



WAGNER FAMILY: Mrs. John Wagner, 1100 West Eighty-fifth street, was recently guest of honor at a tea held for her on her eighty-fifth birthday in her home. More than 175 friends and relatives were present. Her 12 children honoring her were (left to right) Sister Vibiana,

Amanda Ronk, Mrs. John Wagner (mother) Adelaide Wagner, John Wagner Jr. (Back row) Otto Wagner, Irene Holman, Joseph Wagner, Ann Casper, Peter Wagner, Martha Funk, Cecilia Gullede and Leo Wagner.

Wagner Family Fetes Mother On Birthday

Mrs. John Wagner an old-time settler in the Southwest, was recently guest of honor at a tea given for her on her eighty-fifth birthday by her 12 children. More than 175 friends and relatives were present and tea was poured by her granddaughters.

John Wagner came to Los Angeles from Wisconsin in 1886 with his father and other members of his family. Anna Mary Herberger came out on the train with her parents from Minnesota the following year. They were married in 1889 and set up housekeeping in a home they built on a 10-acre corner of their 320-acre farm. The homestead, where all of their 12 children were born, still stands at Manchester and Western avenues. Hay and beans were the chief crops of the Wagner farm, which extended into the Crenshaw district.

SCHOOL DAYS

The older children started to school at Hyde Park, three long miles from their home. Later they all took the Redondo train pulled by a small engine as far as Jefferson boulevard. They had to walk a mile to the train and another mile after they left the train to reach their new school, St. Joseph's at Twelfth and Los Angeles streets.

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St. Joseph's at Twelfth and Los Angeles streets.

The long trek was too hard on the Wagner children so their father, John Wagner, their uncle, Mike Wagner, and Mike Merton, decided to establish a school on their own property to be taught by two nuns from St. Joseph's. It is on this property that St. Michael's church and school now stand, and one of their daughters, Sister Vibiana, who attended this little school, is now principal of St. Michael's school, which was built by St. Michael's parish on this land, a gift from the Wagner's.

NEW HOME

The Wagners sold their farm 20 years ago and built a luxurious home at 1100 West Eighty-fifth street, where Mrs. Wagner and her daughter, Adelaide, live alone except for gatherings of friends and relatives several times each month to talk over old times and keep up with the new ones.

It was in this home where her birthday open house was held last Sunday with all of her 12 children, 22 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren present. The day was cloudy and cold and all 175 of her guests remained indoors. A caterer prepared refreshments for them.

Helping her celebrate her birthday were her children, Sister Vibiana, Amanda Ronk, Adelaide Wagner, John Wagner Jr., Otto Wagner, Irene Homan of San Bernardino, Joseph Wagner, Ann Casper, Peter Wagner, Martha Funk, Cecilia Gullledge of Phoenix, Arizona, and Leo Wagner of Lancaster.

Among the honored guests were Mr. and Mrs. Will Barnes of San Mateo, the Rev. Michael

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Lee, the Rev. Father Paul Konoske, the Rev. Father John McNulty, the Rev. Father W. J. Mullane of Pasadena, and the Rev. Father William Duggan.

FAMILY DINNER

In the evening when the younger generations had scattered, Mrs. Wagner took her 12 children and their husbands and wives to a family dinner at the Onyx restaurant built on part of their old farm. The honoree was presented with a large decorated birthday cake and a bouquet of American beauty roses.

The only member of the family missing, stated Mrs. Wagner sadly, was her husband, John Wagner who died 17 years ago.

FAMILY GATHERING

On Christmas Day Mrs. Wagner served dinner for 60 members of her immediate family, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, a happy reunion for all members.

BIRTHDAY CLUB

Last week she entertained 22 members of Happy Birthday club of St. Michael's parish with the Rev. Michael Lee as a special guest.

KAFEEE KLATCH

Later she called in her oldest friends to come over to her house for a kaffee klatch to talk over old times and the recent good times she has had with her family and friends. She has had to admit, states Mrs. Katie Proffatt, 1100 West Eighty-fourth place, one of her oldest friends, that at 85, she is just a little tired from so many festivities planned in her honor.

By MARY CONKEY

TS!