

Santa Cruz BeautifulC. King

Historic Houses - North County

Lockhart Road Residence Has Four-Acre Site

Editor's note: This is No. 51 in the Sentinel-News' regular Wednesday visits to the "Homes of Santa Cruz."

By Jewel E. Woods

During the last three years, trucks loaded heavily with bricks have rumbled down Lockhart Gulch road, bound for a four-acre pine surrounded homesite owned by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence King.

And during the last three years—almost exclusively under the trowel of King, himself—these bricks have been laid hundred after hundred, in the shape of walls, terraces, chimneys, and archways.

Recently, the last brick was put in place, the last coat of paint was applied to interior walls, and in place of what had once been a small mountain of bricks and heavy redwood timbers, there stood a 17-room house.

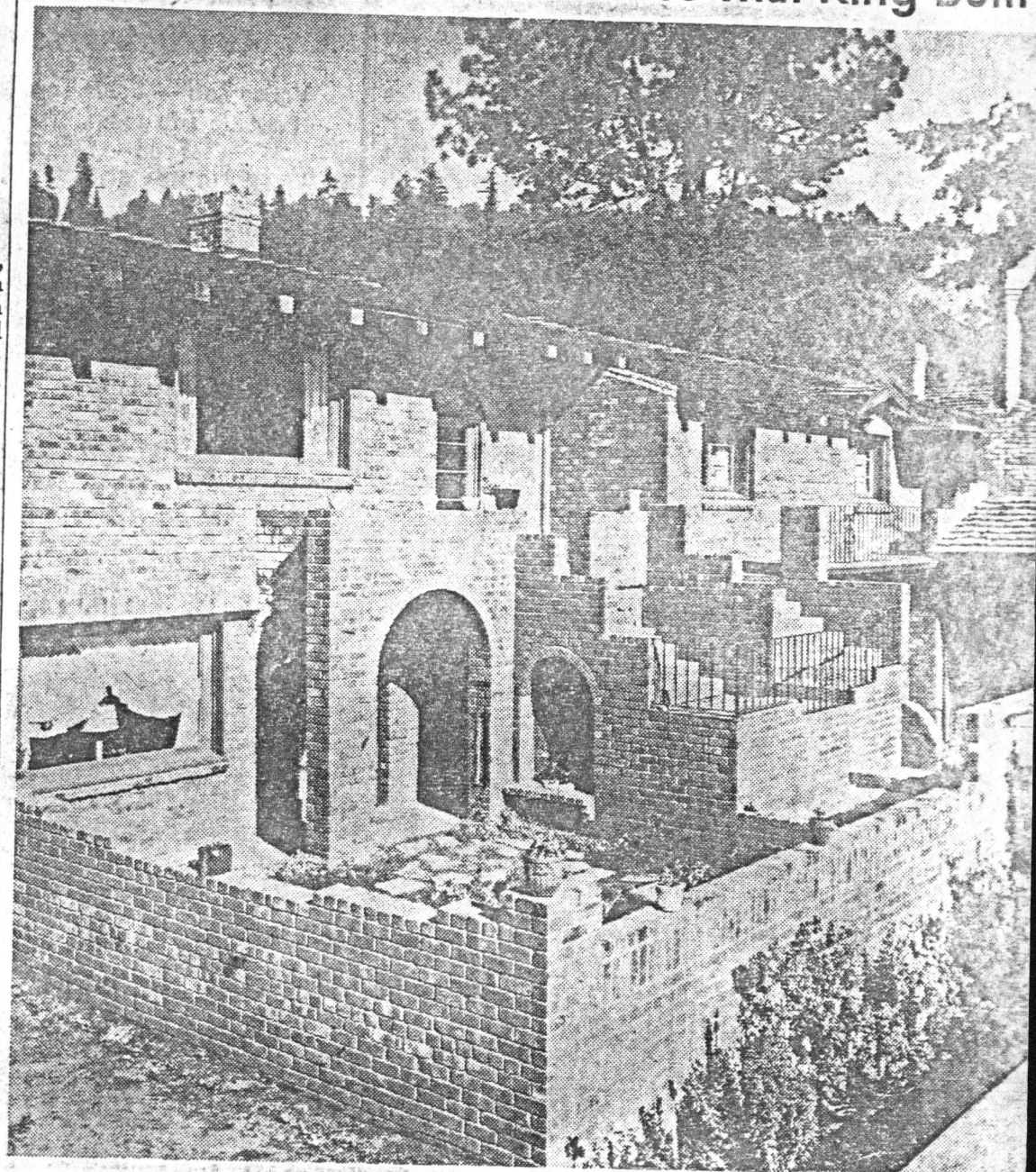
The fact that Clarence King had done a large share of building the house—interior construction as well as the brickwork—was a feat in more ways than one. Because until a few years ago, King, his wife, and his daughter were in show business. Mrs. King, who appeared as a singer and dancer, and Clarence and his daughter, who were acrobats, were known professionally as "The Three Kings" when presented on the stage of the Golden Gate theatre, San Francisco.

