland men who were familiar with both the problems and potential of the Sacramento Valley. Eleven of the subscribers agreed to form a Board of Directors, and they named Clinton L. White, president, and W.G. Wulff, secretary. Ten of the directors were Sacramento businessmen, including White and the land agents H.F.G. Wulff and John H. Wiseman; the eleventh director was P.N. Ashley of Woodland who was the Yolo County Surveyor and Engineer.

With their authorized capital of \$400,000 the board proposed to "buy, exchange, lease, convey, sell, manage, improve, reclaim, build upon, subdivide and mortgage real estate...contract for and do construction work of all kinds to reclaim swamps and overflowed lands...engage in agriculture..." "Real estate" meant the Fair Ranch. Surveyor Ashley was well acquainted with the Fair Ranch, and it is likely that he was the one who first learned that the ranch was for sale.

SRFCo. bought the 10,395-acre Fair Ranch from Thomas T. Wiseman of New York on June 8, 1908, for \$150,000. This was a bargain. According to the Woodland Daily Democrat on Feb. 9, 1906, "An offer of \$210,000 has been made for the Fair ranch...Perfect reclamation is possible at a cost estimated from \$150,000 to \$200,000." The paper further speculated that the property "would be worth \$1 million if reclaimed."

Within a month, SRFCo. was selling land, principally to its subscribers. The company had apparently subdivided the property, for the deeds were mostly for small parcels of 2-4 acres. It also showed interest in fostering good relations with the town of Knights Landing.

The Mail of Woodland reported on Dec. 13, 1908, "Sacramento River Farms Company decided to donate a lot in the river town on which to locate a town hall. The citizens will raise funds sufficient to erect the building ."

Unfortunately, the citizens of Knights Landing were unable to raise the funds that winter to build the town hall, for Mother Nature once more intervened. In January 1909, the biggest flood in local history occurred along the Sacramento River. Two major storms caused the river to rise nineteen feet, with the result that levees were broken, and houses, fences, railroad tracks, cattle and sheep were washed away. Knights Landing was virtually isolated for five weeks. Townsfolk and farmers lost nearly everything. SRFCo's local backers also lost money because of the flood, and the company found itself in a precarious financial condition.

It was this flood that finally led to concerted efforts by federal and state governments and local property owners to tame the mighty Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. On Christmas Eve, 1911, Governor Hiram Warren Johnson signed the California Reclamation Act which authorized a program to control flooding, improve navigation and reclaim overflowed lands in California. This was to be accomplished by confining the rivers to fixed channels with high levees, removing debris deposited in Suisun Bay during the years of hydraulic mining, and building a series of weirs to divert excess water from the rivers into bypasses. The costs of dredging and construction of the levees, ditches, weirs and bypasses were to be divided equally between the Federal Government, the State of California, and the owners of the land to be drained. The law also created a new State Reclamation Board to replace the old California Debris Commission, and established the Sacramento-San Joaquin Drainage District to drain 1,515,300 acres in nine counties. Once the rivers were tamed and the swamps drained, then the land could be reclaimed.

When the directors of SRFCo. became aware of the many ramifications of this new law, they realized that they would have to increase their capital considerably in order to undertake the major job of reclaiming their land. The directors wrestled for some time with the problem of raising the moneys and, failing to come up with a solution, they decided to sell out. According to George Bullock, who owned 592 acres next to the Fair Ranch, "the only reason the sale was made was...that the principal men in it were tired of the continual wrangling that took place at every meeting ." (Letter from W.G. Houston to Charles Crocker, Feb. 7, 1913.)

They didn't have to wait long for a buyer, for the investment world was buzzing with talk of reclamation. O.C. Stine & Charles H. Kendrick, land agents in San Francisco, were acquainted with the capitalists who had shown interest in investing in the Sacramento Valley, and they knew they would have little difficulty in finding a buyer for the famous Fair Ranch. On February 1, 1913, they paid SRFCo. \$10,000 for a thirty-day option to buy the ranch. By March 10, 1913, Stine & Kendrick had worked out an agreement for SRFCo. to sell its holdings. The buyer was the River Garden Farms Company which purchased 10,395 acres for \$1,140,000 - \$190,000 cash at the time of purchase and the remaining \$950,000 to be paid in six annual installments of \$100,000 plus 6% interest. When he heard the purchase price, which worked out to be about \$110 per acre, George Bullock said, "This was the cheapest subdivision ever sold." He was convinced that the land should bring \$300 to \$400 an acre.

That may be so, but, considering their investment, the shareholders of SRFCo. made a tidy profit on the deal. When the sale of its property was completed, the Sacramento River Farms Company went out of existence."

Please particularly note the sections in the above that I have underlined and placed in

bold italics. They indicate that in March 1913 the assets [not the stock] of Sacramento River Farms Company were sold to River Farms Company for cash. The assets of Sacramento River Farms Company were not transferred to the River Garden Farms Company through an exchange of stock or a merger of companies, but were sold for cash. Shareholders of Sacramento River Farms Co did not become shareholders of River Garden Farms Co; the certificates of Sacramento River Farms Co were not exchanged for certificates of River Garden Farms Co; any individuals listed as shareholders of the former Sacramento River Farms Co did not become shareholders of River Garden Farms Co and therefore would not appear on any subsequent lists of the shareholders of River Garden Farms Co.

