

THE GARDENS OF MOUNT ECCLESIA

The following is an album of Mount Ecclesia photos taken during the years 2001 to 2003. They document the construction of the Max and Augusta Heindel Memorial Garden. It is hoped that you will enjoy seeing the pictorial story and hearing the tale that is to be told by Taco the coyote.

Taco, the coyote, prefers to walk in the road because if he crosses the field, he plunges into the hazardous gopher holes. His ancestors hunted and roamed on this same hill a century ago when it was just a bean field. Humans come and go and that's OK – they are vegetarians. **The place is called Mount Ecclesia.**



One of the humans is the “Old One.” He’s been coming here for many years, and this time it seems he’s come for a long stay. He started making some flower beds, and now he has permission to put flowers along Meditation Walk.

Other people who live in this neighborhood stroll through here on their lunch hour and whenever they want to get out of the traffic in the city. Mount Ecclesia gives them a serene and quiet place, and some of them say they like the vibrations. Actually, there are plenty of rabbits, gophers, birds, snakes, and ground squirrels and lots of activity, but only a few humans.

A neighbor, named Donna, comes often to walk through the grounds. She grows trees and plants in her little greenhouse from seeds, but her yard is not big enough to plant all of these, so she stopped to ask the Old One to come to her greenhouse to see her plants. She wanted to give him some of the little trees, if he would like to plant them. Donna likes Mount Ecclesia, because she thinks that the spiritual vibrations which emanate from the Temple bring peace to the neighborhood. She has lived close to Mount Ecclesia for most of her life, and there has been no crime during this time.

Old One accepted the trees and planted them in the three-acre gopher field in the middle of Mount Ecclesia. First, the fast-growing Empress Tree, *Paulownia tomentosa* which is native to China and produces a Spring display of fragrant lavender trumpet-shaped flowers on nearly bare branches, just before the very big heart-shaped leaves emerge. Second, the drought-tolerant Yellow Bells, *Tacoma stans*. This Yellow Elder tree was named as the official flower of the Virgin Islands, including the island of Saint John. Native to the islands and to Southern states, mature specimens already bloom repeatedly throughout the summer at Mount Ecclesia.



Donna's Trees

Old One wanted better soil for the trees and some rocks and boulders to create landscaping that would make the site more beautiful. How will it be possible to get rocks and boulders and dirt?

With no easy answers to these questions, he decided to make a flower bed near the healing temple, The Ecclesia.



First, the design. That's it. You've got to do it right; everyone knows this one; it's the Rosicrucian Fellowship emblem.Perfect!



Now, what flowers will you use? Alyssum for the cross. Red petunias for the roses. Marigolds will form the star, and that's the golden wedding garment. The blue background? Pansies. OK. Pansies.

When Old One finished planting the emblem design, he loaded his tools and raised himself up into the seat behind the wheel of his very old blue truck to drive home. "Old Blue" took him past Donna's house, carried him



