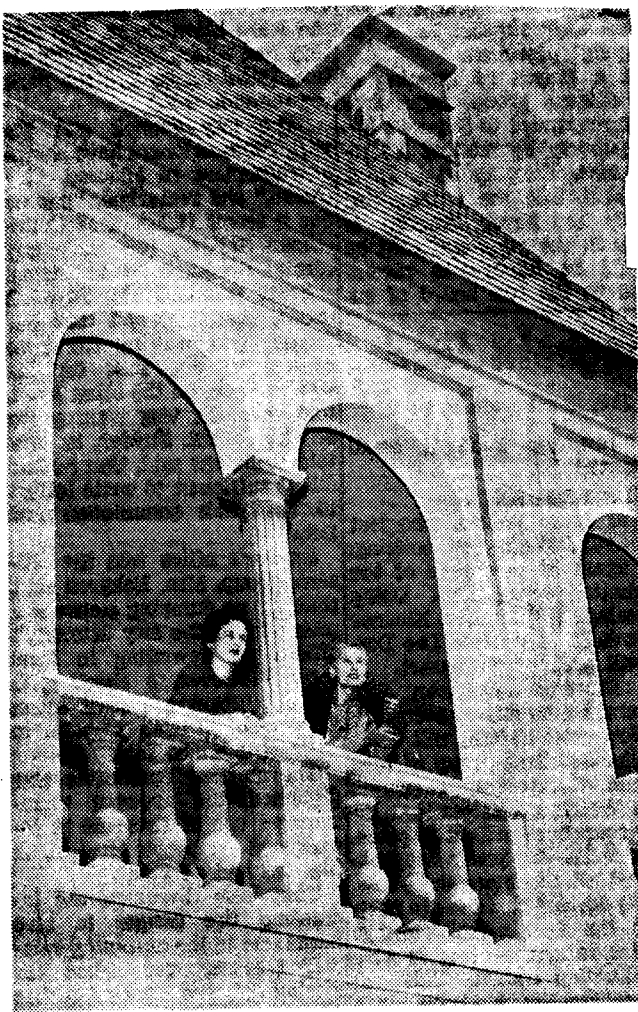
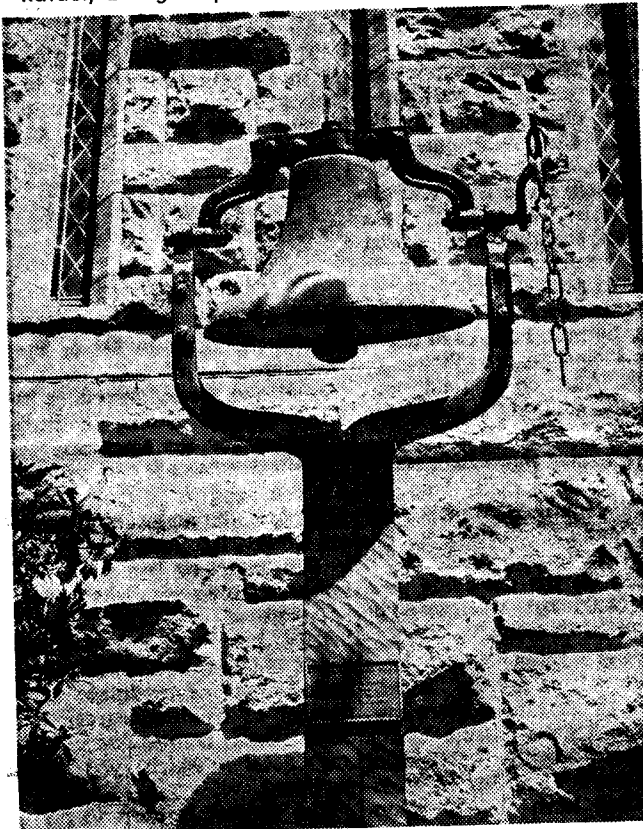


Rancho San Rafael re-visited

By Nelda Thompson



FROM FRANCE . . . came much of the elegance put to use in this aristocratic chateau at 1199 Chateau Rd. The home owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Milburn will be part of next Saturday's tour of the Old Rancho San Rafael, brought up to date.



