

Homes Tour

A House Out of the Past

Victorian in good taste . . . that four-word description covers the Floyd Estess home at 304 Walnut Avenue.

The big house itself is an eye-catcher from the outside, all pale gray-green with spanking white trim and a

round cupola.

Inside it is just as eye-catching and pleasing, in the harmonious manner in which Mrs. Estess has combined and used the Victorian pieces.

There is a dining room of

course. The Victorians who built this type of big house all believed in six and seven course dinners topped off with fingerbowls. Father always presided at the head of the white damask-covered table, carving fork in hand, sternly admonishing the children to "Clean up your plates!"

Chances are there was a "serving girl" scurrying back and forth through the swinging door into the pantry and kitchen, bringing on great steaming platters and tureens of food.

And if Father was "president" of the family dinner hour, Mother in her lace fichu and pompadour hairdo, acted as vice president from the opposite end of the table.

"Don't gulp so . . . never put your elbows on the table . . . spoon your soup AWAY from you . . ." I can hear it now, in sort of replayed echoes from the past. Man-

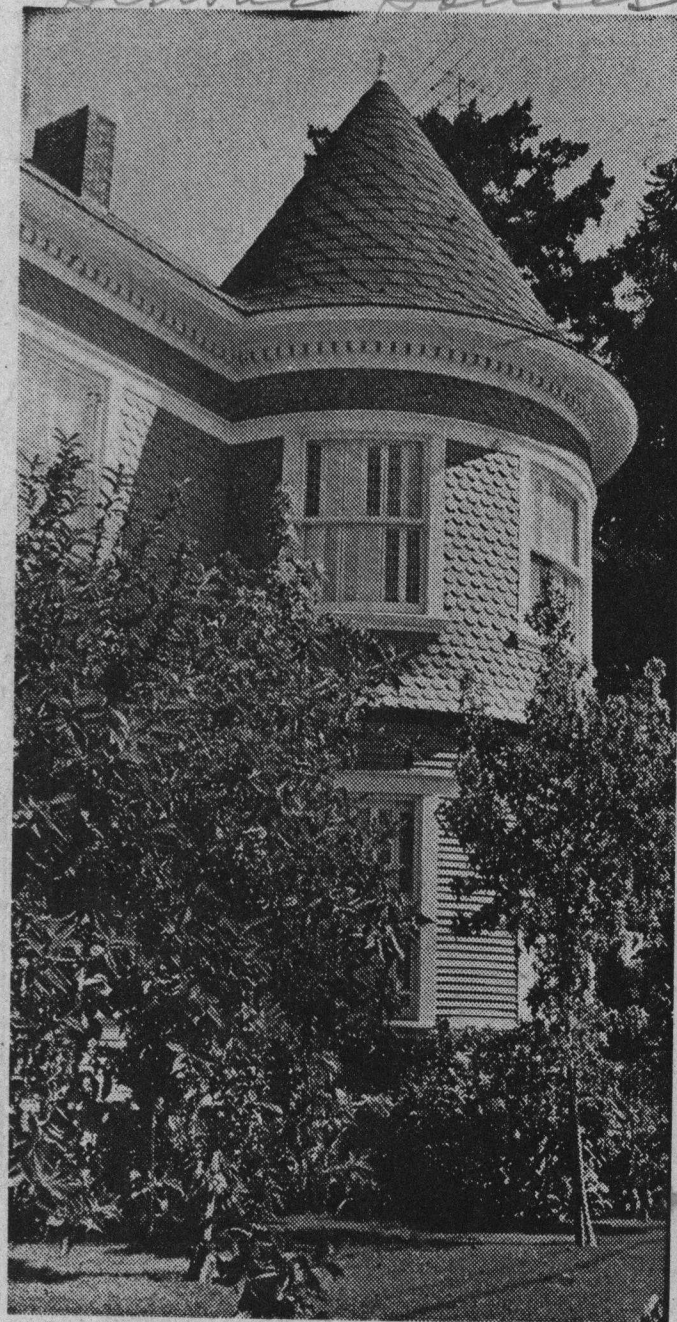
ners were considered important in the Victorian dining room. The way a boy learned to spoon his soup could help him up the ladder to a vice presidency in those days.

The Estess home captures the old-time flavor of Victorianism with taste and flair.

The dining room is white and a deep, rich lavender, with the wood wainscoting around the lower parts of the walls, in white. Gold trim is at the ceiling. A delicate chandelier drips crystal drops overhead . . . the table and chairs are warm Victorian walnut. Mrs. Estess designed the room arrangement and color scheme.

This is one of four unusual and interesting local homes to be opened for a tour September 26 sponsored by the Santa Cruz Democratic Women's Club. Ticket information may be obtained from Mrs. Sidney V. Smith at 426-1487.

MARGARET KOCH



The Floyd Estess house, above, and its charming Victorian dining room, combine a more leisurely way of life with 1970 efficiency. The house will be open to the public September 26.

