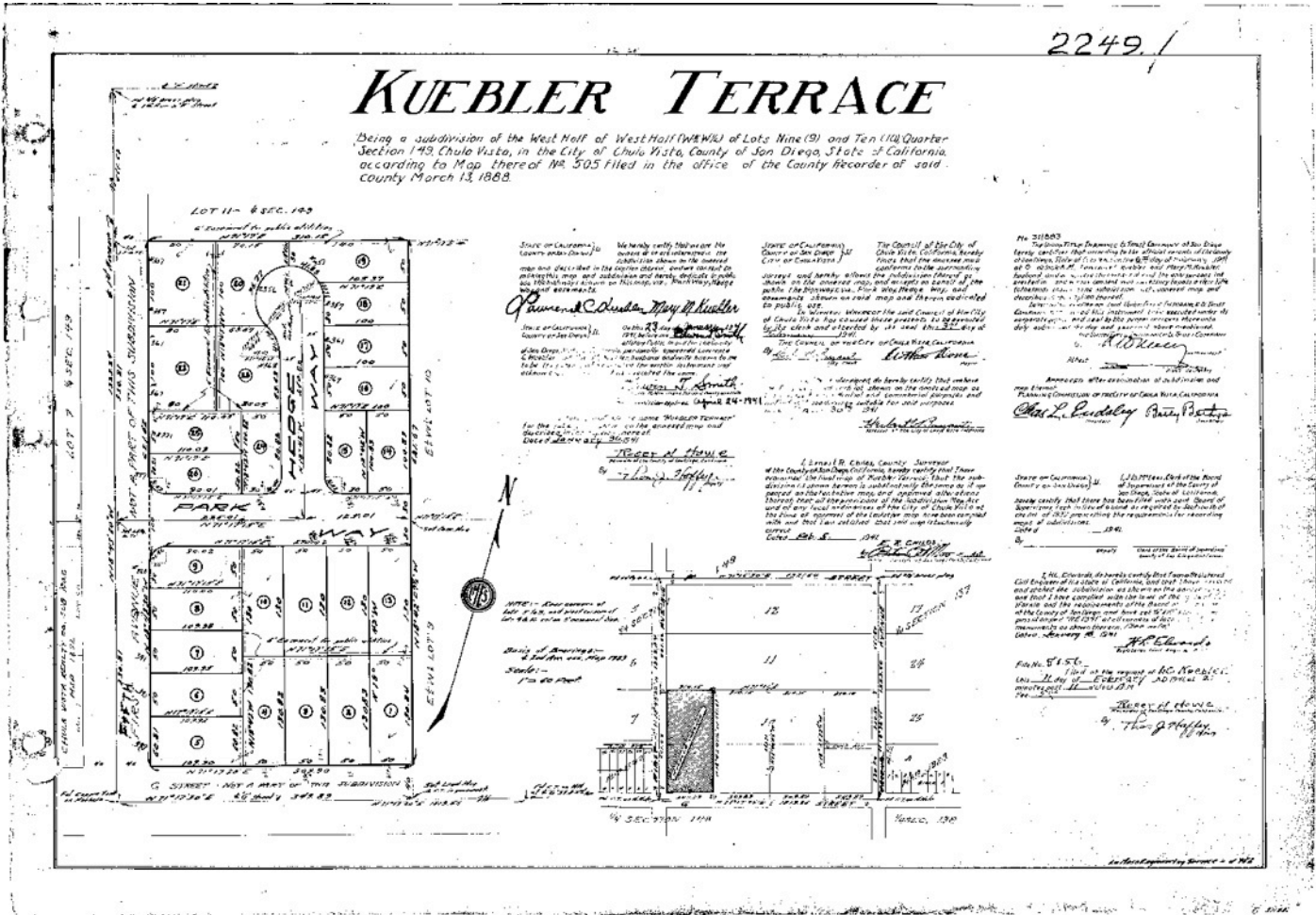


Lawrence Kuebler was a major developer and builder in postwar Chula Vista. He was born on the largest ranch on Otay Mesa, part of which became Donovan Prison in the 1980s. He built the Kuebler Terrace subdivisions, Vogue Theater, American Legion post, Boney's market at 370 E Street, Civic Center bomb shelter, was a founder of the Otay Water District and the Food Midget chain, served on the school board and civil service commission, died in airplane crash 1975.



