

YWCA Antiques Show Includes Tour Of Four Homes of Yesteryear

Again this year the annual YWCA Antiques Show-Sale will include a tour of charming homes of yesteryear.

The show-sale is scheduled for August 19-21 at civic auditorium with dealers on hand from all over the West Coast.

August 20 is the tour day with the Santa Cruz homes to include the Alzina House, 109 Sylvar Street, built in the early 1850s and earliest frame house still standing in Santa Cruz; the Gharkey House, 135 Gharkey, built about 1885; the "Epworth-by-the-Sea", 320 Santa Cruz, built in 1887, and Demming House, 417 Cliff, built in 1899.

Tickets, at \$3.50, include the antiques show and the homes tour and are available at the Y, 303 Walnut Avenue, 426-3062.

Kay Harry is chairman of the show-sale and Cynthia Mathews and Melanie Freitas are in charge of the tour which will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The present owners of the Alzina House, Jason and Gretchen Goldstein, bought it in the early 1970s, and according to Gretchen, the early-day home was in dire need of attention.

She says the floor sloped 18 inches, layers of paint obscured the character of the wide plank floors, and most rooms needed major overhaul.

This accomplished, it now is a charming house where primitive construction mixes happily with Victorian and modern elements.

Gretchen, station manager for non-commercial Radio Station KUSP and very active in community affairs, is able to do much of her work at home.

The house, built by Francisco Alzina and his wife, the former Maria Gonzales, whose father had the Rancho Pescadero land grant, is of the simplest farm house style. Wood came from Rancho Pescadero.

Francisco Alzina, a native of the island of Minorca, arrived in Santa Cruz in 1846, coming round the Horn, and became a clerk in the court of Alcalde (later Judge) William Black-

burn. He later served as sheriff for eight years.

Except for the dining room, all floors of the house are the original wide, virgin redwood planks. Those in the study are quite uneven, indicating that they were hand-planed. The bathroom-back porch addition off the dining room seems to have been added after the house had already settled considerably, as the back wall of the dining room was obviously built crooked to accomodate a substantial angle.

Original to the house are the painted light globes with the one in the entry especially unusual. Gretchen believes that the ceiling rosette in the living was probably added in the 1880s to "update" the parlor and give it a touch of elegance.

She notes that the Alzinas had 14 children, all of whom slept in individual cubicles on the second floor. (When the Goldsteins moved in, they found a Victorian sex education manual tucked away in the back of one cubicle's storage shelf.)

Gretchen says the first order of restoration was to jack up the house, eliminate the 18-inch slope, and put in a foundation. Plaster which had cracked in the process was then repaired (only the study had to be sheet-rocked.)

The floors which had been painted brown, were stripped and varnished, as was the hall wainscoting. The cheap plywood which covered the dining room walls was removed, revealing thousands of small tacks which had been used to secure oilcloth added over the original wide plank redwood.

Several skylights were put in the house with the one in the kitchen taking the place of a chimney that collapsed when the house was jacked up. Other work in the kitchen involved a new floor, sandblasting the wood, adding cabinets and counters.

Throughout the house, many solid wood doors were replaced with simple, old glass-paned ones in order to let in more light and create a more open feeling.

In the dining room and throughout the upstairs, paint has been used effectively to brighten up the simple, unpretentious house.

Says Gretchen, "A trip to Scandanavia taught me how effective color is used in a bold way."

Many of the anitques in the house are from Gretchen's family in upstate New York: a roll top desk in the study, the kidney-shaped lady's desk in the living room, a Hoosier cabinet and table in the dining room, and the fancy tin box and photos in the kitchen.