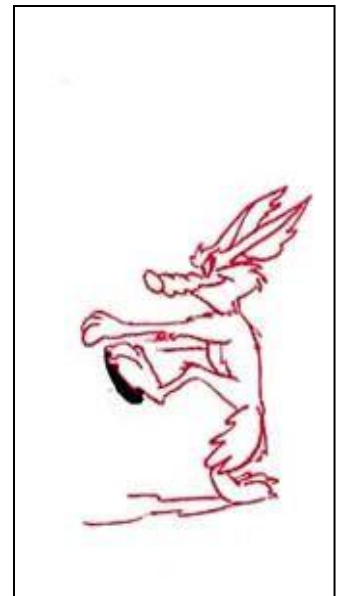
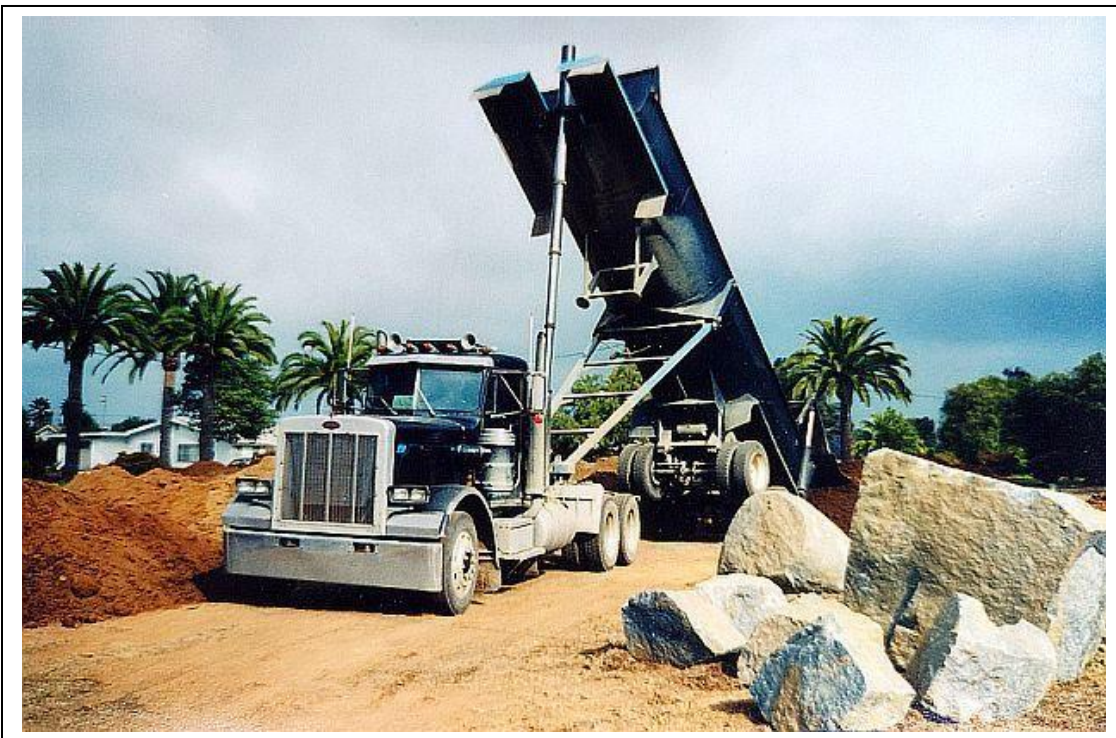
around the curves of Mesa Drive, down the long hill, across El Camino Real, past the school and on toward College Boulevard. As he drove along, he remembered the aborted attempts at collecting rocks.

Young Man had approached him with enthusiastic promises of beautiful rocks at a site which he had spotted. He was sure that the rocks could be carried away from this place with no problem. But, the permission was uncertain and the rocks were few. Another site was promised. and here it was mountainous and treacherous.

As Old Blue pointed toward home, it approached the junction of College and Old Grove, and Old One suddenly realized that he was following a truck much bigger than Old Blue, and it was loaded with huge granite boulders. Old Blue signaled to make a left turn, but a sudden inspiration commanded Old One to follow the big truck that was hauling the huge rocks. He immediately recognized the potential of these rocks for landscaping, and instead of turning left, he continued on, directly behind the heavily laden truck.

At the end of the run, Old One discovered that the granite boulders were being dumped into a "burial" ground where they would be covered with soil and serve as land fill. Oh. how he could have used those boulders! When the truck driver finished dumping his load, Old One stepped out of Old Blue and asked the driver, "Where did you get the granite?" The man replied that the rock came from a blasting site where a land developer intended to build houses. He directed our friend to the site, and it wasn't long before Old One was talking to the foreman of the operation.

Forty huge trucks carried the heavy granite which had been dynamite-blasted out of the hillside. One by one they filed through to be loaded and sent on their way to the dumping site, returning empty for yet another load. Old One made his proposal to the foreman. If some of the trucks could come to Mount Ecclesia, they would have an easier drive and could dump their cargo in the gopher field. The drive would be shorter and less hilly, and they would not have to wait in line for the other trucks. The foreman saw a good plan. He dedicated two of the drivers to the alternate route. requested that some paper-work be signed, and set in motion the delivery of 20 truckloads of granite rocks and boulders to Mount Ecclesia, all at no cost to the Fellowship.





Miracles happen, and sometimes we do not take much notice, but when a miracle repeats itself, we shake our heads and wonder when we will awaken from the dream. Old One still needed a lot of good soil in order to build the magnificent garden of his imagination. He envisioned berms and winding pathways — ponds and waterfalls and lush tropical foliage. There would be birds singing beautiful songs and flowers exuding a heavenly fragrance.

