

Aptos-



Historic Aptos Home To Be Scene of Preview Party

An 85-year-old house will be the scene of the Preview Auction Party for members of Santa Cruz County Symphony Guild and their guests, on April 28 Saturday.

While guests are enjoying the nostalgic atmosphere of the 1890s and sipping cocktails and snacking on hors d'oeuvres, they will have a chance to enter silent bids on the choice items to be auctioned.

The actual auction is slated for May 12 at Rio Sands Motel in Rio del Mar. Public invited. Tickets \$1 and auction hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The 85-year-old home is that of Claus Mangels, who bought the original ranch property from Claus Spreckels and Rafael Castro's heirs in 1884 and 1886.

He acquired a total of about 550 acres and built his main home, carriage house and servants' quarters in 1888.

The ranch now consists of about 350 acres, all owned in separate parcels by relatives and descendants of Claus Mangels.

The house is now owned by Nancy and Karl Mertz. Karl is the great-grandson of Claus Mangels.

Claus Mangels and Claus Spreckels were neighbors in Hanover, Germany, and came to the United States about 1848, landing in New Orleans.

There is a double relationship between the two families in that Claus Mangels and Peter Spreckels (a brother of Claus Spreckels) married twin sisters named Groose. Claus Spreckels married Claus Mangels' sister, Anna Mangels.

When the house was built it was used mainly about six weeks in the summer. It has 14-foot ceilings and enough bedrooms to sleep 23 in the main house, not counting outside quarters.

When it was first built, it took guests (and family) two days by horse and carriage to come from San Francisco to Aptos, with an overnight stop at Hotel Lyndon in Los Gatos before tackling the winding dirt road through the Santa Cruz Mountains.

In its day the old house was the scene of many social occasions.

There is a tennis court out back; there were fine riding horses stabled nearby. The house itself had a game room.

Claus Spreckels of course, is famous in history as the sugar millionaire. He came to Aptos in 1872 and bought extensive properties from Rafael Castro, and in the following two

decades made the name "Aptos" synonymous with "lavish entertaining."

Claus Spreckels built a hotel with outdoor dance pavilion for his guests, many cottages, a race track, polo field and raised thoroughbred horses.

Mr. Spreckels shipped lumber to Hawaii from the Aptos wharf where his schooners called to pick it up. The lumber came from Grover's Mill, up behind Aptos.

However, Mr. Spreckels is best known for the great sugar refinery he built near Salinas which is yet today called Spreckels.

—MARGARET KOCH

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Historic Mangels' mansion in its heyday, at top, with guests on horseback, on foot, in pony cart with the family's ancient auto standing by. Immediately above, the house as it looks today. Below, the dining room with an oil portrait of Mrs. Mangels.



Speakers For Orchid Society

Santa Cruz Orchid Society will meet Monday at 8 p.m. at Harvey West Clubhouse. A board of directors' meeting will precede the session at 7:30.

Speakers will include Al Culver, cattleyas; Ray Stein-

dorf, cymbidiums, and Bob Cryder, papahs.

They will discuss "Reporting" and a question-answer period will follow their demonstrations. All interested persons are invited.