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A Brief Review of Medicine in Lodi for the Past 80 Years

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Lodi Orthopaedic Surgeon for 30 years.*



Old Mason Hospital, 209 North School Street, Lodi, California.

I will use my writer's prerogative and state, "I have always thought that Lodi has been a favored spot on earth." If one is to believe the Chamber of Commerce propaganda, dating back to 1891, my childhood impressions were not as grandiose as they should have been.

In 1891 there were six physicians in Lodi and three in Woodbridge. By today's standards, there must have been a physician glut, but one must remember that home calls were made by horse and buggy and telephones were still a novelty. I am not sure of the circumstances that brought all of them to a village of 1500. It may be that they had read the same enticements that flowed from the pen of the Chamber at that time. I quote, "A wide-awake town of about 1500 inhabitants, twelve miles north of Stockton. Lodi beats the world for watermelons, fast horses, and handsome ladies." There were no hospitals in Lodi at that time, but it was just about this time that the San Joaquin County General Hospital and Almshouse was opened in French Camp. To put medicine in perspective, the State Hospital for the Insane had been operating in Stockton a number of years, which is one of the reasons why the San Joaquin County Medical Society is the second oldest medical society in California. The physicians practicing in Lodi were Drs. E.F. Grant, J.L.G. Vaughn, Charles Williamson, A.E. Burchard, who practiced until 1920, F.W. Coleman, and C.H. Gordon.

At the turn of the century Lodi was having some physician growing pains and we recognize some of the new doctors coming to town. Drs. W.M. Mason and J.E. Nelson arrived. Dr. Mason has been reported as owning the first automobile in Lodi. The three and a half horsepowered automobile arrived in three dismantled crates. He and his two brothers assembled it. The engine burned white gas. The vehicle greatly assisted Dr. Mason in making his home calls. By 1910 there were three horseless carriages in Lodi.

Dr. Nelson remained in practice until 1942. During his years of practice he had a son, a high school classmate of

mine who became an ophthalmologist and practices in Modesto. Bill Nelson and I were the only physicians in our '38 graduating class who became physicians. W.M. Mason was the physician who opened Mason Hospital on North School Street in beautiful downtown Lodi.

By the year 1910 there were 17 physicians in Lodi. Our fair city had incorporated on December 6, 1906. Lodi still didn't have a hospital, but it was about this time that Dr. R.A. Buchanan came to town. He and Dr. Mason were not only competitors in practice, but each decided to own a hospital. It was six years later that we had two hospitals in town, one on North School and one on West Pine.

Lodi was becoming one of the fruit centers of the state. We had three wineries, ten churches, three banks and an opera house. Stockton was growing medically faster than we were. They had seven hospitals, and about 1915 Dameron Hospital opened its doors.

In 1920 the physician base had dropped to fourteen. I suppose the automobile made home calls faster so we didn't need as many doctors. Dr. J.J.

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Old Buchanan Hospital, 408 East Pine Street, Lodi, California.

Myers was practicing in 1921. According to my 88-year-old mother, on June 9, 1921, my dad rode up to John Popes who lived across from the Old Harmony Grove School to call Dr. Myers. As my mother, who was in labor, remembers, J.J. came tooling out to Hibbard Lane in a Ford and delivered me. According to the Chamber in 1921, "Lodi was a paradise for automobilists, having miles of beautiful driveways bordered with trees and vines."

Lodi Union High School had been built on 12 acres facing Hutchins Street at the cost of \$150,000. A vineyard that was planted in 1859 was still bearing prolifically. By now Lodi had a beautiful new Carnegie Library and many churches. Lodi was the best lighted city of its size on the Pacific Coast.

One of the medical movers and shakers of the thirties and forties was Dr. Boehmer, who loved roses. He lived on Rose Street, just across the street from the high school, and every day when the roses on the fence bordering the school's football field were blooming he would cut one and put it in his lapel on his way to the hospital or his office. He was one of the promoters of Lodi Memorial Hospital.

Another key medical figure was Dr. Bollinger who had a very busy practice,

but he decided to devote most of his time to the County Hospital in French Camp. He was the surgeon in charge and had the responsibility of training some of the surgical residents.