DINNER CALL . . . Now occupying a place of retired dignity is the old dinner bell that once summoned the "hands" of the Rancho San Rafael to supper. It now occupies its own private "shrine" on the grounds of the Church of the Angels.

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After the sun went down and the evening purpled in the lake, quivering with liquid shadow, old Rancho San Rafael was a quiet place. Cowbells joined in melody with the lisp of water and there was wind in the sycamores. Wheat fields slanted in the breeze and there was the moist green fragrance of growing things.

Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Campbell-Johnston often paused at the lake's edge in

an awed evensong. It reminded them so of the Scottish countryside and probably soothed the nostalgia for homeland that haunts all Scotsmen when they have left the moors and highlands of home.

This was the Rancho San Rafael in 1883 which had just a few years prior contained some 13,693 acres, but was now yielding to civilization, the vanguard of a megalopolis. The Campbell-Johnston family had purchased their transplanted homeland formerly known as the Dreyfus and Prudent-Beadry Tract and the west portion of the Rancho San Rafael. It was a beautiful "heart of the highlands," containing their own lake (which still bears their name). Around it they planted their vineyard, sprouting the plump, effervescent grapes that were making California famous. An Eden indeed and one that has never been completely erased from the landscape.

Great, great granddaddies" of those grape vines still crop up wild about the lake and in the neighboring hills of San Rafael. The winery (one of the handsomest of the era when California became the wine capitol of the country) still stands. Up until 1946 it lay pretty much abandoned, but on that year was purchased by the Milton Winstons who have remodeled it into home of exquisite modern appointments, still retaining its historical structure.

The effort to keep San Rafael alive in a more sophisticated world has been going on ever since its subdivision due largely to the construction of the Church of the Angels whose cornerstone was laid in 1889, previewing the monument which was dedicated to Alexander Robert Campbell-Johnston by his widow and carried on through their sons.

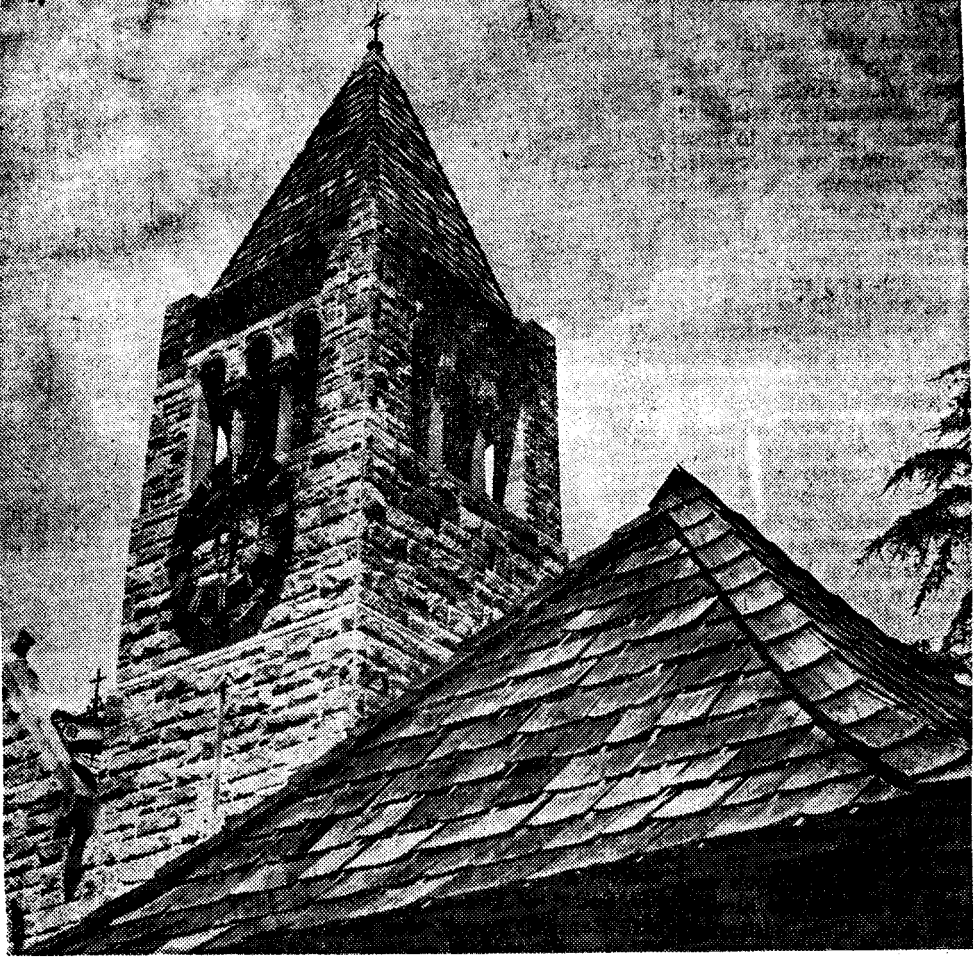
Although designed to be a replica of true Scottish architecture, the picturesque red stone was quarried right on the San Rafael Ranch.

