

# This Old House Takes On New Life . . .

By MARGARET KOCH  
Sentinel Staff Writer

This old house is really going to live again . . .

Not as a remodeled, modern, re-vamped echo of itself, but as it was intended to live, with the stately airs of a Victorian Grand Dame.

Nothing is to be changed. But it's hard for workmen to believe that in this day and age. For example, when Mrs. Franklin Mieuli found the old wood towel bar missing from the kitchen wall, she dropped everything to hunt for it until she found it.

And she found it. "Now I must put this someplace where it will be safe until the walls are refinished and we can put it up again," she said.

She looks with delight on the six-foot white porcelain bathtub which stands up on clawed feet; "Isn't it really something!"

She enthuses over her double front doors which are carved to a fare-thee-well, she admires the hand-painted designs of birds and cherubs and flowers on her ceilings.

And she isn't the only person who looks on this gem of Victorianism with glee.

"We leave the front door open to air the house—it's a bit musty from being shut up so long—and people, perfect strangers all of them, wander in to look and chat," she said. "It's amazing how many of them are young people—and how delighted they are with the house. They all seem to think it's the most marvelous house they've ever seen."

The Mieulis are lucky; the Halsey house has rooms of generous size. However, even if the rooms were smaller, Mrs. Mieuli would not tear out partitions and "re-do" them.

"I am against such changes entirely," she said.

She has chosen wallpapers, paints and carpeting as much like the originals as possible. And the hand-painted ceilings will be merely cleaned with only the large plain portions getting a new paint job.

Old redwood floors will be polished and used as-is, upstairs. All the original wood shutters are in the windows. The old tub will be refurbished a bit and kept for man-size baths.

An English garden will be planted out back where the

the Halsey sisters, long-time Santa Cruz school marms who owned the house, had a bit of "modernizing" done over the years.

The Mieulis are from San Jose and he is president of the San Francisco Warriors basketball team. He also is affiliated with the Giants and the 49'ers. For many years he was the radio and TV producer for all three.

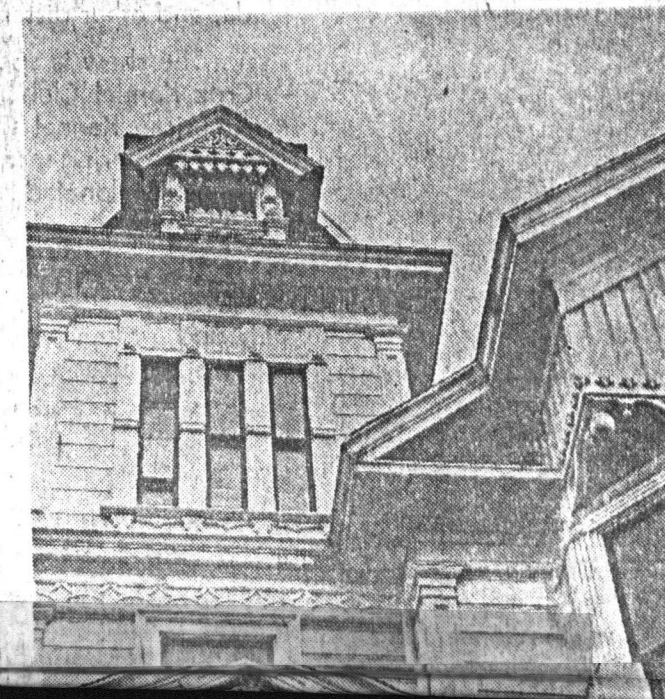


Mrs. Mieuli is the one whose main interest is antiques and old homes, although they have a modern home in San Jose.

Another member of the family who is enthralled with the old Halsey house is Francesca, the Mieulis' daughter. It's the perfect place for small girls who love to explore from kitchen to attic—and then out to the carriage house. Francesca also has discovered Holy Cross Plaza as a delightful place to roller skate.

Mainly the Mieulis look forward to this historic Santa Cruz home as a delightful place to live.