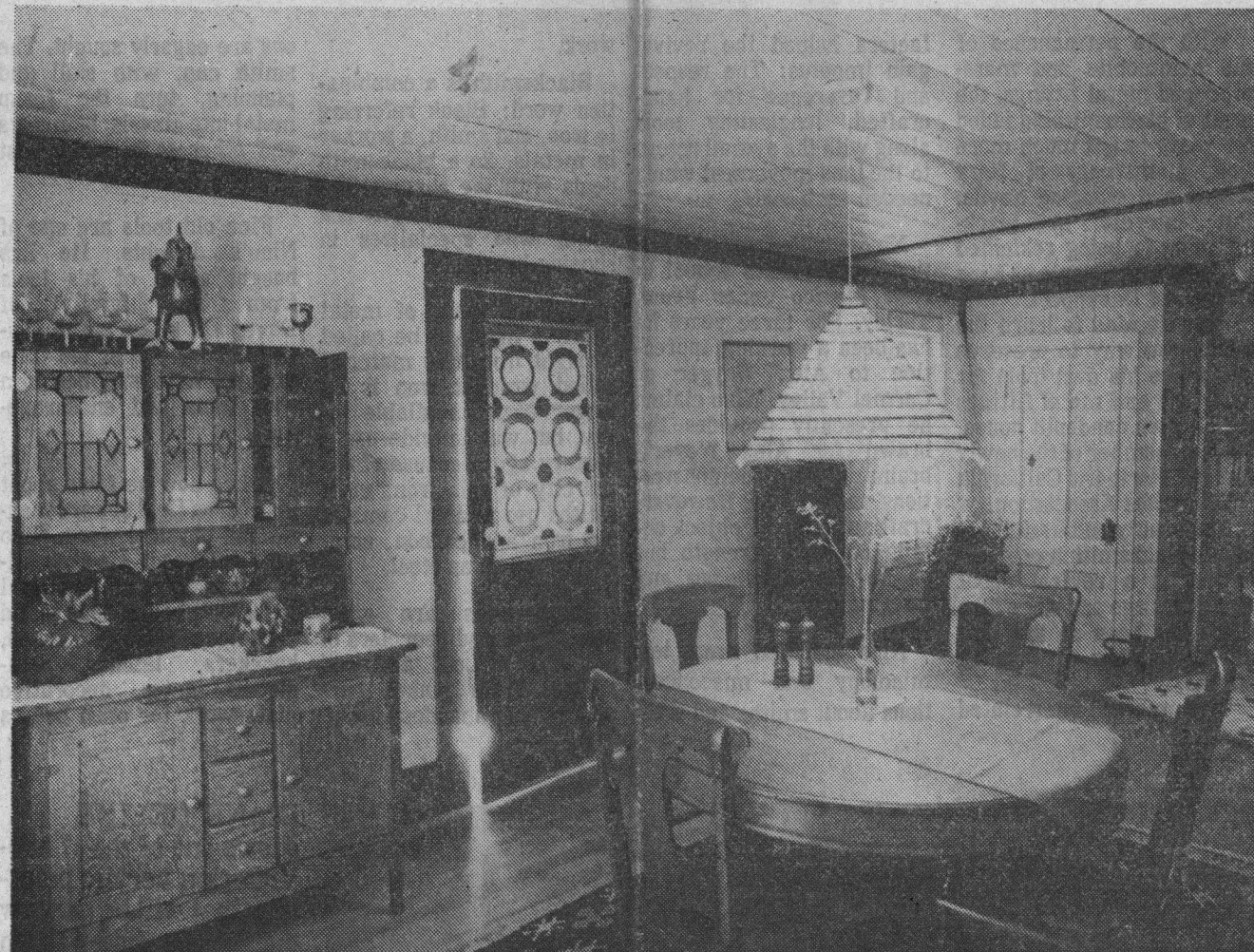
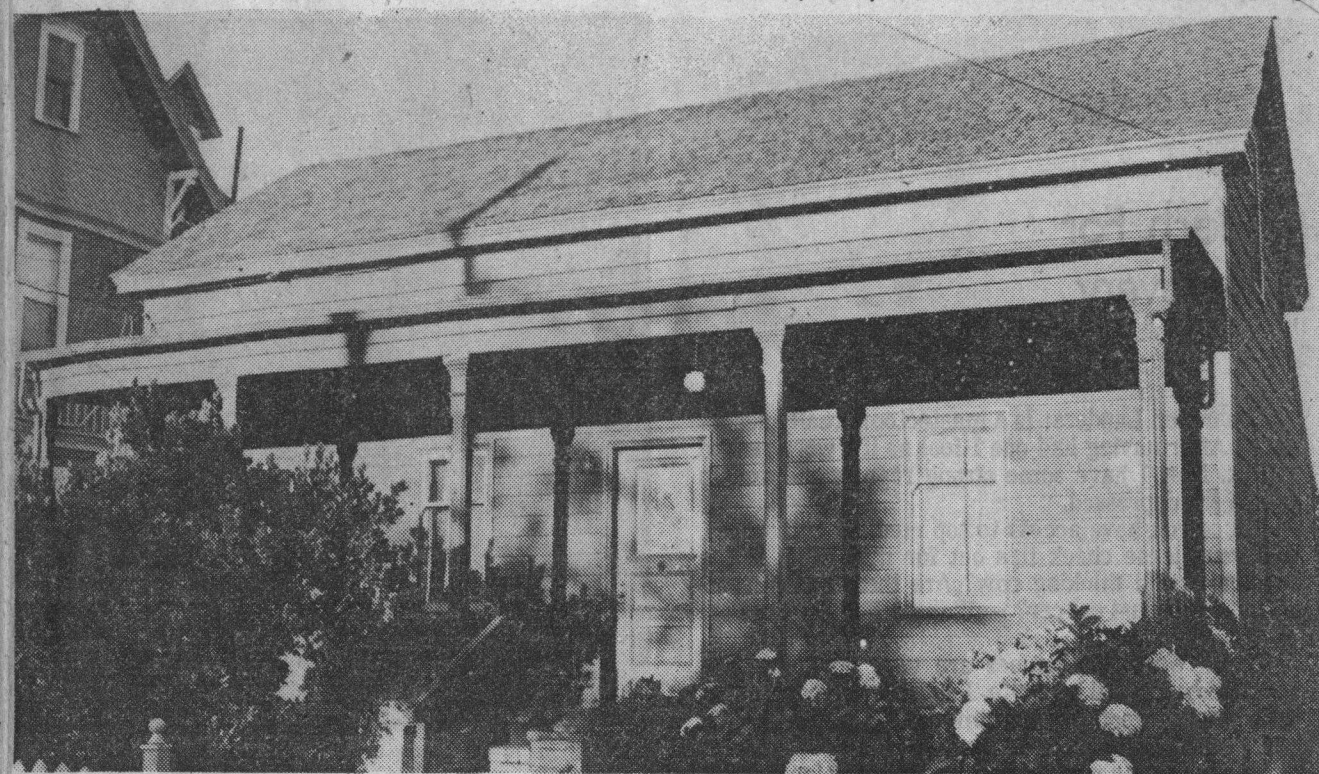
The large bed upstairs has hand-turned finials, and was already considered an antique when Gretchen's father bought it. The long table in the living

room was found in the garage. Gretchen says the top had been ruined by years of use as a workbench, so was reproduced — but the base is original.

Combined with the antiques are striking graphics, rugs brought back from a trip to Morocco, and contemporary furniture.

The yard retains a decidedly old-fashioned feeling, with rock-bordered, meandering paths, a variety of fruit trees, a cluster of exotic succulents and cacti. The hydrangeas were planted by the original owners, according to tradition.

History really comes alive in this house which is situated on the Mission Plaza. It is suggested that tour-goers take time for a brief walking tour.



Oldest frame house still standing in Santa Cruz and built in the 1850s is Alzina House, above, which will be on the YWCA homes tour August 20.

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Walls are wide plank redwood in dining room, above, which the Jason Goldsteins uncovered when they restored the house. Antique Hoosier cabinet and dining table belonged to Gretchen's family in upstate New York.

Combined in living room are contemporary and more Victorian furnishings where Gretchen, right, and Cynthia Mathews, tour chairman, go over details for the August 20 event.