

Home to this Capitola couple is a railroad depot

By MARY BARNETT

Harry and Bea Schulz never really expected to live in a railroad depot.

The retired Los Gatos school teachers had decided to move over to the coast. One day, while on a drive looking for a place, they saw a "For Sale" sign on the old Capitola Depot at Monterey and Park Aves.

They fell in love with the whole idea, and went over to see real estate broker Vern Emmons about the depot.

"We plunked our money down and bought it," Bea Schulz said.

Harry and Bea (they are the kind of people who like to be called by their first names) bought the old depot, built in 1904, from Mrs. Lucina Savoy, who in turn bought it in 1960 from Southern Pacific Railroad for a reported price of \$1.

Mrs. Savoy, who is now an interior decorator for a Monterey antique shop, spent 10 years converting the one-time railroad station for residential use.

Nobody knows how much money she spent on the project, but it must have been a bundle. The Schulz's praise her taste and judgment.

But much remains to be done, and some of what has been done will be undone or changed around by the new residents.

Asked how long it would take to fix up the depot to suit them, Bea said promptly, "About 10 years." Though this may be an exaggeration, there is much to do.

But it's all part of the fun for the Schulzes, who are not new to the game. They bought an 1890 vintage house in Saratoga and fixed it up. After they got through with it, their home was a showplace, included on benefit "home tours." Before that, they built an adobe house in Los Gatos.

Bea will do the scraping and painting, and Harry will do the heavy work. Watching him go at the job of fixing up a railroad



The Schulzes relax in the bay window portion of their depot-home

depot for human habitation, one would guess he had been a shop teacher.

But no, it turns out he taught history and social studies at Los Gatos High School, and at the age of 55 earned his doctorate in education. He wrote his dissertation on "Civil Rights in Education." For a time, he was with the FBI, but he later returned to teaching.

Bea, who started out as a public health nurse, later taught English and mathematics at Los Gatos Junior High School.

"We're restless types," Bea explained. "We like change".

They have two grown children. A daughter, Whitney, teaches elementary school in Berkeley. A son, Stewart, is a legislative

analyst in Sacramento.

The depot sits on what all Capitols know as "Depot Hill," commanding a fine view of Monterey Bay and of Soquel Point from the bay window in what is now the dining room.

In the front yard is a small, town park. The Schulzes think it is pretty nice that the city maintains their front yard for them. And it doesn't bother them that people stop to rest or picnic there.

Although the passenger business is a thing of the past, the railroad siding on the north side of the Schulzes new home is still very much in use for freight.

This doesn't bother the Schulzes a bit either. In fact, said Bea, "We love the trains."

Southern Pacific freight trains make at least two and sometimes four trips a day past the old depot on a local run between Watsonville and Davenport.

The trains load cement at Davenport. They frequently leave lumber at the Depot Hill siding. Sometimes they leave a freight car which is loaded with mid-county freight, such as wine from the Bargetto Winery.

All this the Schulzes find fascinating. The trains come by at "decent hours", such as 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., and the Schulzes go out and wave to the brakemen and conductors when they hear the Whistle.

"It's amazing how many

people come to watch the trains go by," Bea commented.

All in all, the Schulzes are very much in the middle of Capitola life. After living on an acre in Saratoga among five and 10-acre properties where it was always peaceful and quiet, they enjoy it.

In a conducted tour of the old depot, Bea took pleasure in showing off its charms—and its problems.

"The living room is pretty complete as it is," she said. "Lucina did all the paneling, plastering and painting. We're going to paint the ceiling gold to match the tile."

They found some Italian tile they will use in an entry hall they have created with a wire gate.

The living room leads into another room which is now used for dining, but which will be converted into a kitchen-family room. An elegant bathroom opens off the dining area, but

they will move it, saving the fixtures.

"And this," said Bea, "is the 'kitchen'."

What they have now is just a sink, without cooking facilities. Bea uses an electric frying pan. "It's fun," she said. "Like camping out."

But there is an area which they will convert into a full-fledged kitchen, complete with recessed refrigerator and dishwasher.

"The bedroom's nice," Bea said. "Lucina did some very good things. She did all of this paneling, and these built-ins."

The bedroom was nice indeed—pale blue, restful and well-appointed, complete with built-in television, revealed by opening a cupboard, which could be watched from the bed.

A door in the master bedroom opened directly onto a bathtub. It's beautiful, but a bit steamy and unvented, so the Schulzes will convert an old storage area at the north end of the house into a proper bathroom.

What used to be a loading shed at the opposite end of the depot has been enclosed as Harry's workroom, later to be converted to a den.

At the back of the house is a concrete terrace, surrounded by

a retaining wall. Mrs. Savoy had the station moved and put on a new foundation.

"She did all the visionary work," Bea said.

The grey shingle siding was Mrs. Savoy's idea. Bea isn't sure they will keep it.

At the south end of the depot-house, there is an enclosed patio with impressive brick walls. There the Schulzes and their guests frequently have lunch.

The wide concrete front porch, formerly the station platform, runs the length of the depot. The center window in the bay windows has a wide sill showing it was the old ticket window. It is an architectural feature not every house can boast.

The Schulzes are not only

resigned to a long period of patient labor before their new home is to their liking—they are actually looking forward to it.

"Since we're both retired, and it's going to cost a lot of money, we'll limp along and do a little at a time," Bea said. "Harry's a typical Dutchman. He wants one room ready with both curtains up, and a bathroom. After that's done, we'll take it slow."

Maybe later, after the depot is all fixed up, Harry will go back to teaching, possibly at Cabrillo College or at UCSC, Bea said. She thinks it would be too bad for him to waste that doctorate, and all his knowledge.

"But for now," she added, "he's got his work cut out for him."

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