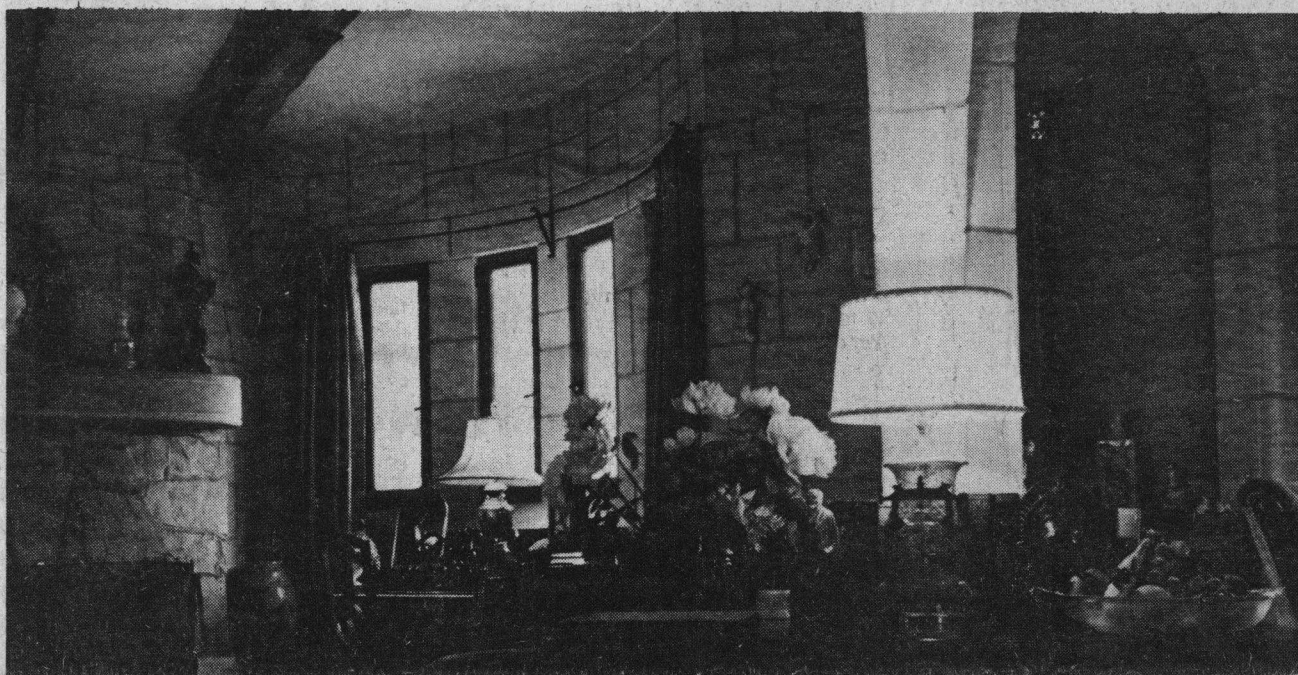


Surrounded by river

The view of Weatherly Castle from the Ben Lomond Bridge points out its distance to the water level which has prevented its flooding and gives the rooms a view of the river. VALLEY PRESS PHOTO



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Weatherly Castle turns heads; adds Scottish mood to Ben Lomond

By Lois Martin
Valley Press Staff Writer

The quaint little Scottish castle sitting on the riverbank in Ben Lomond has turned the heads of visitors to the Valley since 1927 when Robert Howden, a Scotch immigrant, began its construction.

The miniature castle complete with high gates and a tower was opened for tours by popular demand some 15 years ago by its present owner Mrs. Ivy Lee Weatherly and her late husband George. It has been one of the Valley's points of interest ever since.

It is not advertised in tourist magazines, but draws a great number of visitors, particularly during the summer, because of the fascination of finding a castle in this neck of the woods.

How does one happen to choose a castle for a home?

Mrs. Weatherly explains that she and her husband, who was in advertising for a large publishing company, lived in Berkeley and would often take their visitors on a Sunday jaunt down to see Santa Cruz its mountains, and over to Big Basin.

They would always point out the tiny castle to the visitors and on one of these occasions, Mrs. Weatherly suggested they get out of the car and look at it closer. When they walked up to the door, there was a 'for sale' sign on it. They contacted the local real estate broker, who took them inside and it took them about ten minutes to decide they wanted to buy it.

