



F R E S N O  
P A S T & P R E S E N T

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# *Old Armenian Town*



*The Armenian Congregational Church at Merced and M streets originally was the First Presbyterian Church. This photograph was taken in about 1915. (FCCHS Archives)*

## *Fresno's Greater Armenia*

by Elish Shekoyan

Prior to 1910 many Armenian families lived west of the Southern Pacific tracks on California, F and G streets. The Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church was located on the southwest corner of F and Monterey streets, but it was destroyed by fire in 1910.

Soon after 1910 the Armenian families began to move east of the Southern Pacific tracks, locating on H, I, J and K streets between Mono and Los Angeles streets. By 1920 these families began living between Kern and Los Angeles streets, bounded by H to P streets. The families who had

been living in this area before the Armenians moved north of Fresno street and in the area east of the Santa Fe tracks.

Most of the Armenian children played on the streets or in the vacant lots. Around 1920 California Field Playground was built and another playground was established on Courthouse Park. We used both playgrounds.

William Saroyan, the famous writer, was born in the house at 627 Eye Street (now Broadway). In the early days Highway 99 used to run through Eye Street.

Over the years, as a second generation of Armenians grew up and married, they moved to the northern part of Fresno and to the Hazelwood District.

The New Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church was completed around 1914. It still stands today as a wonderful historic landmark.

Valley Bakery, the home of the famous Peda Bread, was established on the northeast corner of M and Santa Clara streets.

When work on the 41 Freeway was initiated, most of the Armenian families moved to northern and eastern parts of Fresno. Many are well-established professional and business people. Armenians have been a hard-working and trustworthy people and contributed much toward making Fresno the wonderful city it is. We take great pride in our city and the achievements of our ancestors.

Elish Shekoyan is responsible for the wonderful map of old Armenian town reproduced in this issue. When asked how he came to tackle such a project, the 84-year-old Shekoyan replied that a friend had shown him a map of the area he had made. When he pointed out a great many blank spots, Mr. Shekoyan set out to fill them in. The result is the remarkable map reproduced here for the first time.

*Interview with*

***Mrs. Askanoosh (Sweet Nation) Erganian***

May 3, 1993 by William B. Secrest

When she first arrived in Fresno, Mrs. Erganian must have been startled at the rows of neat cottages that lined the tree-shaded streets of old Armenian Town (also called Little Armenia) just west of the Santa Fe tracks. It was quite different from the Turkish villages, where ancient stone cottages and apartments nestled together in the Middle Eastern sun. Although there were a good many Armenians in Fresno, there were also many Slovaks, Greeks and Germans in the same area, making the name "Armenian Town" something of a misnomer. Even the Armenians came from all over Europe.

Mrs. Askanoosh Erganian and her husband, Yervant (Edward), from Bitlas, Armenia, had arrived in New York on October 25, 1920 and spent several days at the immigration center then being operated out of Madison Square Garden. After obtaining some money from relatives in Fresno, they spent a week on the train before arriving in the great San Joaquin Valley on November 1. On the advice of Askanoosh and his brother Joe, Yervant went to work with a partner who operated a small neighborhood grocery store across from the old Emerson School.

For the next few years Yervant and Askanoosh worked hard in the store, learning the grocery business and the ways of their adopted country. Yervant talked with Askanoosh about having their own store one day, and she kept after him to save money and go to school to learn the language and be prepared for the future.

By 1926 the young couple was ready to expand. They bought a larger store at 660 O Street, just west of the Santa Fe railroad tracks. There were several other houses on the property and they lived in one and rented out the others. It didn't take much to stock a grocery store in those days. Bread, tuna fish, crackers, milk and produce were kept on hand, along with various imported items from their homeland. Among the ten markets that would come and

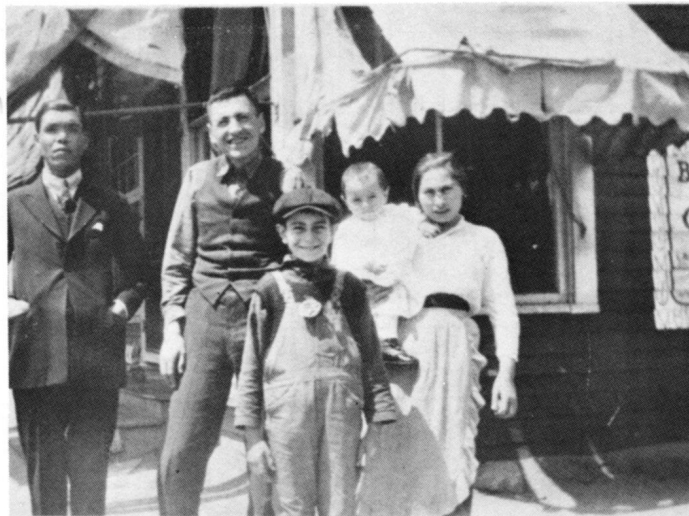
go in the area over the years, the Erganians' O.K. Market was the one that stayed and prospered until removed by redevelopment.



