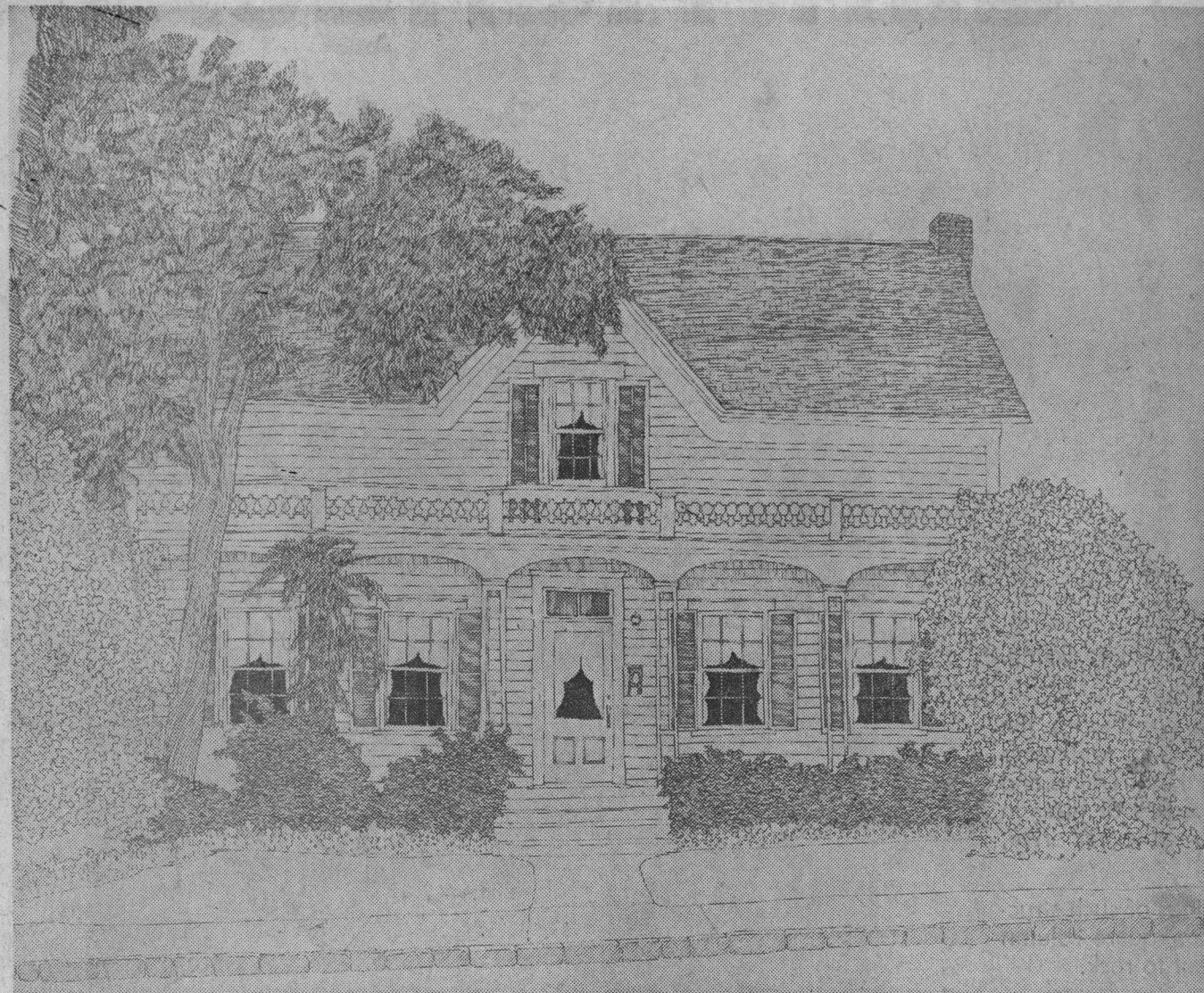


# A Unique Sort of Street . . . Green Street



URBAN DESIGNER Will Shepherd has made this pen and ink sketch of Mrs. Geraldine Work's home at 127 Green street. Alice Farnham's Belle of Portugal rose climbs through the tree at left of front porch . . . the house's origin is lost in the haze of many years but it is more than 100 years old, was probably built before 1870.

