

Quien Sabe Valley is almost entirely devoted to grazing and cattle-raising purposes. The valley land, though never worked, is exceedingly rich and arable. It is now being ditched, for purposes of irrigation, and will hereafter add to the cereal productions of the county. This valley is irregular in form, and its surface is broken with hills. It is an old Spanish grant, and is owned and occupied now by either the grantee or his assigns. Like most Spanish grants, it has been used for grazing purposes altogether, and from the broken character of the ground, with the exception of a small portion of the bottom land proper, it is far better adapted to grazing than agricultural purposes.

The four valleys called respectively Los Mortes, Cayote, Llamitos and Los Aguilos, consolidated, form one sheep range, numbering 24,000 acres, owned by a gentleman residing in San Francisco, named Pablo Baca. This range is called El e Real de las Aguilas Rancho, and was purchased by the present owner from the original grantee, some few years since. The improvements upon the property have been made with no stinted hand, and at no light cost to the proprietor. A handsome house, large and perfect in all its appointments, graces the grounds, surrounded with a garden finely shaded with trees. Water is conveyed to the house through pipes from a neighboring mountain, one mile distant. The stable is a model, combining all which might be considered convenient, useful, or neat in such a structure. It is also supplied with water by the same pipes which lead to the house. The corrals cover acres in extent, and are fully adequate to the necessities of the range. One of the finest sheep vats in the entire State is on this property, every convenience which a long experience could suggest, having been utilized in its arrangement. There are about five thousand acres of bottom land on this ranch, susceptible of the highest cultivation, and this without any labored attempt at irrigation, there being some fifty living springs upon the property, and three or four streams which continue their course through the entire year, winter and summer. At the present time the stock amounts to twenty thousand head, this number subsisting easily, year by year, on the range. The maximum capacity of the range is probably ten thousand greater, but Mr. B. has made no effort in the direction of discovering the greatest number possible for the range to feed. We understand that Mr. Baca is now holding the place for sale. This may be true or may not, but in any case we envy some one the possession.

Tres Pinos Valley is divided by a creek of the same name. It is a long, straggling stretch of bottom land, and though it may present a large surface for cultivation, it lies in such a manner that one can scarcely estimate it; a cultivated patch appearing here and there, but all disconnected, in most instances, with the creek lying between. It is similar in this respect to the conformation of the country lying between Tres Pinos and Hernandez Valleys, through which we once journeyed, inveighing against, and muttering profanely at the tortuous inclination of the creek, which in a distance of sixty miles necessitated our crossing one hundred times. In both these localities traveling is almost entirely abandoned during the winter months, the creeks swelling to such an extent as to render it extremely perilous. The valley of Tres Pinos is almost entirely given up to grazing purposes. It has a population of about one thousand, considering the valley to extend the full length of the stream.

Hernandez Valley lies at the extreme South-eastern limit of the county, and contains some twelve thousand acres. The land is arable and perfectly susceptible to cultivation, but it is only worked as far as home consumption renders necessary. The reason is perfectly obvious when we realize its distance from railroad connection, some sixty miles. It being impossible to reach a market, freighting by wagon being too expensive, merely sufficient hay and grain is raised to meet the wants of the stock, and to supply the neighboring mines. The valley is prettily situated, elevated to a considerable height in the mountains, surrounded with a heavy growth of timber. About seventy-five people reside here, furnishing a working force sufficiently large to meet the demands of labor.

Priest Valley lies partly in San Benito, and partly in Monterey County, Lewis Creek being the dividing line. The portion lying in San Benito covers an area of about three square miles. It is not an agricultural valley, being illy adapted for purposes of this nature, but possesses excellent grazing facilities. It is all level and well watered, the water however, being of a very inferior quality. Some eight or ten families only reside in this portion of the valley.