There is a general attitude in Arvin that water cannot be developed by the small operator because of the very large capital outlay. However, three items should be borne in mind. First, the water table was around 50 feet when the land was first brought into production, a lift that is not out of line with water lifts in other areas. Second, there are small units in the area which have been farmed continuously for a quarter of a century. These usually obtain water under some form of cooperative arrangement that enables several units to share the investment and pumping charges. Finally, the cost of water is an item which is reflectd in the value of land, since land values are based upon the capitalized potential net income. High water costs do not render small farming impossible, yet it must be recognized that the great expense and the resulting high risk in the development of Arvin lands, together with the cultural inertia in forming cooperative arrangements, serve to inhibit the growth of small farming. Therefore, while small farming is feasible and profitable, with proper price relationships, the economics of the Arvin situation under present conditions militate against the development of the family farm and in favor of corporation agriculture.

The historical differences between the two communities may be examined under two phases: the age of the communities, and the era of the communities. Dinuba is approximately 20 years older than Arvin, and reached its population maturity during the early 1920's. Arvin cannot yet be called a mature community, since there is a great deal of land being developed. The relative age of the two towns is shown by the growth of the annual average daily attendance of the elementary schools in the area. The first Dinuba area school started in 1879, while the first school in the Arvin area began in 1902. The growth curve in the two areas shows a remarkable parallel development, with slow growth during the first 15 years, rapid growth for the next 20, followed by a cessation of growth in later years. The growth period in Arvin shows a somewhat sharper ascent (fig. 21). The period in which a community comes into being affects its character. Arvin grew up after World War I and Dinuba before it. This has had certain direct effects; for instance, a small town which came into being during the 1920's would rarely have two banks, because chain banking became prominent in California during that period and these are in a position to avoid such a situation. On the other hand, the increased use of automobile traffic, and the assistance furnished by the Federal Government through WPA would suggest that streets would be paved and sidewalks laid relatively earlier in the newer town than the older. A detailed analysis of the effect of the historical differences between Arvin and Dinuba will be presented in a later section.