Dr. Ray Owens came to Lodi during this period and practiced until 1956. He was an avid bird hunter, but more than that he was a real humanitarian. According to his son, Dr. Lloyd Owens, his father told his mother never to turn away anyone who was hungry. "Don't invite them in, but prepare a meal for them and serve them in the patio" of their South Central home. That was a gracious act considering times were hard, even here in bountiful Lodi.

Dr. George Williams opened his office in the Cory Building in 1955. Dr. Owens' office was down the hall, and one day he asked George if he would look after his patients for a few days so he could leave town. "Sure I can," he responded. He wasn't very busy in those days. There were a number of patients who preferred George, even after Ray Owens returned. George insisted that they return to Dr. Owens. Just before Dr. Owens quit practice in Lodi, he talked with George and said, "You are the first doctor who sent patients back to me after I would return. George, I am quitting practice in Lodi. Would

you mind caring for them after I leave?" George said that ever after that he was busy.

The greatest change in medical care in Lodi began right after WWII with the influx of military physicians. To accommodate them and the growing population in Lodi, definite steps were taken to build a new non-profit hospital in Lodi. On December 7, 1945, the **Lodi Memorial Hospital Association** was formed. This date was chosen because it was Pearl Harbor Day. Nearly 4,000 men and women from our area served in the armed forces and forty-four never returned. To honor those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country, it was decided to call the new hospital **LODI Memorial HOSPITAL**.

Many of the founders spent their last day on earth in the hospital that they worked so hard to construct for the physicians and citizens of Lodi. The hospital is probably the largest community endeavor that Lodi has ever accomplished. It has served our community well since the dedication ceremonies on March 30, 1952. The children of the Lodi school system collected funds to purchase and erect a sixty-foot flag pole on the hospital site. Some of these same children have had their own children in the labor rooms of the hospital.

John Mayo came to Lodi after he was severed from the military. He says that it wasn't easy because he was seen as a "threat" by some local physicians. Shortly after he arrived, he was called to see a very important lady in town (he didn't know it at the time, but she would have been his mother-in-law had she survived) that he diagnosed as having subacute bacterial endocarditis. It's like little aphids growing on the valves of the heart. Until the discovery of penicillin, this was always a fatal disease. After John had made the diagnosis, he couldn't find any penicillin until he remembered that in the military each bottle had the name Schenley, the alcohol manufacturer on it. So John called Schenley in Kentucky and explained his plight. He asked if he could be one of the investigators of the

practical use of the product, so they sent him a supply so that he could give Mrs. B an injection every three hours around the clock. The daughter must have seen something in John that she liked, because eventually she became Mrs. John Mayo.

The first specialist in Lodi was a urologist, Dr. Everett Bennett, followed by an ENT physician; then Dr. Norman King, an anesthesiologist; an internist, Dr. Nakashima; an OB-Gyn, Doctor James Cross, and probably the one who improved the quality of care most in Lodi, Dr. Milton Newbold, a general surgeon. Dr. Wendell was the first eye physician and Dr. Foulz was the first orthopaedist. He didn't stay long, however. I was invited to Lodi about this time and have remained in the practice of orthopaedics for thirty years. We now have five in the field, and more are coming.

Lodi has had some very excellent physicians and surgeons; there have been triumphs and tragedies, but what small town doesn't experience the same gamut of problems.

Speaking of those of us who practice or have practiced medicine, it has been said that "each of us on occasion walks through a cemetery in our minds, and it keeps us humble." I would like to think that the 90 physicians who have practiced in Lodi since 1891 have done their best.

Dr. Clarence M. Leary

has served two years as President of the San Joaquin Medical Foundation, was Chief of Staff for Lodi Memorial Hospital for two years, is a founder and President of Lodi Outpatient Surgical Center, is President of Artel Corp., and is Editor of the Annual Report of the San Joaquin County Historical Society.

Aspects of the Geological History of San Joaquin County

by Norma Lillis

Because of its location in the Great Central Valley of California, the geological history of San Joaquin County cannot be studied without including important aspects of the larger valley as well. More than 400 miles long and averaging 50 miles in width, the floor of the Great Valley lies close to sea level in elevation, but along its margins it rises higher toward the flanking mountains where altitudes of several hundred feet are reached at the tops of steep alluvial fan slopes. As much as six vertical miles of sediment fill the San Joaquin Valley, brought by erosion from the surrounding mountains. These sediments range in age from Jurassic to Holocene and include both marine and continental rocks and deposits. (See Figure 1a and 1b) The northern part of the Great Valley is drained by the Sacramento River while the southern part is drained by the San Joaquin River. The two rivers join in a great flood plain and inland delta — an area of marshes and overflow lands — and through a single outlet flow through Suisan Bay out to the Pacific.

