

Ann Alder's 80th Birthday Party

Longtime members of SCCHGS and other Bay Area genealogy societies will remember Ann Alder who volunteered countless hours as the Society Librarian for SCCHGS at the old Central Library from the 1980s until it closed in 2001 and then in the Temporary Library through 2003. She truly strengthened the genealogy book collection in the Library during her years of service. She also kept up with electronic and computer developments in genealogy. She recommended which genealogy CDs should be purchased for the Library and was an early Internet user. She was generous in sharing donations of duplicate materials with other genealogy libraries and finding homes for donated books that could not be used in the Santa Clara City Library.

Although illness prevented Ann from being able to enjoy the new Central Park Library, she nevertheless continued to serve as the Society's Head Librarian Emeritus and would occasionally visit so her many friends on the library staff would have a chance to talk to her. She regularly sent flowers for the Service Desk in the Heritage Pavilion that were fresh-cut from the beautiful garden at her home in Santa Clara.

In 2005 Ann made a major donation to the Library to buy books in memory of a beloved brother. The many books bought at that time carry this bookplate: In memory of Francis Lloyd Ferguson III, Survivor of the Battle of the Bulge, 60-year Disabled American Veteran, Life-long reader and collector of books, devoted uncle and beloved brother of Ann Alder.

A couple of years ago Ann and John Alder moved to Santa Cruz to be near their daughter. Ann is now in Driftwood Healthcare Facility, 675 24th Avenue, Room 21 B, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. She very much enjoys notes and cards if you would like to write to her.

On Saturday, February 16, 2008, husband John and daughter Cindy organized an 80th birthday party for Ann which was held in the sunroom of Driftwood Healthcare Facility. I had the pleasure of attending. It was a beautiful, sunny day. Staff moved Ann in her bed from her room to the sunroom where family, friends and a few representatives from SCCHGS were in attendance. Ann had on a lovely red jacket and "New Orleans-style" beads and her cake was decorated with red roses. She was as charming and considerate of people as ever and enjoyed hearing news about the library staff and her friends from SCCHGS. She said she so much enjoyed getting a birthday card that had been signed by many of the Library

staff and several of the Genealogy Society volunteers and board members. She said it took her half an hour to read all the names and notes on the card.

Ann's sister-in-law dropped off a few pictures she took at the party which I will keep at my desk for anyone to see. Ann still gets and reads the SCCHGS newsletter – so if you are reading this, Ann: “Best wishes during your 80th Birthday year! Your friends at the Library and from the Society still miss you and think about you.”

--Submitted by Mary Hanel, Staff Liaison to SCCHGS