On another landmark day, Old Blue carried him east on Michigan Avenue to pick up some parts for a waterline. Old One had planted twelve young coastal redwoods, *Sequoia sempervirens*, on the rim of the canyon just above Meditation Walk. These trees grow into giant specimens and live for 1000's of years, but they must be sustained with sufficient water until they're well established. Old One built the new, underground waterline for the sequoias, which would also enable him to expand the plantings from Meditation Walk, up onto the gopher field.

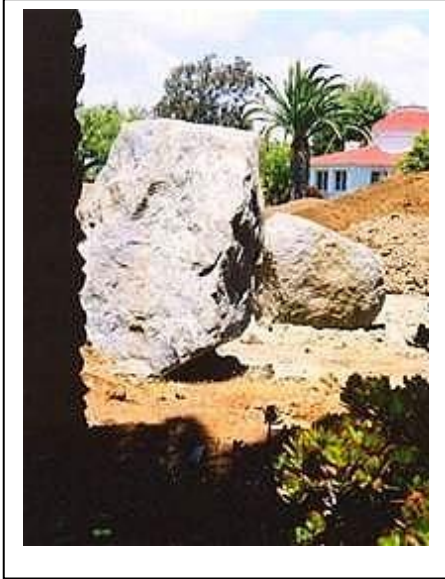
Already, there were thirsty roses heeled into a trench in this area; old roses that Devoted One had removed from the walkway of the Temple to give way for new rose-plantings. As he drove along, he spotted a long dump-truck loaded with soil.

He followed it and learned that it was from another construction project, this one requiring the removal of tons of dirt from the San Luis Rey River valley. Again, our friend spoke with a foreman. Again, truckloads of precious cargo were diverted from their original route. Mount Ecclesia received 62 loads of river-bottom soil while witnesses shook their heads in disbelief. Truckload after truckload rolled into the grounds and dumped tons of rich dark soil and sand onto Mount Ecclesia's gopher field at no cost to The Rosicrucian Fellowship.



The gopher field took on a new look. Workers at Mount Ecclesia began calling this new place:

"Stonehenge."



The Work Begins





MOVING ROCKS AND DIRT





Nobody ever saw Old One working with plans or blueprints, because he had none. Curious observers were greeted with a magnanimous smile and a friendly hello, but only the vaguest description of what was yet to come.

To sculpt a terrain, Old One nudged boulders with his CASE 1840 Skid Loader and lifted soil. The biggest boulders would stay where they rested, immovable as they were. He scraped hollows to create depressions for ponds and pushed dirt into walkways and berms. As he penetrated the original top layer of soil, he noted deeper strata of clay, perhaps dense enough to hold water, as with a vernal pool. Vernal pools existed naturally in coastal Southern California before land developers erased nearly all of the virgin landscape. The first little pond, to be constructed at the northeast corner, closest to the Healing Department Building and to Meditation Walk, served as the test pond to determine water-holding capacity.



If the basin for the pond drained too quickly, it would be necessary to line it with a latex or plastic liner. This would be more costly and would limit the size of the pools. He filled the basin with water and waited. When Old One returned the next day, he saw that the pond was nearly as full as when it had been filled.

The pond needed no liner. It would require only a trickle of water to maintain its depth. Old One planted irises, water hyacinths, gladiolas and cannas around that first little pond.



The city of Oceanside stockpiled wood-chips and mulch, and offered it free of charge to churches and non-profit groups. Old One hauled many truckloads during his three years of grounds work. The wood-chips provided a clean surface for walkways, and the mulch conserved the moisture in the soil and nourished the plants. Three fan-palms that grew in other parts of the grounds volunteered to grace the new garden. Old One dug them up and transplanted them to their new positions. In his spare time he did volunteer work for Quail Botanical Gardens of Encinitas, California, assisting with propagation, moving rocks, and helping with their biggest fund-raising event, a semi-annual plant sale. The Fellowship benefited greatly when all of the plants which had not been sold from the sale were donated to Mount Ecclesia. Trees, shrubs, and flowering plants of all descriptions arrived just as planting commenced in the new garden.





