



Rancho  
Santa Fe

1926  
1976



Garden  
Club

henry johnson  
L.A.

*The First Fifty Years*

# History

**I**n 1926 a small group of dedicated Rancho residents founded the Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club. The purposes of the club were to further the advancement of gardening and landscaping of the Ranch; to promote home and civic pride through beautification therein. There were only about forty homes in the whole area. The members met in each others homes but the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company gave them a lot for a future clubhouse.

**T**en years later the first clubhouse was donated by Mrs. Charles F. Meyer through the efforts of Mrs. Norman Carmichael and Mrs. Sydney Nelson. It was built on the N.E. corner of Avenida de Acacias and El Torro. Furnishings were donated anonymously. Twice since, that club was enlarged and beautified.

**D**uring World War II the clubhouse was headquarters for many subsidiary war agencies such as Civilian Defense, Red Cross, First Aid courses, etc. It was there that the Christmas wreath-making for Veterans hospitals was begun. This project still continues. Later the building was designated as a Civilian Casualty Center, fully equipped and staffed for any Ranch emergency.

**I**n 1942 a small Christian Science group held their meetings in the Clubhouse until permanent quarters were built. Lenten Services became an accepted part of Garden Club activities; followed by Ecumenical Sunday services. From these beginnings the present Village Church was founded.

**I**n 1947-48 the Club sponsored two Fashion Shows on the Inn grounds as money making events. This led to the founding of the Country Friends who have presented the fashion shows every year since.

**I**n 1951 the Club organized a very effective clean-up campaign which resulted in the first anti-litter campaign in San Diego County.

**I**n 1957 the Garden Club and the Association cooperated in an over-all Ranch beautification program mainly financed by the annual Home and Garden Tours and Flower Shows. Its success is visible in many Ranch roadside plantings, entrances to the Ranch, School, Association and Golf Club.

**I**n 1963 the Garden Club bought the lot just behind the building on Acacias for future expansion needs. It was paid off by hardworking members efforts in shows and rummage sales. It is now the parking lot of the new 1975-76 Club House.

**T**hrough all these years the dedicated Presidents with their Boards, the Trustees and Historians devoted many hours of time, work and thought to the improvement and progress of the Club. Money for support and care of the Club was earned by flower shows, rummage sales and Garden Tours with aid of a few memorials.

**I**n 1971 the Articles of Incorporation were revised, making the purposes of the club educational, charitable and scientific, thus broadening its areas of activity. The past Presidents living on the Ranch were still retained as Board of Trustees as always.

**I**n 1971 the president started to plan and work for a new clubhouse. Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Larson gave the land from the Garden Club lot to the corner of Avenida Acacias and La Granada. After five years of hard work, planning and money raising by a group of dedicated men and women the beautiful new club now stands with its plantings and patios.

All the names over the years cannot be mentioned in this brief history but the two outstanding women who held the club together for its first years of struggle were

**Mrs. Norman Carmichael**

and

**Mrs. Sydney Nelson.**

The following pages list the past presidents, the historians, the donors, and the memorials.

After this first fifty years may we hope that you who now enjoy its beauty and benefits will continue the ideals and untiring efforts of all those who have built the first fifty years of the

**Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club.**

In 1963, the Garden Club won the state-wide Richfield Prize for doing the most in beautifying their community.



# Presidents

## of Rancho Santa Fe Garden Club



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1929-30 MRS. C.F. PEASE . . . . .          | 1955-56 MRS. EDMUND SULLIVAN . . . . .     |
| 1930-31 MRS. ELLIS BISHOP . . . . .        | 1956-57 MRS. RAYMOND GRISET . . . . .      |
| 1931-35 MRS. NORMAN CARMICHAEL . . . . .   | 1957-58 MRS. HARRY W. BOOTH, jr. . . . .   |
| 1935-36 MRS. RUSSELL MILLAR . . . . .      | 1958-60 MRS. ARTHUR G. THORNE . . . . .    |
| 1936-40 MRS. NORMAN CARMICHAEL . . . . .   | 1960-62 MRS. HARDY KENT . . . . .          |
| 1940-43 MRS. H. RAY MILLARD . . . . .      | 1962-63 MRS. CHARLES CHAPIN . . . . .      |
| 1943-45 MRS. SYDNEY R. NELSON . . . . .    | 1963-65 MRS. NEIL RANDOL . . . . .         |
| 1945-48 MRS. ARTHUR R. LINDBURG . . . . .  | 1965-67 MRS. JOHN GRIMM . . . . .          |
| 1948-49 MRS. GEORGE R. LUNN . . . . .      | 1967-68 MRS. EDMUND T. PRICE . . . . .     |
| 1949-50 MRS. C. GRAY STEWART . . . . .     | 1968-69 MRS. HUBERT G. LARSON . . . . .    |
| 1950-51 MRS. HUBERT BROOKE . . . . .       | 1969-71 MRS. REGINALD F. BULLER . . . . .  |
| 1951-52 MRS. REGINALD CLOTFELTER . . . . . | 1971-73 MR. WILFRED S. TEETZEL . . . . .   |
| 1952-53 MRS. FRANK PETERS and . . . . .    | 1973-74 MR. JOSEPH E. COBERLY, JR. . . . . |
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| 1953-54 MRS. R. VICTOR VENBERG . . . . .   | 1975-76 MRS. ROBERT H. RUUD . . . . .      |
| 1954-55 MRS. FRED VAN SICKLEN . . . . .    | 1976-77 MRS. EARL WHITEHEAD . . . . .      |

### Historians

- MRS. SYDNEY R. NELSON . . . . .
- MRS. ROBERT FRANCISCO . . . . .

# Acknowledgements...

## For Services, Special Work & Time

R·E·BADGER-sprinkler system and landscaping • B.deF (Pat)BAYLY-work • COLIN BRADFORD-planning • MR.<sup>and</sup> MRS. PAUL HELMS-chairs • DAVID HOOVER-planning • WRIGHT HUNTLEY-mantelpiece and other woodworking • PHYLLIS KENNEDY-needle point • MR.<sup>and</sup> MRS. HUBERT LARSON-land plus • RSE NURSERY-Landscaping • MRS. FILLMORE ROSE-Kitchen planning and supervisor • ARTHUR C. (Buzz) SMITH-supervisor and building committee • WILLIAM TEETZEL-planning

## Needlepoint and Tapestry-work or money or both

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