



***KERN COUNTY STREET NAMES
EDITED BY CURTIS DARLING...***

BAKER STREET - Named in honor of Colonel Thomas Baker, first county surveyor and the original owner of the present city of Bakersfield's business section. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July 1957]

BERNARD STREET - Named for the early merchant, James Bernard. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July 1957]

BRUNDAGE LANE - Named for Judge Benjamin Brundage, the first Superior Court Judge and master of the first Masonic Lodge in Bakersfield. Brundage Lane is the extension of Stockdale Hwy. east of Oak Street.

BUCK OWENS BOULEVARD - Named for famous country-western singer, Buck Owens. Formerly Pierce Road. (See Pierce Road.)

BUENA VISTA STREET - Takes its name from Buena Vista Lake, named by Commander Don Pedro Fages in 1772. Early map markers also called the San Joaquin Valley Buena Vista, and the name was also proposed for Kern County during its formation in 1866. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July 1957]

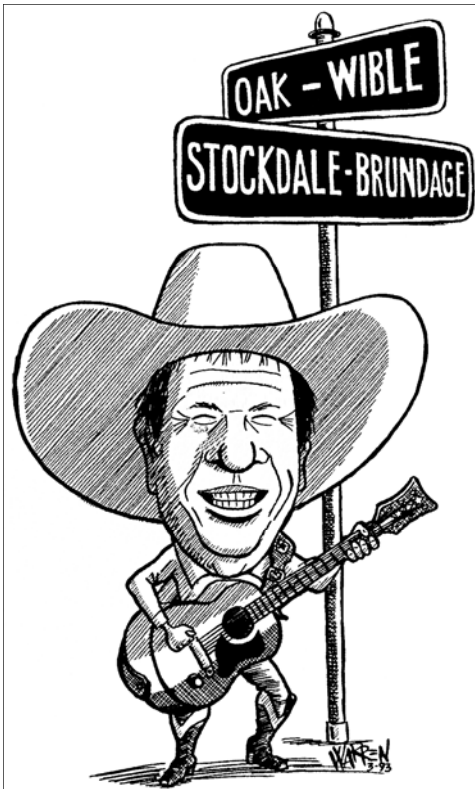
CALIFORNIA AVENUE - Named for our State. This street connects Bakersfield to Union Avenue, now Highway 99, originally Golden State Highway. Bakersfield's main

traffic was on Chester Avenue to California to Union Avenue (Golden State Hwy.) to Los Angeles.

CALLOWAY: Named for the canal of the Kern River.

CASTRO LANE - Takes its name from the well-known Castro family that emigrated from Mexico and settled here a century ago. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July, 1957]

CHINA GRADE LOOP - Connects Panorama with the oil fields on north and ultimately Chester Avenue. It was so named because the Chinese picked watercress on the Kern River side bank and sold the plants in Bakersfield. The road going down the hill from Panorama; first a dirt road and now a road and called China Grande Loop. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, April 9, 1956]



CHESTER AVENUE - Chester Avenue is named after Chester Land Company, a company that subdivided Chester Avenue in 1865. The Chester family owned the store at the southwest corner of 19th and Chester Ave. now known as Vest's Market.

COTTONWOOD ROAD - Was named for the great number of cottonwood trees in that area. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July, 1957]

DRACENA STREET - Received its name by reason of the numerous plants of the same name with which it was lined. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July 1957]

EDISON HIGHWAY - Was named for the settlement Edison, approximately 10 miles east of town. Edison itself was named for the off-loading railroad siding to ship Edison Power Plant equipment up the Kern River for power development. [Per my father's friend, Frank Leeper, as told to me in 1927.] He was a working practical engineer on the project in 1907-1908.]

GOLDEN STATE HIGHWAY - Highway 99 in its original form. Spans Los Angeles to Portland and Seattle, Washington.

GOSFORD - Named for Gosford Feedlot which existed as Kern County Land Company's feedlot for many years. The feedlot was closed out in approximately 1975, leaving a grain elevator and a substantial property which was sold to a salvage operator who ultimately sold the land now recognized as Gosford.

GRAPEVINE: The portion of Highway 99 from Grapevine Village to Gorman. It is named for the grapevines that exist on both sides of the road approximately two miles south of Grapevine Village. It is not named for the grapevine shape of the road as many believe.

HOLTBY ROAD - Named after Robert M. Holtby, pioneer sheepman. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July 1957]

HUGHES LANE - Was named from Elsworth L. Hughes who farmed the adjoining property. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July, 1957]

JEWETT AVENUE - (Formerly Jewett Lane) Named for Solomon Jewett, prominent sheepman in this county. His home formerly stood bordering this street which was once the chief route into Bakersfield from the north. Numerous holdups are said to have been committed here by robbers who hid behind the trunks of the great trees that once lined the street. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July, 1957]

KANE WAY - (See Stockdale Hwy.)