Situated as it is between the Sierra Nevada with its two great orogenies (mountain-making periods) and the presently active Coast Ranges, the San Joaquin Valley has a rather complex geologic history. (See Figure 2) Almost continuous deformation in the Coast Ranges and the Central Valley since early Mesozoic time, 140 million years ago, suggest that it is "surprising that the Valley has persisted as a recognizable unit." While numerous valleys have been formed by water, or at least modified by water erosion, the San Joaquin Valley is a depression that is initially structural, formed by movements originating within the crust and interior of the earth.

According to Miller, The Great Valley owes its existence to the rise of the Coast Ranges on the west during the Quaternary Coast Ranges Revolution, and the profound late Cenozoic rejuvenation of the Sierra Nevada region on the east, with contemporaneous downwarping of the intervening (valley) region.

Thus, the San Joaquin Valley trough was formed by this ancient downwarping of the granitic bedrock into a great synclinal structure.

The geologic history of the San Joaquin Valley could be said to have begun during the Mesozoic Era, about 140 million years ago, when pressures between the subducting Pacific Plate and the over-riding North American Plate became so intense that older rock formations were thrust-faulted, folded, and elevated in the Nevadan Orogeny which created the ancestral Sierra. This activity was most intense in the present areas of the western Sierra and Central Valley, but also extended into the Coast Ranges areas where folding was lower and more gentle. Mountain-building continued along the ancient coastline for millions of years, augmented by widespread volcanic activity and continuing subduction along the descending Pacific Plate.

The oldest formation that properly belongs to the Great Valley Series is a late Jurassic sedimentation known as the Knoxville formation. Composed of dark shale and mudstone, it was derived from the rising Sierras and deposited in cool seas on the continental shelf when formation of the valley basin was just beginning. The marine sediments of this series were deposited in the San Joaquin Valley on the "basement" rock of Sierra origin, and continued to be