From *The Rosicrucian Mysteries*

By the liberal use of water and the expenditure of much labor, Mount Ecclesia is gradually being transformed into a luxuriant tropical park. There is a deep spiritual purpose in this, attempt to make the visible center of the new world movement beautiful, for it fosters in the workers a poise and peace which are absolutely essential to the proper performance of their work. Without that they cannot escape being disturbed by the flood of sorrow and trouble which flows into Headquarters from members all over the world; without that they cannot continue to put heart into the letters of help, hope, and cheer which continually go out to souls who are groaning under the burden of sickness; but by bathing their souls in the beauty of the surroundings, whether consciously or not, they gain in strength and grow in grace; they become better and better fitted for the Great Work in the Master's Vineyard.

Max Heindel



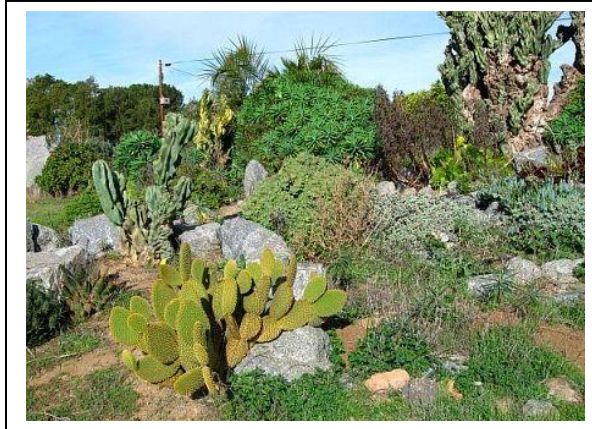
During the early planting, Old One planned to create an herb garden. In an effort to leave the name "Stonehenge" to the vainglorious past, Friends began calling these ornamental grounds "The Healing Garden." A traditional circle provided a design with wedge-shaped segments to group culinary and medicinal herbs by type, but the prolific population of rabbits and other devouring rodents forced a change of plan. Roses proved to be less tasteful to the four-legged marauders, so the circle encompassed a rose garden instead.

To forestall a revival of the Stonehenge label, it seemed like a good idea to select a permanent and descriptive name. On March 11 of 2003, the Executive Council voted unanimously to accept Old One's suggestion to name the new ornamental grounds, "The Max and Augusta Heindel Memorial Garden." In less than two years, the garden had evolved into five general areas.



The city of Oceanside sprawls along the coast of Southern California in a region noted for its mild Mediterranean-type climate. The five Mediterranean climate locations of the world, on five continents, include: the areas surrounding the Mediterranean Sea, the South African Cape, Southern and Western Australia, Central Chile, and much of California. All are southwestern, coastal locations, two in the northern hemisphere and three in the southern hemisphere, each a little less than halfway from the equator to the North or South Pole, or between 30 and 45 degrees latitude.

Mediterranean climates worldwide are characterized by cool, wet winters and summer drought. Temperatures vary considerably; some areas have hard frosts in winter, but Oceanside has barely any frost at all. In some, the summers are unbearably hot and dry, but in Oceanside summers tend to be mild and somewhat foggy. The arid summer dormancy period is the most difficult season for plants to survive (as opposed to during freezing winters). Mount Ecclesia is located in the city of Oceanside about one mile from the coast.



Around the ponds, proximity to water supports the tropical gardens.

The southwest garden for arid plants needs little water, only occasional weeding.

The southeast corner, closest to Chapel, was reserved for a future Japanese garden.

The rose garden will require vigilant care and irrigation with regular pruning and deadheading.

Between these areas, typical Mediterranean drought-tolerant plantings for semi-arid conditions lined the pathways.



A wooden footbridge spans the little stream that divides the two main ponds. They were filled with water during the severe drought of 2002. The smaller pond, above, would accommodate a waterfall; the larger pond to the right of the picture flowed around an island.





Flora & Fauna

A pump re-circulates water up through the rocky berm, where it begins its downward cascade back into the pool. During the record-breaking Southern California drought, the tropical plants and water plants thrived, creating a green oasis. Old One stocked the ponds with tiny goldfish, koi, and shibunkins. A generous friend at Quail Botanical Gardens kindly donated two live bullfrogs which had been purchased from a restaurant supplier for a children's nature exhibit. The grounds workers who christened them "Romeo and Juliet" were rewarded by the grateful songs of the two who had narrowly escaped the sauté skillet. The oasis drew the interest of a great blue heron, an occasional long-legged visitor who sailed in slowly with his huge wings flapping.