The holder of the stock certificate you have, Georg Schelcher or Schelchen, would have received cash for his proportional ownership of Sacramento River Farms Company in 1913 and the certificate that he held no longer represented any value - the company no longer existed and its former share certificates became worthless.

The certificate you have has no value other than as an historical artifact - the same curiosity value as the certificates that I have of shares issued to members of my family in the River Garden Farms Company, an example of which is shown in the attachment to this email, cert.bmp. This certificate, as well as all certificates in the name of River Garden Farms Company and the subsequent River Garden Farms of California, no longer have any value. The assets of those companies were sold to three partners, Waters, Cantor and Adams.

It is not correct to say "...this stock has developed into one of the largest farming corporations in the world" if by "this stock" you mean Sacramento River Farms Co. The assets of Sacramento River Farms Co were just part of several companies' assets and other individual assets that were consolidated over the years to form one of the largest farming corporations in the world. In the 1926, River Farms Company was referred to as "one of the largest ranches in America".

Your share certificate might have some small value to a collector of obsolete stock certificates. I am not such a collector, nor do I know where one would locate potential collectors, so I cannot comment on what the collector value of your certificate might be, if any.

If you should ever wish to dispose of your certificate, let me know. I would be willing to pay a nominal amount for it to add it to my family history collection of materials.

There were a large number of people associated over the years with all of these companies. I have no knowledge whether any of them lived in Sacramento, by 22nd and Sacramento Blvd in the fifties - in fact, in the fifties, the only person I knew connected with River Farms was the manager, Evelyn Holland, and she lived in Woodland.

By the way, for an explanation why the instructions about double clicking on the colored areas don't work on the internet, see the explanation on this web page

<http://www.gwdow.net/infobases.htm>

Regards, G. Wayne Dow

END OF INFOBASE

Endnotes

1 (Note)

Other than infobase titles and initial headings, text highlighted in color usually represents a link point to a related item that can be accessed by double-clicking the left mouse button anywhere in the colored text area. **Blue highlighting** brings up a linked object (graphic) or scanned image of a document or picture. **Red highlighting** brings up a jump link to another area of text in the infobase or to a specific point in a related but different infobase. **Violet highlighting** brings up a pop-up box of explanatory material. **BOLD BLUE HIGHLIGHTING** usually brings up another program or takes you to another infobase.

Click [HERE for Quick Help and instructions](#) on how to use this FOLIO VIEWS program that is located in the Appendix of another infobase.

Use the icon  with the word "Contents" in the tool bar at the top of the screen to access the hyperlinked Table of Contents of this infobase.

2 (Note)

This "Contents Overview" is for use with .PDF file version only. If viewing the infobase (.NFO) version, click on "CONTENTS" in the tool bar above for direct jump links to each topic.

3 (Note)

The name of this linked infobase is ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF OUR FAMILY. Its DOS file name is HISTORY.NFO and it can be found on OUR FAMILY TREASURY-DVD 1 thru DVD 10.

4 (Note)

The name of this linked infobase is EDGAR. Its DOS file name is EDGAR.NFO and it can be found on OUR FAMILY TREASURY-DVD9.

5 (Note)

The name of this linked infobase is HISTORY of RIVER GARDEN FARMS COMPANY. Its DOS file name is RIVGARFM.NFO and it can be found on OUR FAMILY TREASURY-DVD9.

6 (Note)

The name of this linked infobase is RIVER GARDEN FARMS. Its DOS file name is RGFARMS.NFO and it can be found on OUR FAMILY TREASURY-DVD9.

7 (Note)

The name of this linked infobase is BATTLING THE RIVER. Its DOS file name is DIST108.NFO and it can be found on OUR FAMILY TREASURY-DVD9.

8 (Note)

The name of this linked infobase is CORPORATE JOURNALS 1912-1925. Its DOS file name is JOURNAL.NFO and it can be found on OUR FAMILY TREASURY-DVD9.

9 (Popup)

See DN1568, 30 May 1990 letter to me from Jodi Voorhees of Arbcuke CA, a researcher who I had engaged to do some research for me about the River Farms Company.

10 (Popup)

Yolo County Archives, 1237 East Beamer Street, Woodland CA 95695.

11 (Popup)

In 1990, when I tried to locate the firm or its successor, I was unable to locate either. The name may have been spelled "Waters".

12 (Popup)

PhotoCD disc # 3059-1011-1541, images #1 through #79.

13 (Popup)

Jim Donnelly, New England Archival Duplication Services (NEADS), 1 Forest Road, Hudson, NH 03051.

14 (Popup)

Although I could find no mention of the Dillinghams connected with the Yolo Land Company/River Farms Companies operation, I believe the Dillinghams may have been investors in my grandfather's other operations (mines etc.). The Dillingham children went to the Montezuma School for Boys in Los Gatos, California, with my father.