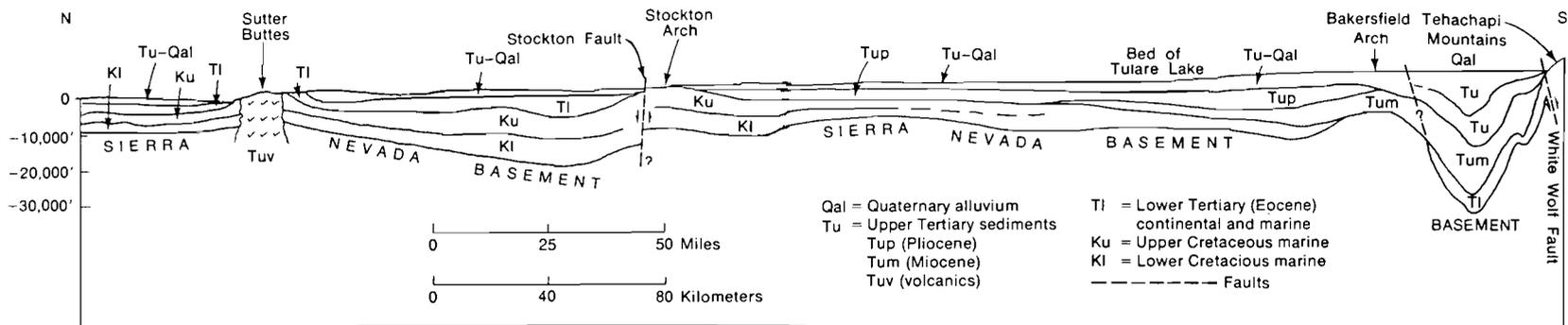
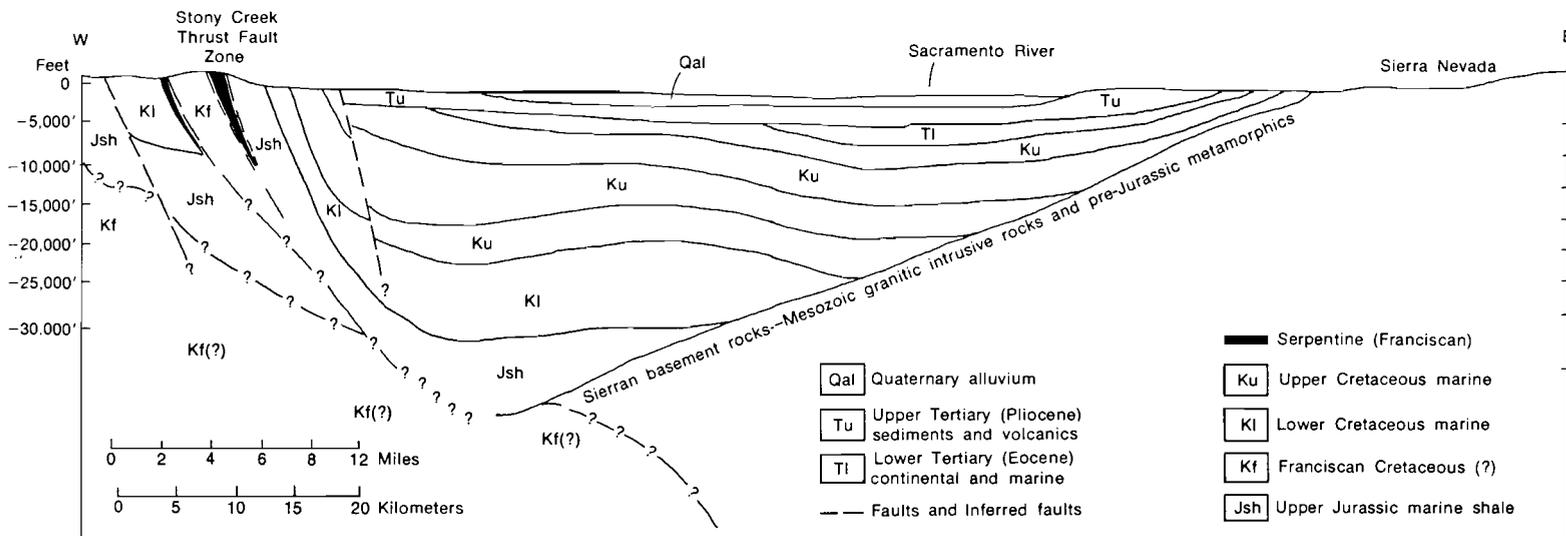


FIGURE 1a North-south diagrammatic section of the Great Valley. (Sources: California Division of Mines and Geology and Sacramento Geological Society)

FIGURE 1b East-west diagrammatic section of the Sacramento Valley (latitude 39°N). (Sources: California Division of Mines and Geology and Sacramento Geological Society)



deposited throughout the 60 million years of Cretaceous time. (See Geologic Time Chart) Enormous thicknesses of Cretaceous sediments (up to 40,000 feet) were deposited in San Joaquin County as the valley floor was warped with subsidence and seas covered the valley. By late Cretaceous time, as a result of continued elevation, erosion in the Sierra had exposed large areas of the Cretaceous granites that provided the gold of the Mother Lode quartz veins. Erosion of these granites released a distinctive mineral, orthoclase, to the sediments that were spread into the Great Valley.

As the San Joaquin Valley subsided, there remained a broad residual submarine arch extending west from the Sierran foothills under the present site of the city of Stockton. This faulted ridge continued to rise and during much of Tertiary time (17 to 66 million years ago) the Central Valley was separated into two major basins by the rising upwarp, or Stockton Arch, which separated them. By the end of the Cretaceous, however, sufficient uplift and deformation existed to cause a general withdrawal of the sea. This condition did not last long as proved by marine strata deposition during the next, or Tertiary, period in the same area.

The expansion and withdrawal of the sea was not continuous; there were pulsational advances and withdrawals clearly indicated by the interlayering of marine and terrestrial sediments. There is strong evidence that rocks of the Great Valley sequence were thrust far westward over Franciscan rock of the Coast Ranges in early Cenozoic time, combined with the strike-slip faulting of the San Andreas fault system. Intense local deformation apparently continued throughout the San Joaquin Valley where extremely thick marine sections accumulated during the Miocene. The San Joaquin Valley persisted as a lowland or shallow marine embayment during the entire Cenozoic period.