The castle had only five rooms at that time, which presented quite a problem since the Weatherlys lived in a very large home in the Berkely Hills but they hired several carpenters and began to expand the castle keeping the same architectural lines on the exterior of the nine additional rooms.

They attempted to purchase the adjoining lot unsuccessfully so they built right up to the property line, as there was no rules against it at that time. They found they owned the property in the river bed almost to the other side so they built a retaining wall some 50 feet out into the river which gave them a courtyard in back. This, however, was filled with mud during the 1955 flood.

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The largest problem the Weatherlys had in building the addition to their home was obtaining building materials which was difficult in 1946 during the war years when they began remodeling.

They also had some architectural questions regarding the place and were able to locate

The entire living room remodeling project cost \$6,000 in 1939.

Exterior points of interest in the castle are the fountain in the front courtyard which is made of abalone shells and the mosaics which Howden made in the walls of Robert Burns and one of an English bull dog guarding the door.

The exterior which looks like stone is really stucco which has been hand tinted.

Curious people would constantly stop by to look at the castle and want to go inside, so in 1958 the Weatherlys began taking people through on tours at a cost of \$1 which is still what she charges for the tours.

Mrs. Weatherly tries to make the tour as educational as possible, not just about the construction and history of the castle but pointing out all the antiques and art works which adorn each room. She pulls down the disappearing stairs to the tower.

She tells visitors about the Scottish history on the tour and is quite knowledgeable about the Scottish ancestories tartans and clans.

"The children particularly learn from these tours because I keep emphasizing certain things and asking them questions. Most can identify a piece of Lalique glass by the end of the tour and the artwork by Harry Tyrrel on the walls and some of the furniture," she said.

The castle is furnished with teakwood, African mahogany, French provincial and aspen furniture. Crystal and china abound in the many cupboards which Mrs. Weatherly had installed in the addition which they built.

Her favorite storage cupboard is a large one in which she stores her boxes. She has at least one gift box of every size and description imaginable.

"The ladies like to see my box cupboard but the men don't think too much of it," she said.

She also shows tourists her two floor-to-ceiling cupboards full of canned fruits which she puts up in her spare time.

Mrs. Weatherly cares for the castle herself doing all the cleaning and cooking, often times arising in the wee hours to do her canning.

She cares for a small roof garden in which she grows many of her own vegetables and comfy tea which she believes is the primary reason she is so healthy and regained her strength so quickly after a recent fall.

