

# Sea Living 8-29-77

## A Gift Painting Goes to UCSC

Dr. and Mrs. Victor Mockus of Santa Cruz recently presented a painting by California pioneer artist William Keith to UCSC. The painting is a portrait of California historian Theodore Hittell, a long-time friend of the Keith family.

Chancellor Angus Taylor and his wife, Patsy, received the gift during an informal lunch at University House. It was one of the last official acts for the Chancellor who is retiring at the end of August.

Following the lunch, the two couples were given a tour of the Special Collections department by Librarian David Heron of the McHenry Library, where the Keith portrait will be displayed. The Special Collections department also acquired recently copies of Hittell's books, including his *HISTORY OF CALIFORNIA*.

Keith and Hittell, both distinguished in their fields, lived in the San Francisco Bay Area at the turn of the century. Often their families

and other friends would gather to present at-home plays and relax in what Keith's biographer, Brother Cornelius, called "jollification."

During one of the evenings Keith was telling how he "superinduced" a mood for painting a picture. As Cornelius writes: "One in the company asked, 'Well, how would you superinduce the right mood for painting the portrait of Theodore Hittell here?' Keith picked up an ocarina and said, 'I'd take something round and

very smooth,' and as he stroked it, it was unmistakable that he was referring to Hittell's bald head."

Although it's reported that Hittell did not take the joke lightly, the results of Keith's eventual impression of his friend are now on view at the McHenry Library.

The oil painting measures 28x24 inches and was done in the 1890s. Records show that a portrait of Hittell was exhibited at the Mark Hopkins Institute of Art in San Francisco in 1897.



UCSC Librarian David Heron holds the gift painting of California historian Theodore Hittell which was presented to UCSC Special Collections by Dr. and Mrs. Victor Mockus, left. Receiving the gift were Chancellor and Mrs. Angus Taylor, at right.