

Kern County Historic Chronology

Not to be reproduced without permission

- 1769 The future Kern County came under Spanish rule
- 1772 Commander Don Pedro Fages was first white man to enter future Kern County. Traveled via Grapevine Canyon
- 1776 Franciscan Padre Francisco Garces visited area. Stopped on later site of Bakersfield. Father Garces named local river "Rio de San Felipe"--now Kern River (May)
Father Garces conducted first Christian baptism in San Joaquin Valley (near Delano) (May 3)
- 1781 Father Garces murdered at Colorado River mission (July 19)
- 1806 Zalvidea and Moraga expeditions into valley and future Kern County
"La Porciuncula" name given to present Kern River by Padre Jose Zalvidea
Tejon Pass (Spanish for "badger") named by Lt. Francisco Ruiz (July)
- 1815 Grandos Expediciones through area. Sent to recapture Indian fugitives for missions
- 1816 Father Martinez expedition through future Kern County
- 1822 Area fell under the flag of the Republic of Mexico (Apr. 11)
- 1827 Jedediah Strong Smith, first U. S. citizen passed through area
- 1830 Ewing Young trapping party, including Kit Carson, passed through Kern
- 1834 Walker's Pass discovered by Joseph Reddeford Walker
- 1837 Peter Lebeck killed by grizzly bear at later site of Fort Tejon (Oct. 17)
- 1842 San Emigdio land grant established (Jul. 14)
- 1843 Castaic Rancho land grant established (Nov. 22)
Chiles emigrant party led over Walker's Pass
El Tejon Rancho land grant established
- 1844 Second John C. Fremont expedition through valley, included Carson and Alexis Godey
Elisha Stevens traveled through valley (settled near Bakersfield 1861)
- 1845 Third Fremont expedition. Named Kern River for Edward M. Kern, topographer of party
- 1846 La Liebre Rancho land grant established (Apr. 21)
Los Alamos y Agua Caliente Rancho land grant established (Nov. 9)
- 1848 Kern area became U.S. territory with signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (Feb. 2)
- 1849 Passage of Death Valley '49er emigrant parties through eastern Kern
Thomas Fitzgerald first settler in what will later be Kern County--located at Glennville
- 1850 Hudgins emigrant party from Los Angeles reached valley via Tejon Canyon
Hog raising began around Kern and Buena Vista Lakes
Mariposa County created. Included present-day Kern County
Lt. Horatio Derby survey of San Joaquin Valley for railroad route (May)
California became 31st state (Sep. 9)

©Kern County Museum

- 1851 U.S. opened treaty negotiations with Indians of San Joaquin Valley
- 1852 Tulare County created, included Kern County of today
First purebred cattle brought to Kern--by John McCray
- 1853 Gold discovered in Greenhorn Gulch, on Greenhorn Mountain
First sheep raised in Kern County--on Tejon Ranch
Name of San Joaquin Valley generally accepted
Sebastian Indian Reservation established--75,000 acres at Tejon Pass
Town of Keyesville founded. First called "Hogeye." Named for Richard Keyes, discoverer
Town of Petersburg founded, later called "Greenhorn." Named for Peter Gardett.
Major Aneas B. Gordon granted franchise to operate ferry across Kern River on Los Angeles-Stockton road. Location called Gordon's Ferry
Lts. Robert S. Williamson and Parke railroad survey of area. Party discovered marine vertebrate fossils on Kern River (Aug.-Sep.)
Edward Fitzgerald Beale, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in California, arrived at Tejon (Sep. 2)
- 1854 Kern's gold excitement began
John M. Brite family first to settle Tehachapi Valley
William Lynn family first to settle Linn's Valley
Phineas Banning established stagecoach service between San Pedro and Fort Tejon
General John C. Fremont's fifth expedition passed through Kern via Bird Spring Pass
Fort Tejon established--headquarters of First Dragoons, U.S. Army (Aug. 10) to protect residents of nearby Indian reservation and suppress stock rustling
- 1854-55 Large areas of the valley and desert areas of future Kern County are surveyed ahead of settlement
- 1855 Gold rush to upper Kern River area
Thomas Heston and Company express service began between Keyesville and Stockton
First quartz mill in county--at Keyesville, operated by Mr. Lightner
First attempts to organize Kern County--proposed as "Buena Vista County"
Episcopal Bishop William Kip passed through Kern County. He held a service at Fort Tejon (Oct. 14)
- 1856 Bull road completed over Greenhorn by William P. Lynn
First Fourth of July celebration in county--Tehachapi Valley (July 4)
- 1857 Community of "Glennville" founded, named for settler James M. Glenn
Stock raising began in Tehachapi Valley area
Strong earthquake near Fort Tejon, estimated at an 8.25, did serious damage (Jan. 9)
First post office in Kern County established at Keyesville (Mar. 11)
U.S. Camel Corps, under command of E. F. Beale, reached Fort Tejon (Nov.)
- 1858 Telegraph line built to Fort Tejon from Los Angeles

- Asphaltum deposits first noted--by land survey party at future site of
Sunset oil field
- Petersburg post office established (Apr. 16)
- Overland Mail Company, "Butterfield Line," began operations through Kern
with six stations (Oct.-Apr. 1861)
- 1859 Durham cattle introduced to county
First flour mill built in Linn's Valley
Lavers Crossing settlement established
- 1860 Christian Bohna built first permanent house on future site of Bakersfield--
near 20th and K Streets
Young and Company began express operations between Visalia and Linn's
Valley
Telegraph service from Los Angeles to San Francisco through Fort Tejon
began (Oct.)
- 1861 Big Blue Mine discovered by Lovely Rogers
Mt. Sinai [Kelso] Mining District established
William Wiggins began teaching in Tehachapi Valley
Last troops leave Fort Tejon, among them the Camel Corps (June 15)
- 1862 Town of Claraville founded, named for Clara Munckton
Kern River flood destroyed many mining operations
Town of Woody began, named for S. W. Woody
Mining began on Piute Mountain
- 1863 Town of Quartzburg founded
Long Tom Mining District established
Town of Whiskey Flat established, also called "Williamsburg"
Colonel Thomas Baker began reclaiming Kern River swamplands
First school at Bakersfield--Mrs. Thomas Baker taught in her home at
19th and N Streets
School established at Kernville
School built in Tehachapi Valley
William H. Brewer geological survey passed through Kern
Mason and Henry outlaw band active in southern San Joaquin Valley
Tejon (Sebastian) Reservation closed. Indians relocated to other
reservations
Temporary U.S. Army "Camp Leonard" established on South Fork of Kern
River for controlling Indian population
35 Tubatulabal Indians killed for cattle stealing in U.S. Army attack on
upper Kern River near Keyesville (Apr.)
Thomas Baker family move into Bohna home (Sep.)
Edward M. Kern died in Philadelphia (Nov. 25)
- 1864 Whiskey Flat renamed "Kernville"
Gold discovered at Havilah
McFarlane toll road completed over Greenhorn Mountain
First alfalfa planted in Kern by Thomas H. Barnes
Buena Vista Oil Refinery operated in Temblor area. Production began (Aug.

- 14) Four thousand gallons of illuminating oil were recovered by 1867.
Company incorporated (Feb. 1864)
Fort Tejon abandoned by U.S. Army (Sep. 11), became part of E. F. Beale's
Tejon Ranch
- 1865 Mead and Clark Company began stage service between Havilah and Visalia
First store opened in Bakersfield
Log school built in or near Bakersfield
Catholic Father Daniel Dade opened parochial school at Havilah
Philo and Solomon Jewett raised the county's first crop of cotton on their
ranch
Mexican settlement at Panama established
Buena Vista Petroleum District organized (Feb. 13)
- 1866 First marriage in county: Sheriff W. B. Ross and Mrs. Martha Skiles
Peter Gardett became first naturalized citizen of Kern County
Kern County became part of the 16th Judicial District
Quito Mining District established in Walker's Basin
New Eldorado Mining District established
Rio Bravo Mining District established
Washington Mining District established
Piute Mining District established
Agua Caliente Mining District established
Dahlonga Mining District established
Cottonwood Mining District established
First county hospital established at Havilah
Havilah Library Association formed
First walnut grove planted
First homestead claim filed in county by John and T. O. Fowler, Havilah
"Baker's field" located between 14th and 17th Streets and K and P Streets
Saint Joseph's Catholic church completed in Havilah
Post office established at Havilah (Jan. 9)
Joe Walker Mine discovered (Mar.)
Kern County established. First county seat at Havilah (Apr. 2)
Nicholas James Williams--first white child born in Kern County--at Havilah
(May 25)
First election of county officials (July 12)
Plat made of Havilah town site (Aug.)
First newspaper, "Havilah Courier," began publication (Aug. 18)
Havilah school district established (Nov. 9)
Linn's Valley school district established (Nov. 9)
Cumberland Presbyterian Church established at Glennville (Dec. 8)
- 1867 "Baker Grade" and toll road constructed between Havilah and Bakersfield
by Col. Baker
Town of Sageland founded east of the Piute Mountains
First election in Kern County--on Kelso Creek (Sageland Precinct)
Great Kern River flood destroyed many homes (Dec.-early 1868)

