

Capitola to 1959

Capitola RR Depot Being Converted Into An Interior Decorator's Shop

By Ron Reeves

The elaborate Southern Pacific depot at Capitola, a symbol of the days when Capitola was the fashionable seaside resort for San Francisco, has been saved from the scrap lumber heap.

The depot, built about fifty years ago and abandoned for the past ten years, is rapidly undergoing a transformation to an ante-bellum home to be used as an interior decoration shop by Mrs. Lucian Savoy.

The depot building was purchased some five years ago by Frank E. Kalbaugh of Altadena, who has a summer home in Capitola. Plans to move the building proved overly expensive, as did a proposal to destroy the building for scrap.

Mrs. Savoy, who had been operating her home decorating business from her Watsonville home, negotiated with Kalbaugh and purchased the building for a dollar. She also purchased some 2700 square feet under the structure from Southern Pacific.

Then began the transformation.

The depot itself has remained intact, with addition of a new floor and coat of plaster. The baggage room floor was raised three feet and is becoming a bedroom showroom, the ticket office will be Mrs. Savoy's business office, and the waiting room a period showpiece.

"I've been looking at this building and wanting it for a shop for seven years," Mrs. Savoy admitted. "I wouldn't change a wall for anything."

The basic architecture of the depot will remain unchanged, but with coats of white paint and a planned grey flagstone terrace and gardens, Mrs. Savoy anticipates that the natural charm of the structure will become true period beauty.

Along with her shop, a rose garden is to be developed as a show area for old-fashioned roses from Tilloson's rose gardens of Watsonville. Plans include a reflecting pool as a part of the rose gardens.

Mrs. Savoy is also to develop nine permanent rental units on the property. As part of the construction, a stand of huge cypress, eucalyptis and pine trees had to go. Although they were in the way of the development, they were also dangerous because of disease, Mrs. Savoy said.

The depot itself has many memories to townspeople and those who arrived and departed from it during the Capitola hayday. It is in the category of memories about the long-high trestle which once went over Soquel creek, long since altered.

The first train came to Capitola on a narrow gauge running on May 18, 1876. The Southern Pacific bought the pioneer railroad in 1881, broadgauging it in 1883. Passenger service to the city was discontinued in 1940.

Railroad Depot Converted

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The Capitola train depot, which mingled with the horse and buggy days of fashionable Capitola when the Capitola Hotel was showplace of the coun-

try, is to remain on its foundations. Mrs. Lucina Savoy, wife of Dr. F. Stanley Savoy of Salinas, is converting the structure to an ante-bellum show-

room for her interior decorating profession. Basic structure will remain intact, but planned additions include white paint, flagstone terrace, old-fashioned rose gardens and pool and nearby nine-unit apartment court. Mrs. Savoy had her eye on the building for seven years before manipulating to purchase the property from Southern Pacific. The building was purchased for a dollar from Frank E. Kalbaugh who abandoned plans to convert the depot to a summer home.

Widening Of Bay Ave. Before Capitola Council Tomorrow

Proposals for widening of Bay avenue in Capitola from Center street to the freeway will come before the Capitola City council at the December meeting set for tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at the hall.

The matter was recommended by the city planning commission last week following public hearings. It was also recommended that additional set-backs be established for eventual widening of Bay avenue to four lanes from Capitola avenue to the freeway.

A report will also be given by Emil Hintz, chairman of the chamber of commerce Soquel Creek Improvement committee. The group has been studying the creek concerning greater beauty and recreational use.

The council will also consider the matter of surveying a series of tidelands between 49th avenue and Central avenue. The lands have been offered by the county, but a survey is needed before the change can be made. This would cost approximately \$6,000, officials indicated.

Consideration will be given to two ordinances coming up for second reading. One concerns franchise and procedures concerning advertising benches and the other construction of advertising signs.