As we return through the entrance of the tropical garden, leaving that lush green oasis, we turn to the south and behold a contrasting scene, an arid landscape. On the opposing side of the rocky berm that produced the waterfall, we now see African daisies, and echium, also known as Pride of Madeira or *Candicans fastuosum*. Narrow, hairy, gray-green colored leaves form round irregular mounds at the ends of the stems.



When mature, this large, picturesque plant produces spike-like clusters of periwinkle-blue flowers that stand out above the foliage in the spring. At the top of the berm, Old One planted Japanese Maples and a China Doll Tree, *Radermachera sinica*, commonly used as a house plant. In this moderate Mediterranean-type climate it will thrive outdoors and grow into a tree. The practice of xeriscape landscaping incorporates basic principles which conserve water and decrease the need for maintenance. Drought-tolerant plants appear here on the south side of the berm, and the water-loving tropical plants grow on the North facing slope where less water will be evaporated by the solar rays. The addition of organic matter to the soil and the use of mulches prevent it from drying out quickly and discourage weeds. The drip system of irrigation conserves water by preventing evaporation and wasteful over-watering.

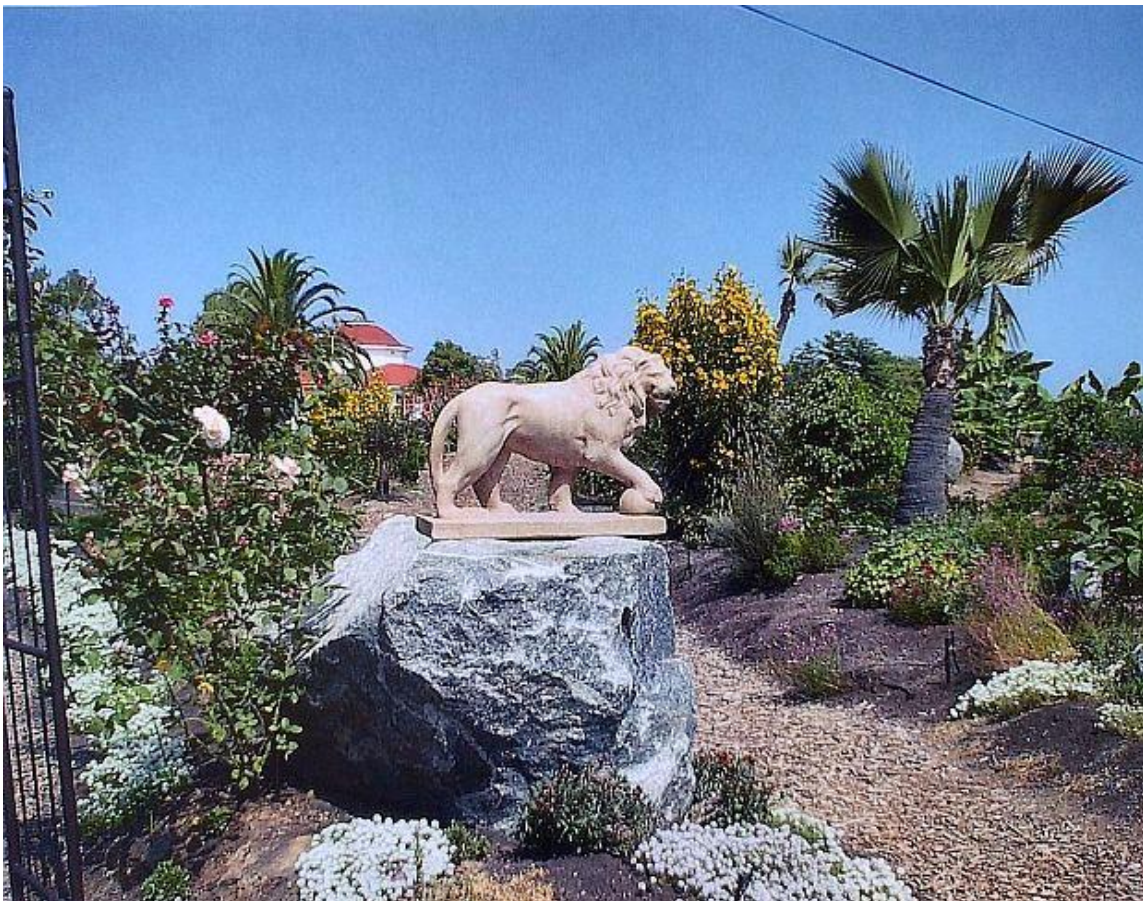




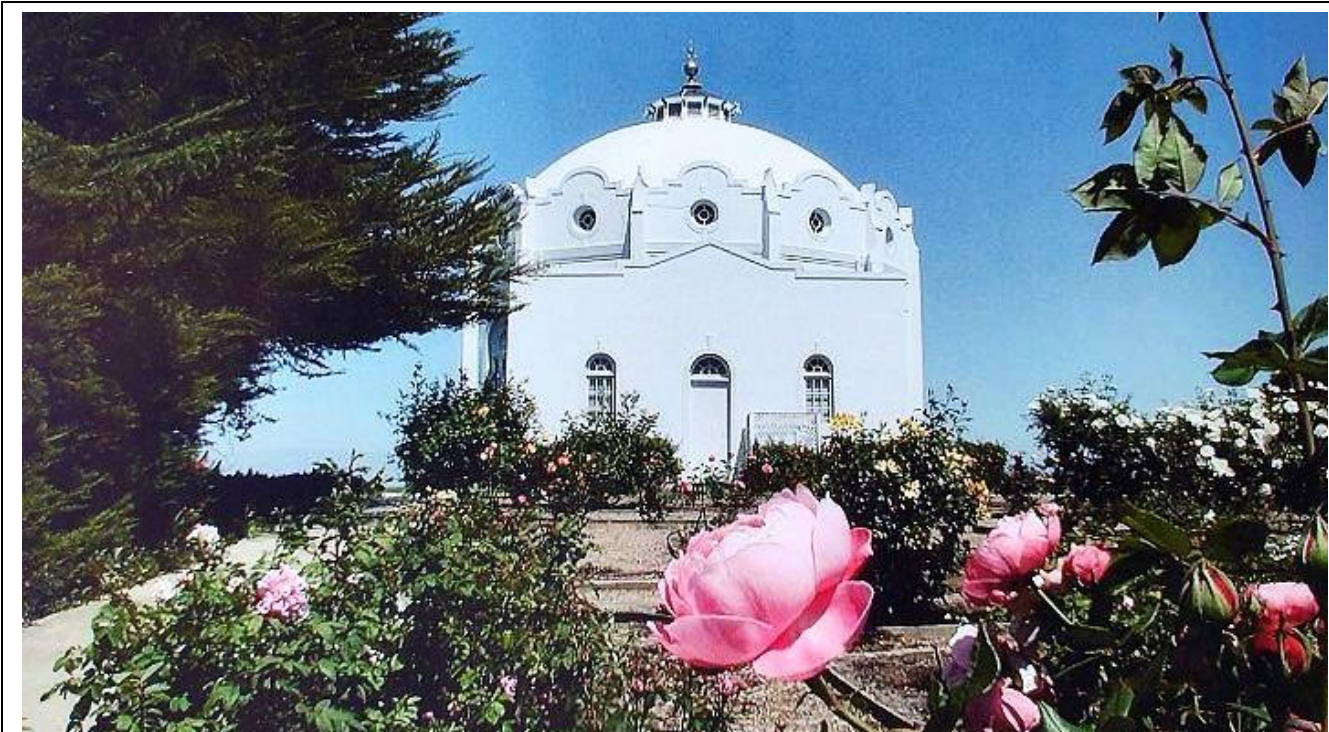
Standing majestically in its new position at center stage, a decades-old Medusa's Head Euphorbia commands the attention of all who pass by. This well-seasoned, old fellow moved from obscurity to prominence when Old One dug him up and hauled him a considerable distance to the new garden. The mammoth plant stood about 10 feet (more than three meters) tall and weighed more than some of the heavier boulders. Unfortunately, he lost some of his appendages during the transfer, but as you can see, he is making a splendid recovery. We must tip our hats as we walk by.

