

# Johnsons' happy haunted home

January of this year, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson moved to Santa Cruz and bought the old Weeks place on California street, next to the Santa Cruz high school. They didn't know it, but in buying the old multi-storied home, they had bought themselves a "haunted house" or so many of the youngsters attending Santa Cruz high believe.

So far, the Johnsons haven't met any of the "ghosts" while operating their Giovanni's Catering Service out of the old mansion. The old Victorian-style mansion, with its cupola, scrolls, dados, swirls and

curls, has the history to qualify it for "ghost haunting."

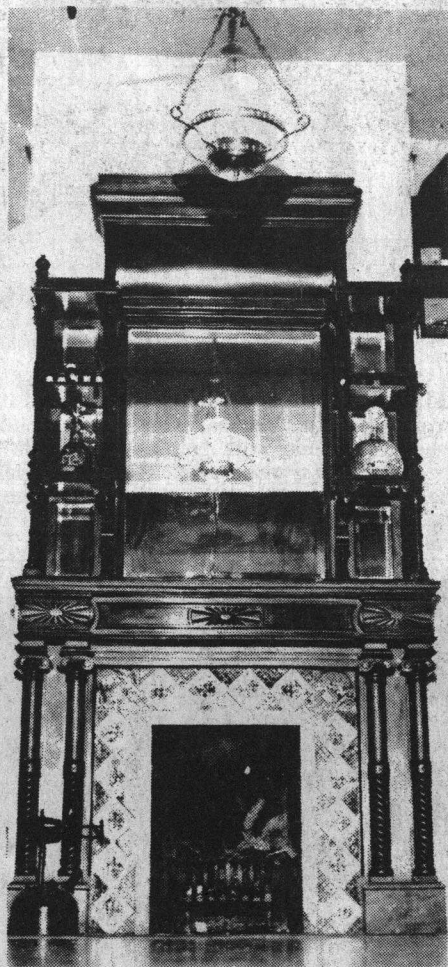
It was built by Thomas J. Weeks in 1890, moving it to its present location in 1913.

Weeks and a partner planted potatoes in 1849 and made a killing in 1850 -- \$10,000 in profits each. Then their landlord, Judge William Blackburn raised their rent from \$17 to \$100 an acre, so the partners bought 86 acres that incorporated Walnut avenue hill, next to the high school.

In 1854, Weeks married Margaret Morgan, niece of Judge Blackburn, and built her the lovely home that still stands today.



... one of the city's historic reminders of its glamour past can be found in such homes as this at 724 California street, owned by the Albert Johnsons, and threatened for destruction if the proposed freeway route along California is finally selected by the, as the best of the routes now proposed ...



... one of the most fascinating features of the house are its old fireplaces ...



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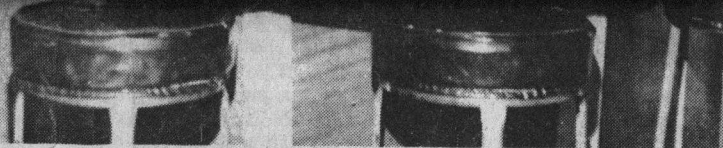
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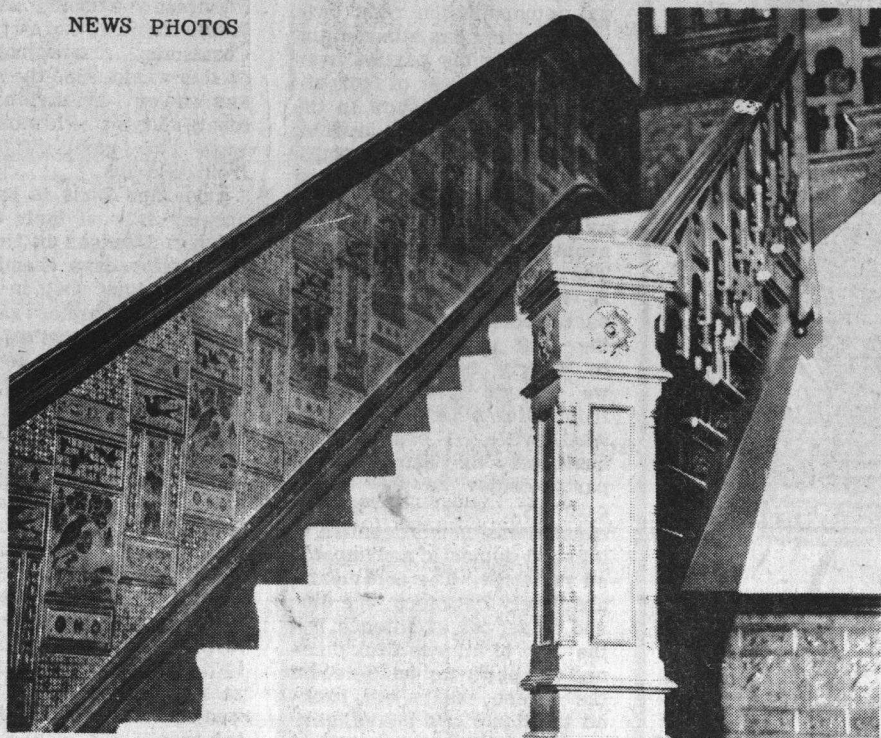
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... one of the rooms in the Johnson mansion has been converted into a Gay Ninety-styled bar, which has been stocked with suitable bric-a-brac ...

## NEWS PHOTOS



... collectors of early California antiques will be awed by the hand carved woodwork that is incorporated in the house ... including that which can be found in the stairway leading to the second floor ...

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