Deformation continued in San Joaquin County until marine waters were expelled completely, presumably

because of the increasing intensity of the Coast Ranges Orogeny. By Pliocene time, 5 million years ago, most of the valley's seas were drained via Carquinez Strait. Brackish and freshwater lakes replaced marine waters, and the Central Valley assumed its present form.

The Eocene climate was humid-tropical or subtropical and swamp or lagoonal conditions prevailed at places around the borders of the valley as evidenced by the Lone Formation including layers of commercial potter's clay and beds of coal (kaolinite and quartz sands). In the Sierra, the volcanic activity of the Valley Springs episode had begun and continued unabated into the Miocene, 5 to 24 million years ago. Mudflows and lava flows spread far down into the foothills where they were eroded by streams and carried down into the San Joaquin Valley. At the same time, volcanic ash drifted far afield, settling in the accumulating sediments of the valley and even as far as the Coast Ranges.

Howard stated: The eruptions began in the Oligocene (about 33 million years ago) and terminated in the Miocene (16 million years ago). The activity was intermittent; there were long pauses during which streams eroded the volcanic deposits and soils and vegetation accumulated.

The Pleistocene Epoch which ended 12 to 15 thousand years ago, was the Ice Age, and huge glaciers spread throughout the Sierra and other high mountain ranges at least four times. The Central Sierra contained a large piedmont ice sheet whose tongues spread 30 miles to the west and down into the valley to elevations of about 4,000 feet. Cool, moist conditions in the lowlands created a great lake covering much of what is now the San Joaquin Valley. In the valley, indirect effects of glaciation resulted from the floods of debris from the melting Sierran glaciers which poured down as outwash floodplains forming a succession of terraces as episodes of thawing and glaciation alternated. Beyond, the sediment was spread out as an alluvial plain

APPENDIX—GEOLOGIC TIME CHART

Terms and boundary ages used by the U.S. Geological Survey

| EON | ERA | PERIOD | EPOCH | AGE ESTIMATES OF BOUNDARIES IN MILLION YEARS (Ma) | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|-------|-----------|----|
| Phanerozoic | Cenozoic | Quaternary | | Holocene | 0.010 | | |
| | | | | Pleistocene | 1.7 | | |
| | | Tertiary | Neogene Subperiod | | | Pliocene | 5 |
| | | | | | | Miocene | 24 |
| | | | Paleogene Subperiod | | | Oligocene | 38 |
| | | | | | | Eocene | 55 |
| | | | | | | Paleocene | 66 |
| | Mesozoic | Cretaceous | | Late | 96 | | |
| | | | | Early | 138 | | |
| | | Jurassic | | Late | | | |
| | | | | Middle | | | |
| | | | | Early | 205 | | |
| | | Triassic | | Late | | | |
| | | | Middle | | | | |
| | | | Early | 240 | | | |
| | Paleozoic | Permian | | Late | 290 | | |
| | | | | Early | | | |
| | | Carboniferous Periods | Pennsylvanian | Late | | | |
| | | | | Middle | | | |
| | | | | Early | 330 | | |
| | | | | Early | | | |
| | | Early | 360 | | | | |
| Devonian | | Late | | | | | |
| | | Middle | | | | | |
| | | Early | 410 | | | | |
| Silurian | | Late | | | | | |
| | | Middle | | | | | |
| | | Early | 435 | | | | |
| Ordovician | | Late | | | | | |
| | | Middle | | | | | |
| | | Early | 500 | | | | |
| Cambrian | | Late | | | | | |
| | | Middle | | | | | |
| | | Early | 570 | | | | |
| Proterozoic | Late Proterozoic | | | 900 | | | |
| | Middle Proterozoic | | | 1600 | | | |
| | Early Proterozoic | | | 2500 | | | |
| Archean | Late Archean | | | 3000 | | | |
| | Middle Archean | | | 3400 | | | |
| | Early Archean | | | | | | |
| pre-Archean ² | | | | (3800?) | | | |
| | | | | 4530 | | | |

¹Rocks older than 570 Ma also called Precambrian, a time term without specific rank.

²Informal time term without specific rank.