By MARGARET KOCH  
Sentinel Staff Writer

Residents of Green Street feel they have something special . . . it is the kind of street that contributes to Santa Cruz' charm and unique "New England" atmosphere.

The street has another big plus factor, according to several residents: "We like the idea of living so near the central shopping district—and yet we are apart from it," commented Mrs. Edward Tunheim. The Tunheims own Sadler House, 127 Green Street, main topic of last week's Sentinel article.

Tunheim has investigated and found that the front portion of the old house was the original First Methodist Church building of 1850. It can be plainly seen in the 20 by 30-foot foundations which are heavy, hand-hewn redwood timbers, he notes. The rear portion of the house was added later.

Next door to the Tunheims' is a typical white-painted New England home owned by Mrs. Geraldine Work, Santa Cruz city and county librarian. Mrs. Work's home was probably built by Otis A. Longley before 1874. Miss Annie M. McCaskill dug back into the records, and found that the property was deeded from Longley to Silas Randall in 1874, from Randall to Farnham in 1878. However, there is

no sure way of telling when the house was built as it is not mentioned in the deeds.

On one of its original "bubble glass" window panes, there are three initials, crudely scratched—a diamond was probably the tool used, according to Mrs. Work. The initials are A.E.F. and stand for Alice Edith Farnham. Alice lived in the house, carved her initials on the window and planted the huge Belle of Portugal rose tree at the corner of the front porch.

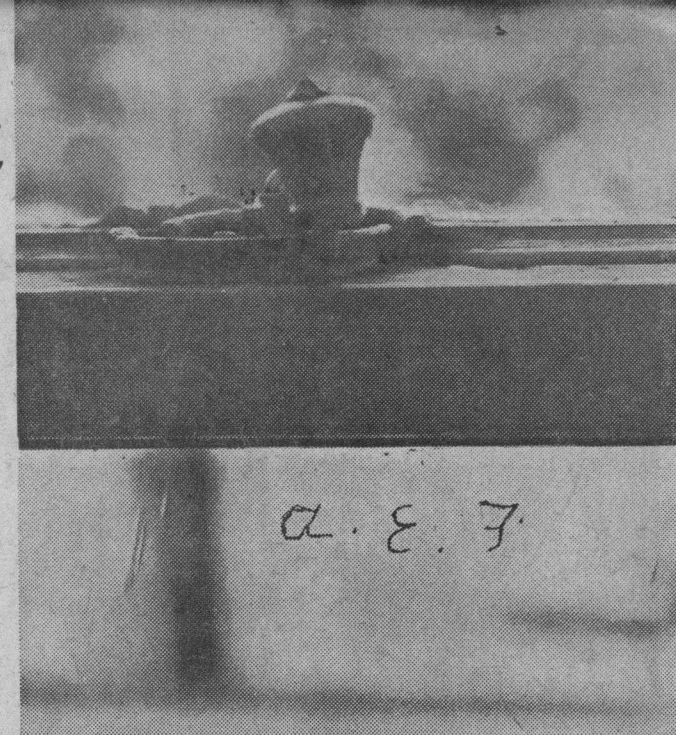
Alice was the only child of Enoch George Farnham who came to California from East Bridgeport, Maine, in 1856, then again in 1858 to settle. He lived in Hayward, then went to Washington Territory, Seattle and back to Healdsburg, California, before coming here to live in 1877. Enoch ran a hay and grain feed store with A. P. Swanton, father of "Fabulous Fred"—the town's up and coming mayor.

Alice was 11 years old when the family settled here. In those days a "lane" ran along the chalk rock bluff above the railroad. By entering the gate of the W. P. Young residence on Green Street, a person could walk over to Union Street. Living on Union was another girl named Alice—Alice Desjardins-Gardner—who had come to Santa Cruz in 1872.

The Henry Desjardins-Gardner family lived at 311 Union Street in a home built around one of Santa Cruz' original adobes. The house was demolished when the Chestnut Street cut-through was built.

With a modicum of imagination, one can visualize the two little girls in high button shoes and calico ruffles, exchanging visits to "play dolls" and to indulge in other young ladylike activities of the era.

