Wind power has been used as long as humans have put sails into the wind. For more than two millennia wind-powered machines have ground grain and pumped water. Wind power was widely available and not confined to the banks of fast-flowing streams, or later, requiring sources of fuel. Wind-powered pumps drained the polders of the Netherlands, and in arid regions such as the American mid-west or the Australian outback, wind pumps provided water for livestock and steam engines.
Subjects. Turlock, like many communities across America, can trace its early development to one individual. John William Mitchell, wheat producer and entrepreneur, brought the Southern Pacific Railroad and a depot to what would become Turlock. This transportation link was the catalyst that brought business proprietors and settlers to the area and changed the 1850s settlement into an organized town. At the turn of the 20th century, the Turlock Irrigation district, the first California district under the Wright Act of 1887, brought water to the valley. A dam and system of canals provided the needed resource.