©Kern County Museum

- 1868 Grist mill built by Col. Thomas Baker at Bakersfield
First Odd Fellows lodge established at Havilah
Public school established at Kernville (May 5)
Bakersfield post office established (Aug. 26)
Franchise granted for Cross, Norton and Company Toll Road from Havilah to Cross (later Breckenridge) Mountain by county supervisors (May 16)
- 1869 Brick schoolhouse built in Bakersfield at 12th and I Streets
Colonel Baker established real estate agency at Bakersfield (Apr.)
Post office of "Bakersfield" established and named after Col. Thomas Baker (Aug. 26) Location had also been known as "Kern Island"
"Kern County Weekly Courier" began publication at Bakersfield (Dec. 22)
- 1870 Kern Island Canal construction began
First federal census of county finds 2,925 residents
J. B. Haggin organized the Kern County Land Company
Governor Haight refused to sign bill changing the county seat from Havilah to Bakersfield
Kern County Agricultural Society established (Mar. 12)
Livermore & Chester established weekly stage line between Bakersfield and White River (Apr.) (became three times a week in May)
Buena Vista Canal Company organized (water right granted July 15)
Accused murderer, Juan de Sepulveda, lynched south of Bakersfield (Sep. 6)
Kern County Sporting Club organized and built lodge on Kern Lake (Oct.)
Plat of Bakersfield filed (Dec. 5)
- 1871 Town hall built in Bakersfield
California Cotton Growers Association established (Aug.)
First Catholic Mass held in Bakersfield--in Galtes store (Oct. 1)
- 1872 Telegraph State Company began operations between Visalia and Los Angeles through Bakersfield
John Hambleton started commercial oil development in county. Petroleum taken from hand-dug pits
"Southern Californian" newspaper appeared at Bakersfield (Jan.)
Kern Lodge #202, I.O.O.F. founded (Apr. 26)
Tehachapi school district established (May 7)
Havilah "Miner" began publication (June)
Literary and Social Club formed at Havilah to establish library (June)
First commercial brickyard established by Col. Baker (Nov.)
Col. Baker died (Nov. 24) buried (Nov. 26)
Bakersfield Lodge #224, F. & A.M. founded (Nov. 28)
- 1873 Town of Delano founded, named for Columbus Delano, U.S. Secretary of the Interior
Bakersfield Grange organized
John Narboe and Company began salt business at Narboe Lake in Tehachapi Valley
First county teachers' institute held--at Glennville
First county hospital in Bakersfield. (Operated by Dr. L. S. Rogers to 1876)

©Kern County Museum

- County election held to decide county seat question (Feb. 15)
Water right granted for Farmers' Canal (Apr. 20)
Pioneer Canal granted water right (Apr. 26)
Bakersfield is incorporated. First officers appointed (May 24)
Southern Pacific Railroad reached Delano from the north. (July 14)
Railroad construction was through its right-of-way--1.6 million acres in Kern County.
Escalet's hotel completed in Bakersfield (Aug.)
Water right granted to Kern River Water and Irrigating Company for their Beardsley Canal (Dec. 2)
- 1874
Methodist Episcopal church built at Truxtun and H
County seat moved to Bakersfield from Havilah (Feb.)
First bank established--Kern Valley Bank of Bakersfield incorporated (Feb. 24)
Bandit, Tiburcio Vasquez, held up Coyote Holes Station near present Freeman Junction (Feb. 25)
Kern Island Canal opened by contractor W. H. Souther (Aug. 18) Project used plow with specially designed, extra-large plow
Town of "Sumner" founded by Southern Pacific. Later called Kern, Kern City, finally East Bakersfield (Oct.)
Bakersfield Fire Company organized (Oct. 10)
First store in Delano. Post office established (Oct. 21)
Southern Pacific crossed Kern River to Sumner (Nov. 9)
Regular passenger service began on Southern Pacific (Nov. 10)
- 1875
Settlement of "North Side" founded--later Oildale area
Town of "Caliente" founded. First called "Allen's Camp"
Calloway Canal construction began
Sumner school district established
Water right granted for McCord Canal (Mar. 20)
Southern Pacific track laid to Caliente (Apr. 26)
Kern Island Canal Company began distribution of water through its ditch in system in Bakerfield (May)
Calloway Canal granted water right (May 4)
Kern County Immigration Bureau formed (May 22)
Bakersfield feels first earthquake (June)
Caliente school district formed (June 1)
George Wheeler's U.S.G.S. survey crew worked in area (July)
Courthouse cornerstone laid (Aug. 2)
Stine irrigation canal completed (Aug. 14)
"Kern County Gazette" began publication in Bakersfield (Oct.)
- 1876
New county courthouse completed in Bakersfield on Railroad (now Truxtun) Avenue. Occupied (Apr.)
Town of "Tehachapi" founded. First called "Summit Station." Town site moved to railroad and "Old Town" site largely vacated
G Street Hospital completed
Kern Valley Bank robbed (Feb. 18)

©Kern County Museum

- Bakersfield disincorporated (Apr. 13)
Bakersfield "Courier" and "Southern Californian" combined (May)
Nation's centennial celebrated (July 4)
Southern Pacific line and the "loop" completed through Tehachapis (July 10)
Sumner post office established (Jul. 24)
Warren Frazier first man through the Kern River gorge (Sep.)
Southern Pacific line reached Mojave (Aug. 8) Last spike driven to open line to Los Angeles (Sep. 5)
"Mojave" townsite founded. Name from desert Indian tribe. Post office (Oct. 13)
- 1876-77 Severe drought in area
- 1877 Jewett Lane bridge over Kern River under construction
First drilled oil wells in county--future McKittrick area
California Desert Land Act passed by Congress--encouraged further settlement and irrigation
40-acre site for Union Cemetery purchased by county (Col. Baker buried there in 1872) (dedication held Apr. 26, 1878)
First fire station built and equipped
Two-story frame school at Truxtun & L Street destroyed by fire (June 5)
Five Mexican bandits lynched on courthouse grounds for raiding Caliente (Dec.)
- 1878 Two-story brick school built on Truxtun Avenue
Columbian Oil Company began drilling oil well (near future Reward)
Andrew Brown's flour mill at Kernville began operation (Sep.)
- 1879 First lime burning at Tehachapi
Tejon Ranch sheep drive from Cow Wells to Green River, Wyoming Ter.
- 1880 Census: 5,601 residents
Commercial apple growing began at Tehachapi--by Moses Hale
Land rush to Delano area began
Great water lawsuit began: Haggin & Carr v. Miller & Lux (Sep. 2)
- 1881 First Kern County Teachers' Institute held at Bakersfield
Utopian colony of "Joyful" established about four miles south of Bakersfield by Isaac B. Rumford. Declined after 1884
"Kern County Weekly Record" first published (May 26) (ended in 1886)
- 1882 First Catholic church completed at 17th and K
Railroad line built southeast from Mojave
New Joss house opened in "Chinatown" (Sep.)
First professional theatre group performed in Bakersfield (Oct.)
- 1883 First public school opened in Delano
Kernville fire
Serious Southern Pacific train wreck near Tehachapi (Jan. 20)
Bakersfield Water Company constructs city's first water system including an octagonal tower at 17th and Chester. Put into operation (Oct. 11)
- 1884 Commercial jack rabbit drives began
Arrival of first Black settlers in area

©Kern County Museum

- Cain African Methodist church established at O Street and California Avenue
 Bakersfield's first daily newspaper appears, the "Daily Evening Gazette"
 (June-Oct.)
- 1885 Baker Parlor #42, Native Sons of the Golden West organized (Oct. 24)
 New Odd Fellows hall constructed
 Fire in "Chinatown" destroyed Chinese theatre, joss house and other buildings
 (Aug. 30)
 Ju Hung Loy executed (Sep. 30) in jail yard for murder of Chas. H. Bowers
 (Sep. 3)
- 1885-1889 "Twenty Mule Team" borax freighting has Mojave as destination
- 1886 James Curran purchased 40 acres and established Bakersfield Sandstone Brick
 Company
 Saint Paul's Episcopal church completed at 17th and Eye Streets
 Marble quarry began operations near Tehachapi
 George L. Robertson homestead at Poso--first between Delano and
 Bakersfield
 Hurlbut Post #127 G.A.R. founded (Jan. 25)
 Bakersfield's "Kern County Echo" first printed (Aug. 5)
 Kern County Immigration Society organized (Dec.)
- 1887 First survey of Delano town site
 First peach orchard planted--by Simon Wible
 First oil derrick in county--placed in Sunset field by Jewett and Blodget
 Wear's Opera House built on K Street between 19th and 20th Streets
 Lowell brothers lay out the first subdivision for residential lots--"Lowell
 Addition"
 Delano "Courier" began publication (Jan. 27)
 Sunset Oil Company incorporated (Mar.)
 Cornerstone for Masonic Temple laid (Nov. 1)
- 1888 Survey of Delano town site filed with county recorder
 First horsedrawn street cars began service between Bakersfield and Kern City--
 "Bakersfield and Sumner Street Railroad"
 Scribner's Opera House opened at Chester Avenue and Wall Street
 Bakersfield Gas and Electric Light Company organized
 Store clerks began agitation for Sunday closing in Bakersfield (Jan.)
 Construction of Southern Hotel began at 19th and Chester (June)
 Smyrna colony established. Post office (June 7). Town plat filed (Aug. 22)
 Hurlbut Post #55, W.R.C. organized (Jul. 9)
 End of the water lawsuit--agreement reached between Miller and Haggin split
 Kern River water (Jul. 28)
 Poso Irrigation District organized (Sep.)
 Bakersfield telephone exchange established (Oct. 1) Phones in service:
 29 in 1889; 64 in 1895; 1567 in 1904)
 Board of Trade organized (Nov. 10) (re-organized 1903)
 Town of Kimberlina platted sixteen miles northwest of Bakersfield (Dec. 12)
 Named after owner and developer, James M. Kimberlin

©Kern County Museum

- 1888-89 Photographer Carleton E. Watkins documents area in several hundred views
- 1889 First public gas lighting in Bakersfield (limited use as early as 1887)
Rosedale Colony founded ("Rosedale" post office established Jan. 7, 1891)
Miramonte colony plat filed (Feb. 5) (post office Nov. 12, 1889-1902)
Southern Pacific depot completed at Baker and Sumner Streets (June 27)
Bakersfield's worst fire--destroyed some 200 buildings on 15 blocks in three
 hours (July 7)
First raisins shipped from Kern County (Dec.)
Community of "Onyx" founded.. Post office established (Dec. 2)
- 1889-90 Sunset oil field discovered by Jewett & Blodget
- 1890 Census: 9,808 residents
First electric lighting in Bakersfield--plant built by Bakersfield Gas Co.
Most of Delano's business district destroyed by fire
"Famoso" founded (formerly known as "Poso" and then "Spottiswood")
 (Town plat for Famoso filed Mar. 28, 1896)
First Baptist church cornerstone laid (Feb. 17) Church dedicated at 22nd and
 Eye Streets (Apr. 26)
Rosedale school district organized (Apr. 10)
Bakersfield Building and Loan incorporated (May 8)
Franchise for electric light system granted to L. P. St. Clair (June 14) and
 began operation (late Sep.)
Kern County Land Company incorporated (Sep.)
"Kern County Democrat" began publication in Bakersfield (Sep. 20)
Bank of Bakersfield organized (Sep. 30)
James Herrington tarred and feathered for claim jumping (Oct. 1)
Work began on Poso Irrigation District canal (Oct. 27) (Bonds issued
 Jan. 2, 1892 but canal never completed)
Tehachapi's "Summit Sun" began publication (Oct. 31)
- 1891 Kern County Law Library established
First Asphalto settlement founded
McKittrick railroad line construction began
W.C.T.U. organized (Jan. 6)
Captain John Barker first to use local natural gas for domestic purposes, on his
 Rio Bravo Ranch near the Kern River (Apr. 2)
Balloon ascensions by Professor Howard (July)
- 1892 Second Asphalto settlement established
Kane Springs settlement established by Charley Koehn
First commercial vineyard, Delano
Saint John's Episcopal Mission constructed in Rosedale (consecrated Feb. 14,
 1894)
Colored Baptist church founded
Jewett & Blodget produced 1200 tons of asphaltum from the Sunset Oil
 District
First train-load of asphaltum shipped
National guard company formed (Jan.-Feb.)

