

ca. 1954

Broq - H - First Methodist Church Pays Tribute To Lillian Heath, 90

By Laura Rawson

Mrs. Lillian Heath was greatly surprised Sunday morning to find herself the guest of honor at a reception following the morning service of the First Methodist church, in recognition of her 90th birthday.

Mrs. Heath has a remarkable record, for she has been a member of this church for 77 years, having joined it when a young girl and has been a help and inspiration in its activities during all the passing years.

Over 150 men and women were present at the reception held in Heath hall of the church, named after her to express their love, appreciation and best wishes for the happy anniversary.

Hostesses for the reception were members of the Women's Society of Christian service, of which Mrs. Sarah Roush is president and the chairmen of the various circles assisting.

Centering a prettily appointed serving table were beautiful pink azaleas from the C. L. Scott garden with Mrs. Roush serving tea at one end of the table and Mrs. Esther Harris serving sherbet punch at the other end, with homemade cookies. Mrs. Maude Fallis, Mrs. Richard Wentland, Mrs. Mildred Persig and Miss Lillie Lynam, chairmen of the four circles, assisted in serving.

Receiving with Mrs. Heath were her two nephews and their wives,

Clarence Dake of Salinas and Irving Dake. The latter couple recently have moved from Oregon to make their home near San Jose, and came to Santa Cruz to spend the day with Mrs. Heath on her birthday.

Mrs. Heath wore an exquisite orchid corsage, gift from the choir.

Dr. William Owen, pastor of the church spoke briefly, extending good wishes from the church and expressing the appreciation of all for her many years of service and encouragement and many kindnesses. A beautiful birthday cake was presented to her to take home.

Mrs. Heath responded feelingly, expressing her great surprise and appreciation for the honor paid her.

"It is one of the happiest days of my life," she concluded.

Mrs. Heath came to Santa Cruz from Milwaukee where she was born. She was but 13 years old, and after completing her own school days, taught in Santa Cruz county schools. She is the daughter of the late Judge and Mrs. William D. Storey.

She gave up teaching to devote herself to the study of art, under the well known artist, Frank Heath's direction. Later she went to New York for further art study under famed artists devoting much time to figure painting and to painting on china on which she excelled.

When she returned to Santa Cruz she became the bride of Frank Heath and they maintained a studio in their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Heath were charter members of the Santa Cruz Art league, and he was its first president.

Upon the death of her parents, Judge and Mrs. Storey, Mrs. Heath had installed the beautiful Rose Window in the church in their memory. It is one of the most beautiful windows seen in any edifice, and many consider it a benediction to sit where they may see it.

Frank Heath attained an enviable reputation in the world of art, and exhibited in many cities both east and west.

One of these, a huge picture, hangs in the Santa Cruz public library. It is a bird's-eye view of Santa Cruz and it hung in the Chicago world's fair.

Mrs. Heath has generously given four of his very large pictures to the First Methodist church and they hang in Heath hall. One, a huge canvas handsomely framed is of Point Lobos, for which the artist was offered \$3000.

Another is of Yosemite Valley, one of Redwoods and another a beautiful marine up the coast from Santa Cruz.

Mrs. Heath also started a fund to purchase the church organ, turning over the legacy she received to start the fund. A simple bronze tablet on the organ bears her name and that of Marie Nelson and others.

The church deemed it an honor and privilege to pay tribute to this loved and generous member on her 90th birthday at a reception in Heath hall, named for her.

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