

Homegirl returns to childhood neighborhood

▲ Her SASHART offers unique alternatives for interior designs

By FELECIA P. MCMILLAN
Special to the Chronicle

When Cornelia Webster was a little girl, she lived at 1029 Cameron Ave. Her grandmother and namesake Cornelia C. Matthews, designed the home, which features glass brick, a balcony, and unique roof architecture. Webster attributes her creativity to her grandmother, a noted interior designer.

Webster's home decor includes antiques and various items from Africa, the Orient, America, Haiti and many others. "I don't discriminate; I collect everybody's art and artifacts," she said. Webster said she takes pride in finding new ways to use various items for interior design. A Japanese wedding kimono is used to adorn a door. A figure of Jesus is mounted on a cross of ocean blue glass. Her doll collection includes Aunt Jemima,



Cornelia and her father Carl Matthews celebrate after the graduation of her son Kali.

the Cameron Street Address. Since then, Webster and her husband, James Webster Jr., and son, Kali, have lived in Florida, Colorado, Kansas, Illinois, New Hampshire, Roxboro, Chapel Hill and other areas as they followed her husband's college coaching career.

"I'm a homegirl who went away with no thought of ever coming back. It's weird. You

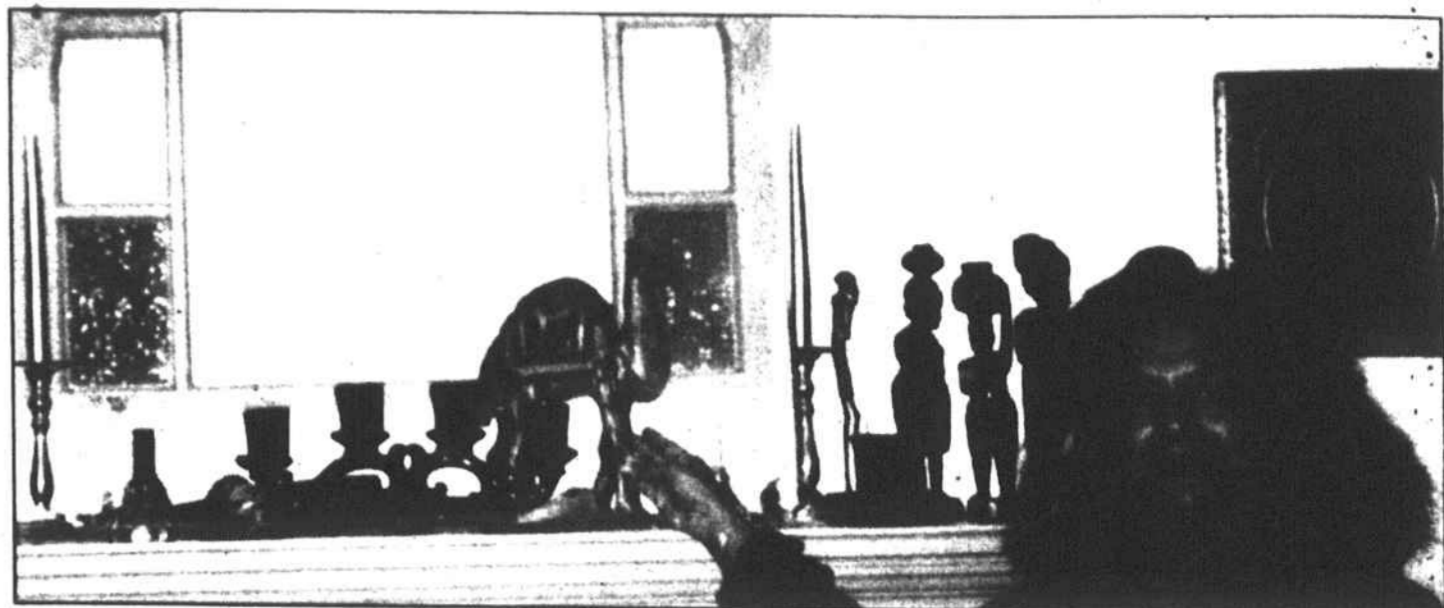
never know where you are going to end up," she said. She is back on Cameron Avenue now, a few houses down from her grandmother's place, and she has a hobby that has opened doors and windows for her.

Cornelia Webster started creating SASHART out of window sashes when she and her husband were traveling through Colorado. She saw some old doors and windows that were leaning up against a house. When Webster looked at them, she believed that they could be recycled. They purchased the doors and windows and decided to mount artwork in the window sashes.

She and her husband turned the hobby into a business when they moved to Roxboro, N.C., called "the SASHART collection." Called Connie and Company in Denver, it was known for unique framing, as they used various window sashes. Photography, interior design and other gift items were available. Denver publications featured the company. They framed posters and original artwork. She was featured in "Colorado Homes & Lifestyles" for her expertise in interior design, as well as the archaic window frames.

Webster designed the Colorado State University weight room facility from conception to design and completion in 1982. She has done home shows, exhibits, auctions and more.

Webster added mirrors, cathedral glass, antique mirror



This window sash maintains its original glass.

glass and more. "The sky is the limit when it comes to being creative," she said. She had hoped to be able to get some of the window sashes from Atkins High School, so she could preserve some of its history. However, she was denied, because the crew had been instructed to destroy the windows.

She said she loves to get



This window sash houses original posters from old "colored" movie houses advertising the movie "One Round Jones," starring Eddie Green.



Cornelia Webster lived at 1029 Cameron Ave. as a child. She is shown here with her namesake and grandmother, Cornelia C. Matthews, who is known for creative interior and architectural design. Her grandmother designed this home.

windows from arched openings, because of their rarity. Most of the sashes are rectangular. She tries to maintain the original hardware from the window sashes and does not seek to make the design perfect. Webster said she wants the frame to maintain its original state.

She returned to Winston-Salem and completed her under-

graduate degree in 1974. She came back this year, and has never forgotten her hobby.

She has never forgotten her hobby. She has spent a great deal of time helping her son Kali grow up and assisting her husband in his career. "Now that they are both grown up, maybe I can develop this hobby again," she said.



Webster added the ocean blue glass to this sash. To its right is a figure of Jesus, on a cross of blue glass.

Nefertiti, Little Cabbage Patches and many more.

When Webster was a child, her mother often strolled her around the 1100 block of Cameron. Her father, Carl Matthews, has since forgotten

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