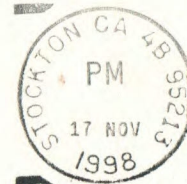
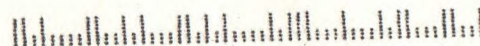


2471 Mac Arthur Parkway
Lodi, Ca. 95242



Lorraine Frank Edwards
P.O. Box 2076
Lancaster, Ca. 93539-2076

93539/2076



11-16-98

Dear Lorraine,

my daughter Susan brought the enclosed clipping from her Los Angeles newspaper for me to see. While she was here she searched the books I bought from you but could not find Laurent Frantz anywhere among the pages.

Can you shed some light on these informative facts about this gentleman? My son-in-law thought that he even resembled John Frantz.

I still think of the sumptuous meal you and Miriam brought up here when you visited me. I am still using a walker (I have 2 now - one for outside - one for the house) my body is quite crippled even tho I ~~am~~ in my 6th month of calcium shots 3 times a week.

Hope you are doing well.

Love, Susanne



MERCURY NEWS FILE PHOTOGRAPH

of civil rights wherever he believed

Laurent Frantz, 84, civil rights activist

He staged peace protests at Palo Alto intersection

BY MACK LUNDSTROM
Mercury News Staff Writer

Laurent Frantz was a thoughtful man, a quiet man, his friends said, but for more than 15 years he paraded his convictions for all to see.

Until a month ago, his most vocal expression was a peace protest of the moment at El Camino Real and Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto. Every Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Frantz and his partner, Miriam Patchen, held a vigil outside the Town and Country Shopping Village.

"It's become a general protest against U.S. intervention in other countries," Mr. Frantz said on that corner four years ago. "I do not consider the United States a democracy but a plutocracy that's able to carry out its desires and needs by dominating the system."

Mostly, however, Mr. Frantz spoke with his typewriter.

He was a constitutional scholar who chose to use his two law degrees to research, write and edit rather than to argue his point in the courtroom. Two of his review articles for the Yale Law Journal and the California Law Review were often cited in First and 14th Amendment cases, said his former wife, Marge Frantz, a University of California-Santa Cruz professor.

He labored for Bancroft-Whitney Co., the legal publishers in San Fran-

cisco, but he worked for peace with his arguments, for example, in articles for the Nation magazine or in newspaper letters to the editor.

"Why is the subjugation of Cuba so important as to be worth offending some of our most important trading partners? Officially it is to impose democracy on Cuba. A little reflection will demonstrate that that is not even a plausible pretext," he said in one of many letters to the Mercury News editor.

"Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are family dictatorships. We defend them. Brunei is an absolute monarchy. We don't mind. We don't try to stop other countries from trading with Guatemala, which has the worst human rights record in the hemisphere. Mass graves revealing a massacre don't stop aid to El Salvador."

A native of Nashville, Laurent Brown Frantz by 14 was enrolled at the University of Tennessee and by 18 at Duke. The Depression radicalized him, said Marge Frantz, and he joined the Communist Party in the 1930s. In the 1940s, he volunteered for the U.S. Navy and served four years, afterward turning to civil rights activism. He was southern director of the Civil Rights Congress. He taught for a time at Drake University in Iowa.

California and Bancroft-Whitney came in 1950, as did Mr. Frantz's ac-

tivism against McCarthyism and the House Un-American Activities Committee. Three times he was called to testify, and three times he refused. Many of those dubbed "Communist sympathizers" lost their jobs when the FBI informed their employers during that period, but Bancroft-Whitney supported Mr. Frantz.

"His boss believed in the First Amendment," Marge Frantz said.

Laurent and Marge Frantz had three sons and a daughter, but separated good friends 25 years ago, she said.

In the early 1970s, he found a companion for life in Miriam Patchen, herself widowed as the long love of Kenneth Patchen, poet, painter, pacifist and novelist.

They met by chance, after she misunderstood a newspaper ad he had placed, and it turned into "an incredible, wonderful relationship. He made it exciting and thrilling," she said.

"We agreed on everything. It was a long time before I learned that we were born on the same date — he a year before me — so I always said I preferred older men," she added.

After he retired from Bancroft-Whitney, Mr. Frantz was one of the founders of CAUSICA, the Committee against U.S. Intervention in Central America, and he served on the board of the Peninsula Peace and Jus-

Laurent B. Frantz

- **Born:** Sept. 29, 1913, Nashville, Tenn.
- **Died:** Sept. 20, 1998, Palo Alto, Calif.
- **Survived by:** Partner, Miriam Patchen of Palo Alto; sons, Joe of Pacifica, Larry of Santa Cruz, Alex of San Leandro; daughter, Virginia Frantz of St. Louis; sister, Evalin Douglas of Lexington, Ky.; brother, Frank of Sarasota, Fla.; former wife, Marge Frantz of Santa Cruz; and three grandchildren.
- **Services:** Memorial at 2 p.m. Nov. 8 in the chapel of the First Presbyterian Church, 1140 Cowper St., Palo Alto.
- **Memorial:** Donations may be made to the Peninsula Peace and Justice Center, 457 Kingsley St., Palo Alto, Calif. 94301, or Global Exchange, 2017 Mission St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110.

tice Center.

Laurent Frantz and Miriam Patchen didn't just parade on El Camino Real every week. They took their protests far and wide.

"One of the reasons they were out there, response or no," said Paul George, peace center director, "is that it's important to keep people thinking about these things ... challenged about what's being done in our names and our money and to other people."

