

5/28/61

The 'Doll House' And Its Occupants

'Not For Sale'

(Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles on Santa Cruz area residents and their homes.)

By Wally Trabing

You've probably said yourself: "We live on the coast in Santa Cruz."

Mr. and Mrs. Harry McElroy probably say this to and they mean on-the-coast.

Another 15 yards as they'd be in the water.

Their home, at 1307 West Cliff drive, is an oil landscape painting come to life. It is the only house located on the crumbling cliff side of West Cliff drive and attracts constant attention from auto gypsies. Mrs. McElroy says at least once a month someone knocks on the door and makes an offer to buy the place.

McElroy is personnel director at Sylvania Electric Products, Inc. Mrs. McElroy is a housewife and mother of five children — Sandra, 18; Missy, 16; Peder, 14; Lianne, 9; and Lizanne, 6 — who she isn't gazing out of her home with seemingly thousands of windows — each with a sweeping magnificent view of the sea.

The house was built by an architect in 1939 or 1940 who, unfortunately, as army officers did, went to war and sold his dream villa before giving a really good "living in."

The last owners were Miss Catherine Linse and Miss Alma Davidson. They had it about 20 years and operated a doll repair studio which gave the place its present nickname, "The Doll House."

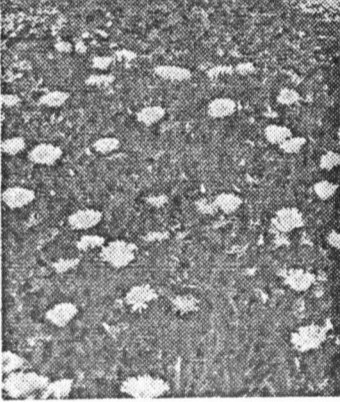
Before they left they paid the house a compliment. "It has good vibrations."

It took the McElroys about 20 years to call this their home.

"When Harry and I were courting we used to come down here from Walnut Creek and park near the house," she said. "We used to talk about it, but of course, we never dreamed some day it would be our home."

When they did move down here they spent much time looking for a place by the sea but had little luck.

Then one day last August



About once a month strangers knock on the front door of this house and ask to buy it. It's the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry McElroy, 1307 West Cliff drive. Known as the "doll house" it allows an unobstructed view to the horizon. It's the only house on the sea-side of West Cliff drive.

Mrs. McElroy saw a "for sale" sign in the front yard. Bells rang. She rushed to the real estate salesman and made her offer. Tragedy — someone had called first and a deal was pending. The prospective buyer would make his decision in 24 hours.

There was agony, mental pain and untold suffering in the McElroy home that night, but it all disappeared with a collective sigh when they were notified the deal had fallen through.

The house contains a rectangular living room, informally furnished, and composed of windows — well practically. They have a small dining room, kitchen and bath downstairs and three bedrooms and a bath upstairs. There is a guest house, and you can believe the McElroys have guests, and guests and guests.

There's a small patio lawn and two small ledges on the rocks below for those in an Anne Morrow Lindberg mood.

All that's required to greet the day with a massive sea view of Monterey Bay is to roll over in bed.

plenty swimming and sealife study."

You notice funny things when you live at seaside. Like: "We never realized there were so many one-legged seagulls," said the lady of the house.

Also, did you know that seals giggle? The McElroys hear 'em.

The ocean roar doesn't bother their sleep. But sometimes just before a storm the surf dies AND THEN THEY WAKE UP!

Mother's day around the McElroys resembles moving day at the Steinhart aquarium. Little mementoes of love include shells, sea creatures and "wiggly things."

And then there was the time a schoolmate of one of the McElroy youngsters kept bragging about the size of his home swimming pool.

Finally fed-up, the youngsters snapped: "Listen, if you wanna see a pool, just take a look at ours — it's 3000 miles long!"

Lizanne McElroy, 6, sits in the living room of her home which perches on the rocks at the edge of the sea at 1307 West Cliff drive. The main feature of the house is the sweeping view of the coastline.

PHYSICIAN'S ADVICE

ATHERS

er's Day, you will receive
ation annually given you
get gay neckties, shaving
ifts.

ortant gift to yourself. Go
health check-up and let
ill be with us many, many
with your family longer
ce about your living and

PHONE US when you
your prescription if shop-
deliver promptly without
many people entrust us
Way we compound yours?

3-6262

'S Drug Store

AND LOCUST STREET

ON CHEMISTS

1961 (6W2)

Daffy Don

Store

You Have

Westinghouse Re