

# Oroville Daily Mercury

## Aug 25, 1922

### LETTERS TO TELL STORY OF LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

Chester Nisbet, secretary of the Oroville Chamber of Commerce, has prepared a synopsis of Oroville which will be printed on every letter sent out by the Chamber. It is planned to interest the business houses of Oroville so that the same message will be carried on all their correspondence.

Following is what the world will be told through the mails from Oroville:

Location—Butte County, California.  
Upper Sacramento Valley.

Population—6,000.

Plants and payrolls—

	Yearly	Men
Swayne Lumber Co .....	\$500,000	400
Western Pacific .....	333,000	166
Sac. Nor. Ry .....	51,400	17
Hutchinson Lumber Co..	500,000	400
Coast Rock & Gravel...	50,000	40
Ehmann Olive Co. ....	30,000	120
Mt. Ida Packing Co. ....	30,000	120
Butte Co. Citrus Ass'n ...	15,000	25
Sunnycal Packing Corp..	50,000	250
Natomas Consolidated ..	70,000	45
Oroville Steam Laundry	26,000	25
Pac. Gas & Electric .....	90,000	*90

\*Estimated.

Railroads—Western Pacific, Southern Pacific, Sacramento Northern.

Highways—Paved in all directions—more building.

Irrigation—

	Acres
Thermalito District .....	3,900
Table Mountain District .....	3,100
Oroville-Wyandotte District ....	25,000
Honcut-Yuba District .....	40,000

Products—All kinds—citrus, deciduous fruits, nuts, berries, grapes.

Manufacture—Lumber, boxes, olive oil, pickled olives, canned peaches, spinach, pork and beans, canned fruit and vegetables, ice, cement pipe.

Land—still cheap and plentiful — \$75 to \$150 per acre, unimproved.

General—Earliest oranges in the state. Two largest olive processing plants in the world. On the banks of the Feather river. Excellent swimming. Recreation. Entrance to famous Feather river canyon. Two hours by auto to the high Sierras. Fishing and hunting.

Information— Write the Chamber of Commerce.

# Oroville Mercury

11-29-1922

## CHANGE NOTED IN DEMAND FOR RIPE OLIVES

"A great change is marked in the attitude of the public toward the California ripe olive," remarked E. W. Ehmann, vice-president of the Ehmann Olive Company yesterday. "Prospects are exceedingly bright for quick sales of the present pack," he declared, "large orders are being received and the demand from eastern markets is especially heavy, indicating that the continuous advertising of California ripe olives is meeting with success and that people are beginning to realize that ripe processed olives from California are a food as well as a luxury."

The Ehmann Olive Company this year installed new equipment in order to handle a larger pack and by going into the groves and buying will make a large pack.

Plans this year call for the packing of 30,000 additional gallons of ripe olives over that of former years.

The Ehmann Olive Company is one of the largest olive processing plants in the world as well as one of the oldest. The president of the institution, Mrs. Freda Ehmann, is the originator of ripe olive processing as now used and is known lovingly as the "mother of the ripe olive industry." Her original pack was with crude instruments in the basement of her home at Oakland. From this small beginning the first plant, a small structure, fronting the Southern Pacific railroad in this city, became the first factory home of the Ehmann Olive Company and this modest home has now grown until it covers an entire city block, most of which is a two story structure.

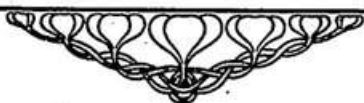
The Ehmann Olive Company is a close corporation, consisting of Mrs. Freida Ehmann, President; E. W. Ehmann, her son, Vice-President; Mrs. E. H. Bolles, her daughter, treasurer; Mrs. E. W. Ehmann, secretary and Walter Bolles, director.

Oroville Mercury


Nov 29, 1922



# Ehmann Olive Co.

Oroville, Cal.





  
**Ehmann**  
**Ripe**  
**Olives**

  
**Ehmann**  
**Olive**  
**Oil**  


   
Have you tried  
Mother Ehmann's  
**Baked**  
**Pork and Beans**

**?**

If not you have a  
treat coming  
**Ask Your Grocer**  
 

# C. W. Bolles of Oakland, Dead

Charles W. Bolles, who was connected with the Oroville olive industry when it was first started here, died at his home in Oakland at midnight last night.

Bolles was a native of Carson City, Nev., but spent most of his life in Oakland, Calif. In 1899 he came to Oroville and entered the olive processing business and was here for ten years. Then he took up his residence in Oakland.

He was taken sick last Wednesday and after a few days passed away.

He has two children in Oroville, Walter E. Bolles of the Ehmann Olive Co., and Mrs. Charles Land. There are three grand children, Barbara and Bobbie Bolles and Sally Land, all of Oroville. Two sisters also survive, Mrs. Clarence Wkyoff of Redwood City and Miss Carrie Bolles.