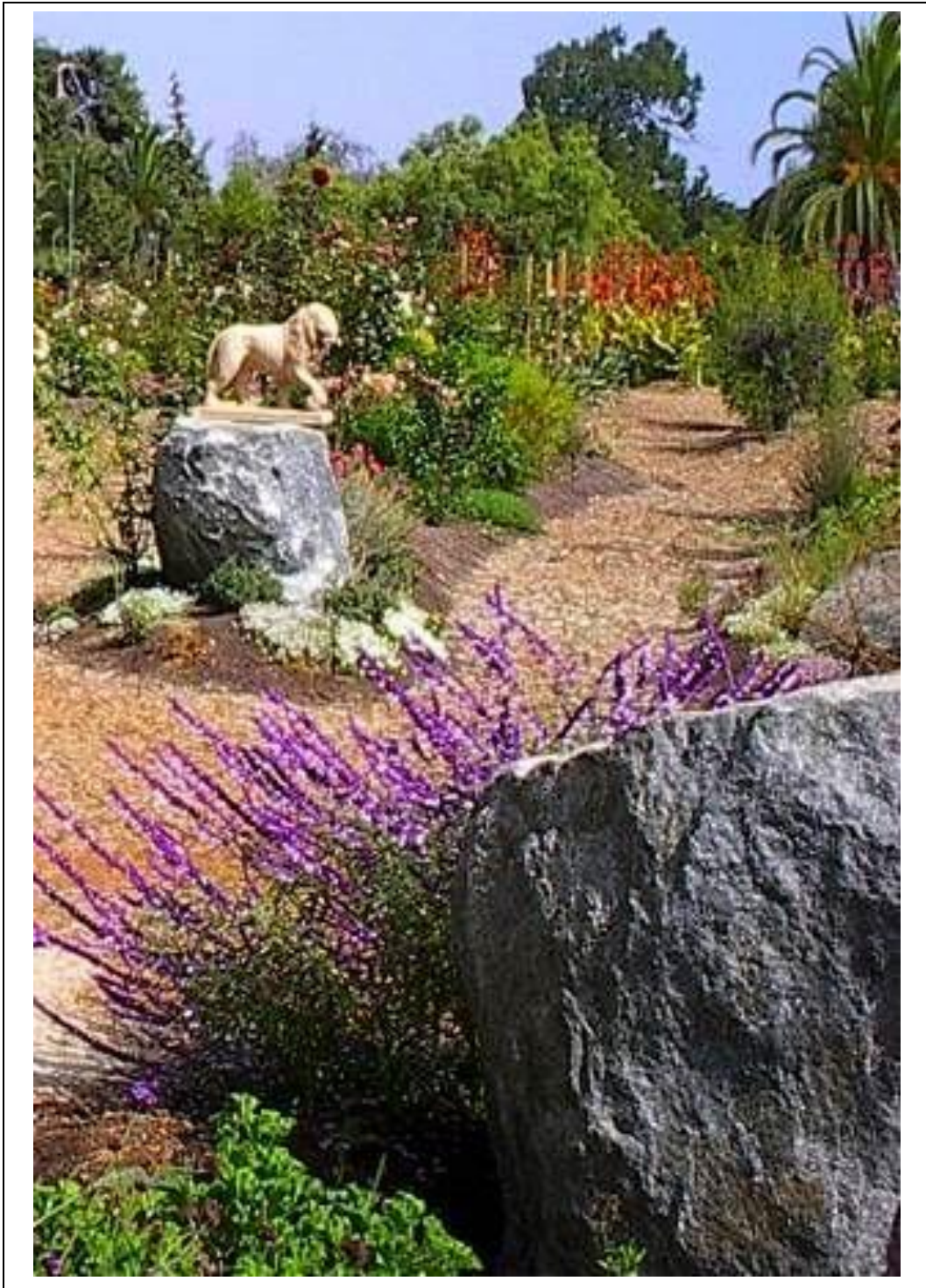


**The Lion King, Presented as a
Gift By Staff Members
Watches Over And Protects
The Entrance to
The Colorful Garden**









The Regent Presides over His Memorial Garden



*This magnificent garden lovingly created,
offers its beauty to all
who enter the grounds at Mount Ecclesia.*

In July of 2003, the California Coastal Rose Society visited the rose gardens of Mount Ecclesia, at their request. Also, the California Water Garden Society contacted Old One to offer membership in its organization.

Taco would like to thank Jamis Lopez, Margie Pettit, and Wallace Reed, and the North County Times for contributing photos.

Taco, the coyote, is a fictional character created by R. F. Friend.