*Askanoosh Erganian in 1920 passport photo. (Photograph courtesy of Erganian family)*

Although they took it for granted at the time, operating a small market in the 1920s and '30s meant hard work and long hours. The store opened at 6:00 A.M. and closed at 11:00 P.M. After that Yervant and Askanoosh re-stocked shelves, washed bottles, made deliveries and bottled their own Armenian black and green olives. With no home refrigerators, people often came to the store at night for milk for their children. Gallons of home-made shortening had to be made up from ground beef fat. And several times a week Yervant had to go to the produce depot and bring back stock for the next few days. Often he would carry several large containers of kerosene on his back for delivery to customers several miles away. Usually it was three in the morning before they could go to bed.

In 1933 the O.K. Market obtained the first liquor license in Fresno. Now they could buy wine by the barrel, washing and filling bottles and applying labels until early morning. They made various products also: cheese and strong, jerky-like snacks made from specially cured, garlic-flavored beef, items called *Basturma* and *Soujouk*. Walnuts, strung together and dipped in a special grape juice mix, made a sweet treat called *Roeljig*.



*Ervant Erzanian, center, stands beside his wife, Askanoosh, who is holding baby Aram. (Photograph courtesy of Erganian family)*

Among the imported products were Turkish tobacco and figs, pistachios from Iran and five-gallon tins of chic peas, a garbanzo-type bean that was eaten like peanuts. They also obtained much dried fruit from New York importers, until World War II when California began producing its own.

As their trade grew and prospered, the market was expanded three times over the years, taking up the space of the adjacent family rental property.

The Erganians' first child had died at the age of three, but in time the family did grow, the children helping out in the store also. All acquired good educations while being taught their Armenian values, history and traditions at the church and Saturday school.

During World War II Armenian Town began changing drastically. As children grew up and moved away, the old families dwindled and houses changed hands. After 1950

minor crimes in the area led to a few more families moving from the old neighborhood. For some, the old family ties and relationships had weakened and blurred. Fresno Armenians were moving and scattering throughout the town. There were still those who felt safe and secure and comfortable within the confines of old Armenian Town, but the forces of change and growth were gathering to change the old neighborhood forever.

The convention center was to be erected and much of the old area was taken up by the new facility and two square blocks of parking. Highway 41 was also slated to slash through the neighborhood, finishing off the gutting started by the convention center. In 1983 the old O.K. Market was demolished along with the greater portion of old houses in the area. Valley Bakery, the Armenian Holy Cross Church and a smattering of homes south of Ventura are all that remain today.

The Erganians moved on, also. Good investments and much hard work had evolved into property management and development that have made Askanoosh's golden years safe and secure. Yervant passed away in 1958 and son Aram in 1989. The surviving children, Richard, Miche and daughter Aznive, carry on the heritage and traditions of this pioneer Fresno family. Richard Erganian still lives in the old Erganian home that was built in the 1930s by his father. The original address was 644 O Street, next door to the store. When redevelopment forced clearance of the area in 1983, Richard moved the home to 100 West Shaw, where he presently uses it as his home and office.

With the help of Aram's only son, Edward, the Erganian family looks ahead to the new century with the same courage that brought their ancestors to this country so long ago.



*Aram Erganian and his six-year-old son, Edward, pose in front of old O.K. Market on O Street. Friend Al Guidi is with them. (Photograph courtesy of Erganian family)*

# Memories of Fresno's *Little Armenia*

by Von Rustigan

The area surrounded by Broadway, Fulton Street, Van Ness, L Street, N, O and San Benito streets was heavily populated by the Armenians in the years between 1900 and World War II. In the latter part of that period many drifted to Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities, especially during the great depression. Still, there are roughly 30,000 Armenians in the Fresno area and some one-half million in the state, so we are doing all right.

I remember so many wonderful names—friends, neighbors and merchants of Little Armenia. But let me start with my father.

Jacob Rustigian came to Fresno in 1886 and was the third Armenian to settle in Fresno. His life work was farming, but in 1920 he put up a building at the corner of Fulton and Mono streets—the first stage depot in Fresno. Later it was changed to the Greyhound stage depot. There were also a restaurant, barber shop and grocery store in the building. The barber's name was Bob Kazanjian. The grocer's name was Andrew Kazarian. Wilshire Paints now occupies the building, which hopefully someday will be put on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

I was born at 627 Fulton Street. And who do you think was born in back of us, at 627 Broadway? None other than the famous author, William Saroyan. What a personality

he was. Feted by kings and queens, he was not only a great author, but with his loud and clear voice he could hold you spellbound. What a man he was. I shall never forget him.

I can tell a story about Bill Saroyan. When he was in Paris and traveling around the world, my late good friend Ralph "Buck" Makasian and I would pick up Bill's mail for him every few days and leave it at his home.