Kuebler Terrace subdivision map 2249 filed 1941

- 1886 - W. M. Tibbits was the first owner of what later became the Kuebler Ranch, when he purchased land on Otay Mesa for \$2000 in 1886. (Painter, Susan A. "Otay Mesa: a study of the impact of water on land use changes." M.A. thesis, San Diego State University, 1985.)
- 1888 - Ciella B. Kuebler was born in 1890. Lived on the Kuebler Ranch in Otay Mesa from 1900-1960. We lived in an adobe that is still standing on the land known as the Kuebler Ranch. The Kuebler Ranch consists of 750 acres. It is located two miles north of the border and four miles east of Brown Field. It is scheduled to be the site of the Otay Mesa State Prison. We started the ranch with 147 acres. We first raised horses, but there was no money in horses. Then we changed to cattle and farming. I was 11 years old. Now I am 93. [b. abt 1890 acc to 1930 census] (Mrs. Ciella B. Kuebler, "The Young Historians Student Booklet Otay and Otay Mesa," Montgomery School, n. d. [1983])
- 1900 - Two of Otay Mesa's earliest ranches were the Wetmore and Kuebler Ranches. Here are their stories. The Wetmore Family came to Otay Mesa in 1900, They were originally from New Town, Missouri, Grandfather Wetmore bought 640 acres of land that had been homesteaded. The Wetmore Ranch was a hard-working ranch. The family raised vegetables and grew hay. They transported their agricultural products all over the area. The father of the Wetmore family knew the Kuebler family. One

of the Wetmore daughters, Clella, met and married Robert Kuebler. Mr. and Mrs. Kuebler started the Kuebler Ranch with 147 acres of land. It became one of the largest working ranches on Otay Mesa. The ranch occupies the land from the foot of the mountains, to Otay Lakes and down to the Mexican Border. When the Kueblers started their ranch, they raised horses, but then found there was no money in that. They next started farming, raising cattle, and growing vegetables, which was more profitable. They also tried growing hay. That venture was successful because hay was needed on the nearby ranches. In the early days, it took the Kueblers four days to transport the hay down to the valley by means of horse and buggy. Later, they used a little Ford truck. The Kuebler Ranch was a hard working, profitable ranch. It was very important to the community and to the growth of the area. In 1960, Mrs. Kuebler sold her ranch. Recent development plans for the land around the Kuebler Ranch suggest that big changes are in store for that area. ("Early Otay Mesa" by Yolanda Ochotorena, The Young Historians Student Booklet, Montgomery School, n. d. [1983])

1907 - Claude and Clella Kuebler developed a 4500- acre ranch on Otay Mesa, four miles east of Brown Field and south of Otay Reservoir. Claude's father, Harrison Kuebler of Anaheim, traded for the original 160 acres owned by Bob Tibbits, and they drove 100 head of horses down through Spring Valley and across San Miguel Mesa. In 1907 Claude traded a piece of Anaheim property which his mother had left him to his father for the ranch, and in 1909 he moved down and was married here to Clella B. Wetmore. Their two children, Eudora Mary and Lawrence Claude, were born here. The acquired neighboring parcels over the years: the Noyes, the McCarthy, the Shot, and the Gerhart places, plus some tax titles. They also leased government land on Otay Mountain. These range horses were gentled and sold mostly to livery stables in the San Diego area. The ranch remained a horse ranch until World War I when all were sold to the government of France. They turned to raising cattle, hay, and grain, and later leased to vegetable growers. Claude, who was born in Anaheim, died in 1960 at seventy years of age. His widow resides in Chula Vista. The ranch was sold in 1965. Courtesy San Diego Historical Society. (Chula Vista Historical Society. Family, Friends, and Homes. San Diego CA: Tecolote Publications, 1991.)

1930 United States Federal Census about Clella B Kuebler

Home in 1930: San Diego, San Diego, California

Age: 40, Estimated Birth Year: abt 1890, Race: White

Relation to Head of House: Wife, Spouse's Name: Claud

Claud Kuebler 40, Clella B Kuebler 40, Lawrence C Kuebler 17, Harrison Kuebler 78

1936 - Clella B. Kuebler was born Jan. 29, 1890. She came to San Diego in Nov. 1900 and married Claude B. Kuebler March 14, 1910. They had 2 children: Eudora Mary born 1910 (She married William Dallett) and Lawrence Claude born 1912. Claude B. and his father had a horse ranch on Otay Mesa formerly known as the Tibbetts Ranch. Claude died March 10, 1960. Claude operated the ranch as a cattle ranch 1908-1960, starting with 160 acres, and growing to 4700 acres by 1960. (Kuebler, Clella B. Doc File, San Diego Historical Society.)

