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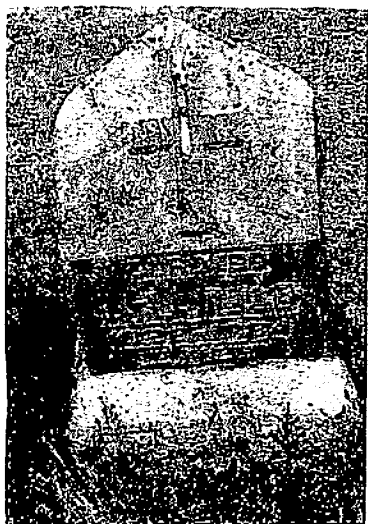
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AGUA MANSA CEMETERY

By HAZEL E. OLSON

ON Agua Mansa Road, between Colton and Bloomington, rest the pioneers of the Agua Mansa era. It was started around 1842-43, seven years before California became a state, that pioneers settled the communities of Agua Mansa and La Placita area, bordering the Santa Ana River near what is now South Colton.

Lorenzo Trujillo and Antonio Martinez were from Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico. They were asked by Don Antonio Lugo to come and help defend the Ranchos from Indian raids; as they were losing much livestock. In return, they would give the New Mexicans land to farm and graze their stock on. Twenty families came and settled next to Bunker Hill area called Politana where they stayed about two years. The settlers were unhappy on the Lugo property so they planned to return to New Mexico.



(Photos by the author)

John Bandini, who owned the Jurupa Rancho that bordered the Lugos had heard of their unhappiness and offered them about the same deal, so the New Mexicans moved two or three miles down the Santa Ana River and formed the settlements of La Placita de los Trujillos on the south side, and Agua Mansa on the north side of the Santa Ana River.

The settlements really grew with the farms, and a makeshift church was built. Later a better one was constructed, but on sandy soil and it fell back into the earth, then another church was erected on the Agua Mansa side. The cemetery was started on a hill above the church.

In January, 1862, the worst flood in county history washed the settlements away. All that stood after the flood was the little church of Agua Mansa and the Cornelius Jensen house. Everyone escaped the flood, but the settlements were never rebuilt and people slowly moved to other communities; South

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