The Young residence, complete with fountain, gardens and croquet lawn, was located across Green Street from the Samuel Leask home. It burned in the mid-20's, according to Miss Alice Neary. Today, Cross Street, a tiny bit of paving which runs in between the Leask and Wessendorf homes, is a remnant



ALICE'S initials on the window . . .

School Street, the other way.

In 1850 Santa Cruz' population was less than 650 persons. By 1880 the population was about 6000. The town grew slowly; everyone knew everyone else—and most of his business.

However, some things remain a mystery in part. Green Street was named for a man named Green who donated lumber for the first Methodist Church building. There was an E. G. Green whose wife was active in the WCTU, and a J. S. Green who lived on Washington Street. There also was a John D. Green—in fact, there were so many Greens in early-day California that a noted historian threw up his hands, figuratively speaking, and gave up trying to get them all straight.

But John D. Green came to Santa Cruz in 1847, married Lydia Hitchcock and bought "Crazy" Wright's sawmill in 1849 for \$2000. The sawmill was located at Rincon and is said to have furnished the lumber for the first Methodist sanctuary. So chances are good that Green Street was named for John D. What happened to him is an unsolved bit of research. But in 1903 a John D. Green drowned in Santa Cruz.

Two Santa Cruz County sheriffs have lived in the Green Street area. Up on the northwest corner of Green and Mission, where a more recent apartment house sits, Charlie Lincoln lived. Charlie was the uncle of Santa Cruz realtor Bob Lincoln and was

there in the 1860's, according to Bob.

And across Mission Street at 222 in a white house trimmed with Victorian "lace," lived Howard Trafton. Trafton died with his boots on. He was shot and killed while attempting to subdue an insane hermit near Rio del Mar beach in the 1920's.

Trafton at one time owned all three of the white "gingerbread" cottages, according to Miss Viola Guichard who lives in the one at 214 Mission Street. She says her home was built about 1870.

The middle house at 218 Mission now is owned by Myrtle Kester who is turning it into a home gifts shop and art gallery.

Last week's Green Street article brought forth another old timer—John Stroheen—with two deeds on Green Street property. One, dated October 17, 1868, is from Richard Gray to Wesley P. Young. For the sum of \$2100 in gold, one and one-fourth acres changed hands. The other deed, dated March 13, 1876, is from Judge Joseph H. Skirm to Hampton E. Makinney. Stroheen is particularly proud of this one; it is hand-written in Skirm's fine quilled flourishes. For \$2500, approximately six-tenths of an acre changed hands.

And so the history of an old street—one of the oldest in Santa Cruz—and the surrounding area, unfolds . . .

Through bits and pieces found here and there—a sharp memory, unflagging

## Can This Be Saved?

Is a compromise possible on Freeway Route 2?

As presently planned the new freeway route will demolish Green street, the north side of Mission street and the west side of Sylvar street at Holy Cross Plaza.

We think such a compromise can be worked out. So does Dave Armstrong, local professional planner.

His suggestion is this: that the new freeway route 2 might be designed to go over the present Mission-Chestnut street intersection.

Mission street would be under the freeway, slightly depressed. The new freeway would be built up over Mis-

sion then drop to its present depressed design, west of the intersection.

"Although there would be some additional vertical alignment problems to overcome, the savings in property acquisition cost could be noticeable," he says. Chestnut and Mission street would remain as is, except for being slightly depressed in the intersection area.

A compromise on curvatures, off and on-ramp designs, and a re-placing of the big interchange could be worked out, he feels. It is this interchange that, in its present form, will take out Green street and Holy Cross

High School.

"Predominant freeway use here always will be tourist and local worker traffic," he says. "This freeway is not intended to be used like a 'Highway 99' between Los Angeles and San Francisco, bypassing Santa Cruz."

If such a compromise could be worked out, historic Green and Sylvar streets would be left as is. It sounds possible. It would be better than the verbal rock throwing which often takes place between besieged home-owners and state highway planners.

It is worth trying.

M.K.

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SANTA CRUZ County Sheriff Howard Trafton lived in this house on Mission street which faces the end of Green street. The Victorian house and its separate "studio" in the back yard, were built by Louis Schwartz, local merchant, about 1865 or 1870. The studio was for his daughter who was an artist. Trafton at one time owned both of the adjoining white houses on "gingerbread row." Today his grandson who is named for him, owns the house.

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