1941/06/27 - Laurence Kuebler to open his new housing tract at "(new) Fifth avenue" and G st June 28. Cement work done by Glen Gilbert with Colton cement, lumber from CV Lumber Co., Joe Lowe of CV Electric Co did wiring, roof by E. K. Pettis who owns the CV Sheet Metal shop on Center St, formerly owned by Chester Norman, plumbing by A. E. Logan. -- subdivision -- ad for Kuebler Homes (Chula Vista Star, Friday, June 27, 1941.)

1944/03/10 - Kuebler building 9 housing units on site facing Del Mar and Davidson (Chula Vista Star, Mar. 10, 1944.)

1944/05/05 - Tom Huntington, manager of the Seville theater, says construction to begin soon on new Vogue theater on Third Ave bet Davidson and E, to be built by Lawrence Kuebler, and Huntington will operate both the Seville and the Vogue. (Chula Vista Star, May 5, 1944.)

1945 - American Legion Post - The building at 5th and C in the city park was built starting in 1941 as a community center by the America Legion Jean Loba Post 434, finished by Lawrence Kuebler 1945, dedicated Aug. 22, 1945.

1945/05/25 - Larry Kuebler will finish the construction of the Legion bldg near C street started by members donating their time and labor. (Chula Vista Star, May 25, 1945.)

1947/12/05 - Kuebler will start work on subdivision at 2nd and K (Chula Vista Star, Dec. 5, 1947.)

1948 - Kuebler Terrace No 2 (Subdivision Maps, Engineering Department, City of Chula Vista.)

1948/03/19 - Louise Pray resigned from school board, had served 5 terms for 15 yrs, L. C. Kuebler appointed (Chula Vista Star, Mar. 19, 1948.)

1949/12/30 - Kuebler to build market for Henry Boney at Glover and E St, on SE corner. Boney has one market in El Cajon where he lives, and 2 in SD (Chula Vista Star, Dec. 30, 1949.)



from Star 1950/1/20

1950/01/20 - photo of CV's first Civil Service Board, George Cornell, chairman, Herb Bryant, Eliz Galligan, Lawrence Kuebler (Chula Vista Star Jan. 20, 1950.)

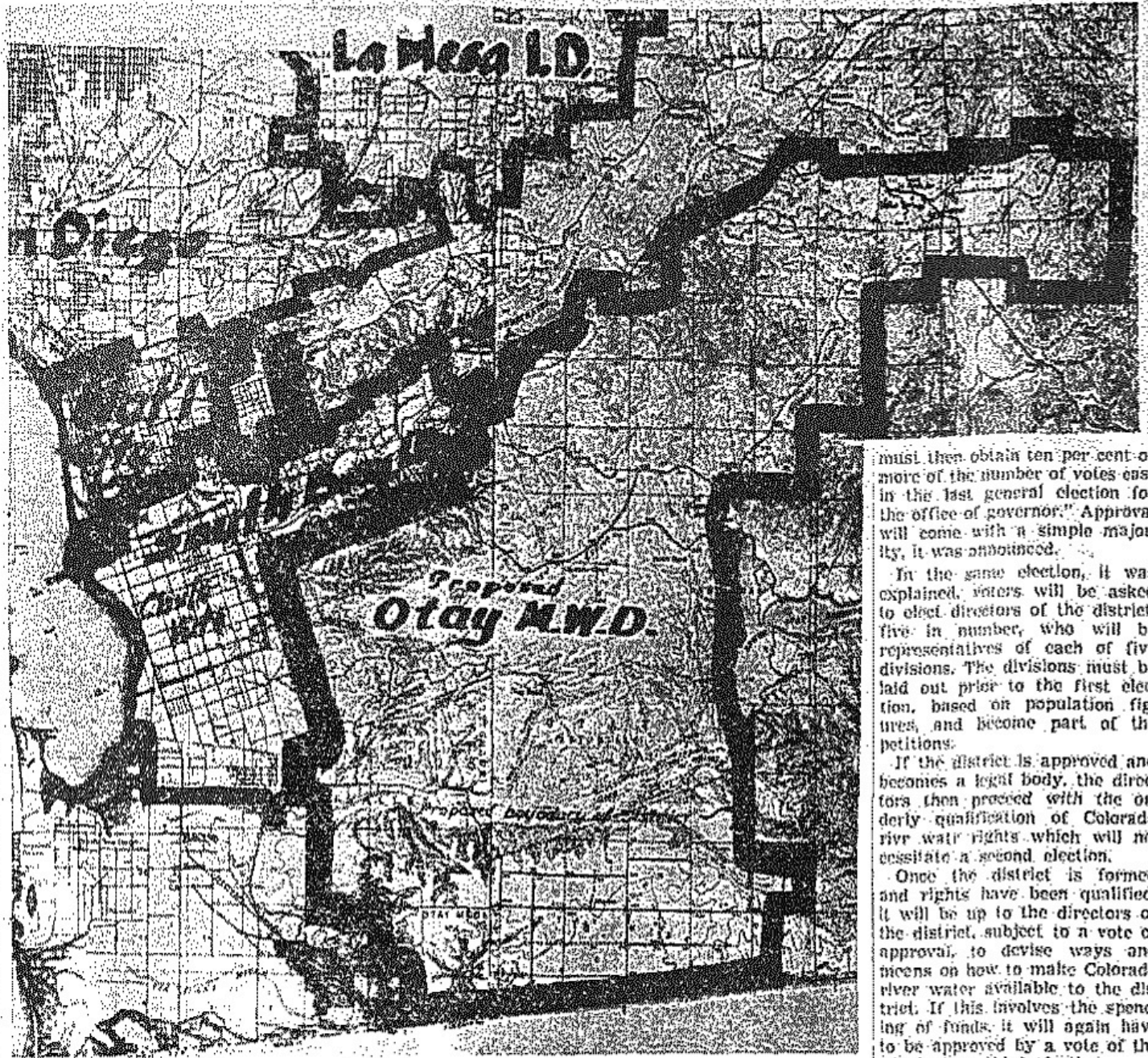
1950/02 - Kuebler Terrace 3 & 4 (Subdivision Maps, Engineering Department, City of Chula Vista.)

