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We have two interesting articles in this issue concerning the large grain farms, which once comprised the main industry in San Joaquin County. Mrs. Art Frydendahl, formerly Wilma Linne, tells the history of her grandfather, Adolph H. Linne, who came to Tracy in early days and engaged extensively in grain farming.

Mrs. Elwood Myers, formerly Celia Adams, has written of the importance and necessity of the use of horses in raising grain.

ADOLPH H. LINNE by Wilma Linne Frydendahl

The determination to win success was a paramount characteristic in the career of Adolph H. Linne. This, along with a German heritage of ambition and hard work combined to make him a successful and influential citizen of the community of Tracy. He was born in San Francisco, June 1, 1871. His parents had migrated there from Germany. They passed away in the early 1880's, thus putting Adolph on his own at an early age. The necessity of earning his daily bread occupied most of his time, so his schooling was very meager as a result. However, he learned the lessons of honesty and industry well and became a successful and influential citizen in the Tracy area.

In October, 1883, Mr. Linne came to San Joaquin County. This occurred as the result of a tragic incident in the family of Henry Finck. Mr. Finck was a pioneer of the Banta District of San Joaquin County who had come to America from Germany in 1859 and settled in San Francisco. In 1866, he came to San Joaquin County and set up farming activities along with three Lammers brothers in the area around Bethany. There he became a successful rancher. He and his first wife lost three of their children in infancy and as a result of the deaths of those children, Adolph and his brother, Henry, became members of the Finck family. The Linne brothers had lost their parents at an early age in San Francisco. Mr. and Mrs. Finck were interested in securing someone to help fill the vacancy left by the deaths of their own children, and so Adolph and Henry seemed to qualify.

In 1883, then, at the age of 12, Adolph came to the Henry Finck ranch at Bethany, where he worked for four years. From there he moved to Mr. Finck's ranch near Banta, where he continued to work until 1898.

In 1898, he and his brother, Henry A. Linne went into partnership. They made an agreement with Mr. Finck whereby they could farm 1,000 acres on shares. Mr. Joseph C. Bricchetto, another pioneer of this area was instrumental in setting the brothers up in farming. At that time he owned a general merchandise store in Banta and staked the brothers to the grain seed they used to plant their first crop. The first year was a very dry one throughout the entire area, and since irrigation was unheard of,

the brothers suffered greatly from the drought and low yield from their crop. Mr. Bricchetto insisted, the next year, that they try a second time. They did and again suffered from adverse weather conditions. Once again, Mr. Bricchetto insisted that they try—as long as they had had poor luck twice did not mean it would happen a third time. Besides—how would they ever pay him for the seed if they quit? They followed his advice and the third year proved to be most successful and as they kept on farming, it was not long until they became well known for their extensive grain farming.

As their income increased, they purchased 640 acres of land south of Tracy. This turned out to be valuable farm land. In 1907, Adolph built a residence and barns on this property. As time went on, Linne Brothers acquired more land east of Tracy on Highway #50 where Henry Linne, his wife and daughter lived.

Adolph Linne was married to Miss Annie Collins in 1899. She was the daughter of Captain John W. Collins, an old sea captain, whose wife was Miss Annie Pruser, a native of Germany, born in 1831, who came to America about 1867. Captain Collins died near Tracy in 1876. Mrs. Linne was raised and went to school in the Jefferson school district. Linne Road, which now passes by the old school site, was named for Mr. Adolph Linne.

Mr. and Mrs. Linne were the parents of two children. The son, Adolph, Jr., was graduated from Tracy High School in the class of 1921. He engaged in farming with his father for many years. Wilma E. Linne also graduated from the Tracy schools, attended college where she obtained her teaching credential, and taught grammar school for 15 years. She married Arthur Frydendahl in 1947. Adolph Jr., and the Frydendahls continued to farm the original 640 acres until 1965 when they both sold their shares of the land and retired. The Frydendahls kept one acre upon which they built their present home.

Mr. Adolph Linne was one of the organizers of the West Side Bank of Tracy. The original building which housed this bank is still standing on 6th Street in Tracy. The Bank was taken over by the Bank of Italy, which is now the Bank of America. The Bank of Tracy apparently was a successful enterprise, because as early as 1910 it offered 4% interest on its savings accounts. When the Bank of Tracy was taken over by the Bank of Italy, Mr. Linne was a member of the advisory board of the new bank.

Mr. Linne was also a charter member of the Tracy Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West, Lodge Number 186. He was also an active member of the Knights of Pythias.

Mr. Adolph H. Linne died on October 20, 1951 and his wife passed away on August 19, 1962. His son and daughter still live in the Tracy area and Mr. and Mrs. Art Frydendahl are members of the San Joaquin County Historical Society.

HORSE POWER by Celia Adams Myers

Before the days of mechanization both the city and rural population relied on horse power in the literal sense. Heavy horses were required to pull the implements of tillage and the vehicles for drayage. Light weight horses which could travel faster provided transportation as well as handled the herds of cattle. Specially bred and trained horses provided recreation in the form of racing.

Many ranchers raised their own horses for their farm needs, for work and transportation. Some found it profitable to include the raising of thoroughbred race horses. Others enjoyed the prestige and pleasure that owning a race horse brought to them. San Joaquin County played an important part in this enterprise. A Special Illustrated Edition of the Lodi Sentinel dated Saturday, August 29, 1891 carries an article by a Dr. Latham on this subject. Following are excerpts from his article:

"California leads the world and San Joaquin County leads California in the raising of blooded horses. In everything that goes to make an ideal and practical horse pasture there is no spot on earth that excells the Mokelumne Valley in San Joaquin County. Long before the gold era it was a favorite grazing ground for Spanish stock.

"Breeding horses in California with the best blood is a comparatively new business and achievements are unparalleled. California horses are in the van in all the great speed contests of the country and at the annual sales, the largest prices are realized."

Every community, large or small, had its own race track. Breeders of race horses often had a standard sized track on their own ranches for the training and testing of their horses. The accepted racing of that day was harness racing, the horses being pacers or trotters. Racing and betting was not organized as it is today. However, horse racing at the County Fairs was popular and undoubtedly many owners followed much of the fair circuit which started in early August and lasted until late October.

Ranches that had a track were popular among the sport-minded horse owners of the community who would gather on Sunday to test their favorite horses against their neighbors' horses with many a friendly wager taking place. This caused no little concern among the ladies who frowned on such activity on Sunday.

No community picnic was complete without its horse races. That was a day when the neighbors gathered for recreation, to renew acquaintances and to show off. Horses were combed and rubbed until they glistened. Buggies were polished brightly. There were races for everyone, top buggy races, cart races as well as the regulation harness races.

The old adage that history repeats itself was never more true than in the horse raising business in San Joaquin County. The last decade has seen many fine horse farms locating in this county.