

IT IS QUITE LIKELY that in 1775 Captain Bruno Heceta named the San Bruno Mountain as he led a group of explorers along its slopes to the shores of Lake Merced.<sup>1</sup>

Later, in 1841, the mountain was included in a grant to Jacob Leese and thus became part of his Rancho Guadalupe la Visitacion y Rodeo Viejo. Still later it became open space land dividing the eastern cities of northern San Mateo County from those in the west.

As we have already noted, in 1908 a movement failed that would have made the San Bruno Mountain and the valleys at its feet part of a city called Vista Grande.

Even then real estate promoters were projecting a suburban development in the Guadalupe Valley on the eastern slopes of the San Bruno Mountain. With high hopes they named their development Visitacion City, but they did not succeed in selling the lots, and hence Visitacion City died.

Dr. Stanger writes:

More than twenty years passed before any considerable number of home seekers discovered the sloping valley that looks out over the bay and is sheltered by the San Bruno Mountain from the fog and winds of the west. By 1930 the place was being promoted by another company under a different name. It had been called Visitacion City, but this was not Visitacion Valley and the name led to confusion. In choosing another name, however, everyone seems to have forgotten or overlooked other historic possibilities. Instead, the promoter, who is said to have lived in Australia and who perhaps saw a resemblance to the port city of Brisbane, named it, "Brisbane on the Bay."<sup>2</sup>

It is said, however, that the name was chosen by one Arthur Ennis, agent for the tract, in honor of the columnist Arthur Brisbane. Whatever the origin of the name, in due time it was used by the United States Post Office, and in 1961 became the official name of a general law city that was incorporated on November 28th of that year.

It is reported that the City of Brisbane began with only \$27.00 in its treasury, and this came from a donation from the incorporation committee. This situation quickly changed with the operating budget steadily growing until it reached \$753,471 for the year 1972-73. These funds provide for the departments.

of the city: police, fire protection, public works, recreation, water, finance, and for the city manager, who also acts as city clerk. The council also appoints a part time treasurer and city attorney. Library service is provided by the San Mateo County Free Library. In January 1973 Eugene Aiello served as city manager and William E. Lawrence as mayor. The population had reached 4,476 by this time.



CITY OF BRISBANE, CALIFORNIA—CROCKER INDUSTRIAL PARK IN RIGHT BACKGROUND.