One day I asked Buck to look at all the paintings and books Bill had stockpiled in his house. "What is he going to do with all this?" I asked Buck. But he didn't know either.

There was a huge easel in a corner with about 50 sheets of different pictures of flowers, vases and buildings, all on parchment paper and done in watercolors.

When Bill got back from Paris I told him I admired the watercolors and asked what he was going to do with them. "I don't know," he replied, "but I will tell you this. When I am gone these paintings will all be priceless!" That, my friends, was a typical Bill Saroyan remark. He was truly a gifted man.

On Fulton Street there were people like the Nishikians, who had a music store in town. The Ed Karadians lived next door to us. Ed was a farmer. Other neighbors were the Shahenians, whose son, Lee, became a great eye and ear surgeon. The Dalitians lived nearby, also. The Alchians lived on Broadway—Orsen Alchian and his sister. Their father, Arsen, would walk by our house every day on his way to work at Gottschalks. He was a striking, stately-looking man, wearing a jaunty derby, waxed mustache and always a neat and well-pressed suit.

The Setrakian family lived on the 400 block of Fulton Street. Abkar Setrakian was a farmer who owned extensive vineyards with his brother, Sox. Their main plant was called



*Armenians picking wine grapes, c. 1900, on M. Theo Kearney's ranch. (FCCHS Archives)*

Mid-state Horticulture. Charley Kershaw was their foreman for years.

The Terzian family also lived on Fulton Street. I knew brothers Lee and Dee. Their father owned the City Pool Hall on Van Ness across from the courthouse.

On the 600 block of Van Ness stood the two-story Elia house. I used to play basketball and marbles with Joe and John Elia. I'm delighted to know that the house is still there, in good condition and occupied by their sister, Anne. Joe, John and their parents have all passed on.

I must mention Eddie Paregian, who owns Electric Lab. He is a nice person and good friend who has done well. The Paregians were one of the first families to emigrate to Fresno in the early days. Eddie and Harry Bazoian are also old-timers.

On the other side of Ventura were the Kaspers, Krikorians, Orphans, and Barkev and Hussig Shishmanian. We called Hussig "Pedro," although I can't tell you why.

I remember the Krikor Ohanian family. That was actor Mike Connors' family. Mike played "Mannix" on TV. His father, Krikor, was always dressed to a "T" when he walked by our house on the way to his office.

One day I went to him for a notary public stamp for approval to play sports at Fresno High School. When I asked him how much, he said 50 cents. I didn't have it so he said maybe I could come over and mow his lawn and he would call it even. I had the best intentions in the world when I agreed to do it.

Later in life I ran into Mike Connors and told him about that incident. Mike said, "Well, did you mow the lawn?" I had to tell him, "No, I didn't, Mike." To this day I regret not mowing that lawn—especially since it was only a half block away.

Mr. Avazian and his two children, Aram and Marie, lived on M Street right next to the Holy Trinity Armenian Church.

The Darbazanjians lived on L Street. The father owned and operated the Casino Pool Hall on Broadway, while his son George had Darby's lunch counter on Ventura and L streets. My sister operated Magaritas Flower Cottage in the building formerly used as Sooren Saghatelian's bakery.

The Dalitian family lived by the valley between L and M streets, next to the church. Lee Cherbishian's family lived on the corner.

Carl Emerzian and his family lived in the 600 block of M Street, between Mono and Ventura. Mr. Emerzian was a farmer and at one time was working 1,000 acres, mostly in vines. Then there was the Moomjian family, the Avakians, and across the street were the Merzoians. Next door was the Chatel Bash family and next to them was an open air plunge operated by a man named Malloian, as I remember.

At Mono and M streets was the New England Market operated by brothers, George, John, Bart and Charlie. Across the street was the Hearts Grocery Store, run by a man named Zaven, I think.

The old Arax Market at L and Santa Clara streets is still there. Across the street was Saroyan's grocery store, operated by a cousin of Bill Saroyan.

At M and Santa Clara streets was the Valley Bakery. It is still operated by Janet Saghatelian of the pioneer Saghate-

lians. A wonderful family. I still have fond memories of that wonderful, warm bread.

I guess some of us kids were about twelve years old when Gazair Saghatelian and his brother would wheel out the racks loaded with bread for cooling in the open air. When they would go inside we would run across the street and take a couple loaves of bread. When he would see what was happening, Mr. Saghatelian would run out and start yelling at us while shaking his fist. Then he would stand back and laugh like hell. I remember him as a generous, loving man and the Saghatelians were certainly pillars of our community.

On Ventura, between M and N streets, was the famous Chituni Market operated by Mihran Chituni and his family. I was good friends with the sons, Karnig and Kirken.