"Look—we can see Holy Cross Church steeple—look at the trees and the hills, the views from our windows," Mrs. Mieuli says.

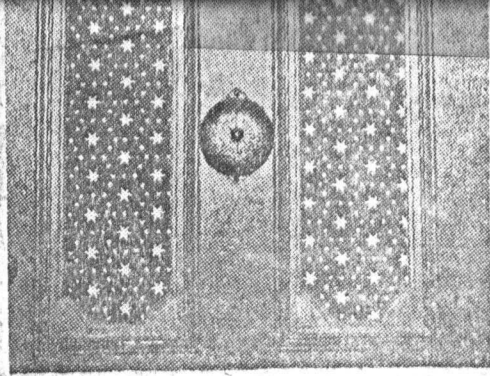
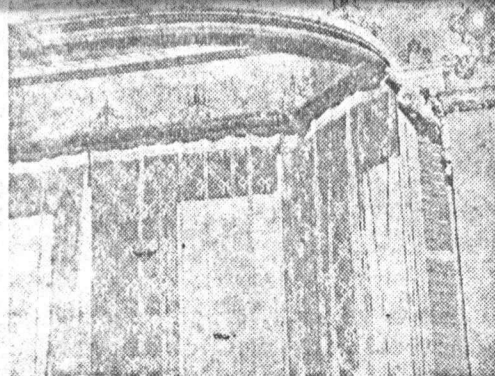


FRANCESCA, 8, at head of curving stairs. Owl roosts temporarily in stair niche, really belongs in garden.

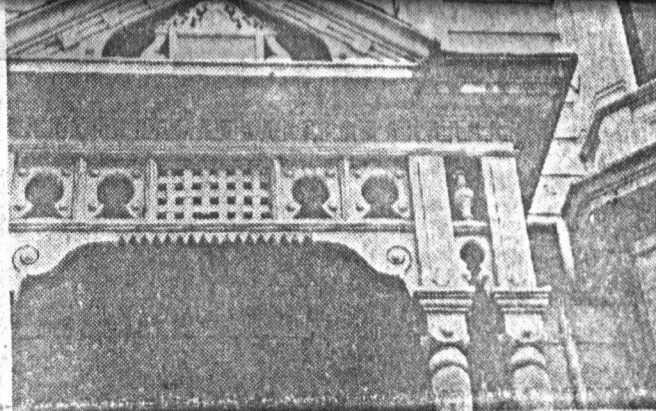
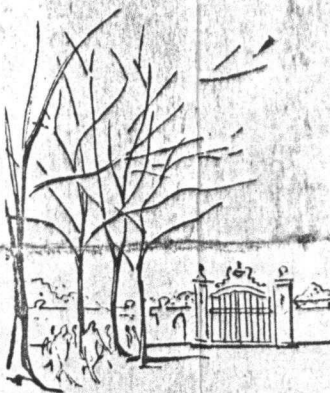


OLD SENTINELS, found under carpet. Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Mieuli of San Jose recently bought the Halsey house and are restoring it.





screen and wood will be re-painted and left in place. All light fixtures will be authentic—unfortunately many of the originals were gone when the Mieulis bought the house;



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HAND PAINTED ceilings, red glass door panes etched with stars—these are just a few of the "bonuses" to be found in some old homes.

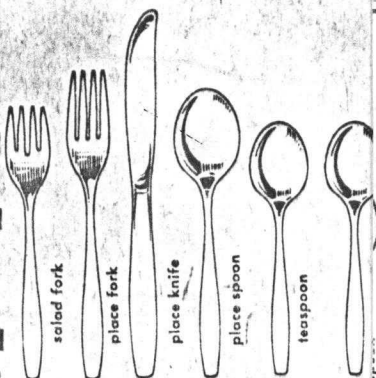
A TOWER room on top of another tower room . . . there are really two, in the Halsey house at 207 Mission street. Mieuli will take lower one as his office and "ivory tower" retreat.

TINY BEDROOM fireplace is inspected Mieuli and family dog. Floors, of planking, will be refinished and used

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