

The Old 'Judge's House' Comes to Life Again . . .

By MARGARET KOCH
Sentinel Staff Writer

When Lucas Smith stopped fighting Indians back in the 1870s and took to the life of Judge and lawyer in Santa Cruz, he acquired a home that was fitting to his new station.

That home stands today at the corner of Ocean View and Windham, a monument to the gracious living era of the 1880's, 1890's and early 1900's. Judge Smith is long gone and his property has been whacked up a bit and sold off, but the house and its spacious gardens remain intact. In fact they are better than they used to be, in regard to refrigerators, electric lights, heating and plumbing.

The house and its carriage-house-turned-garage out back, are now the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. Edward Perkins. They have treated the pro-

perty to a large dose of tender loving care for the past seven years. The result? A showplace. A veritable treasure trove of Victoriana, done with taste and restraint.

The front door still has its stained glass panels. Inside, the main entry hall has the original blue glass light fixture, only it used to be gas instead of electric. The original wall paper is interesting, an imported gold-metallic type of wall covering rarely seen today.

Curly redwood panels are in all the doors downstairs, even in the large double doors that divide the "front parlor" from the "back parlor" on occasion.

A former "mystery room" has been turned into a powder room — modern except for its antique pull-chain type lavatory and decorated marble hand basin set in a beautiful old commode.

The mystery room mystery was solved not long ago when a member of the Smith family came to call and see the house.

"Oh that was the Judge's downstairs study," she said. It was forbidden territory to everyone else. And when telephones were available (very few were installed at first), the Judge had his telephone in that room and kept it inviolate.

The parlors feature fine woodwork, a soft green and gold color theme and the original oak mantel piece which the Perkins found up in the attic.

The large stained glass and leaded window at the turn of the stairs was badly warped and leaked rain inside, but the Perkins had it restored to perfect condition by Codiga Glass Company.

Everything else the Perkins have done themselves, outside of actual plumbing and electric wiring.

The Judge had an upstairs study too, which is now a modern, really modern bath for the master bedroom. The bedroom has the house's distinctive circular cupola in one corner and its walls are painted a deep crushed raspberry color. The rug is white with large red roses — very effective with the walls and white painted woodwork.

A guest bath was created from two large linen closets and the former maid's room is now an upstairs TV room.

Originally the house had five bedrooms and one bath, upstairs. It now has two bedrooms, a small TV room, a study-dressing room and three baths.

I have purposely saved the kitchen and dining room to the

last. What used to be a kitchen and pantry, old-styled "Back-breaker" according to the Smith family member, was first remodeled seven years ago by the Perkins.

"We loved it the way we did it," Louise Perkins said. "But I found I needed a pair of roller skates. It was simply huge and I was walking miles to get a simple meal."

So they remodeled it completely again, several years ago. Perkins made the fine birch cabinets; he re-planned the work center for convenience and step-saving, moving a doorway in the process.

One wall is birch, the others are papered in a cheerful pattern. A dining table makes for easy informal meals. An old, old wall telephone serves as intercom to the garage and workshop.

The formal dining room used to have a pantry and a swinging door between it and the kitchen. Now it has direct access. A fireplace, still usable but not really convenient, was walled over by the Perkins.

"It threw the room completely off balance," Mrs. Perkins commented.

One room the casual visitor never sees is the topmost part of the cupola. To reach is you climb the main stairs, then climb another set of attic stairs, go through the unfinished portion of the attic and up two steps into the cupola.

It was a finished room, tiny as it was, even to the plastered walls and ceiling.

"The little Smith girls played dolls up there," Perkins said.

From it you can see the beachfront — the city — the surrounding neighborhood. In

fact you feel kind of like the King of the Mountain standing up there, looking all around.