Over on O Street, at Mono, was the O.K. Grocery Store run by Ed Erganian and his family. A great store. I enjoyed knowing Mitch, Aram and Richard. Aram has passed on now. I used to go over to the store and Ed and I would discuss business and what was going to happen to our country. I can picture Ed now, rolling a cigarette at his big roll-top desk. But over all, Ed did all right for himself and family. He left twelve acres to the family on the corner of Blackstone and Shaw. It's called The Vineyard.

I got to know Ed Erganian when I operated my Texaco service station on the corner of Ventura and O streets between 1936 and 1941. Today that corner is the parking lot for the Convention Hall. Across the street from the service station was Dick's Farm Supply. His name was Dick Nahigian and he did a big business with the farmers.

The Gardenspot Grocery Store was also across the street from my station. It was run by Mr. Avakian. Next door was the home of the A.K. Yazijian family. Mr. Yazijian owned the New England Sheet Metal Company and did a steadily-growing business.

While I was operating the service station I had the pleasure of meeting the architect of the Holy Trinity Armenian Church. His name was Mr. Cone (Kondajian). In 1938 he looked me up and told me he had known my father and wanted to talk to me about him. He was very complimentary. He told me that when they began building the church in 1914 there was no money allocated to dig the basement. My father and the other Armenian farmers of the area brought in their horses and mules and their scrapers and dug that basement. And they did it all for free.

Melikian's Saddle Shop was on Broadway for years and the building is still there. Then there were the Sarkishians, Shekoyans, Kapigians, the Minasites (Archie, Koorken and Zaven—cousins to Bill Saroyan). Also Vartanian's Armenian steam bath house on F Street. That building is still there, also, registered as a historic site.

George Shekoyan and the late Togo Emerzian were great swimmers and divers at the open air swimming pool in the 600 block of M Street. They were great athletes. Swimming with them was a young lady by the name of Mary Alexander, who was a very fine swimmer and high platform diver. In later years I saw her perform on the high dive at Fleishaker's in San Francisco, the largest swimming pool in the world at that time.

At Broadway and Kern George Kouyumjian had the Home Market. He was a wonderful person, and many of

the Armenian farmers and business men used to gather there.

Across from the Holy Trinity Church was the Asbarez publishing house where my good friend Ben Stephens was editor and printer. Next door was Karnig Chituni's Number 2 store and across the alley was Charlie Maroot's sign painting business.

Levon Kemalyan and family lived on M Street across from the Shekoyan home. Levon was in the lithograph business, and his wife was a great pianist, known throughout the state.

Dick's Service Station, operated by Dick Keosheyan, was on the corner of Kern and L streets. Dick was on that corner for fifty years and is well known and has many friends. His brother-in-law, Gregg Sakajian, worked with him until they sold out and retired. They are both wonderful people.

There are many names and places I have neglected to mention, but those faraway days in Little Armenia will stay with me always. Thanks to all you nice people for the memories.

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## Excerpts from "Armenians"

by Wilson D. Wallis

(*Fresno Morning Republican*, July 6, 1919)

The main cause of emigration has, of course, been the oppression of the Turk. The Armenians, as the staunchest of Christians, have, because of their adherence to Christianity under all persecution, brought upon themselves the hate of the Moslem ruler. They have been subject to sufferings innumerable and indescribable.

After Russia's success over Turkey in 1878 the European powers secured a promise from Turkey to respect the rights of the Armenians as a Christian nation. But the article of Berlin in which this was promised was never enforced. Knowing that this was the case, and that no European power would attempt to enforce justice to Armenia, Abdul Hammid only increased the sufferings of the Armenians.

In 1894 began the first of the Armenian massacres which continued through a three-year period. In the following year nearly three thousand immigrants came from Turkey in Asia, most of them undoubtedly Armenians.

There is a report of the Immigration and Housing Commission, made last year to the effect that the Armenians came to California from New York and other Eastern centers about thirty years ago because they were desirous of devoting their energies to agriculture. A few leaders investigated various places for opportunities and finally decided on Fresno.

A writer in the *Literary Digest* of January 9, 1919 declares the first Armenian settler in Fresno came as a result of representations made soon after the Crimean War by an Armenian who had been exporting American agricultural implements to Armenia. So far as we have been able to learn from the early settlers, the first Armenian known to visit Fresno was Normart, who came here in 1874, but returned to his home in the East. In 1880 or 1881 an Armenian by the name of Seropian came here for his health and went into the fruit business. He was the first of his race to settle here.

From the *Fresno Morning Republican*, Sept. 24, 1893: "Joseph and D. Arakelian were fined \$10 each yesterday by Justice Austin for battering Haig P. Mensalian. It was a war in Little Armenia."

The first arrivals in Fresno worked principally in the fruit-packing houses where they received a wage of from seventy-five cents to one dollar a day. Soon, however, they procured land and worked independently.

The Seropian brothers established the first fig packing house in Fresno, probably the first in this country, and their enterprise gave a great stimulus to the fig industry.

