Mothers in the Rose Garden

One of the most spectacular crops in the history of Oakland's Morcom Amphitheater of Roses is at its peak today as the community gathers at 2 p.m. to pay tribute to its 1970 Mother of the Year

As today's winner of the award steps forward to receive the handsomely engraved silver plate from Mayor John H. Reading, she'll be "floating" in a sea of more than 100,000 blooms. The amphitheater contains 8,000 rose bushes in its eight acres, and most of the bushes bear at least a couple dozen blooms which makes the foregoing estimate seem conservative. The bushes represent over 400 varieties of all types - hybrid tea, floribunda, grandiflora, climber. miniature - and include almost all of the All America selections since the first designations were made in 1939.

Most of the surviving 14 members of the exclusive 'sorority" - the previous Mothers of the Year - are sharing the platform with her. Epitomizing them all as well as any other could is the very first recipient of the award, Mrs. Florence Bryant She continues to serve the NAACP, the California State Association of Colored Women, and the Women's Auxiliary of Parks Chapel AME Church She's president of Zeta Amicae Auxiliary of Ep-



silon Phi Zeta and a board member of the Alameda County chapter of the March of Dimes and of the Eastbay chapter of the National Safety Council. She's also a member of the Rhododendron Society, and she has participated in the annual Holiday Decorations program of the Parks and Recreation Department for the past five years

Then, skipping all the way down to her most recent successor, we find Oakland's 1969 Mother of the Year - Mrs. Eva Jeffery, who already boasts a solid list of credits to her name and is constantly adding more She's the mother of seven children and the wife of Rev. Earl Jeffrey, overseer of councils for the

Western Diocese of the Church of the Living God.

She is also a member of three Oakland PTA's and an honorary life member of the California State PTA And in addition, she's involved in East Oakland citizens groups working toward the goal of better housing and better living for all citizens.

Members of the East Bay Rose Society are continuing a pleasant custom by providing magnificent displays of cut blooms in the colonnaded pergola at the Jean Street entrance to the garden. Mrs. Edwin D. Lisherness is president of the society, and her husband is chairman of Mother's Day arrangements

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