

MCKITTRICK

The town of McKittrick, which is the shipping and trading point for the oil fields of that name, is about forty miles west of Bakersfield. The earliest settlement at that place was called Asphalto, because of an asphalt mine located there in the early days, and the railroad, which was built to the field in 1891. still calls its station by the original name, although everyone else adopted the name McKittrick in 1895. The manufacture of asphaltum was the first industry of the town, and was the means of inducing the Southern Pacific to build a branch of its railroad to connect the place with Bakersfield. The railroad refined asphaltum under the name of the Standard Asphalt Company for some years. The first mail was distributed by Mrs. Quarra, but she did the work as a matter of accommodation and not as a government official. When H. F. Peters built the first store in 1900 he was appointed the first postmaster. Prior to this date A. Bandettini was conducting a hotel at McKittrick. The town was laid out as it now is in 1900.

With the general activity in oil development beginning in 1900 McKittrick began to grow, and it has been conspicuous among oil towns for the even prosperity it has enjoyed, although it never developed the booms which sent the population of Taft and Maricopa into the thousands.

McKittrick now has about 500 inhabitants [1914]. It was incorporated in September, 1911, with the following officers: Trustees, R. Butterfield, president; W. J. McCarthy, S. A. Hubbard, H. E. Phelan and Fred Ehlers; city clerk, Warren Bridges. The McKittrick Clarion dispenses the local news.