In her effort to obtain the ultimate in perfection, the widow communicated directly with the Archbishop of Canterbury, getting his instructions on how to re-create her church in beautiful realism. Arthur Edmund Street, one of England's most famous architects, was selected to carry out the elaborate plans.

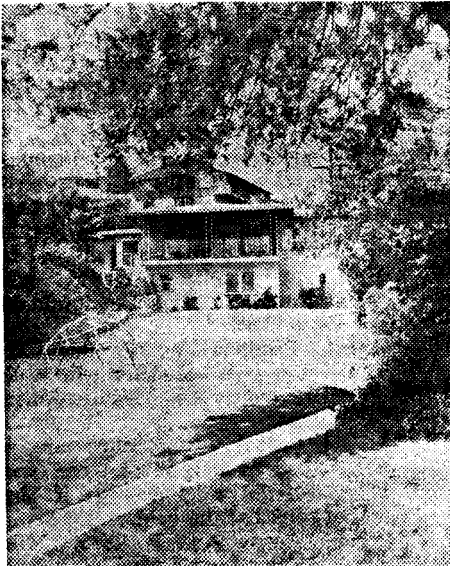
The result of a widow's dream and its careful execution in stone and mortar has made the Church of the Angels one of the most picturesque edifices in the world.

The congregation of the quaint little Episcopal church is proud of its architecture, its dedication and the serene spirit of the old rancho that still haunts the grounds like a friendly ghost.

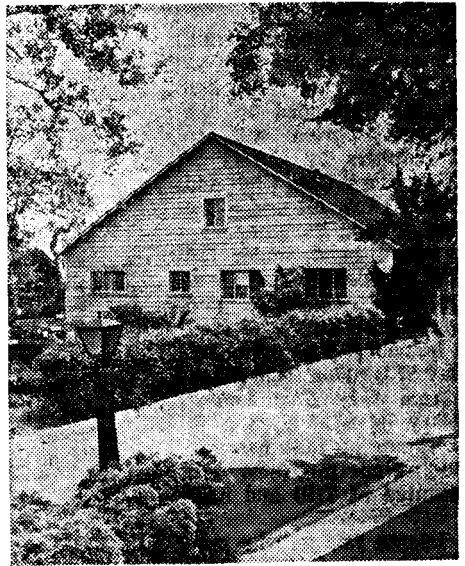
With all due pride and pomp, the women of the Church of the Angels are going to share their heritage with the public next Sunday. They are bringing the old rancho up to date in a meaningful way. A benefit tour of the impressive homes that now carry on the name of "San Rafael" will be staged next Saturday afternoon April 27, from 1-5 p.m.