©Kern County Museum

- Kern County Fair Grounds Association organized (Mar. 2)
Post office of "Bodfish" established, named for George H. Bodfish (June 30)
(renamed "Vaughn" in 1897)
"Sumner Standard" newspaper appeared--the first in East Bakersfield (July 29)
Kern County High School organized (Nov.)
- 1893 Gold discovered at Goler by John Searles. Mining district established
Placer gold discovered at Red Rock Canyon by Rudolf Hagen
Kern County exhibit at the Columbian Exposition at Chicago
East Side Canal completed
Town of "Isabella" founded. Named for Queen Isabella of Spain. City plat
filed (Jan. 5)
Kern County High School opened (Jan. 9)
Kern River flooded Bakersfield (Feb. 10)
President Benjamin Harrison signed proclamation creating Sierra Forest
Reserve, including area of Kern County (renamed Sierra National Forest
Feb. 14)
Asphalt refinery at Asphalto by the Standard Asphalt Company completed
(March 1)
Plat filed for the "Virginia Colony" east of Bakersfield (Mar. 18)
First National Guard unit in county, Company G, authorized in Bakersfield
(May)
Third Asphalto settlement. Post office established (Oct. 30) (renamed
"McKittrick" in honor of Captain William McKittrick on June 1, 1900)
McKittrick town plat filed (Dec. 1900)
"Kern" incorporated (Dec. 12) (formerly "Sumner")
- 1894 Kern River power transmission line completed to Los Angeles
Kern City's volunteer fire department formed
Contract let for new courthouse (May 11)
Coxey's Army passed through Bakersfield (June 7)
Great railroad strike (June-July)
- 1895 Kern County Library Association organized (Nov. 27)
Third county hospital built--at 19th and Oak Streets
Yellow Aster Mine discovered at Rand Mountain by Burcham, Mooers, and
Singleton. Rand Mining District established
Town of "Randsburg" founded. First called "Rand Camp," later "Yellow
Aster." Named for Rand gold mining area of South Africa.
Kuffel store first building erected in Randsburg
Society of Kern County Pioneers organized (Apr.)
First graduation from Kern County High School (May 18)
Cornerstone laid for Kern County High School (July 3)
New county jail first used (Oct. 9)
First issue of the "Morning Echo" was printed (Oct. 15)
Town site of "Buttonwillow" founded, named for buttonwillow tree. Post
office established (Dec. 6)
- 1896 Mojave fire

- Bamboo grove planted on Stockdale Ranch near Bakersfield by William S. Tevis
- Bakersfield Women's Club formed
- Town of "Johannesburg" founded. Named for South African gold town. (Town plat filed Feb. 8, 1897; post office established Feb. 10, 1897)
- Library Association turned over their public reading room to the City of Kern thus founding the "Kern City Library"--the first public library in county (Feb.)
- Mining town of "Garlock" founded. Originally called "Cow Wells." Named for Eugene Garlock. Post office established (Apr. 10) Town plat filed (Apr. 20, 1897)
- New courthouse completed (June 11)
- Lawrence Tibbett born in Bakersfield (Nov. 16)
- Randsburg "Miner" began publication (Dec. 12)
- 1897 Gold found by Ezra M. Hamilton near Willow Springs is the beginning of the Tropic (Lida) Mine
- Kramer Mining District formed (Jan.)
- "New" Chinatown fire (Apr. 2)
- Early Kern River power plant in operation (Apr. 4)
- Randsburg Railway Company incorporated (May 18) Construction began (Oct. 2)
- 1898 Santa Fe railroad line opened to Johannesburg (Dec. 23)
- First electricity from Power Transit and Light plant in Kern River Canyon
- "Dahlonga Health Resort" established on Kern River
- Community of "Lebec" founded. Named for Peter Lebeck
- Election for incorporating the city of Bakersfield carried 387-146 and a slate of officers was approved (Jan. 4) Those elected included Thomas A. Baker as City Marshal. The city limits covered 2,560 acres.
- 28.6 miles of the Randsburg Railway opened (Jan. 5) (abandoned Dec. 30, 1933)
- Post office of "Ricardo" established in Red Rock Canyon (Jan. 5)
- Disastrous Randsburg fires (Jan. 19 and May 6)
- Local National Guard unit, Company G, becomes part of U. S. volunteer force in the Spanish-American War (Apr.)
- Arrival of San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley Railroad in Bakersfield (later Santa Fe Railroad) celebrated (May 27) First regular passenger train left Bakersfield (June 1)
- 1899 Large fire destroyed Kern City business section (July 14)
- "Oil City" community founded
- Yellow Aster Mine narrow-gauge railroad line built to its mill
- Discovery Well of the Kern River oil field completed (May)
- Mojave fire (Oct. 9)
- Paving of business district began (Nov.)
- 1900 Census: 16,480 residents
- Electric system established in Bakersfield

- Producers Oil Association formed
Democrat Hot Springs resort established on Kern River
Cornerstone laid for Women's Club in Bakersfield (Jan. 17)
Sunset Railroad Company incorporated (Mar. 16) Survey of line completed
(Apr.)
First track laid for electric street car system (Apr. 26)
Free postal delivery began in Bakersfield--2 carriers (May 1)
Beale Memorial Library completed--first free library in county. Dedication
(June 2)
Spur railroad line built by the Southern Pacific to the Kern River oil field
(Aug.)
"Tehachapi Tomahawk" began publication (Oct. 13)
- 1901
Contract let for Gordon's ferry bridge
Sunset Railroad line built to Sunset (Hazelton after 1907) (30.27 miles) First
rail laid (Apr.) (additional 2.5 miles built to Maricopa in Mar. 1904)
(A 17.11-mile extension, named the Sunset Western Railroad, from
Pentland Junction to Shale, opened to Moron Jan. 1, 1909)
New Redlick's department store opened
Bakersfield and Kern Electric Railway (incorporated Mar. 26, 1900) began
operation (Feb. 17) on 2.12 miles of track between the Southern Pacific and
Santa Fe depots. (line extended to 10.5 miles by 1917)
First oil pipeline in county--construction began by Standard Oil Company
in the Kern River field (Jan.) Completed in 1902 to Point Richmond
Sunset Telephone Company began line from Bakersfield to Los Angeles (Jan.)
Construction began on National Guard armory at 1917 H Street (Feb.)
Plat filed for town of Caliente (Mar.)
First Bank of Kern opened (Apr. 10)
Midway oil field discovered (May 1)
- 1902
First Labor Day observance
Independent Oil Producers Agency incorporated
First funeral home in county opened by J. C. Payne in Bakersfield
First automobile brought into county by Joe Ferris of Caliente--a 1902
1-cylinder "Oldsmobile"
H. S. Knight first to use gasoline engine to power irrigation pump
Saint Paul's Episcopal church consecrated at 17th and Eye Streets (Jan. 1)
County Board of Trade established (Jan. 31)
Oil Exchange building opened (May 2)
- 1903
Union Oil Refinery built northwest of Bakersfield--first in Kern River field
(closed 1956)
Street railway system expanded
Automobile made a 150-mile-trip from Los Angeles to Bakersfield (Apr.)
Post office of "Edison" established (Apr. 18)
Killing of notorious gunman, James McKinney, in Bakersfield (Apr. 19)
City marshal T. J. Packard and Deputy Sheriff W. E. Tibbett died in fight
Post office of "Paris" founded (May 29)--renamed "Lorraine" in 1912

©Kern County Museum

- Fish Block fire (June 3)
City trustees voted 3-2 in favor of site for Beale memorial clock tower at 17th and Chester (Dec. 15)
- 1904 Kern River Field--greatest oil producing area in state--17.5 million barrels
First automobile sold in Bakersfield--by Hillman Arms, manager of Bakersfield Cyclery, to Mr. McDonald--a 2-cylinder "Logan"
First issue of the "Union Labor Journal" is printed (Jan. 8)
100 miles of oiled roads in county (45 of that in towns) (by Mar.)
Beale clock tower built at 17th and Chester. Dedication (Apr. 2)
Bakersfield Fire Department engine house destroyed by fire (Sep. 7)
John Philip Sousa's band played at the Scribner Opera House (Nov. 2)
(The Sousa band appeared in Bakersfield in 1896 and 1921 as well.)
- 1905 Start of Kern River canyon highway
Knights of Columbus lodge instituted (Mar. 5)
Scribner's Opera House burned (Aug. 15)
Strong earthquake felt (Dec. 23)
- 1906 Mt. View Colony founded
Town of "Maricopa" founded--first store opened. Town named for tribe of Arizona Indians. (town plat filed Apr. 5, 1910)
First automobile garage opened--Bakersfield Garage opened by E. J. Erb
Cornerstone for St. Francis Catholic church laid (Jan. 14)
Company G sent to assist after San Francisco earthquake (Apr.)
Edison Electric Company's first Kern River canyon power plant completed (Sep.) (put into commission May 15, 1907)
Al Hulse, partner of Jim McKinney, commits suicide in county jail (Oct. 14)
Bakersfield Opera House constructed. Opened (Nov.)
Major General William R. Shafter died at the William McKittrick Ranch (Nov. 12)
Lindsay B. Hicks buried alive in construction of Edison Power tunnel near Kern River. (Dec. 7) Rescued (Dec. 22)
- 1907 Town of "Reward" founded. (post office established July 20, 1909)
First local ostrich farm on Tracy Ranch at Buttonwillow
Foothill Citrus Farms Company located at Arvin site
Bakersfield Business College established (later renamed Lufkin's Business College)
Saint Joseph's Catholic parish founded in Kern City (East Bakersfield)
Wasco Colony founded, named for county and Indian tribe of Oregon. Lots on sale by Kern County Land Company (Feb.) Original location was railroad siding of "Dewey"
Beale Park presented to city of Bakersfield by Truxtun Beale (Mar.).
The park's Greek theatre constructed (Dec.)
Cosmopolitan Hotel burned (Mar. 22)
Buena Vista Lake levee broke damaging twelve miles of the Sunset Railroad and flooding over 25,000 acres (Jul. 3)
Hall of Records building contract let (Nov. 5) (finished by Sep. 1908)

