

A SANTA CRUZ PIONEER HAS DIED

On February 19, 1997, Mrs. Elfriede Horneman passed away in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Friedel Vonka, near Kirkenes, in the north of Norway, where she had been living for a number of years. She would have been ninety years old in October.

Born in Frankfort as Elfriede Engelmann, she learned to speak several languages and worked as a secretary, until she met Jacob Hersleb Horneman, a Norwegian mining engineer, in England in 1938. The two married and went to Galápagos, where Horneman had owned property in the Santa Cruz highlands since 1927.

The slender city girl soon became a tough, hard-working Galápagos pioneer, adapting to the primitive conditions and making the best of what the island had to offer. One of her first actions was to change the name of the Horneman property from "Progreso" to the more realistic "Vilnis," Norwegian for "wilderness," then laboring hard to keep the place from living up to its new name.

Though she began suffering from back problems, which caused her considerable pain, Mrs. Horneman continued working, even learning to lay bricks and wield

the machete. However, she always kept a bright smile and a brave optimism, no matter how bad things could seem. Thus, she raised two children, a daughter and a son, and kept things going.

As if this were not enough, she also offered hearty hospitality to every visitor, and many well known people found a welcome in her home: Thor Heyerdahl, Robert Bowman, Eric Shipton, Sven Gilsäter of Swedish TV, E. Yale Dawson, and many others. However, her hospitality was offered with equal generosity to the poor and unknown visitor or to fellow settlers who happened to come to the Horneman home. As the years went by, she gradually became known as "Mutti" to many of these friends.

Mrs. Horneman finished translating Dr. Stein Hoff's excellent history on the Norwegian settlers in the Galápagos, *Drømmen om Galápagos* (The Dream about Galápagos), from the Norwegian original to English. Unfortunately, she died before seeing this work in print.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to know her feel her death as a great personal loss.

J. P. Lundh.

GERARD CORLEY SMITH

*Gerard Corley Smith,
CMG, former Ambassador to Ecuador,
died on October 7 aged 88. He was born on
July 30, 1909.*

Although he had a long and distinguished career in the diplomatic service, Gerard Corley Smith will be particularly remembered for his close involvement with the cause of conservation in the Galapagos Islands. His association with the islands began in 1962, when as Ambassador to Ecuador he attended the official opening of the Charles Darwin Research Station, and gained an insight into the unique wonders of that archipelago and the strenuous efforts being made to safeguard them for the future. It was a cause that he was to espouse for the rest of his life.

Gerard Thomas Corley Smith was educated at Bolton School and Emmanuel College, Cambridge. In 1931 he entered the General Consular Service, and over the next 15 years he served in Paris, Oran, Detroit, La Paz, Milan, St Louis and Brussels. He first came to international at-

tention in 1949 when, as the British representative on the UN Economic and Social Council in New York, he was chosen to present the case against the Soviet forced labour camps, or gulags, the existence of which was only then beginning to be revealed to the world. It was a task that predictably earned him the anger and disapproval of the Eastern bloc delegations and their press.

Corley Smith returned to Europe in 1952, and in the same year was appointed CMG. His next posting was to Paris, where he served for two years as press counsellor at the British Embassy. From there he went to Madrid to take up the appointment as labour counsellor at the British Embassy, 1954-59.

With his wide experience, Corley Smith became Ambassador to Haiti in 1960. It was not an easy posting, nor could it have been under the harrowing and deeply oppressive regime of François ("Papa Doc") Duvalier. Years later, Corley Smith would recall his affection for the ordinary Haitian people, who greeted him with their friendly "Bonjour Blanc!" (a Creole expression for "Hello, stranger!") as he took himself bird-watching in the hills.