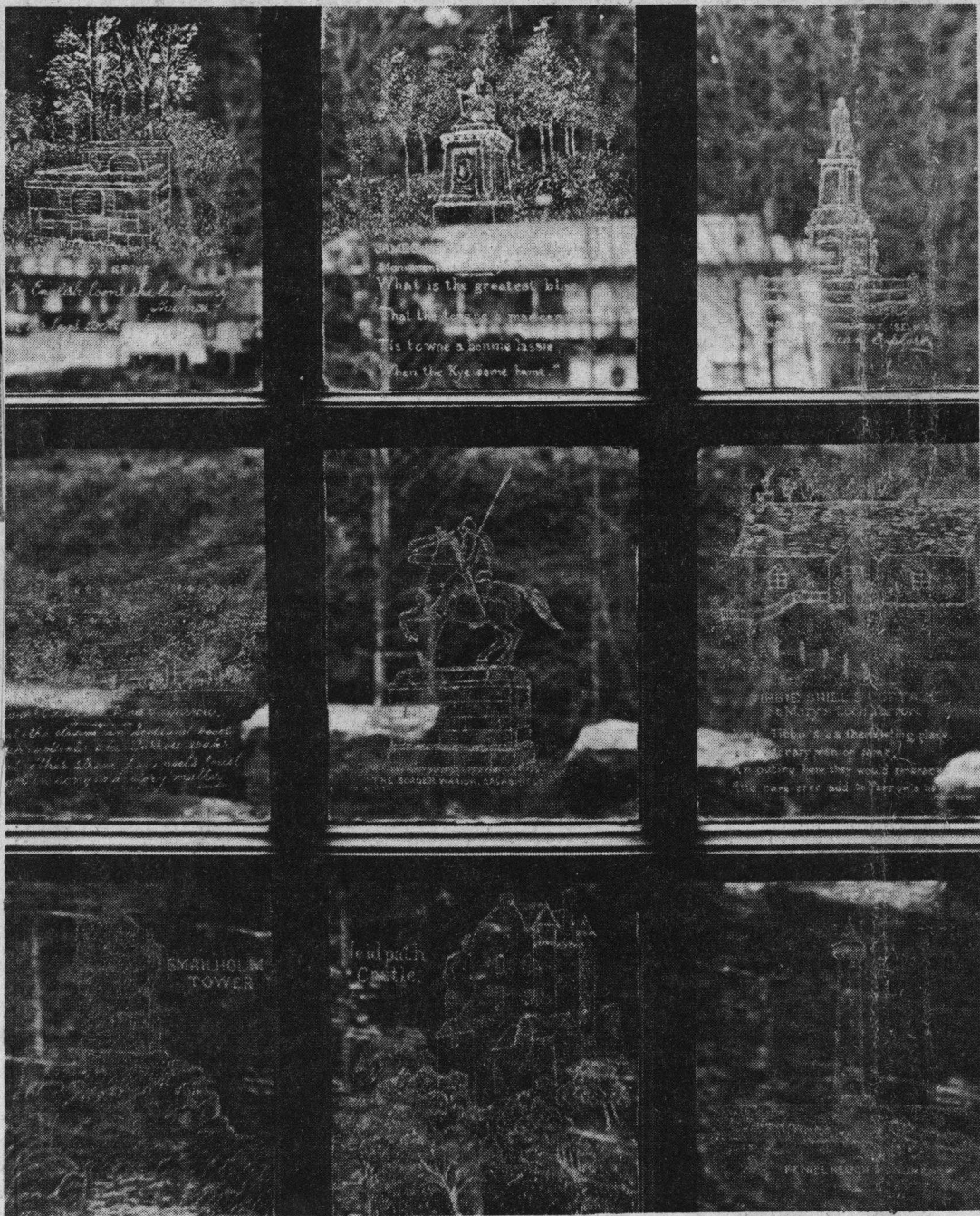
"Comfy tea purifies your blood and heals bones quickly. I recommend it to everyone along with Prevention magazine which I read avidly each month. I really believe in vitamins and minerals and I'm sure it's what keeps me so healthy," she said.

Once a month she entertains her Tuesday Club in the downstairs party room which has a brightly painted multi-color floor, bar, fireplace, old fashioned pickled vegetables, etc.



Living room

The view through the window panes in the castle point out the etchings which were etched in each pane by original owner, Robert Howden. They were done with a tungsten steel instrument and most depict Scottish castles. Each one took several months to complete. VALLEY PRESS PHOTO



Etched panes

The living room and fireplace alcove of the castle feature wooden beamed ceiling with Keanstone walls which were made on the premises. A melodia (antique organ like piano) sits to the right of the fireplace. VALLEY PRESS PHOTO

regarding the place and were able to locate Howden who was then 84 and lived in Oakland. He helped them with the addition and explained many unknown facts about its construction including one of the most fascinating points of interest—the etchings which Howden carved into the glass window panes.

The castle belonged to Dr. and Mrs. Howard Sullivan of Santa Cruz from 1939 to 1946 and they had remodeled the kitchen and the area which is now the living room and fireplace alcove that was formerly three small rooms.

They wanted Keanstone on the walls which was used in European castles. Unable to find anyone who could do the work, they contacted Randolph Hearst at Hearst Castle in San Simeon and he sent a man up who had done his installation. They made the stone in the courtyard and installed it.

fashioned pinball machine, juke box and small utility kitchen.

Mrs. Weatherly thoroughly enjoys showing people through her castle and pointing out its interesting features.

She also has seven cats, which make their home in a downstairs utility room though they are allowed throughout the house.

The Weatherly Castle has recently been seen on television and a story appeared throughout the world by the Associated Press regarding her and the castle which resulted in many letters from persons inquiring about the castle.

She even got one very long letter from a gentleman in England which turned out to be a proposal of marriage. "I haven't answered either one of them, and I don't intend to," she said as she chuckled.



Her home is a castle

Mrs. Ivy Lee Weatherly is shown in front of her castle home which has had as many as 40 persons a day during the summer tours which she began 15 years ago after numerous inquiries to see the inside of the building. VALLEY PRESS PHOTO.