

Pomona Valley Community Book, Ed. By Roy Driscoll

Excerpts from Pomona Valley Community Book regarding biographical information for Martin John Jaska, prominent Pomona builder, and wife Henrietta Jaska.

These excerpts (pages 375 to 378) were provided by Pomona Library.



MARTIN JOHN JASKA

an authority on this subject. He is a director of the San Dimas Land and Water Company, the Base Line Water Company and, the La Verne Mutual Water Company. He has also been a director of the La Verne Orange Growers Association for a number of years, is a director of the Claremont Branch of the American Red Cross, and a member of the Trinity Methodist Church of Pomona.

For a number of years, Mr. Gapp has maintained a real estate license as a broker, concentrating principally in the handling of citrus properties.

Mr. Gapp has several avocations, which include hunting and fishing, but the hobby in which he is particularly interested is that of making ship models.

Mr. Gapp's wife was the former Thora Jessen, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Jessen. Her parents came to California from Dickinson, North Dakota, and her father was the principal owner of the Consolidated Laundries of Pomona. He has been deceased about eighteen years.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Gapp are; Betty Jane, the wife of George Richardson, of Claremont; Joyce, the wife of Alton Swift, of Long Beach; and John who attends Stanford University.

Martin John Jaska

Martin John Jaska is one of Pomona's leading building contractors. He was born in Toledo, Ohio, October 14, 1901, the son of the late Martin John and Matilda (Ichner) Jaska. His parents both came to America from Germany in 1890.

Mr. Jaska attended grade school in Toledo and high school in Swanton, Ohio. He arrived in California in 1919 with his mother and sister and recalls that he might have been a native of this state had it not been for an incident previous to his birth when his parents had embarked for California, only to turn back to Toledo after a train robbery which occurred in St. Louis, Missouri.

Martin John Jaska began his business career in 1916 with the Toledo Pipe Threading and Machine Company in Toledo, Ohio, and when arriving in California became associated with the Studebaker Corporation and Paul G. Hoffman Co., Los Angeles, from 1919 to 1925. He next operated the Sherwin-Williams Paint Store in Santa Ana from 1925 to 1929, where he gained experience as a color expert which has been invaluable to him in his present work. In 1930 he purchased the paint store of O. O. Newcombe in Ontario and founded the Jaska Paint and Glass Company in Pomona in 1931, which he operated as the "Dutch Boy Paint Store" until 1937, when he sold his interest in that concern to its present owners, the National Lead Co.

Mr. Jaska is a member of the Republican State Central Committee and a member of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, where he has served on the Housing and Highway Committees. His service club was the Kiwanis, and he is connected with many other civic and religious activities. He is a member of the First Baptist Church and was moderator of the University Baptist's Association in 1948-49; he is on the Board of Trustees for the Baptist's Children's Home in Inglewood; on the Board of Trustees of the Spanish American Seminary of Los Angeles, and is active in denominational work. Mr. Jaska has built many homes and business buildings in and around the Pomona Valley and has subdivided and developed a number of tracts and is currently engaged in building Park Manor, a 32 unit apartment house, and subdividing, and building many artistic homes in Pomona. He also built many units of war housing during the last world war.

Mr. Jaska was married June 21, 1934, to Henrietta A. Fish in Pomona, and there is one son, Roger Martin Jaska. Mr. Jaska's hobbies are wood and metal work, sports and music and the construction of fine homes, every detail of which, from plans, construction, design and color harmony, is capably handled by him.

Henrietta A. Jaska

Henrietta A. Jaska was born in St. Louis, Missouri, July 27, 1906, the daughter of George Foster and Carrie (Eisenbraum) Fish. Arriving with her parents in Pomona in 1906, when she was four months of age Mrs. Jaska attended the local grade schools and graduated from Pomona High School and completed her education at the Chouinard School of Art in Los Angeles. Her parents were orange growers in the Pomona Valley.

Mrs. Jaska was a free lance artist in Pomona for some years, and at one time was employed by the California Fruit Wrapping Company as an artist in designing labels. As Henrietta A. Fish, she was married to Martin J. Jaska, on June 21, 1934, in Pomona. She is now associated with her husband in home designing and as a colorist in a large and successful home construction business. She is a member of the First Baptist Church and the Soroptimist Club of Pomona. There is one son, Roger Martin Jaska.



HENRIETTA A. JASKA