

Living On a Lake in the Country: A Victorian in Mist - Part II

By Gayle Rich-Boxman

In Part I, I talked about the Magnussen family who homesteaded and originally built this beautiful structure in 1870. Part II goes on with the history as told by Louise Green, who with her husband Orin are the current owner/seller:

The Magnussen's daughter, Anna was the first school bus driver in Mist. The bus consisted of two horses and a wagon with canvas over the top.



(Photo courtesy of Mist-Birkenfeld Historical Society calendar 2000, Louise Green supplied the photo)

According to Louise, there were only three families who have lived in the home before the Greens; the Magnussens, Garlocks and Ruby and Cap Serby. [I have found out since Part I of the history of this 1870s Victorian home was published in Vernonia's Voice that there is another owner to add to the list. A lovely local Vernonia resident, Clair Devine called me after reading about this home. His parents, Sam and Ellen Devine were owners from the early 50s to mid 60s as a retired couple between the Garlocks and the Serbys, is what Clair told me. Clair and his family

lived in Mist at the time, right near the Mist Store long before it burned down.]

Louise continues with her and Orin's history: "When we moved into the house, we already had ideas of what

we would do to make a lovely home from this sagging, rotting big bundle of potential. The first winter here was wicked. We had raised the house

immediately to build a new foundation and an early snow gave us harsh reality (about 20" deep and long-lasting). We had black plastic all around the bottom of the building and it was mighty chilly. The water pipes froze and broke. Orin spent many hours under the house cussing and soldering pipes just to have it freeze up behind him. I used much



of my days crawling under with him to bring 'that wrench, you know what one', as well as packing buckets of water from the frozen-over creek."

Part of the time the electricity

was off so Louise cooked on an oil stove in the living room. "Got rid of that sad old stove before we did much else," says Louise. The Green's could tell as they took old linoleum off some floors that there had been brown and orange carpet on the living room floor, and seven, yes seven, layers of various types of floor covering in the bathroom downstairs. "We had indeed found us a neat old home," comments Louise.

Most all of the walls and ceilings were layered with old newspapers and vintage wallpaper. Good reading if one is Norwegian! They did save and use some of the newspaper when decoupage was just what they wanted to use as background for the Magnussen family pictures. They have a Saturday morning front page from an 1870 edition of the Oregonian on the wall behind these family photos as an example.

As described on the

back of the calendar: "Magnussen hand-sawed and hand-planed lumber from [this] tree which he used in additions to his house. Some lumber may have been used when he and others built the Mist Church in 1892 [which also still stands]."



Origin of photograph unknown as well as the others in the photo [two men inside the tree, one on top of the horse]."

Louise goes on to explain: "We have renovated the home with the goal to honor the hand sawn lumber in the house, its handmade front door and the old windows with bubble in them. All in all we have tried to re-dress this grand old farmhouse using as much that was useable and adding only items that enhances her age, giving her more years and more history."

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