

Letter from Home



The British Home in California, Ltd.

Jameson Cottage Revisited

The British Home Annual Report for the year 1958 reads "In July, we were the grateful recipients of a truly munificent gift. A good friend of the Home, Mrs. Ida Jameson, of Sierra Madre, presented us with a cheque for Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars with which to build a new cottage in memory of her husband."

Ida May Jameson and her husband James William, known as J.W., came to live in Sierra Madre in the early 1920s after they purchased a property on W. Highland Avenue. J.W. was a pioneer and a philanthropist who made his fortune through the discovery of oil in Kern County. Both Ida May and J.W. were raised in Eureka, Northern California but their ancestors had British connections. The Jameson family came from Scot-

land in the late 1690's and settled in the south initially before moving to the Eureka area. Ida May's parents moved from Canada to settle in Eureka.

After J.W.'s death in 1934, Ida May continued their philanthropic work and in 1956 founded the J.W. and Ida M. Jameson Foundation. In 1958, at the March meeting of the Foundation, funds were granted to build an additional cottage at the British Home. At the Thank-You Party, now known as the In-gathering, held on December 7th, 1958 Ida May broke ground for the building of what was to be Jameson Cottage.

The following year, the Annual Report stated "During the early part of the year Jameson Cottage building was completed and immediately furnished with the generous gifts from Chapters far and near.

Mr. Butterwick and Mrs. LaMarsh already residents in the Home were the first occupants."

Jameson Cottage remodeling is nearing completion and will provide four single rooms and one double; these are planned to accommodate residents who require 24 hour care. There is also a nurses' office and a purpose built medicine closet which will enhance the care given to all our residents, but especially those residing in Jameson and Braemar cottages.

Once again, individual DBE members and chapters throughout the Western District have made generous donations to provide new furnishings for Jameson Cottage.

Undoubtedly, Ida May would be very proud of the changes

April 17, 2011

Volume 7, Issue 2

Inside this issue:

Peter Isles - Resident 2

Mildred Wilson - Director 3

Residents Activities 4

Forthcoming Event at the British Home:

JUNE FAIRE
Saturday, June 4th



to the Cottage which stands as a lasting memorial to her husband, Mr. J.W. Jameson.



Mary Beadle

Peter Isles - Resident

Peter's parents were from England. His father was born in Tunbridge Wells and worked mostly in London and his mother was born in London, the daughter of a London policeman and a "real" cockney. A cockney is someone traditionally born within a two mile radius of the bells of St. Mary-le-Bow Church in London's East End.

Peter's father trained and worked as a caterer. His parents left England in the 1920s when conditions were hard after World War I. They settled in New Zealand where Peter was born. He tells us he was an only child and thoroughly spoilt.

Peter was schooled in the New Zealand public education system and then attended University in Auckland. Peter graduated with a Bachelors degree and a Masters mostly in physics. At University he lectured in physics whilst doing graduate work.



After Peter met and married his wife Mairibel, over the years they lived and worked in England, then in Canada, then in Australia,

and finally in America. Peter was married to Mairibel for 54 years. They had two children, Amanda and Alexander. Amanda is a science writer, and Alex is a musician mainly playing the trombone. Peter has no grandchildren.

Peter worked for 50 years, mostly in research and development in industrial companies. He also spent three years in Government labs (Defense Research Board) in Canada mainly in developing solar cells (photovoltaic cells) for use on spacecraft (satellites, planetary rovers).

Peter and his wife took family vacations in the Western States, with trips to Washington DC and Hawaii. They took trips to New Zealand to see their families. Peter was fortunate that his work involved attendance at many conferences both in USA and abroad. Peter

and his wife liked most places they visited especially England, Scotland and Ireland. They also enjoyed Italy and Japan.

Peter played cricket in New Zealand, England and Canada; also soccer in New Zealand and England. He played Rugby at school and played 'social' tennis and golf.

Peter still plays lawn bowls regularly and is a member of the Santa Anita Bowling Club.