- 1908
- Los Angeles Aqueduct construction began
 - Town of "Moron" (later Taft) founded near Midway oil field
 - Delano First National Bank organized
 - Silkworm culture started at Willow Springs
 - Monolith Cement plant built near Tehachapi
 - Red Rock Railroad organized. (9.1 miles constructed in Jan. 1909 for use in aqueduct project. Dismantled Dec. 1910)
 - United Spanish-American War Veterans post named in honor of General William R. Shafter (Jan. 15)
 - Grading for Mojave-Owenyo rail line in eastern Kern began (Feb. 24) (completed Oct. 22, 1910)
 - New Santa Fe roundhouse finished (Mar.)
 - Town of "Fellows" founded, named for Charles A. Fellows. Post office (Mar. 16)
 - Thomas "Flyer", in the International New York to Paris automobile race, went through Bakersfield (Mar. 23)
 - Earl Warren graduated from KCUHS (May)
 - "McFarland" post office established (May 4) First store opened by Ralph Kern. Railroad siding originally named "Hunt." Also known as "Long Pine," finally named for early settler J. B. McFarland. Town plat approved (Mar. 2, 1909)
 - Los Padres National Forest created (June 26)
 - Kern County Anti-Saloon League organized (Jul. 27)
 - Delano "Record" began publication (Aug. 1)
 - "California Oil World" began publication (Aug. 6)
 - Dedication of new St. Francis Catholic church at Truxtun and Eye Streets (Oct. 18)
- 1909
- Southern Pacific-Red Rock Canyon railroad line completed
 - First air flight in county--in balloon
 - First parachute jump--Professor Ted Richards
 - Buena Vista Hills oil field discovered
 - Cymric oil field discovered northwest of McKittrick
 - Standard School established in what would later be Oildale
 - Town of "Inyokern" founded. First called "Siding 12," later "Magnolia" (post office May 27, 1910; city plat approved July 1914))
 - "Martendale" community established east of Shafter. Disbanded 1910
 - Orange trees planted at Edison
 - McKeen gasoline-powered railroad motor car operation in county began--on the Sunset Railroad from Bakersfield to Maricopa (March 9)
 - Town of "Brown" established. (post office Mar. 30) Formerly called "Siding 18" and "Front"
 - Over 200 motor cars in county (May 6)
 - Caliente destroyed by fire (June 15)
 - Tehachapi incorporated (July)
 - Town plat for Woody approved (Aug. 3)

©Kern County Museum

- Santa Fe freight train wreck at Mojave kills 5 (Aug. 25)
- \$400,000 bond issue approved for new courthouse (Sep.) Construction began Aug. 1910)
- President William H. Taft spoke at Southern Pacific depot (Oct. 10).
- "Taft" post office established (Apr. 22) Town destroyed by fire (Oct. 22). Named in honor of President William H. Taft. (Formerly known as "Moron")
- Well No. 2-6 blew over its derrick and makes the Midway Oil Field famous (Nov. 27)
- Severe wind storm swept the county's west side (Dec. 5)
- Consolidation of Bakersfield and Kern City (Dec. 21 election)
- Barney Oldfield, noted racecar driver, set on record on dirt track at Hudnut Park (Dec. 29)
- 1910 Census: 37,715
- West Side oil boom
- Lost Hills oil field discovered
- First natural gas pipeline completed--beginning of commercial gas industry
- Mojave-Owenyo railroad line completed
- Town of "Oildale" founded, formerly "Waits"
- First National Bank of Taft established
- First store built in Fellows
- Kern National Forest established by President Taft
- Devil's Den oil field discovered. Town plat for Devil's Den approved by board supervisors for Kern Investment Company (Jan. 3)
- Kern City and Bakersfield are consolidated (Jan. 6) The annexation added 1,120 acres to Bakersfield
- First Air Meet at Bakersfield and first male pilot in county--Charles K. Hamilton--at Hudnut Park in Curtiss biplane (Jan. 30)
- St. Clair Hospital opened (Feb. 19) (renamed Mercy Hospital in 1913)
- Taft "Midway Driller" began publication (Feb. 26)
- Lakeview Gusher began--largest in nation (Mar. 15)
- Taft received electric power (Apr.), water supply (July) and domestic gas (Sep.)
- Taft incorporated (Oct.)
- San Joaquin Hospital opened at 2628 Eye Street (Oct. 6)
- Town of "Lost Hills" founded. Plat approved by board of supervisors (Nov. 5) (Post office est. Dec. 21, 1911)
- Cornerstone laid for new courthouse at Chester Avenue and Truxtun(Dec. 10)
- Town of "Muroc" founded. Named for Corum family but spelled backwards. Post office (Dec. 17)
- 1910-14 200 blocks paved in Bakersfield
- 1911 Belridge oil fields discovered
- Town of McKittrick incorporated
- Town of "Shafter" founded, named for General William Shafter. (post office July 3, 1914)

©Kern County Museum

- Delano High School began
Rural electric power service became available
Kern County Medical Society organized
First airplane built in county--a "Santos Dumont" by Henry McGregor.
 Wrecked (Mar. and Apr.)
South Belridge oil field discovered (Apr.)
Air show at Bakersfield (Apr. 15-16)
Serious fire in Maricopa (June 20)
First auto road race (around China Grade Loop) , Bakersfield (July 4)
Kern County Free Library founded and housed in courthouse basement
 (July 11) First branch opened at Maricopa (Jan. 1, 1912)
Maricopa incorporated (July 11), formerly "Monarch"
Lakeview No. 1 Gusher stopped (Sep. 9)
Wasco "News" began publication (Nov. 25)
Fire destroyed business block in Fellows (Dec.)
- 1912
First National Bank of Maricopa established
"West Side News" began publication at Taft (Feb. 1)
Lerdo Colony founded nine miles north of Bakersfield
Samuel Dickinson subdivided ten acres to found "Oildale"
Elk Hills Naval Reserve oil field established--nearly 70,000 acres
Stockdale bamboo grove recognized at largest in U.S.
"Crumville" founded in Indian Wells Valley
First school for Chinese children established in Bakersfield
Washington's Day Road Race held (Feb.)
Opening of new courthouse (Feb. 22)
Petroleum Club organized at Taft (Mar. 4)
County's third air meet held at Arvin (Feb. 17-18)
First airplane passenger in county--Edith Emmons (May 4) at Edison
North Belridge oil field discovered (June)
Kern Front oil field discovered by Standard Oil (July)
- 1913
Bakersfield Junior College established--first class 20 KCUHS students
Gas pipeline built from Midway oil field to Los Angeles
Los Angeles aqueduct completed in eastern Kern
Borax deposit first discovered in county--near Kramer by Dr. John Suckow
Caliente flood
Town of "Boron" founded, named for local borax deposits
Bonds issued for \$2.5 million to improve county roads
1872 bridge across Kern at Bakersfield torn down--new concrete bridge
 opened (Jan.)
Fatty Arbuckle movie "Opportunity" filmed in Kern oil fields and was later
 shown in Taft's C. & C. Theatre (Mar. 31-Apr. 1)
Barney Oldfield set speed record at local race (Apr. 28)
Old courthouse purchased by city of Bakersfield for use as city hall (June 9)
Destructive fire hit McKittrick business district (June 21)
Mojave "Press" began publication (Aug.)

- 1914 K. T. & O. oil well fire near Taft (Oct.)
First automobile wrecking yard in Bakersfield--that of Jack Hayden
Kern County jail at Truxtun and Q Street dedicated
First store opened in Shafter
McFarland "Messenger" is first printed
Mining of salt at Saltdale began in large quantities--by Consolidated Salt Company at Koehn Lake. ("Saltdale" post office opens in 1916)
The Fellows "Courier" appeared in print (Jan.)
Kern River flood (Jan. 25-27)
Silas Christopherson first to pilot a plane across the Tehachapis to Los Angeles (Feb. 16)
International cross-country air race, San Francisco to Bakersfield, won by Silas Christopherson when he landed at the Kern County race track (Apr. 20-21)
The "Colored Citizen" was printed (Apr. 18-Oct. 3)
Tom Cummins planted 40 acres of rice in Weed Patch area (July)
Cornerstone laid for new A.M.E. Church (July 4)
"Heart of California" filmed in Bakersfield area and was shown at the opera house (July 11-12)
Kern County Farm Bureau organized (Oct. 10)
- 1914-18 Tungsten mining boom in Rand district
- 1915 Auto jitneys began service in Bakersfield
Auto stage line began runs between Bakersfield and Los Angeles, operated by Boyd, Radke and Ingalls
Town of "Arvin" laid out, named for Arvin Richardson, early storekeeper (post office July 2, 1914)
Taft High School began
Poso Creek oil field discovered
Mojave fire
First store opened at Weedpatch
Construction of new county jail at Truxtun and Q Street
Baker Street library constructed (at Baker and Oregon Streets)
Kern County exhibit by Board of Trade at Panama Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco. Kern County "day" held (Mar. 12)
Bakersfield adopted city charter (May)
City of Delano incorporated (Apr. 15)
Wasco Union High School established (Sep. 16) (first class graduated 1917)
Unpaved Ridge Route highway opened (Oct.)
- 1916 First 4-H Club organized in county. One of first in state
Auto stage line began runs between Taft and Los Angeles, operated by Kitchen and Getchell
Bakersfield-San Francisco stage line, operated by Western Auto Stage Company, began
Maricopa High School began
2,250 automobiles in county
Severe wind storm hit West Side (Jan. 17)