1951 - Kuebler Terrace No 5 (Subdivision Maps, Engineering Department, City of Chula Vista.)

1951/12/11 - Lawrence Kuebler resigned from Civil Service Commission, replaced by William Eckhart (City Council Minutes, Dec. 11, 1951.)

1952 - Kuebler Terrace No 6 & 7 (Subdivision Maps, Engineering Department, City of Chula Vista.)

1953 - Kuebler Terrace No 8 & 9 (Subdivision Maps, Engineering Department, City of Chula Vista.)



Proposed Otay Municipal Water District

must then obtain ten per cent or more of the number of votes cast in the last general election for the office of governor. Approval will come with a simple majority, it was announced.

In the same election, it was explained, voters will be asked to elect directors of the district five in number, who will be representatives of each of five divisions. The divisions must be laid out prior to the first election, based on population figures, and become part of the petitions.

If the district is approved and becomes a legal body, the directors then proceed with the orderly qualification of Colorado river water rights which will necessitate a second election.

Once the district is formed and rights have been qualified it will be up to the directors of the district, subject to a vote of approval, to devise ways and means on how to make Colorado river water available to the district. If this involves the spending of funds, it will again have to be approved by a vote of the people in a third election.

At one time it was thought that another area -- the Palm Springs area -- would be included.

Kuebler Terrace subdivision map 2249 filed 1941

1954/01/07 - map of proposed Otay Water District, from Lawrence Kuebler, must get majority of voters (Chula Vista Star, Jan. 7, 1954.)

1954/06/29 - KUEBLER TERRACE No. 10 - Tentative map of Kuebler Terrace No. 10 Subdivision, be approved, subject to the redesign of the lots, with a 50 foot right-of-way for Minor and Alpine Avenues, and 36 foot travelways with combination curb, gutter and sidewalks, and 2~ foot area between the sidewalk and property line. -- (City Council Minutes, June 29, 1954.)

1957/01/08 - FALL OUT SITE APPROVED AND FUNDS AUTHORIZED - A letter was read from the Planning Commission recommending that the proposed fall out shelter be located at the old Library site° Ed Culnan, Director of Civil Defense, was of the opinion a more suitable location would be on the Civic Center grounds, but would put it wherever the Council thought best. The Council was of the opinion the purpose of the Shelter would be better served by locating it on the Civic Center site, because of the volume of traffic. It was moved by Councilman DeWolfe, seconded by Councilman Dillon, and carried, that the fall out shelter be located on the property across from the Civic Center, the exact location to be left to the discretion of Mr. Culnan and the Engineering Dept. City Engineer Floyd presented plans for the proposed fall out shelter and submitted three bids received for its construction. The low bid of L. C. Kuebler for \$995.00 does not include excavation. (City Council Minutes, Jan. 8, 1957.)