An 1894 census of Fresno County showed an Armenian population of 360. By 1918 the Armenian population in the Valley was estimated at 10,100 with some 4,000 in the Fresno area. Besides large Armenian farming operations, Fresno boasted the following number of Armenian-owned businesses: 4 druggists, 3 factories, 3 photographers, 3 watchmakers and jewelers, 5 clothing stores, 5 dentists, 6 doctors, 7 lawyers, 7 restaurants, 8 garages and harness shops, 8 fruit stores, 14 second hand stores, 14 barber shops, 16 grocery stores, 30 tailor and cleaning shops, 29 fruit vendors and 15 shoe manufacturers and stores.



*A Cornerstone of Old Armenian Town:*

# Valley Bakery

by William B. Secrest

Today Fresno's old Armenian Town is largely gone. Freeways, convention centers and attrition have carved gaping holes in the old Armenian neighborhoods of Fresno's early days. But there are a few treasured landmarks and memories that keep the atmosphere and traditions alive and well.

For many years the world-famed author William Saroyan was a vibrant memory of the old community where he was born of emigrant Armenian parents. He grew up to cherish and write about the Armenian town of his youth and early-day Fresno.

The Holy Trinity Armenian Church was perhaps the most important landmark of the old town and still stands impressively on the corner of M and Ventura streets. This was the spiritual hub of the community—a place to worship, meet your friends or just be comforted when life sometimes became difficult or sad.

Across the street, on the corner of M Street and Santa Clara Avenue, another landmark stands as it has for over seventy years. Valley Bakery was established in 1922 by Gazair Saghatelyan. From the beginning the bakery flourished, catering to the bread needs of the surrounding community.

"The bakery and church are the hub of Armenian life," commented Janet Saghatelyan, present owner of the bakery. "During the depression Hairik (Armenian for father) would pay his part-time help twenty-five cents, two loaves of bread and a meal a day. Actually, he would hire such help primarily because jobs and food were so hard to obtain during those very difficult times. We're located right by the church so we feel we're on blessed ground."

Janet went to work in the bakery when she was just a child, learning not only the baking business, but the time-honored Armenian traditions which surrounded her family, the bakery and the neighborhood. It was an area marked by well-kept family homes, shade trees and surrounded by gardens. Doors were never locked and neighbors gathered for lamb barbecues, fresh fruit, Armenian coffee and of course fresh Peda.

"It was an outdoor life," Janet continued. "We were all in connection with one another. There wasn't a backyard around here that didn't have a swing and a fruit and vegetable garden. Everybody sat on their front porch and watched the world go by as they visited."

Peda bread has been the staple of the bakery down through the years, but it has been Lahvosh that has put the bakery on the map. This thin, bubbly cracker-type bread harkens back to the Near and Middle East of biblical times. Gazair Saghatelyan was already a third-generation baker when he fled the violence and persecution of his native Armenia in

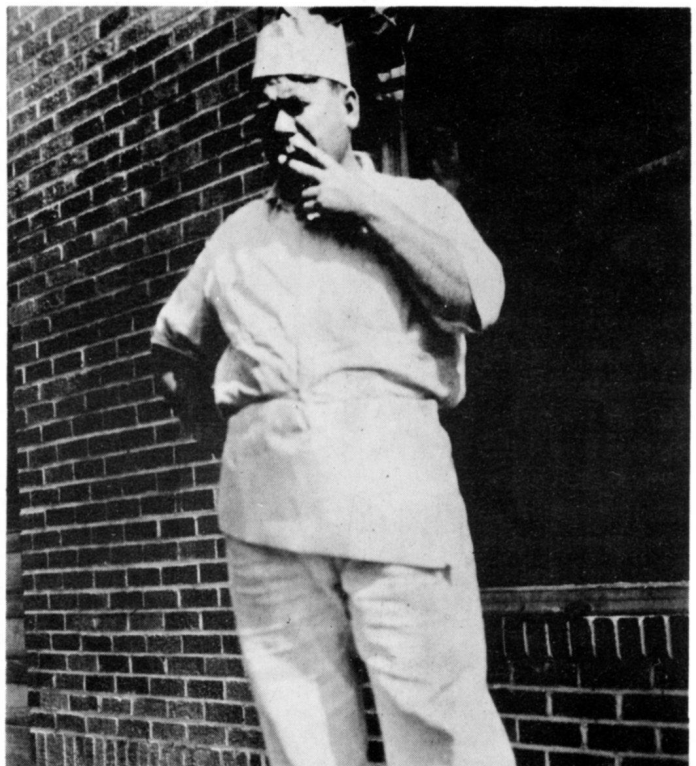
1900. He came to Fresno's Armenian Town in 1905 with his wife and child.