- Kern River flood (Jan. 17-19)
State G.A.R. encampment held at Bakersfield (May 9-12)
Oildale post office established (June 15)
- 1917 Shafter Bank established
Wasco Bank established
Book "Polly of the Midway-Sunset" published; set in area (Apr.)
Patriotic march in support of World War I (Apr. 13)
Red Cross chapter established (Apr. 23)
First major draft registration--7,150 in one day (June 5)
First local draftees left for duty (Sep. 9)
First annual Kern County Agricultural Fair held (Oct. 24-28) (fair was discontinued in early 1930s)
First woman pilot to fly over Kern County, Katherine Stinson, on non-stop flight from San Diego to San Francisco (Dec. 11)
- 1917-18 3,676 Kern County men served in military during WWI--36 killed in action
Peak number of school districts in county--108
- 1918 Stony Brook Retreat Sanitarium constructed at Keene
First city lot sold in Arvin. City plat approved by board of supervisors (Apr. 2)
Liberty Memorial burial plot established in Union Cemetery for WWI soldiers
U.S.D.A. established 80-acre experimental farm at Shafter--focus on cotton
Estimated 20,000 people celebrated on Bakersfield streets with the news that the Armistice was signed to end World War I (Nov. 11)
First cotton baled on commercial scale (Dec.)
- 1919 (Future president) Herbert Hoover purchased 1,260-acre farm between Wasco and Shafter--becomes showpiece of California agriculture
Kern County elected first woman to the state assembly--Grace Storey Dorris
DiGiorgio Farms acquired 69,000 acres near Arvin and Delano
"Tehachapi News" began publication (June 13)
Local saloons had their biggest night (June 30)--hard liquor went off sale (July 1) Many continued with business on 2.75 beer
Elk Hills oil well Hay No. 7 catches fire--world's most productive gas well (Jul. 26)
Hochheimer store building destroyed by fire (Aug. 22)
American Legion Post organized--named for Frank S. Reynolds, who lost life in the war (Sep. 10). By year's end posts were established at Fellows, Taft, Delano and McKittrick
First formal Armistice Day celebration (Nov. 11) Civil War and Spanish-American War veterans take part in parade
- 1920 Census: 54,843 residents
Highway paved from Bakersfield to Grapevine--total of 302 miles of paved roads in county--12,697 automobiles registered in county
Town of "Tupman" founded, named for H. I. Tupman. (post office Sep. 1, 1921) (town plat approved Aug. 27, 1923)
First National Bank of Shafter built
Constitutional amendment established national prohibition as of (Jan. 17) This

©Kern County Museum

- closed bars and saloons and encouraged illegal bootlegging
Taft's Blaisdell Opera House destroyed by fire (Jan. 21)
Bakersfield Musical Association organized (Sep.)
Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce organized (Dec. 31) as Bakersfield
Civil Commercial Association (new name adopted Feb. 10, 1933)
- 1921 U.S. Department of Agriculture established experimental farm near Shafter
Kern County Dental Society organized
George Blackwell located gas station at "Blackwell's Corner"
Shafter "Press" began publication (July 1)
West Side oil workers strike (Sep. 12-Nov. 1)
Town of "Ford City" begun near Taft, named for Model T Ford automobile
(Nov. 21)
Fierce windstorm (Dec.)
- 1922 Town of "Weed Patch" founded
Taft Junior College established
Dante Alligharri Club began
KKK organized at Taft, Klan #3
Severe winter storm (Jan. 29-30)
Daily passenger service by Bakersfield-Los Angeles Air Service (Mar.)
Kern County Chamber of Commerce established (Sep.)
Wheeler Ridge oil field discovered (Nov.)
- 1923 First Vineland Community Carnival
Kern County Fish and Game Protective Association organized
Wheeler Ridge oil field discovered
Pumicite mine operated near Cantil by Cudahy Packing Company (until 1947)
Stockdale Country Club opening (Feb. 18)
"Wheeler Ridge" founded, named for surveyor, George M. Wheeler. Plat
approved by board of supervisors for Midway Gas Company (May-June).
Post office established (Aug. 23)
- 1924 Kern County Woolgrowers Association formed
Fifteenth District Agricultural Association organized
First steel oil derrick appeared in Kern County
Town plat for "Ford City" approved by board of supervisors (Apr. 3)
Southern Pacific freight building burned, a \$92,000 loss (June)
Fire in "Chinatown" (July 22)
- 1925 Community of "Lamont" founded (town plat approved by board Jul. 16, 1923)
First carload of cottonseed oil made in Bakersfield--by San Joaquin Cotton
Oil Company
New post office dedicated at 18th and G Streets (June)
Kern County purchased 200 acres for airport northwest of Bakersfield--It
would become Meadows Field (Jul.)
New Kern General Hospital opening (Sep. 27)
First Kern County Fair held in Bakersfield (Oct. 6-10)
Kern No. 1 oil well caught fire (Nov. 2)
- 1926 Great Buena Vista Lake mouse plague on the West Side

©Kern County Museum

- Kern Canyon Highway completed to Bakersfield
- Kern Sports Club formed
- Native Daughters of the Golden West, El Tejon Parlor #239, organized
- Hotel El Tejon constructed at cost of \$450,000
- Borate found near Boron by Pacific Coast Borax Company
- McFarland High School established (first class graduated June 1931)
- Mount Poso oil field brought in (May 25)
- Cornerstone laid for new St. Joseph's Catholic church (Sep.)
- Post office established at "Frazier Park" (Sep. 14)
- First airmail flight through area. Stopover at Bakersfield en route from Los Angeles to Seattle greeted by crowd of 10,000 (Sep. 15)
- Bakersfield Community Theatre organized (Oct.)
- Dedication held for new county airport. Admiral Byrd's polar flight airplane was exhibited to the crowd. (Nov. 5)
- Bakersfield "Californian" moved into new building at 17th and Eye Streets (Nov. 26)
- 1927 San Joaquin Cottongrowers Association formed at Delano (Feb.) (moved to Bakersfield 1932--later Calcot)
- First Arvin Wildflower Festival
- First county-owned airport in U.S. opened--Meadows Field, Bakersfield
- Production of borax began at Boron
- Henry Eggers, local merchant, bought the first air conditioning unit (cooler type) for his clothing store from the Pioneer Mercantile Company
- Bandstand in Jastro Park dedicated (Apr.)
- Haberfelde Building completed at 17th and Chester Avenue (Aug.)
- Buttonwillow gas field discovered (Sep.)
- Round Mountain oil field discovered (Oct. 11)
- 1927-28 Padre Hotel constructed at 18th and H Streets at cost of \$800,000
- 1928 Kern County Chamber of Commerce building erected in Bakersfield at 3801 Chester Avenue. (opened Sep. 13, 1929)
- Red Rock Canyon sunrise service first held
- Fruitvale oil field discovered (Feb. 8)
- Last edition of the Bakersfield "Echo" published (Mar. 21)
- "Oilfields Dispatch" began publication at Taft (June 1)
- Automatic traffic signals debut on Chester Avenue (Aug.)
- J. C. Penney store destroyed by fire (Oct. 28)
- 1929 Shafter High School began
- Future Farmers of America, Chapter #64, formed at Bakersfield
- First "talkie" shown in Bakersfield at the Fox Hippodrome Theatre. Film was "The Ghost Talks" (Sunday, Apr. 28)
- Kern River Park [now Hart] formally opened (May 5)
- 1930 Census: 82,570 residents; 32,392 automobiles registered in county
- Mount Poso oil field discovered
- Bakersfield Motor Inn built on Union Avenue (later Bakersfield Inn)--largest motel in the world

©Kern County Museum

- Kern County Union High School operated largest high school transportation system in nation
- Derby Acres development began near Taft
- Charles Lindbergh made glider flight near Lebec (Feb.)
- Oil well depth record set with Standard Oil's Mascot No. 1 well (Mar.)
- Fox Theatre opened in Bakersfield(Dec. 25)
- 1931 Bakersfield Symphony Orchestra founded
- Radio station KERN, Bakersfield, began broadcasts (Jan.)
- Kern County Historical Society organized (Apr.)
- Amelia Earhart stops at Kern County Airport in her autogyro on a flight from Oakland to Los Angeles (June 7)
- Serious fire in business district of Fellows (July 20)
- First television in Kern County demonstrated by Weill's Department Store (Sep.)
- 1932 Tule Elk Preserve established near Tupman on 954 acres
- Tehachapi California Institution for Women dedicated (became prison for men after 1952)
- Bakersfield's first television station, W6XAH, made its first successful broadcast (Jan. 6). The first such station west of the Mississippi River. Operated by the Pioneer Mercantile Company
- Snow fell in Bakersfield (Feb.)
- Post office established at "Hobo Hot Springs" (Feb. 4)
- Dirigible *U.S.S. Akron* circled over Bakersfield on trip over county (May 18)
- Santa Fe train washed off track in flash flood at junction of Caliente and Tehachapi Creeks (Sep. 30)
- 1933 Radio station KPMC, Bakersfield, began broadcasts
- President Roosevelt's declaration of a nation-wide "bank holiday" closed local banks for several days
- Randsburg Railway discontinued
- First producing oil well drilled in Mountain View field (May 13)
- East Bakersfield "East Side News" appears (Aug. 31-Dec. 1935)
- Muroc Dry Lake selected by Army Air Corps as bombing and gunnery range (Sep.)
- Traffic circle on Chester Avenue opened (Sep.)
- Cotton strike by workers in San Joaquin Valley (late Sep.) Confrontation on Frick ranch near Arvin results in shooting of striker by grower (Oct. 10)
- Smithsonian Institution excavation of Tulamni village site at Buena Vista Lake (Dec. 20-Feb. 15, 1934)
- 1934 Trico gas field discovered (mostly in Tulare County)
- Dedication of Alfred Harrell Highway (Apr. 21)
- Buena Vista Lake gas field discovered (June)
- Frontier Days Association organized in Bakersfield. Celebration first held (Oct. 6-7)
- 1934-42 Gold mining boom in Rosamond and Mojave areas
- 1935 Kern County Rangers organized

