

Alice Geraldine “Jere” Hansen

(1933-2016)

We were tremendously saddened to learn that Jere Hansen, a friend of the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center from its 2010 beginning, passed away in Hemet, California, on Friday, December 2, 2016. Mrs. Hansen was 83 and had been a resident of Borrego Springs for 51 years before reluctantly relocating to Hemet in the summer of 2015 for health and family reasons. Jere worked hand-in-hand with Marjorie Beale of the Office of University Advancement at UC Irvine in the fall and spring of 2010-11 to secure the donation from



Photo courtesy of BSPAC



Jere Hansen (L) with Marjorie Beale at UCI Research Center celebration (October 15, 2011)

Jere’s long-time boss and friend Audrey Steele Burnand that made it possible for UCI to purchase and renovate the former Borrego Desert Club. She served as Mrs. Burnand’s representative through every step of the purchase and development of the new Research Center and was a frequent guest here at the Center from 2011 through 2015. She formed lasting friendships with Marjorie Beale and Andrew DiNuzzo from the UCI Office of University Advancement, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology professors Travis Huxman and Tim Bradley, Associate Vice-Chancellor for Research Mark

Warner, Reserve Manager Jim Dice, and the entire Research Center staff. Her last visit here, on June 22, 2015, was to attend a dinner honoring a National Academy of Sciences visiting delegation from Iran – a group of scientists concerned with conserving inland lakes in Iran who visited UC Irvine and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among other institutions. Dr. Tim Bradley accompanied them to Borrego Springs where they toured the Research Center here and then to visit the Salton Sea the following day. They also visited Mono Lake and the Great Salt Lake during their visit. Jere was the hit of the party that night. The Iranian scientists were so impressed with the Center, that they spent much of the evening pressing Jere for advice on how they could build such a center in their country. (see photo with visiting delegation of Iranian scientists)

Mrs. Hansen’s passing is a great loss to the entire community of Borrego Springs. In her role as manager of the Alphonse A. Burnand Jr. Medical and Educational Foundation, and also as a private citizen, she and the Burnand family gave generously of their time and money to support the Borrego Springs Unified School District, the Borrego Springs Fire Protection District, the Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center, the Borrego Springs Boys and Girls Club, Borrego Springs Little League, and many,

many, many other worthy organizations and causes here in our community. Jere served as a member of the Borrego Springs Unified School District Board for 10 years, was a former Honorary Mayor of Borrego Springs, and the 2016-17 season of the Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center has been dedicated to her. She will be greatly missed by all of us connected with the Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center and the entire community of Borrego Springs.

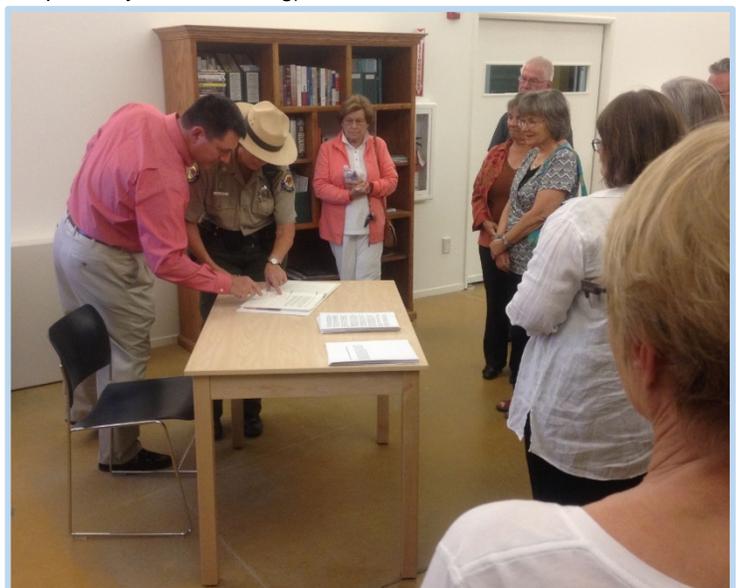
Visitation will be held on Tuesday, December 20 at Weaver Mortuary and Crematory in Beaumont, CA, from 10 – 11:30 a.m. Graveside services will be held that afternoon at 1:30 p.m. at the National Cemetery in Riverside, CA. A memorial is planned for Borrego Springs sometime in January. Details to be announced.



Jere Hansen (center, seated) with visiting delegation of Iranian scientists and UCI faculty and staff (June 22, 2015 – photo by Elaine Tulving)



Photo courtesy of E. Tulving



Jere Hansen (center) watches as David Garmon and ABDSP Superintendent Kathy Dice sign the Borrego Springs Stewardship Council document (November 14, 2014 – photo by Jim Dice)