"Hairik bought this plot of land," continued Janet, "built his home here, and then built his bakery next to our home. The bakery has never been closed since the day he opened these doors more than seventy years ago." Gazair was the first to introduce Lahvosh commercially in this country in the 1930s, and the popularity of the delicious cracker bread grew steadily during the years the bakery was managed by Gazair's son, Sam. When Janet took over in 1982, she unleashed a flurry of new marketing ideas and innovative uses and styles of the popular product. She has greatly expanded the business and looks forward to even greater growth in the future as her new products and ideas are developed and marketed. Valley Bakery is not just an Armenian or Fresno success story—it's a continuing saga that America can be proud of.

And the story goes on. Janet's daughter, Agnes, is a 1993 graduate of California State University, Fresno with a degree in business administration and a minor in "Mom's tutoring." Just like her mother, Agnes has worked in the bakery for many years and is deeply committed to carrying on this proud family venture.

"Agnes bears my mother's name," says Janet, "and understands my lifelong work and dedication to this bakery and its products. She is well qualified to carry us all into the next century."

**We thank everyone who so willingly shared memories and photographs for this issue of *Past & Present*. No attempt has been made to verify all names, dates and other information. Thanks also to William B. Secrest for assembling the articles, photographs and the map by Elish Shekoyan.**



**Master baker Gazair Saghatelyan taking an Owl cigar break outside the bakery. (Photograph courtesy of Valley Bakery)**

**◀ The California Baking Company in 1930. (Photograph courtesy of Valley Bakery)**

# FRESNO'S Old Armenian

FURNITURE STORE
BROADWAY CYCLERY
BURBERIAN BROS

Home MARKET	DEFENSE FURNITURE	White Hotel (Hyp)	JANISON FURNITURE
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Gott's chalks DEPT. STORE	H. GRAFF GROCERIES
Kirkwood FURNITURE	CALIFORNIAN HOTEL
ALBIRAN APT.	COORABIAN BING.

RICHFIELD GARAGE	SHOOSHAN BLDG.	YEZDAN BLDG.	DRODGE BLDG.
REPUBLICAN PRINTER	ENSHIER.	GOORABIAN	

KEOSHYAN	DICK'S GARAGE	KEOSHYAN	JERMABIAN
LALLOIAN	ALEXANDER	ODAR	

EZEKIL TIRE SHOP	Rooming House	RICHTER	RICHTER BOTTLING CO.
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Melikian Sedley	TRADING FURNITURE	MARGO'S STORE	BLINDER BAKERY SHOP
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Blacks Package	T. BYNON	A. THOMAS	ASSOCIATED TOBACCO + CANDY CO.
DeSoto Auto AGENCY			

PIGRIAM ARM. Cong. Church	KING'S CLAYTON NARINIAN "	FRESNO TENT + AWNING.	FRESNO EVENING HERALD
GARAGE	FIRE HOUSE #2	PHELAN'S GARAGE	

VALLEY	PARIBIAN
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1800 Block

1900 Block

2000 Block MONO

2100 Block AVENUE

2200

ANDERSON GROCERY	MADEIRA PLANING MILL	SARCIAN
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I. SWEET	SWEETS FUNGE	THOMAS RADIATOR
SHAHINIAN	RUSTIGIAN	KEYES METAL

DODGE AUTO AGENCY	RODOVICH	KADOVICH GROCERIES
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NIGHOSIAN DEPT. MOTOR VEHICLES	MELIKIAN'S STORE	HOVANESIAN	DR. ADAMS
ELIA BENJAMIN SAHADYAN	DANIELS	V. KARAHADIAN	FROBERG APTS.

SWORDS	FREITAS	HOUSEANIAN	BARIKIAN	MELIKIAN	CHARUKALIAN
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WILLIAM BORN HERE

BROADWAY

FULTON

ACE SERVICE	PARSONAGE FIRST ARMENIAN	AZHDERIAN	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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DAVIDIAN	NISHKIAN	PARIBIAN	HAGOPION
KARAHADIAN	Hye Family	Geo. Harm	KEVERKIAN
HAGOPION	HAGOPION		

ODAR	SIMONIAN
DAVIDIAN	KARAHADIAN
NISHKIAN	Hye Family
PARIBIAN	Geo. Harm
HAGOPION	HAGOPION

ENERGIAN Prop. COMMERCIAL TRANSFER.	PEACOCK MARKET	ROMAN CHEVROLET
SHISHMANIAN	HAGOPION	KURKJIAN
SUREN'S BAKERY	ZARTARIAN	VARTANIAN
HYE BACHELOR'S		

DALITIAN	DALITIAN	R. PAUL	DALALIAN	SHOTIGIAN	JOHNSON
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SANTA CLARA AVENUE

AVENUE



# FRESNO'S

# Armenian Town

Present site of hotel and Convention Center

800 Block

REPUBLICAN PRINTERS MR. GIBBS
ENSHER GOORABIAN

KEOSHYAN DICK'S GARAGE KEOSHYAN JERMABIAN	"Bud" GERRHART CONGRESSMAN ODAR ODAR
LALLOIAN ALEXANDER ODAR	ODAR

APARTMENTS	
KENDIG Lewis PRINTERS	

THOMASIAN	

	OSCAR KEYORLIAN

100 Block

FRESNO EVENING HERALD
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2200 Block

