

Annie L. Morrison and John H Haydon, 1917, *History of San Luis Obispo County and environs, California, with biographical sketches of the leading men and women of the county and environs who have been identified with the growth and development of the section from the early days to the present* (Los Angeles: Historic Record Company), pp. 609

MICHAEL W. PHELAN.—The son of one of the pioneer families of San Luis Obispo County, and a man who has entered into the active affairs of his native section, as well as maintained the most helpful participation in the progress of the state, Michael W. Phelan, of Los Berros, was born on the old home place two miles north of Cambria, October 12, 1864. He attended school in the building that had been erected by his father for use as a schoolhouse, one of the first common schools started in the county; and after finishing the course, he went to Oakland and took supplementary work in St. Mary's college, graduating in 1885.

After that he returned to his father's ranch and, under his direction, learned the details of a successful farmer's life. Dairying and stock-raising were the principal industries, and in 1894, with a brother-in-law, A. McAlister, he engaged in the stock business on Carissa plains, renting property consisting of 5,500 acres, on which the "painted rocks" are located. There for sixteen years he did business on a large scale, when he and his partner sold the lease to the Miller & Lux corporation.

In 1906, Mr. Phelan bought five hundred acres near Los Berros, settled on his purchase and, leasing one thousand acres of the Dana tract and three thousand acres from Mrs. Kate Bosse, engaged in the stock business with growing success. Besides doing well financially, he has built up a reputation for fair dealing and good management, and today is one of the well-known stockmen of the county, being an expert judge of cattle who is often sought to pass judgment on stock. Mr. Phelan is interested in the home estate and in other tracts in various parts of the county.

At Los Berros, April 18, 1900, occurred the marriage of Michael W. Phelan and Miss Mary C. Donovan, a native of Monterey county, and they have three children—Dan J., Donald W. and Cyril A. M. Phelan.