Downstairs and out through the large garden we went next — "These big old houses must have room to breathe or they look smothered" Louise Perkins noted. We went into the garage which formerly housed the family's horse and carriage. Now it is Perkins' workshop. It is there he refinishes all their woodwork

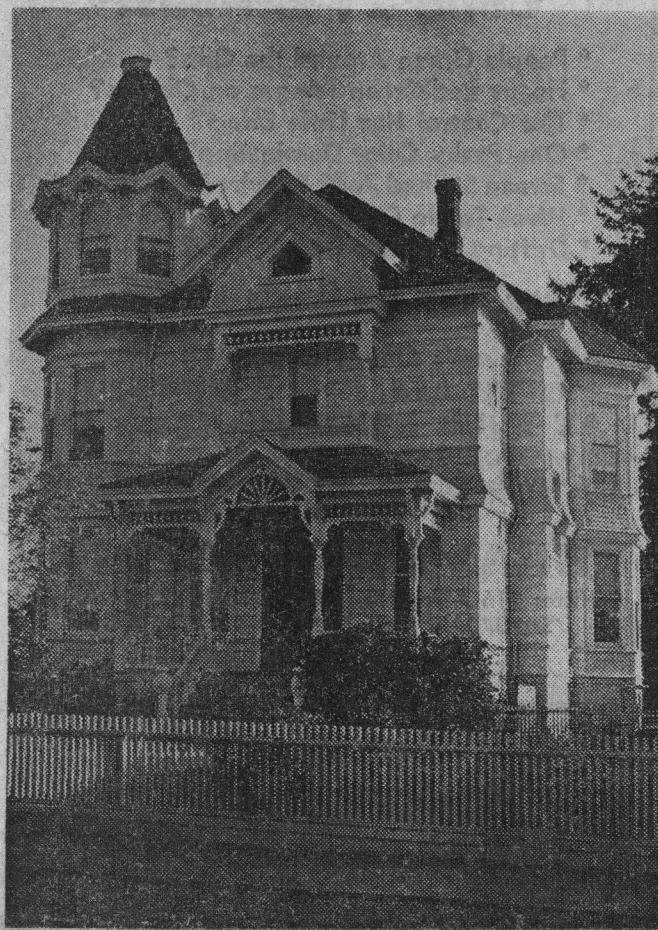
and furniture, giving it the soft luster and fine patina that lovers of good antiques cherish.

Woodworking has become Perkins' hobby and main occupation since he retired from IBM. The couple bought the house in 1959 and remodeled the kitchen the first time, leaving most of the rest of it until after he retired.

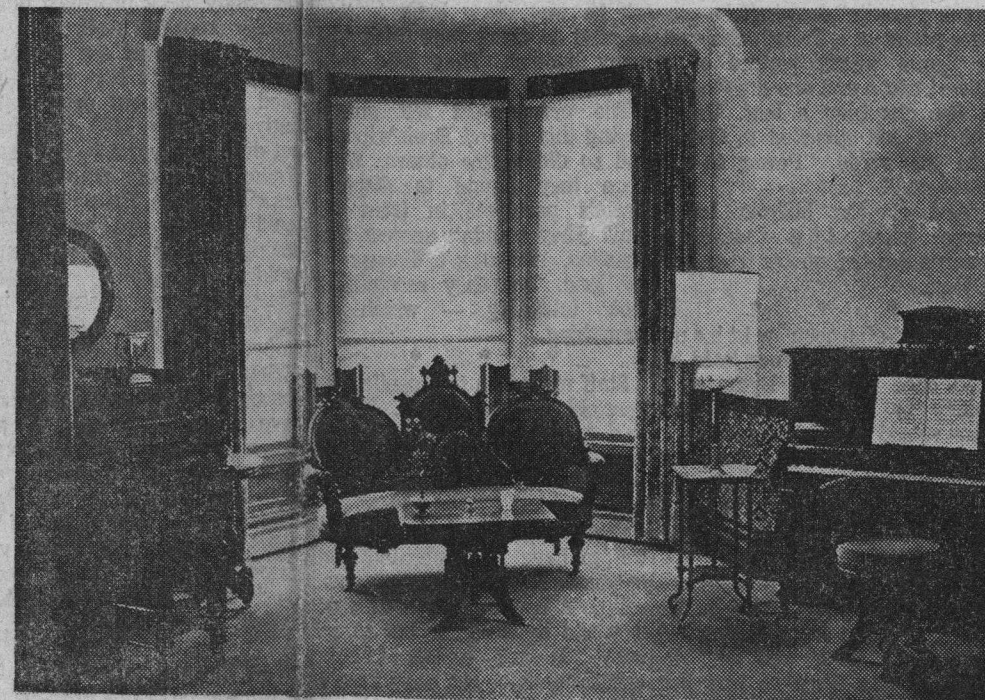

That was seven years ago and he isn't finished yet.