KERN ISLAND - Takes its name from the name

once applied to the present City of Bakersfield. At one time the various channels of the Kern River made the early community a veritable "island." [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July, 1957] Kern Island Canal is the canal in Central Park, terminates in Kern Lake.

MING AVENUE - Named after the Ming family whose farm was in the neighborhood.

OLD RIVER ROAD - Runs from Taft Hwy. to Maricopa Hwy. through the so-called "Kern Lake" area. Its name came from an old slew of the Kern River which spilled into the Kern Lake.

OLEANDER AVENUE - Formerly "D" street was named for the van-colored shrubs that lined the street. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July, 1957]

PALM STREET - As you might surmise, is named for its palm trees. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July, 1957]

PIERCE ROAD - (Now known as BUCK OWENS BLVD.) Named after Charles Clarence Pierce an early landowner in the area. First on the map in 1886. Property was subdivided into 10 acre lots in 1912. The subdivision was called "Piercedale." [Bakersfield Californian, John Sweetser, August 6, 1996]

NILES STREET - Streets east of Union Avenue going east and west were named alphabetically: Monterey; Niles; Oregon; Pacific; Quincy, etc. Thus, Niles was just a name with an N beginning.

OAK STREET - Oak Street received its name because of the Oak trees growing in the north slew of the Kern River west along 21st Street and south on Oak and in Beach Park.

PACHECO ROAD - Named for Manuel A. Pacheco whose family established a ranch on Panama in 1895.

PANAMA LANE - Named for Panama and immigrants imported by Miller & Lux around 1890 to farm their southern farms.

RIDGE ROUTE: The portion of Highway 99 from Gorman to Castaic.

SAN EMIDIO - Named after the famous early rancho of the same name. The name is a corruption of St. Emygdus, a saint credited with power of protecting travelers from earth-quakes and shipwreck.

SEVENTH STANDARD ROAD - Named for 7th Standard Base and Meridian, identifies map sections southeast and west of 7th Standard Road to approximately Wheeler Ridge and Interstate 5.

STINE ROAD - Named for the Stine Canal. The Stine Canal is diverted from the Carrier Canal and generally follows north Stine Road southerly to Stine Road and south. The Carrier Canal's name is taken for its duty to carry water in compliance with the Miller-Haggin Water Agreement of 1888. Water is diverted into Carrier on the south side of the Calloway diversion. The water required to satisfy the flow requirements at the Second Point of Measurement (near the intersection of the canal and Enos Lane) remain in the canal. The balance is diverted off into the Stine and James Canals. [Kern County Place Names, by Curtis Darling, Pages 74-75]

STOCKDALE HIGHWAY - Named for Stockdale Ranch which may have been named for the Stockdale Country Club. The Stockdale subdivision was created in 1928 or 1929 with Henry Mack buying and building on the corner of Fairway Drive and Stockdale Hwy. as the first house. Fairway Drive is the street leading from Stockdale Hwy. to the Country Club which originally had no entrance from Fairway. The former entrance was the row of palm trees and road from Stockdale Hwy. to the club. The present entry is Kane Way, named for Walter Kane, publisher of the Bakersfield Californian. The latter road was completed in 1955 and now is the main entrance to Stockdale Country Club.

SUMNER STREET - Named in honor of Judge J. W. Sumner. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July 1957]

TRUXTUN AVENUE - Named for Truxtun Beale,

the son of General Beale, the owner of Tejon Ranch and donor of the Truxtun children's library on the corner of 17th and Chester. Truxtun Beale also donated the Clock Tower. Originally Truxtun was called the Railroad Street since it ran parallel with the Santa Fe Railroad tracks.

UNION AVENUE - Named for Union Cemetery. The old cemetery parades used to go down Union Avenue to California even though Union Avenue was part of Golden State Highway.

WIBLE ROAD - Wible Road was named from Mr. Wible the Kern County Surveyor. It is the extension of Oak Street, south of Stockdale Hwy.

"Named for the well-known pioneer Wible family." [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July, 1957]

WILLIAMS STREET - Named for H. F. Williams, former land man for the Southern Pacific Railroad whose home still stands near the roundhouse in east Bakersfield. [Bakersfield Californian, Richard Bailey, July 1957]

<p>The drawing of Buck Owens appeared in the "Community Voices" column of the March 9, 1993 Bakersfield Californian, in an article entitled Confused by streets of Bakersfield by Walter Stewart.</p>
