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Libraries 1970-1979

Gift To Library

Painting of Natural Bridges

Fred W. K. Hamilton, Soquel artist and ceramist, has presented a treasured gift, which has meant much to him through the years, to the Santa Cruz Public Library.

The gift is a painting of Natural Bridges State Park, painted by Robert Williams and presented by the artist to Fred some years ago.

Robert Williams is noted for his paintings of national parks, and is a member of the National Academy of Art.

Born in New York City, he painted his first landscapes on Staten Island and later attended the National Academy of Design.

He also lived and worked in Jamaica, where his paintings were exhibited.

His landscapes, portraits and still life paintings have been exhibited widely in the East, and he was also an art teacher.

The Williams family moved to California in 1954, and the couple now live in Carriage acres, Soquel.

While on a 20,000 mile tour of the United States some years ago, Williams completed more than a hundred paintings. Thirty-one of these were of national parks.

The collection was hung at the New York World's Fair in 1939-40. Later, the paint-

ings were given to the National Park Service, and now hang in park museums, administration buildings and in the offices of the Department of the Interior in Washington, D.C.

The 90-year-old artist also has done many etchings, a collection of which has hung in the New York Public Library.

Artistic ability runs pretty well through the Williams family, and the artist's grand daughter, Margaret Murray, is an art instructor at Cabrillo College.

The Williams painting now hangs in the Music Room at the library.



A painting of Natural Bridges State Park by Artist Robert Williams, second from left, is being presented to Santa Cruz Public Library by the owner of the painting, Fred W. K. Hamilton, right. Also in the photo are Mrs. Williams, left, and the couple's grand daughter, Margaret Murray, who is following in the footsteps of her famous grandfather. She is an art instructor at Cabrillo College.