

METHODS OF RESEARCH

A variety of techniques were used to gather the data upon which this study is based. Fundamental were the schedules which afford data on population composition, social participation, and level of living. They were obtained by two field enumerations over a period of 4 weeks in each community (spring, 1944) based upon a 10-percent sample of the houses in the town and surrounding country. The information from this source was enriched by interviews with community leaders taken by the author. The area surrounding each community was determined by a well-established technique of community delineation long used by rural sociologists and executed by a person trained in its application.

Statistical data were obtained from several sources other than the schedule. Certain data were available from county and community files. Special mention should be made of two sources. Data on size of farms, acreage devoted to various crops, and yields were obtained from the records of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, analyzed by competent agricultural economists. The data on number and volume of business enterprises were extracted from the records of the Sales Tax Division of the California State Board of Equalization. These data were made applicable to the community as delineated, including the agricultural areas.

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