

BOOK BRIEFS

A couple of times during the early part of last century (1924-1932 or thereabouts), photographer **DOROTHEA LANGE** and her painter/husband **MAYNARD DIXON** spent some summer days in a tipi in Soquel.

They were invited to visit the 8-acre property by the owners' daughter, **LOUISE SHEPPA LOVETT**, an artist in her own right — an artist who'll be celebrated tomorrow at the Capitola Book Café, 1475 41st Ave., Capitola, during its 11 a.m. storytime for children.

Monday's celebration will feature the revised edition of Lovett's 1924 book "A Happy Day," a collection of poems and illustrations she created and hand-bound for her darling two-year-old daughter Mary Louise. Today, Mary Louise is 79 and living in Aptos.

"A Happy Day" is not only the sweet story of a child's typical day in the 1920s but also works as a retrospective of that era's aesthetic values. It's a beautiful work of art.

Revised and printed by Lovett's granddaughter **ELLEN ANNE CHONG**, herself an artist, this gorgeous little book is a living testament to family love and the power of art.

"My mom treasured the book," Ellen said recently. "She kept it on a high shelf in her bedroom, but I'd climb up and take it down and read it carefully on her bed." Ellen was tickled when her mother gave her the book.

An influential California artist, Louise Sheppa Lovett was a member of the Santa Cruz Art League. Shortly before her death in 1974, she sold her art at the first Earth Day celebration in Santa Cruz.

M.A.S.H. rules apply

MIKE FARRELL wasn't content merely to collect royalties after his days as B.J. Hunnicutt on the smash TV series M.A.S.H.

Instead, he used the role as a springboard to greater involvement with the world. Yes, he stretched his artistic side through writing, producing and directing, but he also spread his wings into the larger world of community and political involvement.

On Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., Farrell will be at the Capitola Book Cafe to engage with the

community and to read from his memoir "Just Call Me Mike: A Journey to Actor and Activist."

A liberal, Farrell stumps for human rights and peace around the world. He is president of the San Francisco-based Death Penalty focus.

Bilbo Baggins rides again

It's been five long years since **J.R.R. TOLKIEN**'s final novel in "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy debuted as a mega-blockbuster film.

While the series' cachet is still palpable in circles populated by dwarves and magicians, in other circles, folks are looking for something new.

Fortunately, if gossip proves true, neither group has long to wait for their next Tolkien fix.

PETER JACKSON and **GUILLERMO DEL TORO** have agreed to adapt "The Hobbit" to the big screen, shooting to begin late next year.

Fall fiction flies high

I never thought it possible, but at long last **PETER HOEG**'s classic novel "Smilla's Sense of Snow" has been displaced in my heart by a new Scandinavian novel.

An international thriller equal to anything in recent memory, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Swedish author **STIEG LARSSON** (Knopf, \$24.95) has swept across Europe and is sure to do the same in the states.

With an incredibly deep cast of characters that always exceeds expectations, this fat novel uses the post-Nazi economy of Sweden as a jumping-off place for a story about Eastern bloc financing schemes, Sweden's uncomfortable relationship to capitalism, one wealthy family's secrets and with added commentary on how modern societies treat their most vulnerable citizens. The whole enchilada is held together by two unforgettable protagonists — a financial reporter and an autistic ward of the state.

Larsson wrote two more novels before he died in 2004.