

# Christopher Ranch celebrates in style at annual party



Don and Karen Christopher.

By BRIAN GAYLORD

GILROY, CA — Once a year, Christopher Ranch, located here in the Santa Clara Valley, invites its employees from around the nation and others to celebrate at its annual party held in conjunction with the opening of the Gilroy Garlic Festival.

This year Christopher Ranch held its celebration at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club, here, just a garlic clove's throw from the Gilroy Garlic Festival.

Industry veteran Don Christopher founded Christopher Ranch in 1956. His expertise and commitment to excellence have helped the firm grow into a major international agribusiness with over 300 employees year-round and a seasonal harvesting crew of 1,000.

The Christopher family has been farming in California since the 1880s, when Ole Christopher emigrated from Denmark to the Santa Clara Valley.



Bill Christopher and Tonya Bonesio.



Val Filice, Gloria Melone and Don Christopher are the creators of the Gilroy Garlic Festival, now in its 29th year.



The Miss Gilroy Garlic Festival 2007 queen and her court were at the Christopher Ranch party. They are Brittney Jeske, Adriana Copado, first runner-up Madelon Thomas, Queen Cherise Gowan, second runner-up Diane Briones and Uilanikuulei (Ui) Kaanapu.



At left: Tiffany Lane, sales manager with The Garlic Co., with her father, Joe Lane, a partner in the company.



At right: Traci Dalke and Cindy Fellows, pageant organizers for the Miss Gilroy Garlic Festival 2007.



Art Christopher, Robert Christopher and Bill Christopher.



At right: Geoff Hall, who is in organic sales for Christopher Ranch in Los Angeles, with his wife, Holly Hall.