VALLEY GLASS	
PARIBIAN	MOMIGONIAN
	Bob YORK
	TAFARIAN

2300 Block

	APTS.
RAY BAKER TAX COLLECTOR ELLIZIAN KORKMAZIAN ANTOYAN GROCERY STORE	

2400 Block

GOSTANIAN	
KORKMAZIAN KAZARIAN	MANCHESIAN STEPANIAN
	BASMAJIAN

2500 Block

BOGHOSIAN	
ZANOVICH KOVAKOVICH	

600 Block

MELIKIAN'S STORE HOVANESIAN DR. ADAMS FROBERG MELIKIAN FROBERG APTS.
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2000 Block

SWORDS FREITAS HOUSEMAN BARIGIAN MELIKIAN CHANKALIAN	CHORBATIAN MERZOIAN MALCIAN M. St. Pool H. Z. BAREZ
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2000 Block

ARMENIAN CHURCH	
FRENCH FAMILY EMERZIAN MOSESIAN MANDARICH MOOMJIAN PAULS Huming JACK CHETIAN	JIMJIMIAN HYE BARBER H. VARTANIAN

2000 Block

PAUMBO	
KALASHIAN KALASHIAN MNT.	MALJIAN DR. H. ADAMS M. ADAMS PETERSON ALLEMIAN KARAHADJIAN

2000 Block

OK GROCERY ERBANIAN EPLIKJIAN MOSESIAN KACHIGIAN PANOSIAN NAHIQIAN
--

500 Block

ADAMIAN PUSHIGIAN HARTMANIAN SUREN'S BAKERY TARTARIAN VARTANIAN HYE BACHELOR'S
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500 Block

DALITIAN R. PAUL	DALITIAN FRANCHIAN Holy TRINITY CHURCH PIVAZIAN ISKANDIRIAN GAGHABIAN ESKENDER ABRAHAM
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500 Block

K. OHANIAN BAGDASARIAN DIZADO GIAN GARA BEDIAN SAFAR SHABEZIAN SAGHATELIAN VALLEY BAKERY	PHITUNG MARKET MERZOIAN SARAYAN KASPARIAN
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500 Block

DR. ADAMS	KURKJIAN BERBERIAN APTS. HAGOBIAN
TAHMIZIAN'S CHURCH JERAHIAN SAROYAN BESSABIAN	SHAPAZIAN

500 Block

AVAKIAN GROCERY AVAKIAN
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	Avedis IAN	VARTANIAN GARAGE
HAGOPIAN	CDAR	
	Markarian	Watch Repairs
	SHEKOYAN TOTOION	
	Jacobs	
	Julvi Hancom	
		Paul's Grocery
	Paul	

	she-shan	AN
	JACOBS	AN
BARICIAN	JACOBS	
EMERZIAN	Dr. LeNG	A. MOSESIAN
	P. MOSESIAN	
KEVERKIAN	Aram Joseph	
SHEKOYAN	K. HAKELIAN	
PETIGIAN		

DASHJIAN	Dr. MELCHONIAN
HABKIAN	BeLES Apt.
	VARTANIAN
EMERZIAN	
NISHKIAN	CHAMPION JOHN
	MORADIAN
MCCABE	KENNYAN

EMERSON SCHOOL	
KIRK	
KEVERKORIAN	
PLoud's	
WHOLESALE	

SARAY	
MELKONIAN	
MARSOOBIAN	
EMERIAN	
BARSIAN	
BOOLCOYAN	
KASABIAN	
HABDOORIAN	

SAN BENITO AVENUE

White's Horse Barn	
CORRAL	

	LARGE SAITH ESTATE
KAVCIAN	
ISRAKOLIAN	
DANIELS	
	Mosesian YERDAN
	SEFRANIAN

KASPARIAN	NIERZOIAN
JELLADIAN	
ASLANIAN	BOODAKIAN
SHAHINIAN	KIRAMIDIAN
MELKONIAN	BERBERIAN BROS
MOSCOVIAN	BEKINS VAN & STORAGE

Grocery Store	PHILINCARIAN	K. BABBIAN	HODCIAN
		AVAKIAN	GARABEDIAN DEYMET
	SIMONIAN	ALVAZIAN	
	Paul's Nursery	EGGIAN	MASCIAN
	ENOCH	J. GARABEDIAN	
		HARPER	
	AVAKIAN	SHANSHOIAN	

AVAKIAN
KARABIAN
KARAMIDIAN
CROSS
SERGIAN
MOSESIAN
KALAKIAN

MONTEREY AVENUE

CHOCRAJIAN	
AICHIAN	
GASOSTAN	
POSHAYAN	BARBER SHOP
ACE SERVICE	
PASHAYAN BROS.	

