

26—Santa Cruz Sentinel

Thursday, April 8, 1976



Phyllis Patten

# Historian-Author Phyllis Patten Dies At Age 91

Phyllis Bertorelli Patten, 91, widely known in Santa Cruz County as historian and author, died Wednesday in a local rest home following a brief illness.

She is survived by three sons, Paul H. Patten of Felton; Joseph E. Patten of Redding and Wilbert J. Patten of Santa Cruz, and by 14 grandchildren.

The Rosary will be recited at the Wessendorf and Holmes chapel Friday at 8 p.m. Friends may call at the mortuary chapel on Friday from noon to 9 p.m.

Services will be conducted Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the mortuary, 223 Church Street, and proceed to Holy Cross Catholic Church where a mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 o'clock.

Interment will be in Holy Cross Cemetery.

Mrs. Patten, a native of Italy, came to the United States as a small child, with her mother, to join her father who was working in Santa Cruz County lumber mills.

She wrote her memories of a lumber camp in the canyon above Soquel where she lived as a child, in her book "Oh, That Reminds Me." A second, smaller book followed, titled "Mission Santa Cruz."

When she was still a child, her mother died and her father placed her in Holy Cross Boarding School, then run by the Daughters of Charity. It was there that she learned to love books, she often said when reminiscing about her childhood in Santa Cruz.

She lived most of her life on Mission Hill, within a stone's throw of the Mission and Catholic Church to which she was devoted historically as well as an active member. She was a charter member of the Young Ladies Institute, which was founded here in 1921.

In recent years, Mrs. Patten had many of her historic photographs of Santa Cruz city and county made into slides which she showed to various clubs and organizations, providing a commentary with them.

She also made tapes and donated them to local libraries.

In November, 1974, she was appointed as one of five members of the city's new Commission on Historic Preservation. On her 90th birthday in December, 1975, she was honored with a birthday party at Santa Cruz City Hall.

She was a long-time member of Santa Cruz Historical Society, Holy Cross Altar Society, the Third Order of St. Francis and a charter member of Holy Cross Mothers Club.

Prior to entering the rest home several weeks ago, she was working on another book, this one to be titled "Echoes of Santa Cruz County's Yester-years."

REFERENCE

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]