



Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

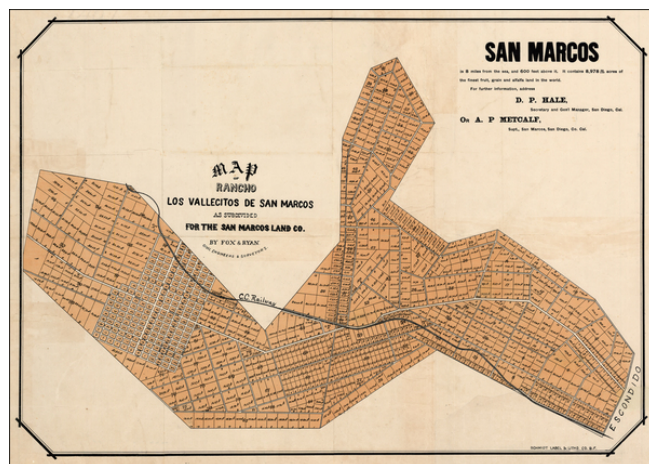
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Map of Rancho Los Vallecitos De San Marcos As Subdivided For The San Marcos Land Co. By Fox & Ryan. Civil Engineers & Surveyors

Stock#: 20988
Map Maker: Schmidt Label & Litho. Co. / Fox & Ryan
Date: 1887
Place: San Francisco
Color: Color
Condition: VG
Size: 28 x 22 inches
Price: SOLD



Description:

Nice example of the first subdivision map of Rancho Vallecitos de San Marcos, which is now the City of San Marcos, California and the home of the University of San Marcos.

The map shows the first subdivision of San Marcos by the San Marcos Land Company, in the same year the company acquired the land and began marketing the land for sale to home buyers. Among other features shown on the map are the newly constructed Santa Fe line through the town and the proposed Depot Grounds, which was later changed about a mile east of the town center when it was finally constructed.

Legend holds that the San Marcos Valley was discovered in 1797 by Spanish soldiers garrisoned at the Mission San Luis Rey, who were tracking a group of Indians who had stolen some sheep from the Mission. On April 22, 1840, Governor Juan Bautista Alvarado granted Los Vallecitos de San Marcos to Jose Mario Alvarado. In 1846, Indians killed Jose Alvarado, and the land was left to his wife, who then sold the land to Lorenzo Soto. In the late 1850s, Soto sold part of his land to Cave Coutts, whose family used the land to graze livestock. Major Gustavus French Merriam from Topeka, Kansas made the first permanent settlement in the area, when he homesteaded 160 acres in the north Twin Oaks Valley and began wine and honey production. His success brought German and Dutch immigrants into the area in the early 1880s.

In 1887, the San Marcos Land Company bought the San Marcos land formerly owned by the Coutts family and divided the land into tracts. The original town of San Marcos was at the intersection of what is now Grand Avenue and Rancho Santa Fe Road. In 1887, the Santa Fe Railroad announced that it was going to



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lay tracks going through the valley (which were completed by January 1, 1887), but to the disappointment of the citizens, the tracks were laid one mile from the center of town.

The map was prepared by the firm of Fox & Ryan. The firm founder Robert Fox was a pioneer San Diego County resident, who arrived in 1869. A successful real estate investor, among his other more notable accomplishments, Fox started an early apiary in Fallbrook and pioneered the production of honey in North San Diego County. He also founded the Bee Keepers Association.

The map is apparently exceptionally rare. There are no copies listed in OCLC and we are not aware of any other examples of the map, except one which was recently sold by the descendants of the Fox family to a private collector in 2008. We have owned the map since 1996 as part of a collection purchased from an descendant of an early San Diego County real estate lawyer, whose holdings dated back to the 1870s.

Detailed Condition:

Flattened and backed with archival paper to support of fold splits and fold weakness, with minor loss in the blank parts of the map. Some minor staining