(U.S. Geological Survey Circular 1024,
David Dellinger)

which increased in size with each episode of glacial thaw. Hackel has stated that "rocks of Pleistocene and Recent age occur throughout the Great Valley. They are all continental in origin and generally grade downward into similar Pliocene units.

Four major periods of tectonic activity are recorded in the sedimentary sections of the Great Valley, which are responsible for the major changes in the configuration of the basin throughout geologic time. The most severe period of deformation was in the mid-Pleistocene, and it brought to a climax the structural evolution of the valley basin. The present surface of the valley is composed of unconsolidated Pleistocene and Recent sediments. Where streams have cut channels into these sediments, lake beds are sometimes exposed that include clay, diatomite, and other rocks that can be inferred from well records.

The San Joaquin Valley contains no known mineral deposits and is not considered "geologically permissive" for undiscovered deposits. The sedimentary rocks of the valley contain oil and natural gas in large quantities. (See Figure 3) These wells have produced trillions of cubic feet of natural gas since first consumed in Stockton in the 1850s.

Approximately 40 square miles of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River delta area is underlain by peat and peaty muck deposits, which may be more than 40 feet thick. The peat is a reed-sedge type and probably formed during

the Recent Epoch. The peat lands, where agricultural development has occurred, have frequently noted subsidence up to 23 feet in some areas, but 10 to 15 feet is typical. This has occurred in areas where overpumping of artesian basins have taken place. Recharge of the underground reservoirs has not produced rebound toward original levels.

Tectonic activity, though reaching its climax in the mid-Pleistocene, is still continuing in the Great Valley as borne out by seismic disturbances; one of the most recent being the destructive earthquake of 1952 along the White Wolf fault of the Arvin-Tehachapi area (Magnitude 7.7). Ten earth tremors occur every day along the San Andreas and other fault systems in California.

Norma Lillis

has lived in the Stockton area since 1969 after moving from Southern California. She is a former legal secretary and office manager, with five years experience as editor of the local Presbyterian Church newsletter. Norma has a Bachelors in History from California State University, Stanislaus, and recently completed course work on a Masters in International Relations. She also finds time to be a very active Docent for the San Joaquin County Historical Museum.



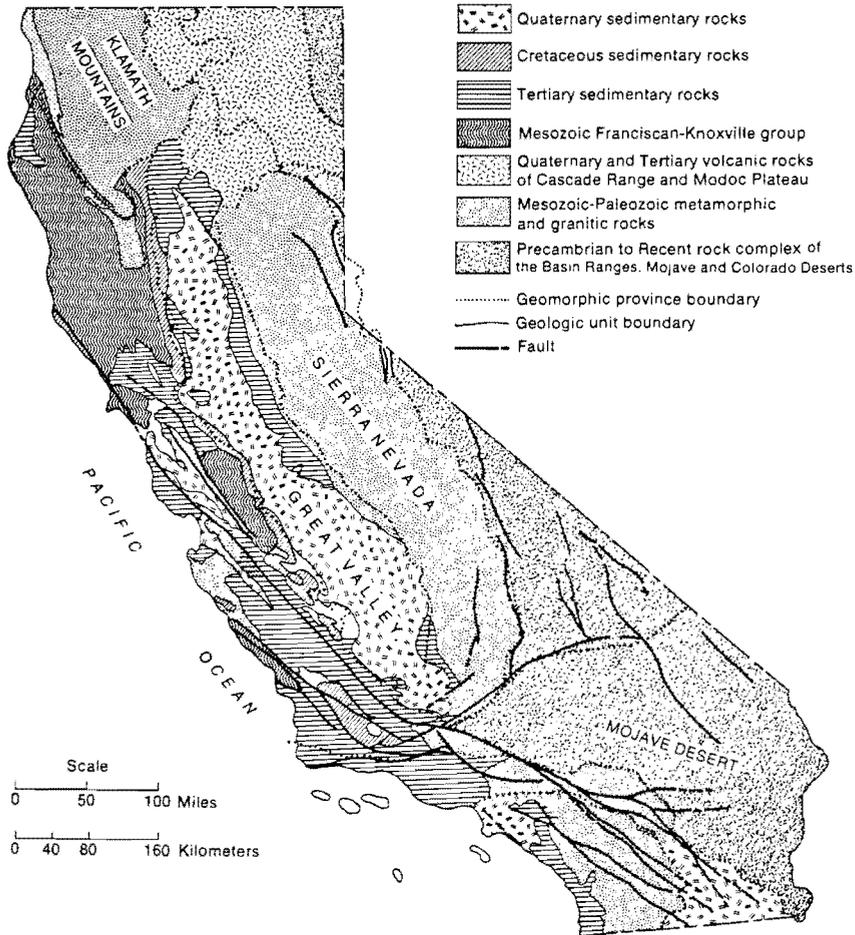
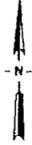


