

Here Today; Gone Tomorrow?

# To Some It's 'Scaroni House'

**Editor's Note:** This article appears in a series designed to spark interest in old and interesting homes and buildings in Santa Cruz and surrounding areas. Not all houses in the series are worthy of preservation, but all are part of Santa Cruz' colorful heritage.

By Margaret Koch  
Sentinel Staff Writer

To many long-time Santa Cruzans, the house at 416 Laurent street will always be "the Scaroni house."

For years, Pio Scaroni and his wife lived there. And until two years ago, the Scaronis' daughters, Lillian Scaroni and Mrs. S. K. Annand, also lived there.

Today the house belongs to Mr. and Mrs. Will Shepherd; his pen and ink drawings have illustrated most of these "old homes and buildings" articles. He has donated his time and talent as a community project.

Newcomers to Santa Cruz, the Shepherds nevertheless are vitally interested in the preservation of worthwhile old homes and buildings.

"Santa Cruz is fortunate in still having a wealth of these interesting and picturesque old structures," commented Shepherd.

The Shepherds are delighted with their roomy old house and are even adding on a wing for their growing family. They found the original "front parlor" doors complete with hardware, which they are putting back in place. They also discovered the original leaded glass windows stored away, and these are being put back.

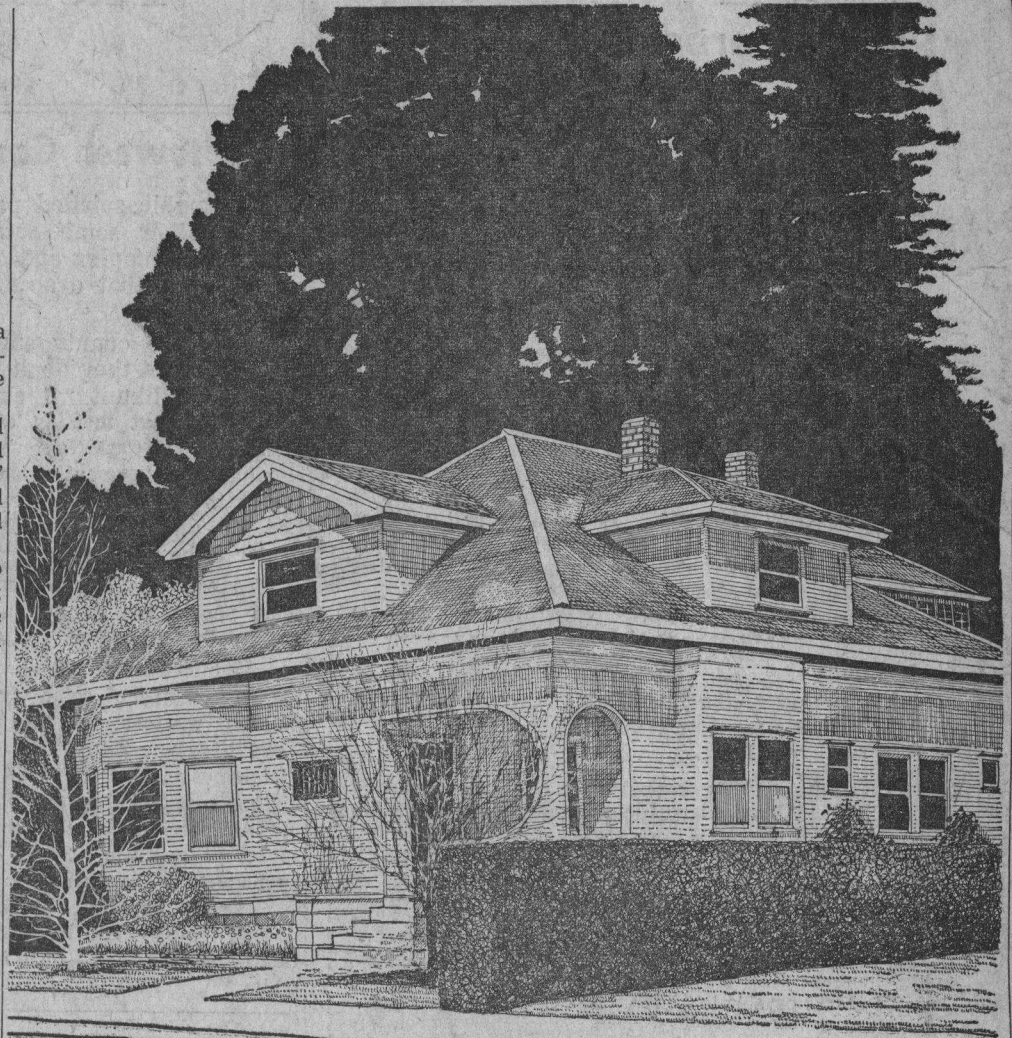
"When we're through, the front part of the house will be just as it was originally, we hope," explained Shepherd.

He's also planning to paint the house blue with dark green under the eaves and touches of white trim. A black roof will complete the color plan.

Shepherd terms the house "California style and really very modern for the period in which it was built, around the turn of the century."

The garden is a particular delight to the Shepherd family and Will hopes to restore it eventually.

"I counted about 200 tree specimens out there," he said. Prizes are a large Ginkgo, a



Japanese Maple and a Himalayan Camphor tree. These trees were collected and planted by the Scaronis who made several world tours after Pio retired in 1908.

Although the Scaronis lived in the Laurent street house for many years, it was not their first home in Santa Cruz County. Scaroni was born in Gordola, Switzerland, in 1851. His father was mayor of Gordola and the owner of a dairy business.

When Pio was 18 he traveled to New York, then out West to Santa Cruz. The year was 1869. He went to work on the Cowell Ranch, and at Waddell's Lumbermill on Waddell Creek.

Finally settling near the city limits on the "Coast Road," he started his own dairy and farm. By 1883 he owned 1003 acres, had a large dairy and was en-

gaged in general farming as well. A peak dairy year was in 1901 when the Scaroni dairy shipped 66,000 pounds of full cream cheese to San Francisco.

Pio's big white dairy ranch house and barn still stand, up on a flat, about two miles north

of the Wilder Ranch.

About 1908 Pio retired, turning the dairy business over to his son, Joseph. Pio and his wife moved into town, bought the house at 416 Laurent, traveled, gardened and lived out their lives there.



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