

## The Old and the New

## Bias House on Walnut Avenue

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Bias House, at 219 Walnut Avenue, sits in distinguished company.

On its East side there is a former Hihn home, built by Santa Cruz' first millionaire for a member of his family. And up the street at 249 Walnut, there is another Hihn house. F. A. Hihn liked to present his relatives with houses, it seems.

Bias House today serves as law offices for several local attorneys. It has been kept much as it was, with its small fire-box coal-burning fireplaces, its diamond window panes and bathtub on legs. The kitchen is now storage for law books and coffee break headquarters.

Former parlors, dining room and a bedroom are offices.

The Bias family bought the home in 1904 and before that it was the Lindsay home. Who built it and when are questions to which the answers are still hiding somewhere.

When the J. B. Biases bought the house, he operated Bias and Company Grocers near the corner of Pacific and Soquel Avenues, where Bank of America is.

Six busy and active sons grew up in the house. One became Judge Harry Bias who also served for a time as Justice of the Peace... another was Deputy City Clerk and Treasurer Les Bias who served for 32 years before retiring. Dan Bias of Santa Cruz is a grandson of J. B. Bias.

Great-grandparents were the James Biases who celebrated their golden wedding in Santa Cruz in 1885 — the first such event to be celebrated publicly in this town.

James and his wife Jane had been married in Fridaythorpe, England, July 31, 1835. Fifty years later, in Santa Cruz, they rented Bernheim Hall, sent out elaborate invitations and winced and dined a goodly portion of the townsfolk.

As guests entered the hall they were greeted with the sight of James and Jane seated on the stage in rocking chairs, surrounded by 22 grandchildren. The stage had been set to depict a home, with a lighted lamp, tables

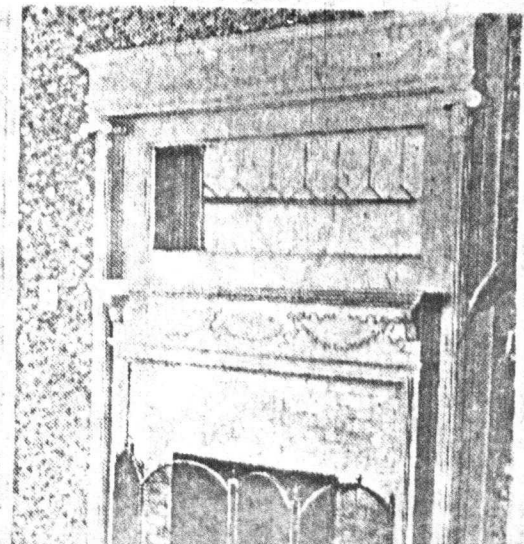
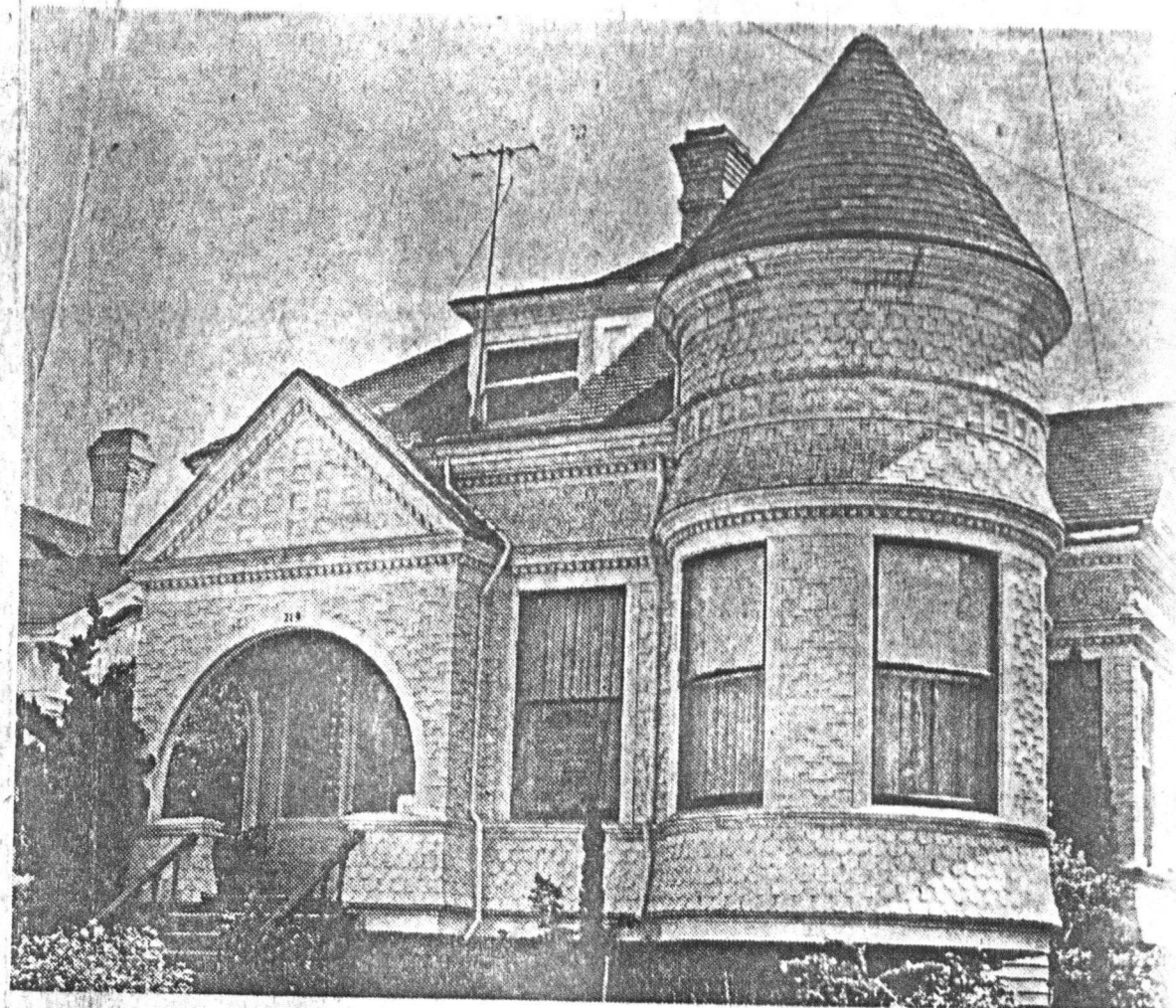
and carpets.

