



THE MAHONEY FAMILY

Patrick Mahoney, one of ten children, came to Santa Maria Valley from Cork County, Ireland in 1906 when older brother Jerry Mahoney, already here, sent for him.

Patrick worked farms in Nipomo, Garey, and Guadalupe, saving his hard-earned money for his dream to own land. The naturalized citizen married Katherine "Kate" Grissingher of Nipomo and realized his dream, purchasing the Scaroni Ranch near Guadalupe, the Oso Flaco Ranch near Nipomo, and the "DAR G" Ranch southwest of Santa Maria.

Beginning with a dairy, his interest led him to cattle ranching and vegetable farming. Early on, the family lived in Guadalupe, growing beans, potatoes, lettuce, broccoli and cauliflower.

Kate and Pat Mahoney had three children: Gerald, Gene and Annette. The sons joined their father in farming after serving in the U.S. Navy. Patrick Mahoney died in 1954. Gene and Gerald continued in family farming as Mahoney Brothers, Inc. Gene oversaw cattle operations and Gerald managed vegetable growing, a perfect partnership to stay out of each other's hair!

Partnering with Leo Acquistapace, Gene and Gerald also grew artichokes under the "Shamrock" label, including a thorn-less perennial variety enjoyed for many years as a BBQ'd appetizer at the Hitching Post.

Gene married Glenna O'Dell in 1949 and had four daughters. After 53 years of marriage, Gene passed at the age of 74. The herd was sold, ending the Mahoney Brothers cattle operation.

Gerald married Patricia Ann Adam in 1947. Pat was the daughter of vegetable grower William P. Adam, and great-granddaughter of William Laird Adam. Pat and Gerald had seven children, four sons and three daughters. After 43 years of marriage, Gerald passed in 1990. Three of his four sons (Mike, Jerry and Danny) followed in their father's footsteps as vegetable growers. Mahoney Brothers continues to grow broccoli, cauliflower, celery, and lettuce in the Santa Maria Valley.