

August, 1975 Greensheet



This was the Martin Jongeneel home from 1931 to 1955.

## Old home had charm, grace

By VINCENT T. LEONARD

In 1931, Martin Jongeneel, land control officer of the California Packing Corporation, retired to Aptos, where he built a very attractive home at 9051 Soquel Drive.

Many of the Hollanders who had worked under his direction for C.P.C. were already in residence here, among them Pete Jansse and Jongeneel's brother-in-law, Cornelius van Kaathoven. In fact, Mr. van Kaathoven's home was at 9011 Soquel Drive (and is still occupied by his widow, Agnes.) Because the 9000 block of Soquel Drive is so unusually long, the two homes

were ¼-mile apart.

Jongeneel, an expert gardener, embowered his new home in an elaborate garden of rhododendrons, azaleas and other colorful flowers, and his home became one of the bright showplaces of Santa Cruz County.

Like so many of the Dutch families who settled in mid-county, the Jongeneels contributed richly to the cultural life of the community. Mrs. Jongeneel gave private lessons in singing and in piano. She and her daughter Elizabeth were popular singers at local social affairs, while she and her daughter Johanna generously provided

piano performances for local entertainments. Among her pupils were Misses Joyce and Patricia Toney. Joyce's sweet, strong soprano enlivened the choir of the Aptos Methodist Church and won her lead roles in the operas staged by S.F. State College. She became Mrs. Leon West, and shortly before her early, tragic death, was part of a singing group on television in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Patricia, now Mrs. Patricia Thompson of Amesti School, gave highly-praised piano recitals in Aptos.

After the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Jongeneel in the 1950's, the house stood vacant for several

years. An investor who acquired the property bulldozed out the elaborate garden, for, by the time he bought it, the property had been rezoned for commercial development. In 1974 two ladies in partnership, redecorated the house and opened it as the Charles Dickens Restaurant, which retains much of the charm and grace that the Jongeneels built into a beloved home.