Later, the sprightly couple tripped the light fantastic with spirit and stamina which gave the lie to their years.

The party ended with "gallons of coffee, oceans of edibles and any amount of poultry and meats..." according to a story in The Sentinel of that day.

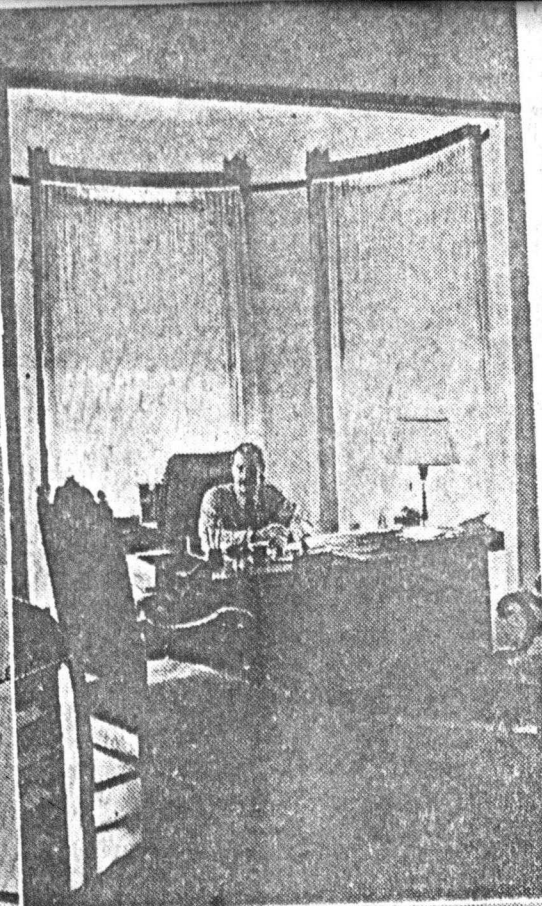
One dear friend of the couple expressed the hope that they would be spared long enough to be able to celebrate their diamond anniversary. However, they didn't make it. James died in 1898 after a career as a highly respected local citizen, and Jane followed him in 1905 — just a year after their son John bought the house on Walnut Avenue.