Funeral arrangements are being made by the Albert Brown Co., of Oakland. Burial will be in Oakland.

# DEATH TAKES MRS. EHMANN IN PIEDMONT

## Known As Mother Of California Ripe Olive Industry

Mrs. Freda Ehmann, 93, "mother of California's ripe olive industry," died early Saturday at her home in Piedmont. Death was attributed to infirmities of old age. Mrs. Ehmann had been in poor health since last September.

### Funeral Next Monday

Funeral services for Mrs. Ehmann will be held at 2:30 p. m. Monday in the First Congregational church in Oakland. The Rev. W. J. Johnson, pastor of the First Congregational church in Oroville, of which she was a member, will conduct the rites. Interment will be in Oakland.

Mrs. Ehmann has received wide prominence for her work in perfecting the process of canning ripe olives and was one of the most widely known California women.

### Planted Olive Grove

Mrs. Ehmann's son planted an olive orchard of 20 acres in 1890. At this time the pickling of ripe olives was done only for family consumption and no one saw the commercial possibilities.

In 1987 Mrs. Ehmann first took up the pickling of ripe olives as a study to endeavor to place an olive on the market that would combine flavor and keeping qualities.

Her first pickling plant was underneath the porch of the residence of a son-in-law in east Oakland. There was no water piped to the barrels and she had to carry all the water in buckets. She was up at all hours of the night watching the olives, and it was with a sinking heart, she often related, that she viewed the result.

### Olives Pronounced Good

The olives were of various colors and she felt so ashamed of the result that she sent her daughter to the University of California with a sample to seek advice. To Mrs. Ehmann's surprise the professor pronounced the olive "the best he had ever tasted."

Although handicapped by lack of capital Mrs. Ehmann decided after more experiments to go east and try to market the product. She experienced great difficulty because large buyers in the past had had rather unfortunate results in buying olives, but she came home with contracts for more than 10,000 gallons, only about 1,000 gallons of which could be supplied from her own ranch. She began to contract for more olives.

### Factory Built Here

A factory was built in Oroville. Many people still scoffed at the idea that the industry would be a success, but in two years Mrs. Ehmann's olive factory had been outgrown.

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Nov 12, 1932

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## Ehmann Obit

That was the beginning of Oroville's ripe olive industry. Today Oroville markets olives and oil throughout the world.

In after years the Ehmanns purchased large olive holdings and the Ehmann olive company was formed.

### Her Early Struggles

Mrs. Ehmann's early struggles and her success are commemorated in a booklet by Elbert Hubbard, the writer, published in 1911.

Mrs. Ehmann was born in Kassel, Germany. Her maiden name was Miss Freda Loeber. She came to America as a young woman and lived for a while in Chicago and then moved to St. Louis. In St. Louis she married Dr. Ernest Cornelius Ehmann, a German physician. Dr. Ehmann died in 1892, in Quincy, Ill., where the couple had gone to live.

Mrs. Ehmann then disposed of her property and came to California at the request of her son, E. W. Ehmann. The Ehmann place, from which the first successfully pickled ripe olives were taken, was at Olive Hill, southeast of Honcut.

### Retired in 1920

Mrs. Ehmann retired from active work in the Ehmann Olive company, of which she was president, in 1920. For the last few years she had made her home in Piedmont.

Death came at the home of Mrs. Ehmann's daughter, Mrs. Emma H. Bolles of Piedmont.

Mrs. Ehmann is survived by her daughter, Mrs. Bolles; a son, Edwin W. Ehmann of Piedmont, former mayor of Oroville; Walter Bolles of Oroville, Helen Bolles Land of Oroville, Marian Ehmann Trayner of Piedmont and George Ehmann of Piedmont, all grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, Virginia Traynor of Piedmont and Sally Land of Oroville.

Aug 20, 1949

# EDWIN EHMANN FUNERAL SET

Services Tomorrow for Piedmont  
Sportsman, Music Lover

Funeral services for Edwin W. Ehmann, wealthy Piedmont sportsman and former president of the Oakland Symphony Orchestra, will be held at 2 p. m. tomorrow in the Tower Chapel of the Mountain View Cemetery, Oakland.

Mr. Ehmann died Saturday in Piedmont at the age of 84.

He was the son of the late Mrs. Freda Ehmann, known as the "mother" of California's ripe olive industry. Before his retirement, he was active in the olive industry in Oroville.

During the 1930's, Mr. Ehmann was well known in the East Bay as a hunting and fishing enthusiast. In 1932 he served as ornithologist in charge of banding birds on the Lake Merritt reserve.

He first served as president of the Oakland Symphony in 1935.

Mr. Ehmann is survived by his wife, Charlotte L.; a son, George C.; a daughter, Mrs. Marian P. Trayner, and four grandchildren. He was a native of Illinois.