

## President's Rally

By Dick France

I have always been of the opinion that waiting fifteen minutes after the scheduled departure time was more than ample to wait for the lazy arrivals - until on Saturday, Oct 10<sup>th</sup> when we arrived twenty minutes late. Fortunately the information in that award-winning Jagazette was such that we knew where to head. However as usual we saw considerably more of Livermore than planned in our quest to find Mines Road, but enjoyed it. That is a very attractive old down town area.

Mines Road is a neat road for a Jaguar - lots of curves and very little traffic. Another advantage was there were very few other roads off of Mines Road so it was easy to stay on course. It really was a beautiful drive with lots of eye-catching scenery. There appeared to be more horse lovers than horsepower lovers living in the area, so it was nice for us car people. The road climbed slowly, but I was glad I wasn't driving the XK 120 on a hot day up the hills - I would probably have gone off the road watching the temperature gauge.

We caught up with the crowd at the Lick Observatory. It was a beautiful clear day and you could see for miles in all directions. We missed the tour of the observatory, but did get a quick look at the telescope. I admire those people that can assign "dippers" and "Greek Gods" etc. to those zillions of scattered stars.

The drive down the other side was considerably shorter and steeper and sharper curves - so another good test for Jaguar's road ability. With the traffic in San Jose we once again got separated so had the opportunity of again challenging the navigator. Once we got close to the Smith's home the street full of Jaguars made the final destination as easy go.

We were graciously greeted into Howard & Dorothy's attractive home. As always we proceeded to the kitchen and on out to the luscious back yard. The barbecue on the back patio was busy and producing some mouth-watering smells. To keep the mood, hors d'ouvers consisting of nuts and chips and crackers and cheese were ready available. A variety of soft refreshments were provided plus a cooling service for those that brought alcoholic refreshment.

Once the barbecue reached perfection the feast was on. In addition to the grilled Tri Tip and Chicken Tandour there was Green Salad, Super Cole Slaw, Pasta/Zucchini Salad and Tabouleh. This was all followed with desserts of a variety of Chocolate goodies including Chocolate Cookies and Pumpkin Cake.

Howard and Dorothy's back yard was (is) a fine display of how all of us would like our places to look. There is a large impressive waterfall feeding into a pond rich with water lilies and stocked with Japanese Kio. Around behind the waterfall is a large grass area flanked with some very productive vegetable plants. Dorothy & Howard received many jealous questions on "How do you get your tomatoes to grow so large".

Not only was the backyard large, but it also had ample seating for all the guest which included Dudley & Kathryn Smolen, Jim Dinger & Jackie Greco, Ken & Jeanette Froeschner, Lew & Faye Edwards, Andre & Pauline Mantha, Gordon Cummings & Sharon Thygesen, Richard Halk & his granddaughter, C.B. Anderson & Josie Garrett, Dick & Norma France, Stan & Tommi Elefant, & Kris Carey & Bill Earl.

Thank you Dorothy & Howard for a wonderful tour and afternoon feast.

(see photos on pages 7-9)



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