

# Splashes into the Past...

By Margaret Koch  
Sentinel Staff Writer

The memory of Edna L. Scott, last of the historic Scott family to live in Santa Cruz, was honored yesterday at University of California at Santa Cruz.

A fountain, designed by Artist Nancy Genn was installed and dedicated in Miss Scott's name. The fountain was the gift of an anonymous donor. But what those who witnessed the stirring ceremony did not know, was the fact that the artist is a direct descendant of Miss Scott.

Mrs. Genn's mother, now Mrs. H. C. Whitehouse of Berkeley, is the former Ruth Wetmore Thompson, a granddaughter of Ruth Delia Scott. The latter was a daughter of Hiram Daniel Scott, first member of the family to settle in California.

Edna Scott was the daughter of Joseph and Annie S. Scott, and a niece of Hiram Scott for whom Scott's Valley was named. She was born in the Joseph Scott family home at 124 Walnut avenue where she lived until 1958. That was a sad and eventful year: Edna had to enter a rest home due to her failing health; she died on November 23 of the same year. And the old home was torn down the week before she died, to make way for a parking lot.

Edna was educated in local schools and at San Jose State college when it was known as the "state normal school." She came back here to teach at Mission Hill school, then located on Mission Hill where today the city school board offices stand. She never married—and she never told her age. In the 1930's Edna retired from teaching to care for her mother who was very ill.

Most colorful member of the Scott family was Edna's Uncle Hiram, a native of Maine. Hiram married in Maine but lost his wife and supported his family by going to sea on sailing ships. He sailed into Monterey Bay as second mate on the J. C. Whiting in 1846, and "jumped ship."



EDNA SCOTT

Maybe it had been a particularly rough trip around the Horn. Conditions aboard sailing ships were terrible under the best of circumstances. In any event, Scott took refuge with a branch of the Rodriguez family while the ship's captain searched the Santa Cruz Mission and Villa de Branciforte for the runaway mate.

In 1848 Scott was busy building a ship on ways located between the present municipal wharf and casino. When word of the gold discovery arrived, he dropped his tools and left for the mines.

Scott struck it rich, went to what is now the city of Stockton, built a \$100,000 hotel and operated a ferry service.

In 1852 he returned to Santa Cruz county and paid \$25,000 for the Rancho San Augustin. Today the main section of his rancho is known as

Scott's Valley. Scott settled there to raise hay, potatoes and fine horses. He also bought a ranch "up the coast" on a creek still known as Scott's Creek.

Several years later, Scott brought his father, Capt. Daniel Scott, and brothers Joseph and Edward, to California from Maine. Joseph, of course, was to become Edna's father.

Hiram married Miss Agnes Cumming in 1861 in San Jose. The couple had three children: William, Frances and Nancy Maud. Nancy lived for many years with her mother on Vine street in a house brought around the Horn in 1849 on a sailing vessel.

Hiram died in 1887, far from his beloved Scott's Valley and Santa Cruz. He was at Casa Grande in Arizona, where he had gone to oversee mining interests. The lure of the earth's riches was strong for Hiram to the last.



"Mistral" is the title of this oil by Artist Nancy Genn. It received an award at San Francisco Museum in 1964. Nancy, painter and sculptor, is the mother of three lively youngsters, wife of a Berkeley engineer. The oils are hanging in Cowell college

Nancy Genn (Mrs. Vernon C. Genn) not only sculpts—she paints. Her oils have been described by a UC art professor as "fresh and vivid and personal as handwriting."

Her work is hauntingly reminiscent of calligraphy—and Oriental characters. She says she feels that Mark Tobey, noted Seattle artist, has influenced her work.

"He is one of the first great contemporaries to break from the solid form—and one of the first to be recognized by Paris. Tobey went to Japan, absorbed the Oriental concept, came home

and produced a new statement," she explained. "In other words, he didn't come home and start painting 'Japanese.'"

Another important influence has come from Claire Falkenstein, famed Los Angeles sculptor.

Nancy Genn's bronze fountain was created through the lost wax process, using a special micro-crystalline wax. The actual flow of water was tested on the wax model which was then cut into 30 sections, plaster models were formed and put through the foundry in order to create the bronze casts. One section



"Splashes Into the Past" will flow from this fountain designed and cast in bronze by Nancy Genn. The fountain honors the late Edna Scott and stands in Cowell college court. Nancy is a descendant of the Scott family. Inspecting the intricate bronze fountain with Nancy are, left, Jim Daigle, UCSC project inspector, and Harry H. Tsugawa, campus landscape architect.

weighed 3000 pounds.

Hand-finishing of the pieces took two people six weeks. Sections were re-assembled using carpenter's plumb lines for absolute accuracy, welded, then finished again by hand. Chemicals gave it a patina and colors in places. Santa Cruz' salt air and the chemicals in the city water running through the fountain will enhance these features, according to Nancy.

The fountain is designed for the play of the water which will break and splash and sparkle on hundreds of surfaces.

Nancy Genn received her art training at UC Berkeley and California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco. She has won many awards including the James D. Phelan art award at Montalvo. Other awards have been made by: California School of Fine

Arts, San Francisco Museum of Art, California State fair, Richmond Art center, Florida Southern college, San Francisco Art festival, Oakland Art museum and Michigan Art center.

Her paintings are in collections both public and private in many states. One of her most noted bronze works is the Lectern at Berkeley Unity temple.

MARGARET KOCH