1959/03/19 - Food Midget chain will make HQ in CV, similar to Speedee-Mart and Handy Pantry. Lawrence Kuebler is VP, each store will be 4000 sq ft (Chula Vista Star-News, Mar. 19, 1959.)



AT GROUND BREAKING — Ground was broken Thursday in Chula Vista for the first Food Midget Market — one of 20 planned — with officials of the company taking part at the Broadway and K street site. Pictured here are Ed. Culnan, Rex Mounts, Ed Loustalot, Nathan

Coleman, president of Food Midget, Capt. U. G. Robbins, Sr., Ben Dederman, Lawrence Kuebler, vice president of the firm, Keith Atherton, Guy Harrington, Ralph Erskine, the architect, and Charles Maynard. —[S-N Photo]

Lawrence Kuebler is 5th from right, from Star-News 1959/5/21

1959/05/21 - (photo) Food Midget market groundbreaking at Broadway and K - Ed Loustalet, Pres. Nathan Coleman, VP Lawrence Kuebler, Keith Atherton -- (Chula Vista Star-News, May 21, 1959.)

1959/08/20 - new shopping center opens today at K and Broadway with three stores, Midget Market, Pop's Frosty, Broadway Launderette, built by Kuebler, grand opening will be Sept 3 with Pinky the clown (Chula Vista Star-News, Aug. 20, 1959.)

1967/04/20 - vacancy on the Otay Water District board left by death of Fritz Roll sought by Larry Kuebler, who lives at 3726 Sarasona Way in Bonita, and Byron Jacquot who lives at 1574 Melrose Ave and who owns a charter flying service at Brown Field, and who owned the South Bay Airport Co. from 1954 to 1966 at the old NC airport. Roll was one of the original members with District 1 was formed in 1956. -- Apr. 27 - Kuebler also lives on ranch at 6942 Otay Mesa Rd., was born on the mesa in 1912 attended Alta School, was a farmer, is married to the former Mrs. Byron Jacquot. (Chula Vista Star-News, Apr. 20, 1967.)

1975/07/24 - (photo) from a Utah airport Thursday, the plane of a prominent South Bay civic leader and developer crashed to the ground, killing himself, his wife and three grandchildren. Lawrence C. Kuebler, 62, his wife Mary, 48, and three children of Kuebler's La Mesa son Richard died when the Cessa 206 single-engine plane burst into flames near Parowan, Utah, about 250-miles south of Salt Lake City. n plane . Kuebler. of 3726 Sarasona Way. Bonita, was owner of Kuebler Construction Co., 373 E St., Chula Vista. which built houses throughout the county. His wife Mary Kuebler was also an accomplished pilot. Kuebler served as a trustee on the Sweetwater High School District from 1948 to 1953, acting as president in 1950. He was also active in San Diego's Natural History Museum and served on the board of the Community Hospital of Chula Vista. Kuebler inherited a 4,000-acre ranch on Otay Mesa east of Brown Field, where he was born and later sold it for \$1.75 million to entertainer Jimmy Durante, publisher Randolph Hearst, surgeon Dr. Maury Park and Kal-Kan dog foods owner Clement Hirsch. His grandchildren who also died in the crash where the children of Richard Kuebler of La Mesa. Kuebler is survived by three other children of a first marriage, including Allan of Bonita, another son and daughter, his mother Clella Kuebler of Chula Vista and sister Dora Kuebler Daliott of Chula Vista. Mary Kuebler is survived by her parents Ellis and Jeannette Colburn of Imperial Beach, a daughter and son. (Chula Vista Star-News, July 24, 1975.)

1979/08/09 - OTAY MESA 1,000(?) acre Kuebler Ranch sold for \$6.5 million. August 9. 1979 A:2:4 (Star News Index Cards)

1980/05/18 - The state Department of Corrections has ordered suspension of negotiations for a 320 acre prison site on Otay Mesa following reports that a Co-owner of land, Vincent Albanese, has ties to underworld crime figures. The state had sought part of the old Kuebler Ranch to replace a 322 acre site it owns near the border off Harvest Road. May 18, 1980 A:l :5 -- The Assembly Ways and Means Committee rejected Ramona as a site for a prison to be built in San Diego County, and replaced it with Kuebler Ranch, a lot once considered unacceptable because of alleged connections between crime figures and owners of the ranch. September 10, 1981 A:4:l (Star News Index Cards)

1985/05/08 - Construction of the \$139 million prison began last week, after groundbreaking ceremony April 28. The 2,200-cell facility -- the first new state prison in 20 years -- is expected to be completed in two years. (San Diego Union, May 8, 1985.)