

Authors 3-26-78



Barbara Chamberlain and her first book

This Quaker Book Is for Kids

"They may have been peace-loving Quakers but they had a secret weapon."

So reads the bookcover lead-in on Barbara Chamberlain's first book, **THE PRISONERS' SWORD**.

The Aptos author says the book, which is geared for the 10 to 14-year-old reader, is fiction based on the facts she has unearthed about her father's Quaker ancestry.

She has family records going back to the early days when the Quakers of Yorkshire, England, were so persecuted for their faith that they fled to Holland, where they were treated with more compassion.

But they returned to England, where they were put in jail. William Penn had them released, and brought a group of them to America, where they settled what became Pennsylvania.

"I see so many children who don't appreciate what we have in this country," she says, "this book gives some understanding of why the constitution was written and why they put in all those freedoms — especially freedom of religion."

Barbara and her husband, David, an Aptos dentist, have two daughters and one son.

She has been writing for some years, and has sold a number of her stories to magazines.

A member of the local chapter of Pen Women, she says the group helped her with her book a great deal. She especially credits Margaret Haun, a member and local author, for her help and encouragement.

The book, published by David C. Cook, is available at Plaza Books, Vessey Drug and other stores which have book racks of the publisher's books.

Santa Cruz Pen Women will host an autograph party for Barbara at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the upstairs community room of Santa Cruz Public Library on Church Street.

Barbara will talk about the writing of her book and the historical research entailed. The public is invited.