Figure 2 Geologic map of California, showing principal faults and generalized geologic units. (Source: California Division of Mines and Geology)

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SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY NATURAL GAS FIELDS

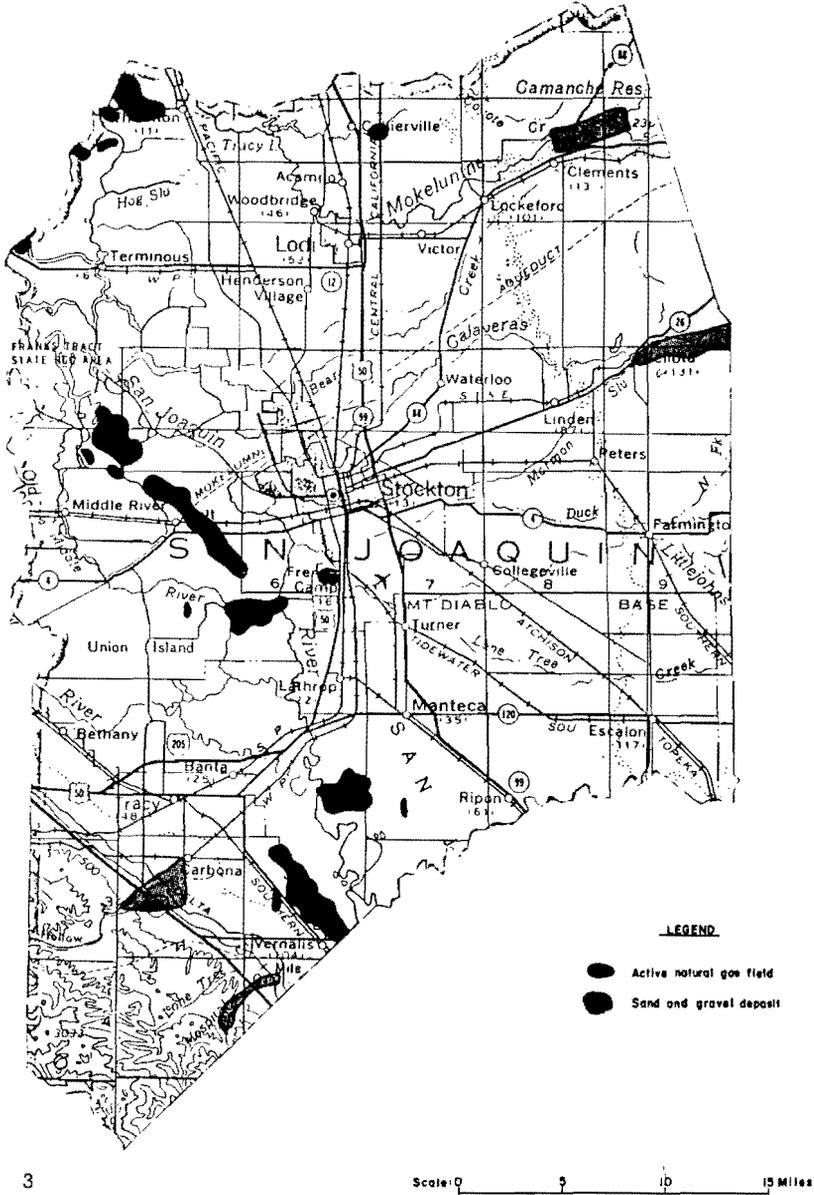


Figure 3

Source:
Adapted from the General Plan

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Editorial Comment

The San Joaquin County Historical Society is growing in numbers and activities. This means that there is also a need for an increase in the number of volunteers to help with museum programs. The museum Docent Council is streamlining the orientation for volunteers so that everyone can readily enjoy the experience.

Please call and tell us of your special interests and how you would like to help.

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