15 (Note)

DN 24. Note: The name on the bottom of this cover is the name of the new company. The pencil notation about "Old Company" is an indication that this issue contains prior year financial information about the final year of the old company.

16 (Note)

DN1570 color copy of original map at Yolo County Archives, Woodland CA.(see DN1571.

17 (Note)

DN1570.

18 (Note)

DN1577.

19 (Popup)

See the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin. Dwyer's holdings appear on this map in yellow and pink.](#)

20 (Note)

DN1564.

21 (Popup)

Orville Geer.

22 (Note)

Mrs. Theo Dumass, 44368 South El Macero Drive, El Macero CA 95618.

23 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-47.

24 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-75.

25 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-17.

26 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-16.

27 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-14.

28 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-15.

29 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-79.

30 (Note)

PhotoCD 1541-5.

31 (Note)

PhotoCD 1541-1.

32 (Note)

PhotoCD 1541-2.

33 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-13.

34 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-67.

35 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-72.

36 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-49.

37 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-46.

38 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-45.

39 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-78.

40 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-43.

41 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-71.

42 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1148-14.

43 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1148-15.

44 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1148-16.

45 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-41.

46 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-70.

47 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-42.

48 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-73.

49 (Note)

This caption does not appear in my copy of the photograph used in this infobase, but does appear on my copy of this picture taken on 2-1/4"x2-1/4" negative film.

50 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-10.

51 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-11.

52 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-12.

53 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-52.

54 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-53.

55 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-68.

56 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-69.

57 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-24.

58 (Popup)

"Old" in the sense that a new library was built and opened next door to this building in 1996. This building was damaged in the Loma Prieta earthquake.

59 (Popup)

The name may have been spelled "Walters."

60 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-18.

61 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-19.

62 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-20.

63 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-21.

64 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-22.

65 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-40.

66 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image# 1541-35.

67 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-6.

68 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-33.

69 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-31.

70 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-39.

71 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-37.

72 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-38.

73 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-76.

74 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-77.

75 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-34.

76 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-27.

77 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-28.

78 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-32.

79 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-29.

80 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-66.

81 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-62.

82 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-74.

83 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-48.

84 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-26.

85 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-54.

86 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-55.

87 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-58.

88 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-59.

89 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-60.

90 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-56.

91 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-57.

92 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-50.

93 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-65.

94 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-30.

95 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-8.

96 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-64.

97 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-63.

98 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-9.

99 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-36.

100 (Popup)

1947 is my best guess. I have no record of the actual year and the slide itself bears no indication of when the picture was taken. But I know it is one of the earliest Kodachrome color slides I took with my Argus C-3 camera that I acquired at age 14 or 15 in 1946 or 1947.

101 (Popup)

My parents and I made a trip to the Bay Area about once each year, to visit my grandmother, Emily Lawrence Dow, who lived in Berkeley; my uncle, Edgar Lawrence Dow II, who lived in Alameda; and my parents' friends, Marjorie and Ralph Inglis, who lived in San Francisco. I believe the trip, however, that this picture was taken on was a fishing trip only my father and I went on and that we were either on our way to or returning from camping on the Mc Kenseie River in Oregon.

102 (Popup)

Evelyn had been my [grandfather's secretary](#) in San Francisco up to the time of my grandfather's death in 1930.

103 (Popup)

See the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin. Jesse Poundstone's holdings appear on this map in pink.](#)

104 (Popup)

See the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin. J. H. Balsdon's holdings appear on this map in yellow.](#)

105 (Popup)

See the [1916 map of the Upper Yolo Basin. J. W. Browings holdings appear on this map in brownish-black.](#)

106 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD Image 1541-81.

107 (Popup)

See DN1568, 30 May 1990 letter to me from Jodi Voorhees of Arbuckle CA, a researcher who I had engaged to do some research for me about the River Farms Company.

108 (Popup)

I am not sure this area of Reclamation District No. 730 was part of the original Fair Ranch - to my knowledge, the Fair Ranch comprised the area of Reclamation District No. 787 only.

109 (Note)

DN1573.

110 (Note)

DN1574.

111 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-82.

112 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-85.

113 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-92.

114 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-86.

115 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-87.

116 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-89.

117 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-91.

118 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-93.

119 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-90.

120 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-95.

121 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-94.

122 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-96.

123 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-97.

124 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-98.

125 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-99.

126 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-100.

127 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-83.

128 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-84.

129 (Note)

Kodak PhotoCD image #1541-88.

130 (Note)

Photograph was enclosed with April 25, 1951, [letter below](#). Photograph is kept with River Farms 8"x10" archive photographs from the Yolo Archives.

131 (Note)

DN3325.

132 (Note)

DN1576.

133 (Popup)

Death certificate , Court House, Woodland, Yolo County CA, Vol. 14, page 413. Born 9 November 1901.

134 (Note)

DN1572.

135 (Note)

DN1575.

136 (Note)

DN3324.

137 (Note)

DN1578.