Peter enjoys watching most sports, particularly on TV. He



used to coach boys' and girls' soccer teams in Arcadia. He also enjoys movies and attended stage shows and concerts in England. Lately he has seen some Shakespeare plays at the festival in Ashland, OR where his daughter lives.

Pete and his wife knew about the British Home because they attended our June Faires mainly to meet British friends and enjoy Cornish Pasties and sausage rolls. When Peter decided to sell his house he wanted to stay close to the bowling club in the Arcadia County Park. He and his family visited us as a possible retirement home. They all liked it and Peter says he is glad he decided to come and live with us at the British Home.

Mildred Wilson - Director

Mildred was born in Newfoundland to British parents, Louis and Lillian Rendell. She has a younger brother, Walter, a retired Police Officer, in British Columbia. Mildred received her education in Newfoundland and worked as a bank manager's secretary in her hometown of Stephenville.



In 1961, she married Henry Wilson, Jr. and they drove to Niagara Falls, Ontario, for their honeymoon. Then they continued the journey to Grosse Pointe, where they resided for the next 43 years.

Mildred worked in the accounting department of a very large architectural firm for seven years while her husband finished college. Later, he went back to school, got his Master's Degree in Computer Science and found his career was in the up and coming Computer Age. He got a job with a large international accounting firm where he ended up a Senior Partner.

Mildred became a "stay-at-home mom" to a beautiful little daughter, Suzanne; she was the center of their universe. Suzanne is now a mother herself giving Mildred a delightful grandson, Maxwell, now 8 years old. When Suzanne was of school age, Mildred volunteered at her school and was on the PTA Board. Over the years, Mildred served on every committee at her church; then she worked in the church thrift shop so she could be home when Suzanne got out of school. Finally, after twenty years, Mildred got a part-time job in a wallpaper store and eventually became the manager. She worked there until it was sold and continued to work in the retail business until moving to Arizona.

Mildred now works as a volunteer in the hospital gift shop at Scottsdale Health-care Shea North as a volunteer.

Mildred's social life centered mostly on her church and her husband's fraternity. He joined the Masonic Fraternity in 1972, became Master of his Lodge in 1976 and Grand Master of the State of Michigan in 1984. Throughout all those years, Mildred joined him in his travels and saw a lot of the world in the process.

In 1982, through an invitation to the Canadian Consul's residence for a British Tea, Mildred became acquainted with the DBE and joined a local chapter, Windsor Castle, and made some

wonderful lifelong friends. She served in every office, including Regent. After that, Mildred served a term on the State Board as First Vice President and two terms as President.

In 2004, her husband was offered a job in Arizona and they moved there in June where the temperature was 112°. That morning it had been 80° when they left Michigan. By mid July, Mildred was getting very lonely so she called her DBE friend back in Detroit, who made some calls and, before Mildred knew it, she found a Chapter close to home - Plantagenet. They were having a pool party (apparently, in Arizona, a backyard pool is your "saving grace") and Mildred was invited. An immediate friendship was formed, so she joined their chapter and, as they say, "the rest is history". Today, Mildred is the State President and trusts she'll be a good one.

Incidentally, on June 17th of this year, 2011, Mildred and Henry will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary!



**The British Home in
California, Ltd.**

647 Manzanita Avenue
Sierra Madre
California 91024-2217

Phone: (626) 355-7240
Fax: (626) 355-7267
E-mail: info@britishhome-ca.us

Residents' Activities

Valentine's Day

The annual Valentine Tea was held in the main lounge decorated with red hearts, pink white and red balloons. Our head chef, Delia, prepared lots of decadent sweets and tea for us while we listened to Marcelo Cesena play the piano with beautiful love songs for Valentine's Day that brought back a lot of memories.

St. Patrick's Day

On St. Patrick's Day several of the Executive Board members celebrated the day with the residents. As usual 'Paddy's Bar' was open serving the popular Bailey's Irish cream and Champagne. We were again fortunate to have Margaret Cleary's Irish dancers to perform for us. Some of these young ladies have performed in competition in England.

Refreshments were served after the program including Irish cheese, crackers and cookies. We also found the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow; of course ours was "chocolate gold".