Attorney Hugh Johnston's office, far left, has dark wood shutters in windows framed in the original dark redwood trim. Attorney Henry Faitz, left, has his office right in the "cupola" section of old parlor. Old dining room window, below, is jewel-like with small diamond panes and marquise shaped insects. This room now is secretary's office. Tile over fireplace in

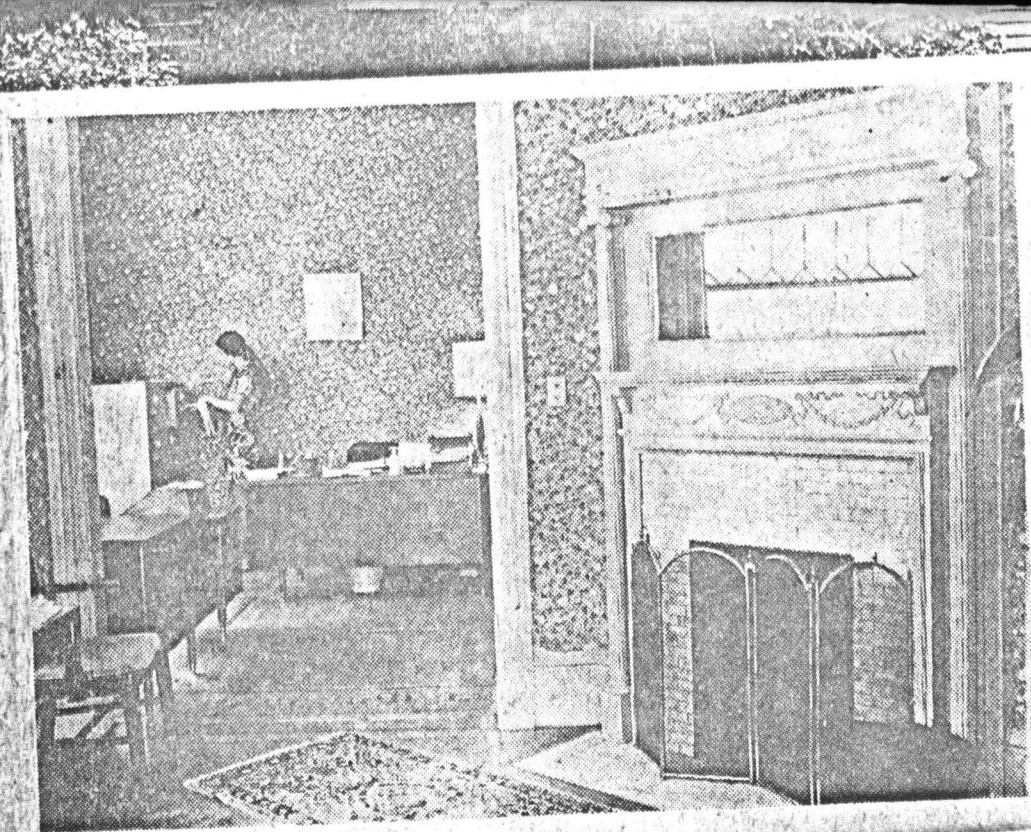


Bias House at 219 W. Walnut is a street of interesting happenings. "fish scale" House is offices of Faitz and Johnston. hall in front left, has fireplace painted





Attorney Hugh Johnston's office, far left, has dark wood shutters in windows framed in the original dark redwood trim. Attorney Henry Faitz, left, has his office right in the "cupola" section of old parlor. Old dining room window, below, is jewel-like with small diamond panes and marquise shaped insects. This room now is secretary's office. Tile over fireplace in former dining room shows hunting dogs. Black iron frames old fireplace.



Bias House, above, at 219 Walnut Ave. a street on which interesting things are happening. Note "fish scale" shingles. House is now offices of Henry Faitz and Hugh Johnston. Small hall in foreground left, has tile fireplace, wood painted pale green. Secretary's office beyond is former dining room.

