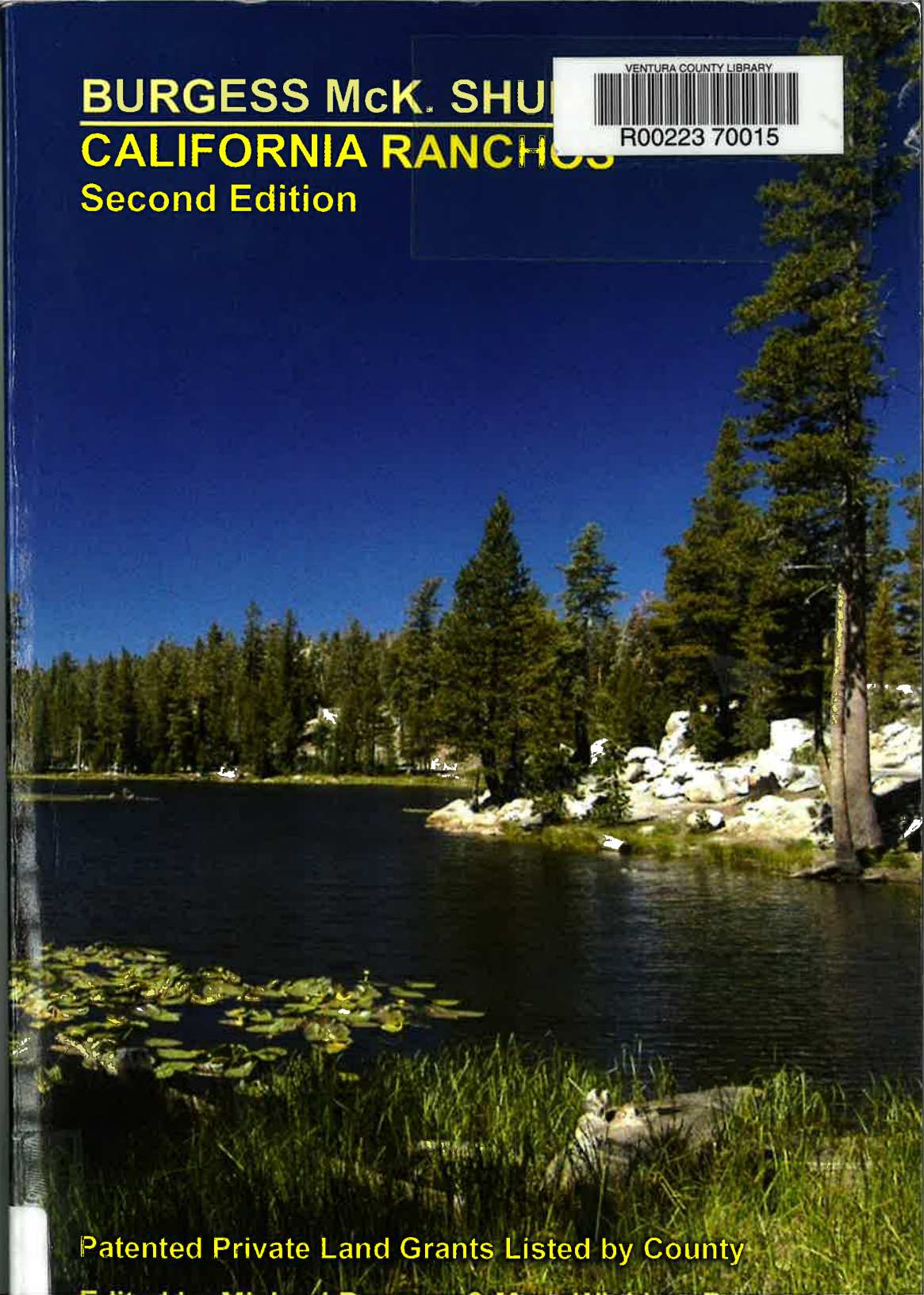


BURGESS McK. SHU
CALIFORNIA RANCHES
Second Edition



Patented Private Land Grants Listed by County

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CALIFORNIA RANCHOS

Patented Private Land Grants Listed by County

by

Burgess McK. Shumway

**Edited by Michael Burgess
and Mary Wickizer Burgess**

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California Ranchos, by Burgess McK. Shumway

1822, there was no grand rush, fifteen grants being distributed in the first year, and then only twenty-five more over the next decade.

In these early decades many ranchos owners, particularly in outlying areas, worried very little about their claims: "This land has no value—there is so much of it, no one wants mine—I know where it is—I surveyed it from my saddle with a *reata*—I know that it extends from this pile of rocks with a cross on it (a *mojonera*) to the dry creek, and from the river to another *mojonera*—why should I bother about a map and spend \$12 for a grant?" Attitudes began to change, however, after 1833.

By then a few foreigners, mostly English and American, had recognized the fact that the land could be used for many other useful purposes, and had joined the Catholic Church, sometimes adopting Spanish names. They then either married into families that had land, or induced the owners to sell them pieces of existing grants. The Mexicans, who saw a chance to benefit themselves financially while getting rid of what they perceived to be largely worthless property, were often all too eager to sell.

For the next thirteen years, ending with the American rebellion and conquest of 1846, about 700 ranchos were granted by the Mexican governors, many of them to white carpetbaggers. These included some regrantings, duplications, and splitting of older, larger grants, now renamed by the heirs or assigns. The last of these officials, the wily Pio Pico, in order to secure the Jamul Rancho originally awarded him in 1831, made a new petition to himself, from himself; and then regranted it to himself, from himself—signed, sealed, and delivered.

The Californians had learned a few things from the Anglos.

—Robert G. Cowan
Los Angeles, California
11 April 1988