

Wednesday,  
July 20, 1988

# LIFESTYLES

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## Victorian Delight

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Three years ago Larry and Bernice Chappell purchased the old house beside Kings Mountain Farm Center on Battleground Avenue.

Formerly from Upland, California, Larry works in management at Freightliner in Mount Holly and they chose to live in Kings Mountain because it reminded them of Upland.

When the purchase was made, it was obvious that much work would be required to remodel to their specifications. Neither felt comfortable with their restoration knowledge and enrolled in an Old House Restoration Course at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte.

Although a lot of restoration work is yet to be done, the Chappells moved in on Memorial Day, leaving most of their furniture in storage.

The house contains 3600 square feet and stands on approximately one acre of land. Bernice said that the house had stood unoccupied for four years, except for quite a few squirrels.

The house was constructed originally in 1883 and was remodeled in 1910 by Hugh Parks Allison. The owners prior to Chappells were Ed and Eloise Smith. Mrs. Smith is the granddaughter of Mr. Allison.

Larry and Bernice spend their weekends and vacations working on remodeling the house. Bernice is the painter, paint stripper, and wall paper installer. Larry is the carpenter, electrician, and plumber. One major project was the installation of a gas forced heating system, both upstairs and downstairs. Included as well was air conditioning.

The exterior is painted a dusty rose color with Heather gray trim and cottage red accents. (Trim lines around doors and windows.)

The interior features the original hard pine floors throughout.

The finished portion of the first floor includes a large functional kitchen. Kitchen cabinets came from the United Methodist Church in Gastonia and feature glass front doors. The original sink is being utilized. Overhead in the kitchen is a fascinating reproduction of an 1800 century ceiling, and like so many other things throughout the house, has undergone a painstaking reproduction process to create an original replica of that era. The impressive ceiling fan is also a reproduction of an earlier era.

The delightful Victorian bathroom contains the original tub and features colors of blue and mauve. The sink has been restored and reglazed.

Unfinished rooms downstairs include the parlour, dining room, library, greatroom, sun room, and breakfast room. The library has an

original mahogany breakfront fratwood cabinet. The door leading into the library is a sliding pocket door which Larry is planning to return to its original look. The breakfast room and sunroom will be built leading off of the kitchen. A garage is

also in their future plans.

Larry and Bernice hope to use the original spindles on the stairs. As we ascend the stairs, we find a spacious living area on the second level. Adella Robertson, Bernice's 14-year-old daughter,

has a large bedroom on this floor, overlooking Gold Street. Her furniture is a mixture of tropical and antique styles. The mantel in this room is among the oldest in the house. Adella will be attending Kings Mountain Senior High School this fall.

A large dressing room and bath combination is, according to Bernice, primarily her room. The wallpaper is an 1880 reproduction in colors of Bradberry peach and cream and the paneling was obtained from an old bank. To the left of this room is what was once called a truck room. Currently it is a utility room with a washer and dryer and a large built-in closet. To the right of the dressing room is a den, study, and sewing room combination. A large painting of Larry's mother's home in Upton, California highlights one of the walls. Both walls of windows are covered by awnings. The colors of green and blue set the room off and makes one feel a part of bygone days.

In the hall adjacent to the den is a built-in ironing board, not necessarily from a bygone era, but a necessary addition to the Chappell home. The hall is decorated with forest green and rose wallpaper. When the carpet is installed, most of it will be forest green.

The master bedroom is certainly one of the more beautiful rooms in the house. This is the Chappell's Lilac room. The wallpaper is lilac blooms with moss green on a black background. This room originally contained a large stained glass window. Norman Blanton produced another to match so perfectly that it is almost impossible to distinguish it from the original. The cherry mantle was purchased approximately seven years ago and matched perfectly with the original hardwood. The furniture here including an elegant brass bed is 18th Century. A large antique vase filled with lilacs occupied a prominent place on the dresser.

Adjoining the master bedroom is the master bathroom. Contained here is an extra large shower and Larry states that this is his bathroom.

Another bedroom is included here on the second level, Aimme Robertson, Bernice's oldest daughter, will be visiting from Upton, California soon and will be spending time in this room. Aimme celebrated her 17th birthday July 7th.

