

House Tour:

Bonnet Home Good Example Of Elegant Victorian Age

Another of the Ocean View Victorians on the December 12 house tour sponsored by Santa Cruz County Symphony Guild is that of Peter and Arlene Bonnet.

On entering the large two-story 1876 home, one is reminded of the elegant Victorian Age by the large foyer, the tall entry doors topped with colorful leaded glass, and the handsome carved balusters supporting the heavy handrail of the staircase. There also is ornate embossed wainscoting.

More carved woodwork accents the high windows and doors of the parlor to the right of the foyer.

The care which went into this home, both inside and out, is noted in the Santa Cruz Historic Building Survey with this description:

"Originally Italianate, this Stick-Eastlake house was greatly enlarged and remodeled in the 1880s, accounting for its unusual plan. Gabled square bays, a central two-story porch, and a corbelled side tower are its most notable features."

The home has been further remodeled by its various owners over the years, and was purchased by the Bonnets five years ago.

Arlene has made some of the lace curtains including those in the dining room, and also has done some of the wallpapering herself, including the library.

She says they began to acquire antique furniture when they bought the home, living in a modern home in Soquel before their Victorian acquisition.

Among the fine pieces in the upstairs master bedroom are a loveseat more than 100 years old, an 1862 chest made in Pennsylvania as a wedding present for her grandparents, a washstand (circa 1850) and a turn of the century bed and matching dresser.

There are two "newer rooms" in the house, she notes — the library and the solarium.

The solarium, which is off the foyer, has become the family room. The three windows are

covered with filmy yellow curtains, which pick up the large bright daisies which explode in the dramatic patterned green and gold wallpaper. White wicker furniture adds to the air of relaxation, and green doors, edged with yellow, complete the bright decor.

The kitchen too has been modernized, as have the bathrooms to some extent.

In the back garden, which faces Monterey Bay, an old fountain has been converted to an outdoor hot tub.

Upstairs the Victorian mode is continued and the central porch offers a full view of the circular drive and the gazebo on the front lawn.

Arlene notes, "In an old photo of the house the front of the house looked just the same, except that palm trees and thick vegetation filled the front yard."

During the tour, a collection of cast wax dolls, owned by Doris Callaghan as well as dolls belonging to other members of the Santa Cruz Doll Club, will be featured throughout the house.

— VIRGINIA BRAILSFORD

You're Invited to Savor Santa Cruz Victoriana

A walking tour of the three Victorians on Ocean View Avenue and one on nearby Caledonia will recreate more leisurely days in Santa Cruz when Santa Cruz County Symphony Guild presents its Victorian House Tour December 12 from 1-5 p.m.

Christmas carolers, decorated trees and hostesses wearing Victorian gowns will add to the illusion.

For tickets (\$7) stop in at Cabrillo College Sesnon House, 6500 Soquel Drive, or call Ruth Baughman at 688-6154 or Mildred Buhler at 438-0767.



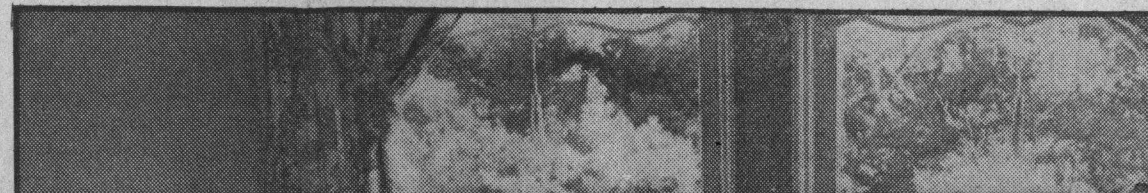
LEFT — Formal living of the 1876 Stick-Eastlake home of Peter and Arlene Bonnet with antiques collected since they bought the house five years ago.

BELOW — Arlene Bonnet comes down the stairway with its ornately carved newel post.

BELOW LEFT — Exterior of the Bonnet home with its bay windows and balcony.



Dolls and Toys to Further Illustrate Victorian Era



Illustrate Victorian Era

A display of dolls and toys of the Victorian and later eras will be on view at the Peter Bonnet home during the Victorian House Tour, all the prideful possessions of members of the Santa Cruz Doll Club.

Favorites of club member Doris Callaghan are two wax dolls that she recently purchased in England.

"They were sculpted with pictures of Victorian children as models," she says, "and dressed exactly that way. The woman who designed them is an international award-winner."

Doris has been collecting dolls for 14 years, starting her engrossing hobby after her career working in medical records at a Southern California hospital came to an end.

"I had time on my hands," she says, "and that's when I discovered dolls."

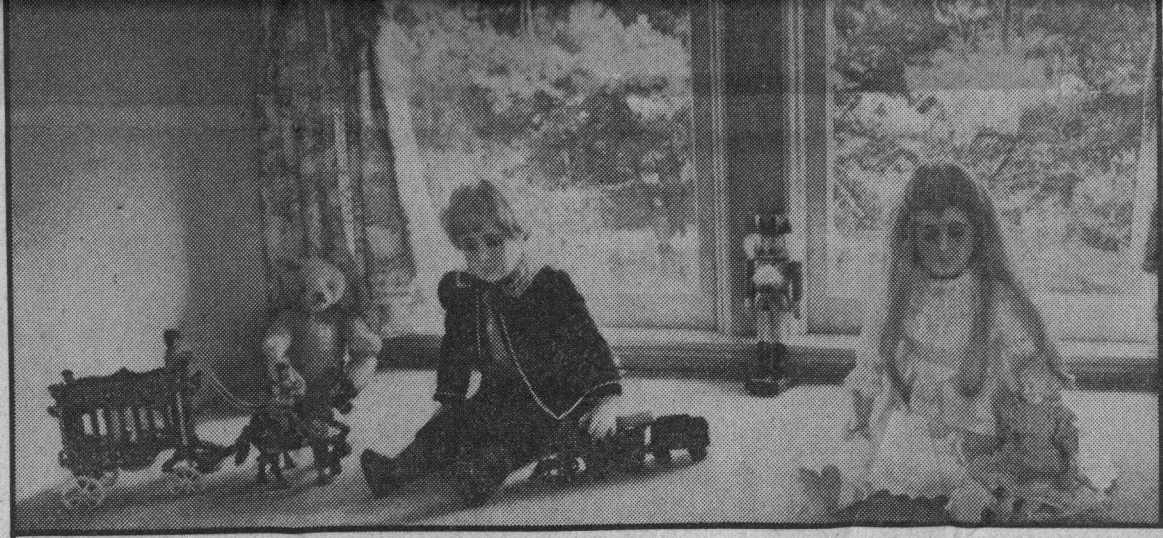
"One little Italian doll started my collection — he was on sale at the May Company and he was so cute. Then I had to buy one to go along with him."

Doris now owns 450 dolls.

But she doesn't care to fix them up too much or dress them, preferring to purchase dolls that are in good condition and already dressed.

One little doll is more distinguished for the shop she came from than for, perhaps, her own identity.

Doris purchased her from Skillywiddon Crafts, in Mousehole, Cornwall, England.



Doris Callaghan, left, with one of dolls the Santa Cruz Doll Club will display at the Peter Bonnet home during the tour. Above, Doris' wax-sculpted replicas of English children during the Victorian period and toys of that era.