©Kern County Museum

- Kern County Mineral Society organized
Bakersfield Junior College moves into separate building across from KCUHS
Semitropic gas field discovered (Mar.)
"Shafter Press" began publication (May 2)
Re-dedication of Kern River Park (May 19)
47 miles of paved roads in Bakersfield (by June 30)
Arvin Federal Migratory Camp (better known as Sunset Labor Camp) is opened near Arvin (Dec. 12)
- 1935-40 Height of the Dust Bowl migration
- 1936 Hughes drug store fire (May 26)
Ten Section oil field discovered--first discovered by reflection seismograph in state (June)
Greeley oil field discovered (Dec.)
- 1936-40 WPA spends \$8 million on projects in county (district office closes July 11, 1942)
- 1937 Kern County Bar Association organized
Kern County Industrial Farm (Apache Road Camp) established
Kern County Health Department established
Merle Haggard born in Oildale
Kern County Sheriff's Aero Squadron founded
First state registered landmark dedication in Kern County--Gordon's Ferry on the Kern River (Jan. 17)
Oliver H. Peed, aged 94 and the last Civil War veteran in the county, passed away at his Bakersfield home (Jan. 21)
Kern River flooded Fruitvale and Fairhaven areas (Feb.)
Second migratory camp, Shafter Federal Migratory Camp, built two miles north of Shafter (July)
Hayward Lumber Company destroyed by fire (Aug. 23)
Rio Bravo oil field discovered by Union Oil Co. (Nov. 4)
Canal oil field discovered (Nov. 21)
- 1937-38 Dorothea Lange photographed Dust Bowl migrants in local camps
- 1938 Kern County Agricultural Building dedicated
East Bakersfield High School began
William Henry ('Burro') Schmidt's half-mile tunnel completed in Last Chance Canyon of the El Paso Range
Deepest oil well in world completed near Wasco (15,004 feet)
Camp Condor established on Mt. Abel
City of Shafter incorporated (Jan. 11)
Canfield Ranch oil field discovered (Jan. 19)
Kernville "News" began publication (Feb. 11)
Oildale's first newspaper appears--"North River News" (Apr.-Sep. 1939)
Wasco oil field discovered (Apr. 13)
First U. S. Airmail flight from Isabella to Bakersfield (May 19)
Coles Levee oil fields discovered (Nov. 11)
Construction began on replica of Sutter's Fort at Taft (Nov. 18) (Dedicated

- May 22, 1940, it housed county, state and federal offices)
- 1939 Fort Tejon established as a state historic monument
First sanctioned motor boat racing began in county at Buena Vista Lake
Oak Street overpass constructed (Jan.-Sep.)
Arvin "Tiller" began publication (Feb. 3)
Arvin oil field discovered (Apr. 11)
Father Garces statue dedicated (May 7)
Strand oil field discovered (June 11)
Controversy over John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath" led to the county supervisors' decision to ban it from Kern County libraries and schools (Aug. 21)
Chamber of Commerce shows 3-reel film "The Plums of Plenty" in rebuttal (Aug.)
Paloma oil field discovered in Buena Vista Lake bottom (Aug. 31)
- 1940 Census: 135,124 residents
Crown City development established
First meeting of Kern County Seed Potato Association
5-acre site of Fort Tejon deeded to the state by Tejon Ranch Co. (Jan. 24)
Eleanor Roosevelt visited Kern County's federal migratory labor camps (Apr. 2)
Kern County Defense Council organized (June 17) (county board of supervisors acknowledged it July 14, 1941) (reorganized Sep. 1944)
Leo Hart leased site and established Arvin Federal Emergency School for migrant children (May). Opened (Sep.) (Closed 1944)
Kern County flag adopted by supervisors (June 10) and first flown over the courthouse (July 25)
22,538 Kern County men registered with Selective Service by (Oct. 19)
- 1941 Muroc Dry Lake area selected as air combat training center
Kern Valley High School began
Wilton Florafaunium constructed at Lebec (opened Mar. 15, 1942)
WPA funds used on Sam Lynn ballpark improvements (Jan.)
26th Street Park renamed for Alphonse Weill (Jan.)
Mary Holman appointed first Bakersfield Police Department policewoman
Gardner Field activated. Ground broken near Taft (Mar. 22) Construction began (Apr. 3) Named for Major John H. Gardner (July 23) Completed (Sep. 29) The Air Corps installation was dedicated (Oct. 27)
New baseball team, the Bakersfield "Badgers," of the California Baseball League calls Sam Lynn ballpark home (Apr.)
Lerdo Air Corps Base under construction by (May) Activated (June 2)
Renamed in honor of Lt. Hugh Minter (Jan. 1942) (dedicated Feb. 7, 1942)
Crumville community renamed "Ridgecrest." Post office (June 27)
Dial telephone system first put into operation (July 12)
Shafter oil field discovered (Oct.)
Kern County loses four servicemen as World War II starts. The first is Lt. William G. Sylvester of the Coast Artillery stationed near Pearl Harbor

©Kern County Museum

- (Dec. 7)
Taft's U.S.O. dedicated (Dec. 28)
- 1941-45 462 Kern County servicemen lost their lives in World War II. 14,000 serve
- 1942 Randsburg Desert Museum established
First U.S. jet squadron stationed at Bakersfield's Kern County Airport
Mojave Marine Corps Auxiliary Station established for pilot training
(Deactivated 1958)
Snow fell in Bakersfield area (Jan. 1) (first since 1932)
Japanese residents rounded up by the federal government for relocation.
Detainees held at DiGiorgio farms at Arvin and Delano (Feb.-Mar.)
End of street car service in Bakersfield (Feb. 28)
Bakersfield U.S.O. dedicated (Apr. 13). (A separate U.S.O., for blacks, is
dedicated (Feb 1943)
County's first WAAC recruit is accepted--Mrs. Dorothy Beardsley Johnson
(July)
Edwards "Muroc Mirage" began publication (July 3)
7,000 county residents trained in Civilian Defense by (Sep.)
Part of the Hollywood Victory Caravan appeared at the Fox Theater for war
bond rally (Sep. 21)
First U.S. jet flight--XP-59A at Muroc Dry Lake by Robert M. Stanley
(Oct. 2)
- 1942-43 Dimout rules curtail city lights usage in a wartime precaution
- 1942-46 Large-scale growing of guayule on Arvin and Lamont-area farms for use as
rubber substitute during World War II
- 1943 First aircraft factory in county built at Bakersfield--the Lockheed-Vega
Corporation produced parts for military aircraft
Civil Air Patrol organized in area
Blackwell's Corner oil field discovered
Earl Warren takes office as governor (Jan. 4)
Naval Ordnance Test Station established at China Lake (Nov. 8)
U. S. Navy annexes Inyokern Airport (Dec.)
- 1944 County Recreation and Cultural Commission formed
U.S. Congress approved construction of Isabella Dam
Gosford oil field discovered
Bakersfield Art Association organized (May)
Inyokern Airport commissioned as the Navy's new Harvey Field (June)
Named for Lt. Cmdr. Warren W. Harvey. (Deactivated April 1946)
Inyokern "N.O.T.S. News" began publication (June)
KCBR station began broadcasts (Nov.) from Voice of America transmitter
two miles west of Delano. (later became the U.S. Information Agency's
Delano Relay Station VOA)
- 1944-45 Vegetable dehydration plant operated in Bakersfield (acquired by War Food
Administration for war production in 1945)
- 1945 Kern County Museum established at 3801 Chester Avenue
Burroughs High School began at Ridgecrest

©Kern County Museum

- Wasco incorporated
- Armitage Air Field completed at N.O.T.S., northeast of Inyokern. Named after Lt. John M. Armitage
- German POWs interned at Shafter camp by (Feb.) Some 1,500 were at the Lamont POW camp and worked on area farms (Aug.)
- Bakersfield High School name change adopted (Mar. 12)
- Minter Field's basic pilot training center closed after 11,265 cadets graduated (Apr. 14)
- N.O.T.S. "Rocketeer" began publication (May 10)
- Air raid sirens sound and church bells ring as news of the end of World War II arrived--spontaneous V-J Day celebration began (Aug. 14)
- South Chester Drive-In Theatre opened--first in Bakersfield (Aug. 15) (closed 1982)
- Japanese POWs, some 1,000, arrive at Lamont POW camp (Sep.-Oct.)
- Japanese internees return (Oct.)
- 1946 Delano's Wine and Harvest Festival began
- Ridgecrest "Herald" began publication
- KERN radio station began broadcasts
- The Bakersfield "Indians" baseball team launched as farm club for the Cleveland Indians (Switched to Brooklyn Dodgers in 1953--no team in 1954)
- Belgian Anticline oil field discovered
- Muroc Army Air Field established (Oct. 14) (now Edwards Air Force Base)
- Minter Air Field deactivated (Dec. 21) (Acquired by county in 1947)
- 1947 Kern Philharmonic Society presented first concert (Jan. 20)
- Garces High School began
- First Lamont Fall Festival
- Deschewanden's shoe repair "shoe" built at 10th and Chester
- The Bell X-1 is the first aircraft to break the sound barrier. It is flown by Captain Charles Yeager at Muroc AFB (Oct. 14)
- Hobo Hot Springs post office renamed "Miracle Hot Springs" (Nov. 1)
- 1948 "Wofford Heights" community founded, named for I. L. Wofford
- P.G. & E. plant completed west of Bakersfield
- First annual Shafter Potato and Cotton Festival
- Radio station, KTKR, Taft, began broadcasts
- Kern County Cowbelles organized
- "China Lake" post office established (Jan. 16)
- Michelson Research Laboratory dedicated at N.O.T.S. (May 9)
- Groundbreaking for Isabella Dam held by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (May 29)
- Harvey Auditorium at Bakersfield High School opened (Oct.)
- 1948-53 Structures removed from Kernville and Isabella to make way for new lake
- 1949 Kern County Medical Association organized
- Reconstruction of Fort Tejon begun
- "Bakersfield Inn" sign installed over Highway 99 on Union Avenue (June)