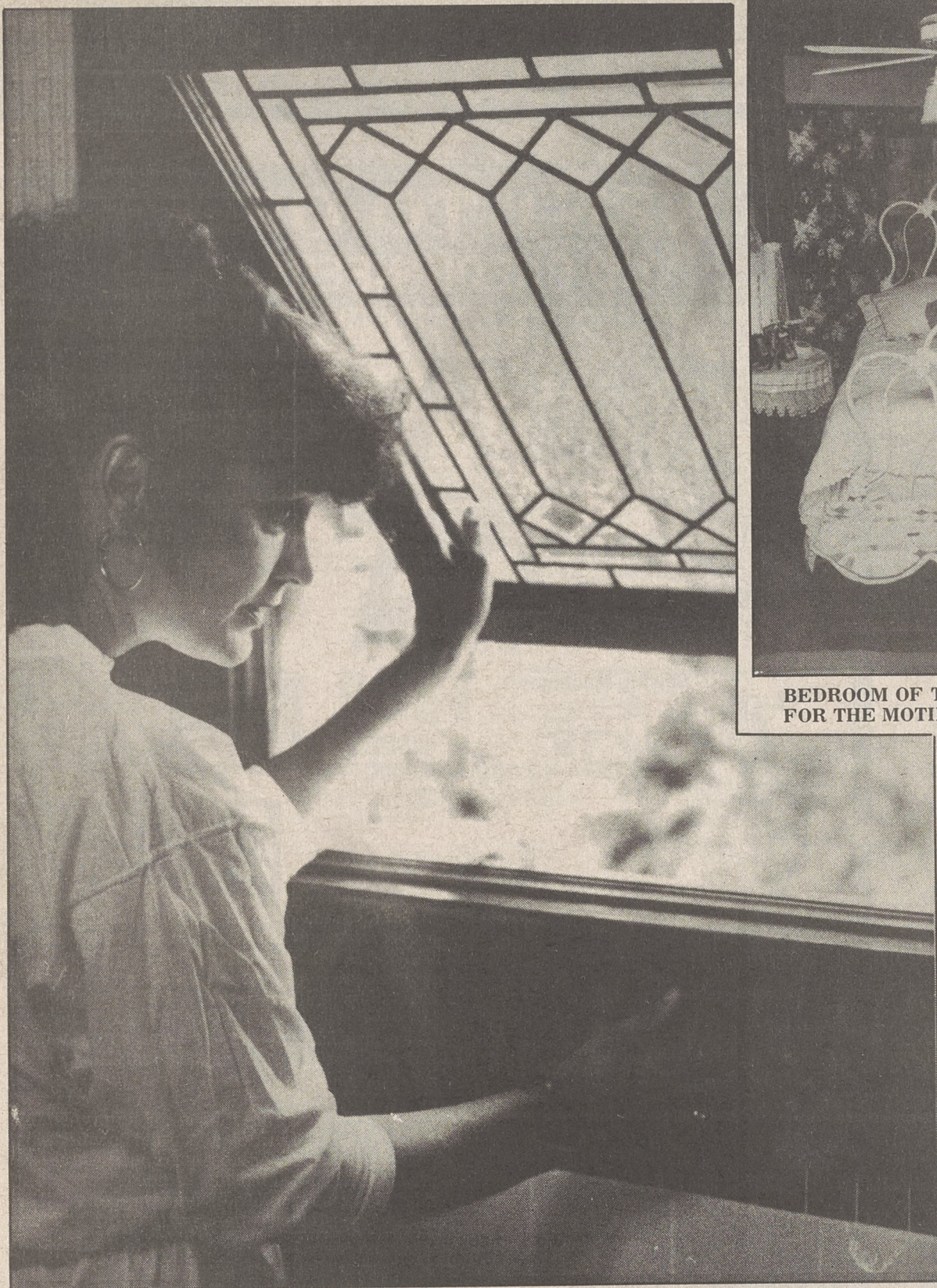
Another welcomed visitor would be Larry's son, Tommy. Tommy and Mary Chappell reside in California.

We have been invited to return someday and report on "the finished product".

It is obvious that if the restoration process continues as in the past, this house will surely become a Queen Anne Victorian Showplace!



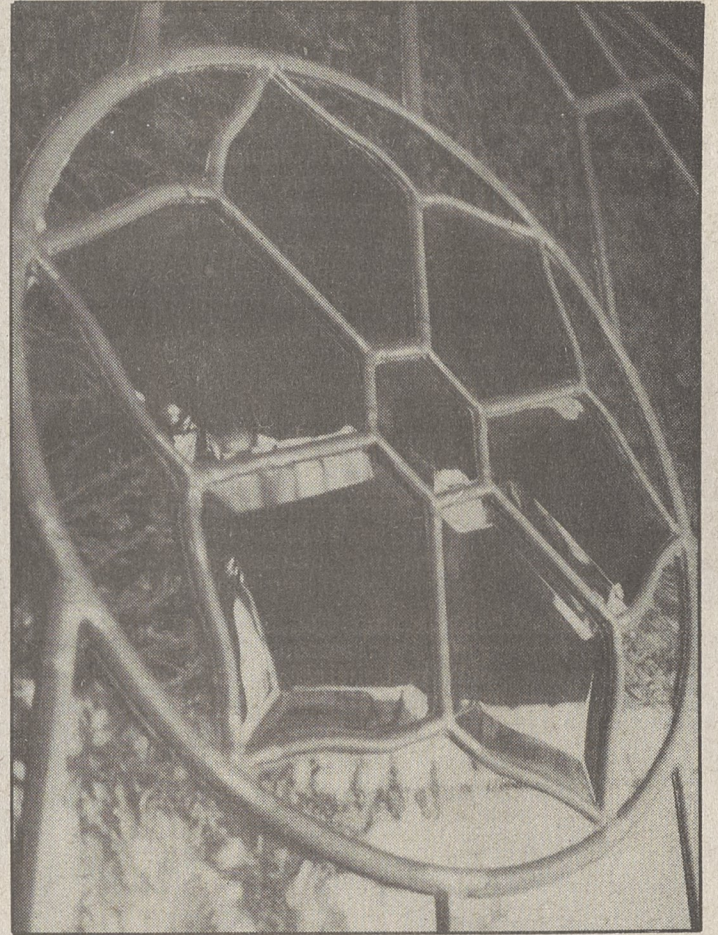
ORIGINAL STAIN GLASS AND A REPLICA BY  
NORMAN BLANTON DECORATE MASTER BEDROOM



BERNICE CHAPPELL SHOWS OFF STAINED  
GLASS WINDOWS IN HER BEAUTIFUL HOME



BEDROOM OF THE HOME SETS THE THEME  
FOR THE MOTIF OF THE CHAPPELL HOME



STAINED GLASS PIECES ARE FEATURED  
THROUGHOUT THE CHAPPELL HOME



QUEEN ANNE VICTORIAN SHOWPLACE ON  
S. BATTLEGROUND AVENUE ...home of Larry and Bernice Chappell

Photos By D. Griggs