

Author Writes Historical Saga

He was a handsome gunfighter and gambler...she was the daughter of a wealthy Southern plantation family. They ran off and got married, then started West to pioneer...

And if you are thinking that you have heard this scam before, forget it.

You may have, yes. But you probably never read the story as well developed, fully fleshed out and matured as this one. It is **THE GOLDEN THRESHOLD** by Harriette de Jarnette, a Santa Cruz writer, published by Leisure Books; \$2.50, paper.

Harriette actually began this book years ago when she became enamoured of the Peter Lassen story. Lassen led a band of covered wagon pioneers west near Honey Lake and what today is Susanville, before the Indians — or whoever — did him in up there in Northern California. (I recently visited his grave — it's near Janesville, just a short hop from Susanville.)

The gambler-gunfighter and the plantation belle end up in a covered wagon of their own, rolling toward "Californy" and the future — an exciting future that contains all the elements of a good story: joy, sadness, beauty, death and even a transplanted magnolia tree which runs through the book as a sort of background theme.

The historical novel is what is commonly referred to in the publishing business as "a page turner."

Harriette, a member of a former Illinois and California newspaper fami-



Harriette de Jarnette

ly, is affiliated with Santa Cruz Pen Women. She presently is writing another book which will continue the **THRESHOLD** saga. She also is included in a book currently being written about writers of romantic fiction titled **LEADING LADIES OF ROMANCE**, by Katherine Falk.

One last word: the cover of **THRESHOLD** does not do this historical novel justice.

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL
July 5, 1981