Mr. Frantz became increasingly hampered by arthritis, his daughter, Virginia, said. Then complications after surgery were followed by a pulmonary embolism. Mr. Frantz died Sept. 20 at home in Palo Alto. He was 84.

Although he quit the Communist Party in 1957, Laurent Frantz remained a communist "with a small c," he said, when he left instructions about his obituary.

"He was a very loving father," said his daughter, "very tender and steady."

OBITUARIES

Laurent Frantz, 84, civil rights activist

He staged peace protests at Palo Alto intersection

BY MACK LUNDSTROM
Mercury News Staff Writer

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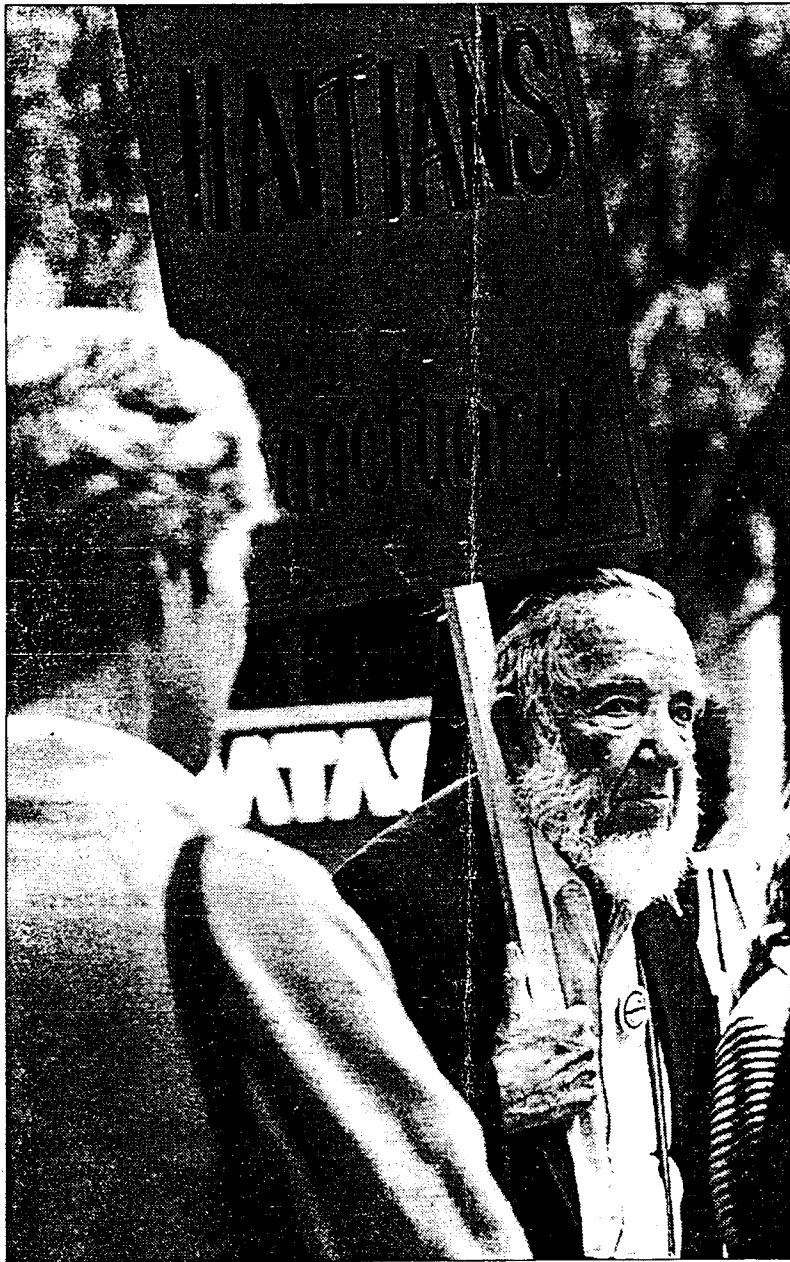
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MERCURY NEWS FILE PHOTOGRAPH

Laurent Frantz took up the cause of civil rights wherever he believed there was a wrong to be righted.

Lorraine Frantz Edwards
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Lancaster, CA 93539-2076
Ph: (805) 949-6236
E-mail: ledwards@qnet.com
Dec. 4, 1999

Dear Susanne

Sorry I took so long returning this to you. I put it ~~at~~ aside and just unearthed it this morning.

our Michael 1, the immediate grant.
I haven't the foggiest idea who this man is. He is probably down the Christian Frantz lineage (Christian -- the reported brother of our Michael) but could be some other "tree" all together. I do not have complete lineage info on descendants of Christian Frantz. I'm always checking with a group in Pennsylvania to see if they have someone "dedicated" to documentation of Christian descendants. None!

There are other FRANTZ "trees" that I occasionally learn about -- and have little or no information on.

THANKS for sharing this newspaper clipping with me. I'll file it for future reference. Sincere thanks!!

I, too, still think of the sumptuous meal with you and Muriel. Muriel is amazing!! I had no idea that she had prepared all that food. Far too much for us to eat. Right?

I went through a couple of years of severe depression. I finally consented to take an antidepressant drug. I'm feeling much better. If I had known it would make that much difference, I would have taken sooner.

My only regret: I haven't been diligent about preparing Christmas cards this year. For many years I would begin early and get "Thanks Living" letter in the mail so folks received them before Thanksgiving. This year, I haven't even started!!

Maybe I'll get to it now that I've dug through the stack of mail that had piled up. I think I'm caught up.

Best wishes to you, and yours, for a very happy holiday season.

Love,

Lorraine