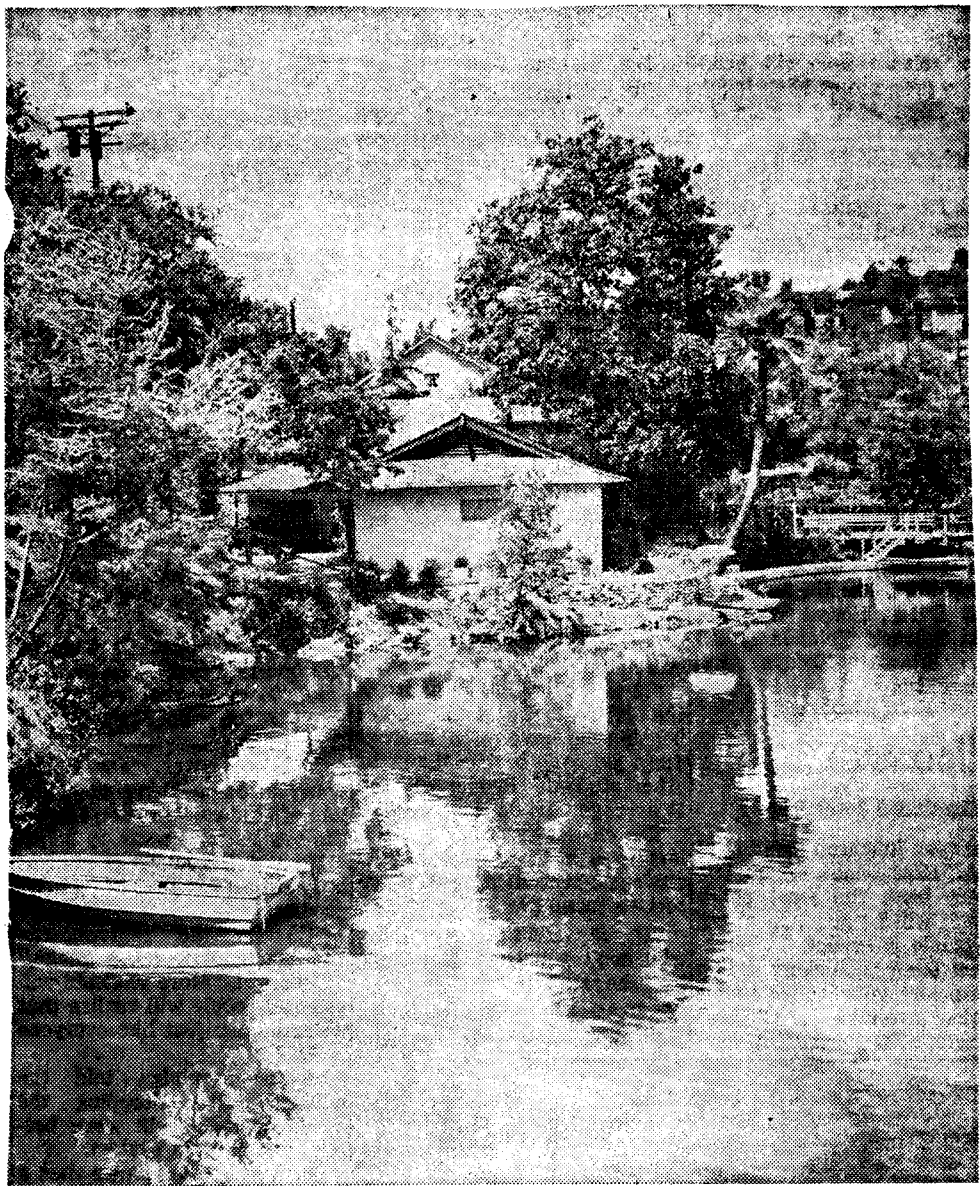
CHURCH OF THE ANGELS . . . One of the most picturesque sights, in all California serves not only as a monument to its founders, the family of Alexander Robert Campbell-Johnston, but to the days of the Dons as well. Re-created as a replica of Scottish architecture, it made use of stone quarried on the Rancho and received the personal attentions of no less than the Archbishop of Canterbury back in 1889.



ANOTHER GENERATION . . . many years removed from the days of the old Rancho, now romp on the green lawns. The comfortable hillside home above houses Mr. and Mrs. John G. Kirman and their five youngsters . . . in the very shadow of the Church of the Angels.



FAMOUS SPOT . . . the old San Rafael Winery lay neglected on the shores of Johnston Lake many years before it was refurbished and brought up to date, still retaining its historical significance. Wild grapes, "descendants" of the original vines still border the lake named for the founder at the church.



JOHNSTON LAKE . . . named after the family who built the Church of Angels is now bordered by sumptuous homes as modern as tomorrow.