

July 7, 1968

Mexican Grants

In this series on the land grants of Monterey County is first given the name of the grant, the date of the grant from Mexico, to whom granted and the number of acres.

Las Salinas, 1836, G. Espinosa, 4,413 acres. This ranch is situated across the Salinas River from Blanco and extends to the sand dunes on Monterey Bay. The name was given because it borders for a long distance on the Salinas River (salt marshes).

Rincon de la Salinas, 1833, Christina Delgado, 2,220 acres. This ranch extends along the Salinas River from the Twin Bridges or Neponset to the ocean and includes all the rich farming land on the river bottom now owned by the Martins and Jefferson's. Rincon means a corner and in this case the ocean and the river form the corner whereby it gets its name, literally the corner of the salt marshes.

Los Ojitos, 1842, M. Soberanes, along the San Antonio River near Jolon. In 1846 Soberanes took a very active part in the battle of Salinas on November 16, and as a result when Fremont and his men marched south to Los Angeles to fight the Mexicans, they stopped long enough at the Log Ojitos rancho to pillage the place and wreck the buildings. Later, Soberanes put in a claim for \$40,000 for the damage done and finally after many years in the courts, he was awarded \$42. Actually, Ojitos means little eyes but in this case, little springs.

Los Coches, 1841, Maria J. Soberanes, 8,794 acres. After crossing the Salinas River at Soledad on the road to King City, one passes through the Los Coches rancho. The old adobe ranch house still stands at the fork in the road where the main highway leads south, and the other up the Arroyo Seco River. For years this was the stage station and post office until the railroad reached Soledad. It means the pigs.

The three smallest grants in Monterey County were made to the missions as follows: Mission San Antonio, 1771, 33 acres; Mission La Soledad, 1791, 34 acres, and Mission El Carmel, 1770, 9 acres.