It was their show business which brought them to Santa Cruz, for an appearance at the beach, and they became so attracted by the beauty of the area, they stayed on to select a homesite for themselves—the location of their present home.

That was a number of years ago, and at first they had a rustic home built for themselves on the land: a one-story, country lodge type structure of grayed logs and Carmel sandstone. When King decided to retire from the stage and go into the masonry business, the Kings came down and took up permanent residence in this country place, and it was there that they lived while Clarence built their present new home during his spare hours away from his other masonry work.

The house (an exterior view of which is pictured) was designed by Mr. and Mrs. King in a style which they call "English rustic."

While actually it contains only two floors, its arrangement of stairs on the inside, and its out-



This Is The House That King Built

side entrances from a number of tiled terraces, give the impression it has a variety of room levels. All the rooms are connected to each other by doors, and yet there is the feeling that the house is in separate wings which must be reached by their own outside entrances.

There are two living rooms and two dining rooms, one each on the ground floor, and the other two on the second floor.

The largest of the two living rooms is on the ground floor, and has a fireplace which is a unique architectural feature. One section of this living room is two stories high, because it contains the metal stairway, with polished oak treads, which leads to upstairs bedrooms. The large fireplace of Carmel stone not only occupies the entire wall under these steps, but its flue, which is built in the wall which forms part of the stairwell, is fronted up the entire two-story height with more of the Carmel stone.

This living room, which can be entered from a front, bricked terrace, sheltered with arch-covered walks, or from a back tiled patio, through double French doors, has large squares of tan tile bordering its center carpeted areas. The room has been given a divided effect with a brick section which eventually will hold an aquarium.

Interior walls in the house which are not natural finished pine or redwood, are formed of the reverse side of the building

dining room . . . a light tint has been used for the breakfast room (with tile and Carmel stone-bordered floor), which is entered from the predominantly white kitchen. In the latter, all the cupboards are metal, including a clever spice cabinet with roll-away door, the equipment is electrical, and the large sink section is of monel metal. From the kitchen is a door to a sheltered outdoor service entrance, which leads to the laundry room, which is equipped with an automatic washer.

Also on the ground floor is the bedroom, sitting room and bath occupied by King's mother, Mrs. Alma Boucher. Separating the bedroom and sitting room is a deep, three-quarter high wall which, on the bedroom side, has sliding panel doors enclosing a wardrobe section.

Most of the bedrooms are on the right-hand side of the second floor (one of them, lined with light finished combed plywood, has a rectangular picture window which looks down into the fireplace end of the first floor living room).

Of particular interest are the furnishings in one, which Mrs. King states, were all made, entirely by hand, by a 65-year-old woman, Mrs. Lucille Schmidt, a resident of Nelson road. All the pieces are of wood, including the bed, and Mrs. Schmidt is said to have constructed them without aid of power tools. She finished them in antique ivory. The marble-topped dressing table has a

View of front of the house shows where some of the tons of brick and tile went. Note diamond-shaped double chimneys rising from wing at right, which contains the high-ceilinged first floor living room. The other of

Lewis Nelson

Lewis A. Nelson, former air force major, was graduated from the College of Aeronautics of the University of Southern California at Santa Maria with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Nelson of 517 Olive street, he finished with the highest record of any member of his graduating class in aeronautical subjects in the aeronautical engineering course.

Nelson received almost perfect grades in aeronautical subjects such as structural design, mechan-

and little felt and button pictures on the walls.

As said before, the house also contains a living room and dining room on the second floor, which can be reached either from a bedroom or from an outside stairway. These two rooms (the living room of which is pictured) are separated by a small entrance hall which opens, through double paneled doors, into a compact, shallow "serving kitchen," equipped with small electric range, small stove, small electric refrigerator

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