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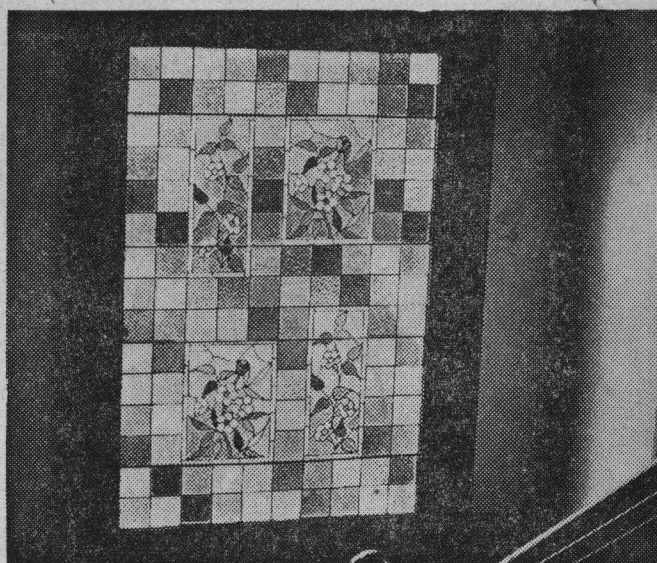
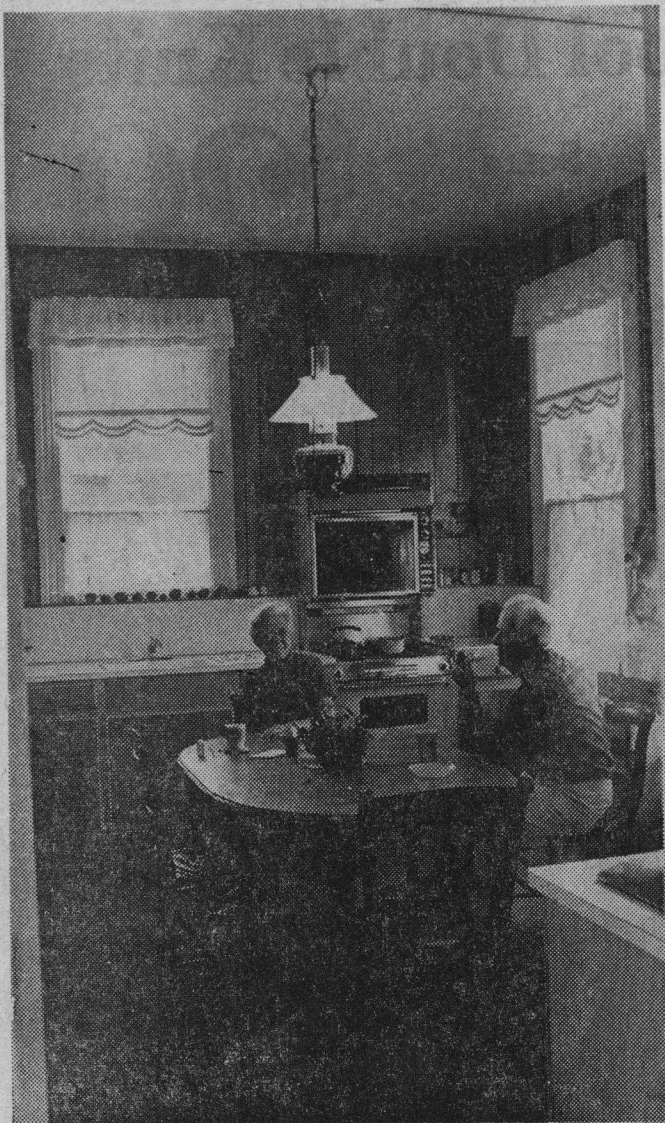


The historic house at 250 Ocean View Avenue, now the Ed Perkins' home, has two parlors; the "front parlor" is shown at right. Below, the upstairs study and dressing room which adjoins the master bedroom has four rocking chairs in it. The Perkins have heard that Judge Lucas Smith bought the house in 1894; they do not know who built it.

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Ed and Louise Perkins have a cup of coffee in their twice - remodeled kitchen. He made all the birch cabinets.



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