



Rio del Mar Conversation Piece

By MARGARET KOCH
Sentinel Staff Writer

It sits on a corner and has a white-plaster courtyard wall partly hiding it from traffic along Rio del Mar Boulevard.

There are trees and shrubs, and you have to really look to see the house which is one of the older homes in Rio del Mar.

It is early California-Mexican style, the home of the Jack Lingafelters, and it has loads of charm in a day of the sleek, un-charmless.

Black wrought iron garden gates set off the various entryways that lead to entry doors from the gardens. Blue and yellow tiles from Mexico frame the main doorway. Mellow tiles are underfoot outside in many areas, and highly polished dark hardwood floors inside.

It's an elegant home furnished in an eclectic manner. Barbara Lingafelter, who is widely known for her acting and singing, has eclectic tastes. She has collected art from many parts of the world.

"I have a real spiritual attachment to this house," Barbara says. "It's about 48 years old. And we have tried to make it as much as possible like it must have been originally."

However, when the Lingafelters acquired the two-story Mexican style house, they also acquired a few problems. Dry rot was rampant. An entry porch was sagging, and a second story room also was showing signs of wear.

"When you take an older house, you have to take it as is," she notes.

She tells how she watched with horror as workmen stripped away an outside wall, uncovering dry rot that went higher and higher — and higher into the structure.

All the people who worked on the house were artists and craftsmen, she says, highly dedicated people who caught her infectious enthusiasm to restore it as perfectly as possible.

"We lived here one whole winter with polyurethane up at two living room walls, keeping out the weather."

She credits her contractor, Val Panzich of Watsonville, with doing a sensitive and outstanding job.

Window seats Barbara wanted built in the living room are crafted of heavy redwood planking from the Oakland-San Francisco bay bridge. When it was made double decked, redwood planking was sold off.

The kitchen cabinets and a corner dining room cabinet are of dark wood, specially designed, and have handsome fittings. Persian rugs carpet the living room, dining room, den and other areas.

There are arched doorways throughout the house and a small arched ceiling hall that is an interesting optical illusion.

"When we first bought the house we could only afford the minimum of work on it," Barbara says.

The garden has been recently landscaped to her design which was carefully worked out with Les Roth of Alladin Nursery.

"It isn't really fully developed yet," she says, "but it's coming along."

All doors in the house are solid tongue and groove redwood and it took three solid weeks just to strip the old paint off and get them down to the beautiful wood. The door in the den is yet to be done.

The tiny back hallway is all theater, with theatrical wallpaper — "I had to have the theater somewhere," she says.

The piano in the living room was a wedding gift to her mother; one antique chair belonged to an aunt; upstairs there are photographs of Barbara's parents framed, with a love letter of 1919.

The house has a cherished feeling to it — and it is a cherished house.

The Lingafelter home will be included in the House and Garden Tour of Cabrillo Music Festival on June 19. Hours from 1-5 p.m.

Homes Tour is June 19

Gardens and homes will be featured at Cabrillo Music Festival House and Garden Tour, June 19.

Tour proceeds benefit the Cabrillo Music Festival which is to be August 12-22.

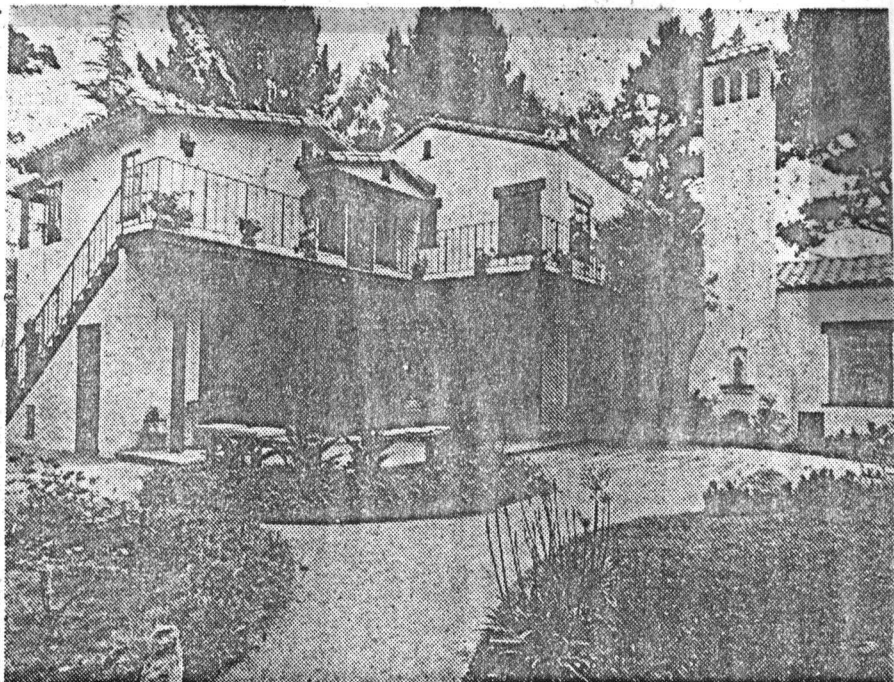
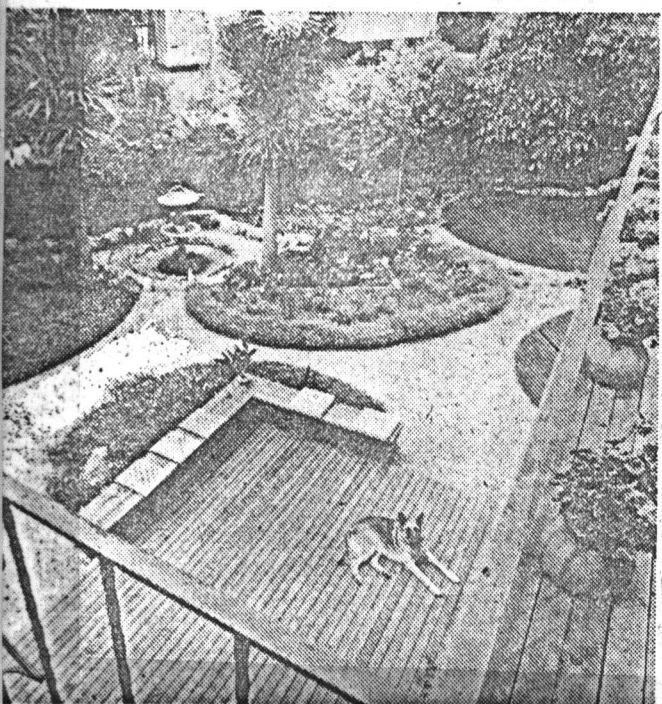
Tickets are \$5 and may be secured from Cabrillo Community Services at 425-6337 or Mary Spire at 426-4934.

In photographs above, top: Barbara Lingafelter in the living room of the Lingafelters' home on Rio del Mar Boulevard. The house has plastered walls, beamed ceilings in living and dining rooms, arched

doorways throughout the entire house, and dark hardwood floors.

Immediately above is the dining room in which the Lingafelters have added a corner cabinet of dark wood, designed to follow the arch theme.

The house will be one of five homes open to the public. As part of the event, a reception will be held at the Manuel Santana home, 1444 Day Valley Road, from 4 p.m. Music will be featured from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.



Mexican style home of the Jack Lingafelters as viewed from the gardens in back. At left, bottom to-top: the Lingafelters' dog Branch in garden; kitchen and a corner of the patio with Mexican pot and chairs.