

The secrets of Riven Rock revealed



Leslie Hovey, president of the board of trustees for the Santa Barbara Historical Society, with her husband Harry Hovey at the program about Riven Rock held at the Historical Museum.

The Santa Barbara Historical Society had a waiting list of more than 40 people to hear **Frank McGinity** tell secrets about "The Real Story of Stanley McCormick and Riven Rock."

For newcomers to Santa Barbara, Stanley McCormick was the son and heir of Cyrus McCormick (International Harvester) who invented the reaper that revolutionized farming, made him rich, and the American farmer the most productive in the world.

Frank and **Sheila McGinity** have made their home in the Theatre House, one of only three original structures that

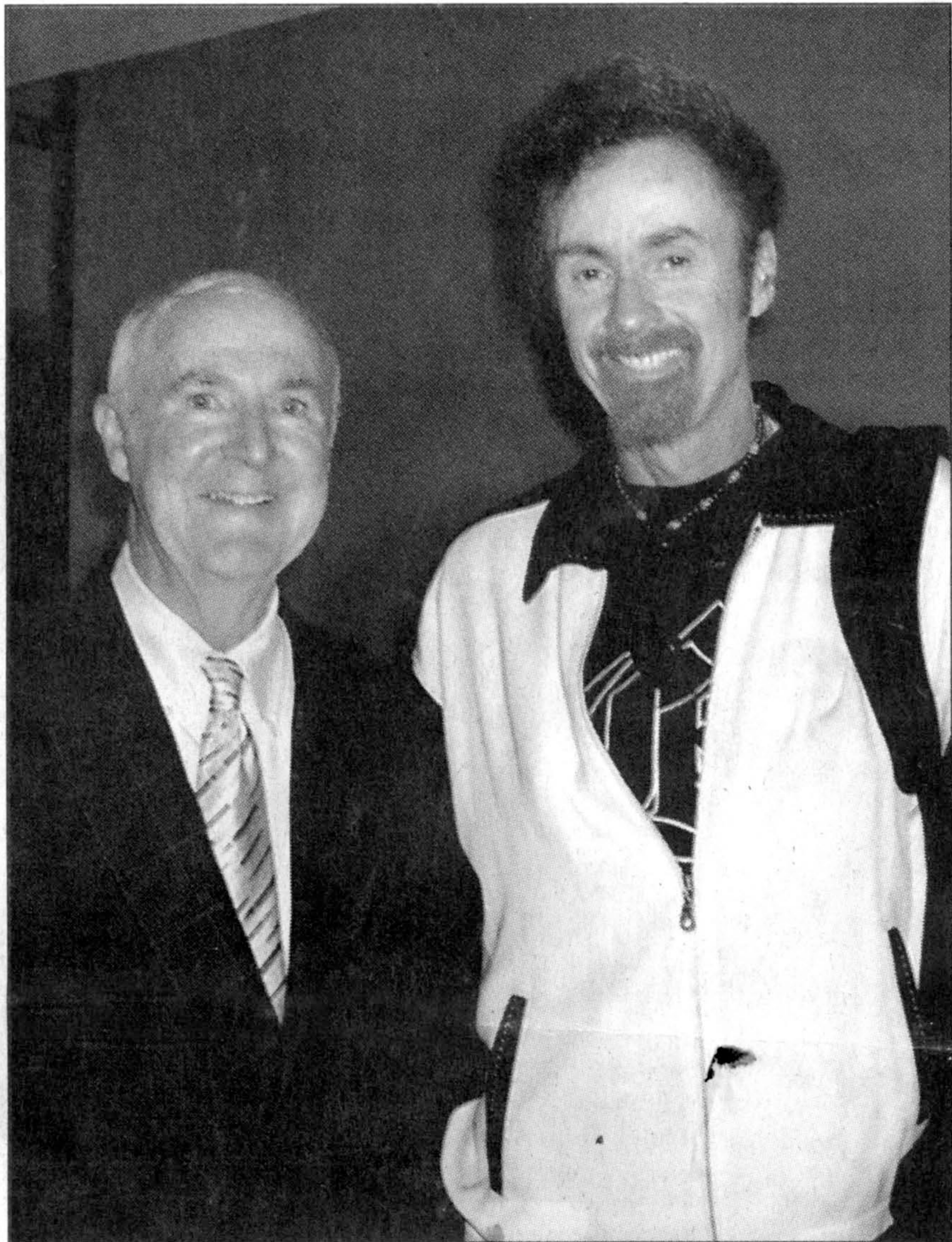
remain on the McCormicks' Riven Rock estate that now has 33 homes behind gates in Montecito.

Frank's lecture and video told the fascinating tale of Stanley McCormick's life from a cum laude Princeton graduate with athletic prowess to his marriage to beautiful Katherine Dexter, his decline at age 28 into schizophrenia, (before there were any helpful drugs) and his death years later in 1947.

In the Historical Museum's courtyard following the program, wine was served made by Andy Kahn Winery, from grapes grown in



Lorraine D. Wilson



Frank McGinity, left, told secrets of Riven Rock where he lives in the theater built for Stanley McCormick, the heir of the International Harvester fortune, at the reception with T.C. Boyle, author of "Riven Rock," the fictional tale about the estate.

Riven Rock by **Warner Owen**, and volunteer **Jean Goodrich** prepared three buffets of her wonderful food.

Several locals in the audience, including **Thad McMillan** and **David Myrick**, also had stories to share about being in the theatre as children for private movies, symphonies and opera star performances arranged just for Stanley. It was thought the music helped calm his spirit.

Today, the McGinitys share their theater-home (it has great acoustics) for benefits to help music groups such as Opera Santa Barbara.

Among the 120 there were **Kellum and Peggy de Forest, Fran and Eldon Ford, Mary Hampson,**

Eleanor Van Cott, Tony and Marlena Handler, Ted and Dorcas Hatlen, Jim and Jane Taverner, Betty and Max Meyer, Ann and Michael McCormick, Frances Larkin, Colette Leider, Dr. Dan Hone and Donna, Karl Hutterer of the Museum of Natural History, Jann Jaffe, Bob and Lynn Burtness (they own a table from the estate), Jean and David Pettit, Jane Mueller, Elise and Joe Atwill, Bill and Ursula Banning and Ben Hitz and his wife, Ellie Golden.

George Anderjack, Historical Society executive director, is being encouraged to repeat this program, and if that happens, I urge those new to the community to attend. I didn't tell about the secrets you will discover.