©Kern County Museum

- Fossil excavation at McKittrick tar pit by Los Angeles County Museum
(Aug.-Oct.)
Arvin High School opened (Sep.)
Lamont "Reporter" began publication (Nov. 17)
- 1950
Census: 228,309 residents
Wasco's radio station, KWSO, began broadcasts
Construction of "Pioneer Village" began at Kern County Museum
First N.O.T.S. Armed Forces Day
Muroc A.F.B. renamed Edwards A.F.B. after Capt. Glen W. Edwards
(Jan. 27) Base newspaper established as "No Name News" and renamed
"Desert Wings" (Mar.)
Record high temperature recorded--115 (July 1)
Private Clifford Donald Townsend of Bakersfield killed in action in Korea--
first soldier from county to die in the war (July 24)
- 1951
Kern River flood hit Bakersfield (Nov.)
Friant-Kern Canal completed (groundbreaking Nov. 5, 1939)
Radio station, KCHJ, Delano, began broadcasting
New Kernville community founded
Desert High School began
"Super Inch" natural gas pipeline completed through county
First Desert Empire Fair, Ridgecrest
New motel--Rancho Bakersfield opened
Boron "Enterprise" began publication (June 21)
KBIS-AM began broadcasts (Nov.) (went off the air 1976)
Lockheed Aircraft Corporation plant opened at S and 14th Streets.(Nov. 6)
(Closed 1957)
- 1952
Houchin Blood Bank started in Bakersfield, first in county
Town of "Kernvale" founded just south of the community of Lake Isabella
Water Resources Committee of Kern County organized
KYI-AM, operated by the Bakersfield "Californian," began
North High School groundbreaking (Mar. 23)
Tehachapi earthquake--7.6 tremor hit at 4:52am--14 killed (July 21)
Bakersfield earthquake--5.8 tremor hit at 3:42pm--2 killed (Aug. 22)
- 1953
Chinese Ying Ming Hall dedicated in Bakersfield
Isabella Dam completed (Mar.)
First woman to exceed the speed of sound, Jacqueline Cochrane--at Edwards
AFB in F-86 (May 18)
Buttonwillow "Reporter" began publication (June 11)
Deepest oil well in the world completed in Paloma oil field by Ohio Oil
Company 17 miles southwest of Bakersfield (20,521 feet) (Aug. 20)
Bakersfield College football team won annual Junior Rose Bowl game
Television station KAFY (later KBAK), channel 29, began broadcasts (Aug.)
North High School opened in Oildale (Sep.)
Television station KERO, channel 10, began broadcasts (Sep. 26)
Cousin Herb Henson's "Trading Post Show" first aired that night.

- Deepest producing well in world drilled by Richfield Oil Company in North Coles Levee field near Tupman--17,895 feet (Dec.)
- 1954 Uranium boom
Radio station KGEE, Bakersfield, formerly KERO, began broadcasts
200 acres purchased from Tejon Ranch for Fort Tejon
First Sports Car Race held in county--at Minter Field (Mar. 21)
First carload of uranium ore from California is shipped out of the Miracle mine in the Kern River Canyon (July 31)
New National Guard armory dedicated (Sep. 29)
- 1955 Radio station KMAP, Bakersfield, began broadcasts
Uranium mill near Mojave began operation
First Kern County Board of Trade Awards Dinner
Water Association of Kern County organized
Kern County Safety Council organized
Radio station KQXR-FM, Bakersfield, began broadcasts
First annual Kern County Sheriff's Mounted Posse championship rodeo (May 7-8)
Ridgecrest "Indian Wells Valley Independent" began publication (June 16)
Bakersfield city hall dedicated at Chester Avenue and Truxtun (July 9)
- 1956 National Track and Field Championship (AAU), Bakersfield
Radio station KRCK, Ridgecrest, began broadcasts
Fresno State Education Resident Center built in Bakersfield
First Wasco Spring Festival
First Delano Fiesta del Muchachito
Contract let for new \$2.5 million county hospital
Bakersfield "Bears" semi-pro baseball team organized (played as late as 1966)
U-2 Assembly Plant "Unit 80" at Oildale open and building U-2 (Jan.)
KMAD began broadcasts (Feb.)
Cunningham Memorial Art Gallery opened (Mar. 23)
First classes held at Bakersfield College's new 153-acre-site (Apr. 2)
The College's carillon installed the same month
Groundbreaking for Kern County Airport (July 30)
New York Giants' player Frank Gifford, former football star for BHS and BC, awarded professional football's Jim Thorpe Trophy (Dec.)
- 1957 Kern County Central Library dedicated at Truxtun and L Streets
South High School began
Pacific Airlines started service in county
Kern County Cotton Wives organized
First Whiskey Flat Days celebration, Kernville
North Tejon oil field discovered (March)
Name of Kern River Park changed to Hart Memorial Park in honor of John O. Hart, a county supervisor (July)
McFarland incorporated (July 9)
Contract let for new county library (Aug. 20)
"Kern Valley News" paper established at Kernville (Aug. 29) (became the

- "Sun" in Nov. 1959)
The "News" began publication at Bakersfield (Sep. 19)
Dedication of U.S. Borax and Chemical Corporation open pit borax mine and refinery at Boron (Nov. 13)
- 1958 Kern County Business Outlook Conference began
Kern County Air Terminal building dedicated at Meadows Field
Burton Tropic Mine Museum established
National Track and Field Championship (AAU) held at Bakersfield
Radio station KIKK, Bakersfield, went on the air
Walter W. Stiern (1915-1988) elected state senator (Retired Dec. 1, 1986)
"California City" established by California City Development Company
Radio station KLYD, Bakersfield, began broadcasts (Feb.)
Cornerstone laid for the Kern County Civic Center at Truxtun and P (June 20-21)
- 1959 Veterans' Memorial Monument dedicated at Union Cemetery (Nov. 11)
U.S. Fuel & Gas Championships, Famoso, began
Television station, KGET, channel 17, began broadcasts from Bakersfield
Bakersfield College football team won 14th annual Junior Rose Bowl game
"California Crossroads," monthly magazine, published in Bakersfield
Dedication of Lake Woollomes near Delano. Named for W.R. Woollomes
Boron High School began
Driest year on record--1.87"
Kern Administration and Courts Building dedicated at Chester Avenue and Truxtun (June 20-21)
- 1960 Lake Ming dedicated (Oct. 25)..Named for Floyd Ming, county supervisor
Census: 291,984 residents
Radio station KUZZ (formerly KIKK) began broadcasts
National Track and Field Championships held at Bakersfield
National Defense and Resource Conference, Bakersfield
National Outboard Power Boat Races held at Lake Ming
San Francisco to Chicago "Chief" wreck at Allen Road crossing northwest of Bakersfield--14 killed (Mar. 1)
6.6 miles of new Highway 99 (8-lane) opened from Grapevine to Fort Tejon (June 28)
Lawrence Tibbett, noted opera star, died (July 15)
Arvin incorporated (Dec.)
- 1961 First centennial preview celebration
Construction of Dell Webb's Kern City project began. Opened (Oct. 7-8)
Radio station KDOL, Mojave, began broadcasts
Groundbreaking for new Beale memorial clock tower at Kern County Museum (May 21)
Continental Carbon's \$4 million carbon black plant began operation (Aug. 8)
10,600-acre-Kern National Wildlife Refuge dedicated near Delano (Oct.)
Kern County Water Agency formed (Oct. 3)
Nation's first Aerospace Research Pilot School established at Edwards AFB.

©Kern County Museum

- 1962 First class, of five, graduates (Dec. 15)
Desert Palm Shirt Corporation opened factory at Taft (March)
X-15 sets altitude record of 314,750 feet (more than 59 miles) at Edwards AFB with Major Robert M. White piloting (July 17)
Foothill High School opened (Sep.)
\$5.5 million Bakersfield Civic Auditorium dedicated (Nov. 11)
Maturango Museum dedicated at China Lake (Dec. 1)
Asphalto oil field discovery well completed 30 miles southwest of Bakersfield (Dec. 14)
- 1963 Radio station KIFM established FM multiplex stereo in area
Edwards AFB selected as one of three recovery centers for manned space flight program
Population center of California located west of Shafter
Groundbreaking of Feather River Project in county. Preliminary construction began with drilling of water wells near mouth of Grapevine Canyon
Army First Lt. Clayton A. Fannin of Bakersfield is first of 118 Kern County servicemen to die in Southeast Asia (Jan. 10)
County Centennial Preview Days held (Apr. 6-7)
City of Ridgecrest incorporated (Nov.)
- 1964 Italian Heritage Association began
First annual Tehachapi Fruit Festival
First annual Wofford Heights Fall Festival
U.S. 99 Freeway, by-passing Bakersfield, dedicated
KGEE-FM began broadcast
Cornerstone laid for Federal Building at 800 Truxtun
President Lyndon Johnson became first president to visit Edwards AFB (June 19)
Dedication of restored Beale memorial clock tower at Kern County Museum (Dec. 13)
- 1965 National Power Boat Association 1/4-mile drag races at Lake Ming
Cable television arrived in Bakersfield (company office opened 1966)
New U.S. Federal Building dedicated at 800 Truxtun Avenue
Largest producing oil well in state--Standard Oil's 7Z, No. 558 near McKittrick
Kern County Historical Society began marking local historic sites in the city of Bakersfield
U.S.-Canadian Davis Cup tennis matches held in Bakersfield
National Auto drag races at Famoso
Dedication of Valley Plaza shopping mall
Taft native, Staff Sgt. Larry Pierce, killed in action in Vietnam (Sep. 20) First county resident to earn Medal of Honor--his was the second awarded in the Vietnam conflict
Strike started by workers' refusal to work in Delano vineyards (Sep. 8), grew and attracted national attention
Cornerstone ceremony held for West High School (Sep. 18)