AKULIAN	
	AGABBIAN
POHLS	NERCESIAN
A. MATTIE	
BERBERIAN BROS.	TERZIAN
	J. GARABEDIAN

NORMART	HERA HARRISON
J. SALEH	HANIAN
	MALABEDIAN
	MELIKIAN
	RUZVIANIAN
	ANTOYAN
AIVA SNOW	PERCH
(FRESNO'S MAYER)	SAFARIAN
	MILLIAN
	VARTANIAN
	JARJAN

YACOB GROCERY	KAROLANIAN
ILLBEG	
Prof. KALFRIAN	MIKTARIAN
MELIKIAN	AVAKIAN
BABIGIAN	MINASIAN
GARABEDIAN	SHAHOOGIAN
KARAFESIAN	Juddjian
(SADDIEN CREAR)	
AHRONIAN	ALVAZIAN
HAMPARZCOVIAN	

SHAMSHOIAN
KEVERKIAN
HAGOPIAN
KORKMAZIAN
AHECKIAN
ORPHAN
ORPHAN
Bida

LOS ANGELES STREET

PATTI ICE CREAM	
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SAFEWAY WAREHOUSE	T.J. HAMMOND PRODUCE
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	TRJO CHARLEY
OHANNESIAN	BEZZIRDES
MARKARIAN	
HAGOPIAN	Martin
H. H. HOLLAND BARN	Holland CORRAL

SAN JOH BAKING CO
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CIRCA 1915 - 1939  
 DONE FROM MEMORY  
 APRIL - 1985  
 BY ELISH SHEKOYAN

CALIFORNIA FIELD  
 BERBERIAN BROS.

SCHOOL

400 BLOCK

Sporey	SAROYP	Simonian
MELKONIAN	SAGHATELIAN	
MARSOBIAN	GARABEDIAN	
EMERIAN	CAFESJIAN	
BARSAH	CASPARIAN	
BOUCOTIAN		
KASABIAN		
ASADOURIAN		

DARBINIAN	Hoonanian
DARBINIAN	
BABIGIAN	
KURKJIAN	
KALAKIAN	HYE FAMILY
SARKISIAN	
BARSERIAN	KASHKASHIAN
SHEKOYAN	ODABASHIAN
	AYEDISIAN

TERZIAN	BAZOIAN
KRAMIDJIAN	R. AMERIAN
ASLANIAN	KASPARIAN
	LIANE
KOVAKOVICH	
GARABEDIAN	
	ODAR

TAVLOOIAN	
H. MOSESIAN	
EGAN	
FRESNO STEAM	
LAUNDRY	

BARBICIAN  
MOSSIAN  
AVAKIAN  
GARABEDIAN  
DEOYLET  
TILAZIAN  
OGIAN  
MASSEIAN  
GARABEDIAN  
HARPER  
HANSHOIAN

300 BLOCK

AVAKIAN	Wm. SAROYAN
KARABIAN	MINASIAN
KARAMIDJIAN	KOVAKOVICH
CROSS	BAZOIAN
SEBASTIAN	
MOSESIAN	MARKHARIAN
KALAKIAN	SAIRINIAN
	John Foley

MALIKASIAN	SARKISIAN
KALAKIAN	AVAKIAN
EMERIAN	MOSSIAN
ELABIAN	KRIKORIAN
KAPIGIAN	RANOSSIAN
NIKKIAN	MERZOIAN
ODAR	MAKASIAN
HARRISON	Fritz Bitt
	TURUNJIAN
	JIM LUNDY

BONIGIAN	
BERANIAN	
SAM NARIMIAN	
SHARAFIAN	
SHENSON	
PAWIAN	
HARRISON	
GARABEDIAN	
GURJIAN	

	San Joaquin Bakery
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KACOLANIAN  
DIKTARIAN  
AVAKIAN  
MINASIAN  
HAHOOGIAN  
Doddjian  
FIVAZIAN

200 BLOCK

SHAMSHOIAN	
KEVORKIAN	KANDARIAN
HAGOPIAN	
ROKMAZIAN	AVAKIAN
ALECKIAN	
ORPHAN	SHAPAZIAN
ORPHAN'S	
Bldg.	

SHARON	CHARLES	
GROCEERY		
		KERSHAW
		AGA JANIAN
MELIKIAN		
SADOIAN		
KOONTS	POUNTZ	SCHMIDT
GROCEERY		

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Associated Oil Co.
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W. to Charley  
EZZIRDES  
Martin  
Holland  
Corral

100 BLOCK

SAN JOAQUIN BAKING Co.	
	Eilart OWNER FRESNO BREWERY

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BUTLER	
Southern Pacific R.R.	

STANDARD OIL CO.
AVENUE

Southern Pacific R.R.

FIELD Bros.

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FRESNO BREWERY