- 1966 County centennial observances held throughout area
Southern Pacific freight train wreck at Tehachapi
Kern County Central Library renamed Beale Memorial Branch Library
Lake Woollomes Recreation Area dedicated near Delano. Named for county supervisor W. R. Woollomes
United Farm Workers formed at Delano. March of members to the state capital
Frazier Park "Mountain Enterprise" began publication (Sep. 22)
Severe rainstorm over Kern River basin (Dec. 2-7) Kernville flooded
- 1967 First link in new Interstate 5 dedicated
Completion of California Institution for Men at Tehachapi
Completion of Texas Instruments, Inc., facility at Ridgecrest
Holiday Haven Airport began operations at Tehachapi
Evetts Livestock Auction Complex completed near Arvin
New Standard Oil absorption plant completed near McKittrick
Tenneco, Inc., acquired the Kern County Land Company
New world record for the mile set by Jim Ryun at the AAU championships at Bakersfield College's Griffith Stadium
Naval Ordnance Test Station name changed to Naval Weapons Center (Jul. 1)
Bob Elias [Sports] Hall of Fame opened in Bakersfield Civic Auditorium (Dec. 14)
- 1968 Golden Empire Chapter, American Rose Society, organized
Kern County Museum Alliance organized
California State College, Bakersfield, established by state legislature
First California Aqueduct water from Feather River Project reached county
Stockdale Industrial Complex established
Golden West Airline and Skymark Airways began operation in Kern
First "Twenty Mule Team Days" celebration held at Boron
Air pollution district established in county (Mar. 12)
First annual Kern County Museum Heritage Day (Apr. 21)
- 1969 Silver City Ghost Town started at Bodfish
City of Bakersfield centennial celebration
State bicentennial celebrated
Red Rock Canyon established as a state park
Ground broken for California State College, Bakersfield (Apr. 11)
William A. Howell residence (built 1891 at 17th and H Streets) moved to Kern County Museum (Jul. 28)
First Festival of Roses in Wasco (Sep.)
- 1970 Census: 330,234
Wasco Rose Society organized
Rose designated official county flower by board of supervisors
Highland High School, Bakersfield, opened
Centennial Park dedicated on Montclair Street
Bear Valley Springs development started in Tehachapi

- Italian Heritage Dante Association formed by merger of Dante Social Club and the Italian Heritage Association (Feb.)
Lebec Hotel razed by county fire department (Apr. 27)
California State College opened for classes on 370-acre campus donated by Tenneco, Inc. (Sep.)
Construction began on Stallion Springs development near Tehachapi (Nov.)
- 1971
Passenger railroad service through county and San Joaquin Valley--the last Southern Pacific Daylight ran (Apr. 30)
San Joaquin Community Hospital construction started (2615 Eye Street)
Christian Towers, 12-story senior citizens' apartment building completed
Pine Mountain Development began operations in Mill Potrero area
A. D. Edmonston Pumping Plant, part of state water project, dedicated (Oct. 7) Governor Ronald Reagan featured speaker
- 1972
Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area groundbreaking (Jan. 30)
Ground broken for 210-acre antenna-microwave test facility eight miles southwest of Arvin by North American Rockwell Corporation (Apr. 14)
First flight of F-15 at Edwards AFB (July 27)
Merle Haggard, named country music's top male vocalist of 1970, won best album award (Oct. 16)
Ground broken for the 10-story Bank of America office tower on Truxtun Avenue (Nov. 8)
- 1973
Rio Bravo Tennis Ranch construction began east of Bakersfield
Ground broken for Stockdale Village Shopping Center
Anheuser-Busch began construction of yeast plant
Ground broken for Delano's airport industrial park
Cerro Coso Community College opened at Ridgecrest
Construction began on new San Joaquin Community Hospital. Dedication (Mar.)
West Kern Oil Museum established at Taft
- 1974
Amtrak passenger train service began through county
Mission Wines Corporation plant near McFarland began operation
New county administration building dedicated at Ridgecrest
Cross-Valley Canal groundbreaking
New 14-mile freeway section in Kern Canyon opened
Discovery well for Yowlumne oil field drilled 25 miles southwest of Bakersfield
Large snowfall of 1.5" (Mar. 8)
Buena Vista Aquatic Recreation Area opened (Nov. 4)
- 1975
Kern River Valley Museum dedicated at Kernville
New county flag adopted by board of supervisors (first flown in 1977)
Historic Rankin Ranch in Walker Basin featured in bicentennial film
Greenhouse Foliage Plant established by Tejon Ranch Company
County became leading rose-growing area of the world
Classes began at the Weill Institute (Jan. 13) Dedication held (Apr. 2)
Pancho (Florence) Barnes, racing pilot and local legend, found dead in her

©Kern County Museum

- 1976

 - Boron home (Mar. 30)
 - Miracle Hot Springs burned (Dec. 23)
 - County-wide celebration of the nation's bicentennial
 - Rio Bravo Resort complex construction began
 - \$10 million wing of Mercy Hospital completed
 - Wasco Historical Society founded
 - Arvin-Edison gets first Cross-Valley Canal water (Jan. 2)
 - NASA flight research facility at Edwards AFB named after Dr. Hugh L. Dryden (Mar. 26)
 - Kern County Liberty Bell dedicated (July 4) One of 100 in the U.S.
 - International Park dedicated at Sumner and Baker Streets (Sep. 1)
 - Lori Brock Junior Museum dedicated at 3805 Chester Avenue (Oct. 6)
- 1977

 - New Haberfelde Ford Company complex began at 21st and Oak Streets
 - KVLI, Kern River Valley's first radio station goes on the air
 - Red Rock Canyon State Recreation Area increased in size fifty per cent
 - KSGY began broadcasts (Aug.)
 - First free flight of the space shuttle *Enterprise* at Edwards AFB (Aug. 12)
 - Bryan Allen of Bakersfield pedaled the *Gossamer Condor* in history--making seven minute man-powered flight at Shafter Airport (Aug. 23)
 - 13,400 acres along Highway 178 to Kern Canyon annexed by the City of Bakersfield (Sep.)
- 1978

 - Severe wind and dust storm struck the southern valley (Dec. 20-21)
 - Ann Gutcher became first woman general chairman, Kern County Business Outlook Conference
 - Audrey Nelson of Ridgecrest elected first woman president of the Kern County Board of Trade
 - Wettest year on record, [since 1889] for period ending June 30, Bakersfield received 11.73"
 - East Kern Historical Museum opened at California City (Oct.)
 - "A Country Western Christmas" television holiday special filmed at Kern County Museum. Aired (Dec. 6)
- 1979

 - Elk Hills ranked as the state's top producing oil field
 - World's largest pistachio processing plant located in county--operated by Tenneco West, Bakersfield
 - Shell Oil Company purchased Belridge Oil Company (approx. 35,000 acres) for \$3.65 billion
 - KQEZ-FM changed to KMGN-FM (Sep.)
- 1980

 - Census: 403,089 residents
 - \$12 million Kern County Justice Center opened
 - KLYD became KNTB (Jan.)
 - KWAC began broadcasts (Oct.)
 - Mary K. Shell elected first woman mayor of Bakersfield (Nov.)
- 1981

 - Kern County's 12th oil refinery built by Independent Valley Energy
 - World's largest cotton gin, Kern Delta-Weedpatch Cotton Gin, Inc., began operation--facility capacity nearly 1,000 bales per day

©Kern County Museum

- Maiden flight of space shuttle *Columbia* ends with landing at Edwards AFB after 54-hour flight (Apr. 14)
- 1982 Ground broken for 12-story Stockdale Corporate Tower
 1500-acre Kern River Preserve dedicated near Weldon
 Last Spanish-American War veteran in county, John Housley, died at the age of 103 (Jan. 20)
 Minor league baseball returned with the "Mariners" (Apr.)
 "Wasco Tribune" began publication (Aug. 4)
- 1983 Oildale "Northside News" began publication (Sep. 1)
 Caliente "Fence Post Country Reader" began publication
 Caliente Creek floods Lamont--\$40 million in damage (Mar.)
 City council creates Bakersfield Historical Preservation Commission
 KUFW began broadcasts (May 1)
 California Living Museum opened near Lake Ming (May 15)
 Bakersfield's "Mariners" become the "Dodgers" (Sep. 16)
 East Bakersfield Avenue Park renamed in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. (Nov.)
- 1984 KWSO in Wasco changed to KERI-AM (Mar.)
 KLLY-FM began broadcasts (Nov.)
 X-29 flies for first time at Edwards AFB (Dec. 14)
- 1985 KKRK, Kernville, began broadcasts (Nov.)
- 1986 Community Christian High School, Oildale, began classes (Sep. 3)
 Cornerstone laid for Maturango Museum, Ridgecrest (Oct. 4)
 First nonstop flight around the world without refueling ended with landing of the experimental airplane *Voyager* at Edwards AFB after a 25,000 mile journey in nine days. Pilot Richard Rutan, copilot Jeane Yeager (Dec. 23)
- 1987 Kern County Public Services Building at 2700 M Street
 New Beale Memorial Library completed at Truxtun and Q. Opened (Apr. 1988)
 Malcolm Brock Company's two Bakersfield department stores sold to Fresno-based Gottschalks (Nov.)
- 1988 KKBB-FM began broadcasts
 First successful flight of space shuttle since the *Challenger* disaster of Jan. 28, 1986--the *Discovery* landed at Edwards AFB as 400,000 watched (Oct. 3)
- 1989 Grand opening of East Hills Mall
 San Emigdio Ranch (114,000 acres) sold to Dale Poe Development Corporation by Tenneco West
 Snow falls in Bakersfield (Feb. 4)
 Groundbreaking for the new county administrative building (Sep. 27)
 KRAB-FM began broadcasts (Nov.)
- 1990 Census: 543,477 residents (Apr. 1)
 KCWR replaced KUZZ-AM (July)
 KCHT-FM began broadcasts (Nov.)
 Last recorded snowfall in Bakersfield (trace) (Dec. 21)
 All-time record low temperature set in Bakersfield at 19 degrees (Dec. 23-24)

©Kern County Museum

- 1991 Stockdale High School opened (Aug.)
- 1992 Groundbreaking held for Centennial High School (Feb. 21)
- 1993 5.0 earthquake recorded 20 miles southwest of Bakersfield (May 28)
Union labor leader Cesar Chavez died (Apr. 23) Elementary school in
Bakersfield and park in Delano renamed in his honor.
Classes started at the new Centennial High School (Aug. 30)
Yowlumne oil field became 16th Kern County field to go over 100 million
barrels in production (by Nov.)
- 1994 Walter Stiern Library on California State University, Bakersfield campus
opened (Jan. 3)