

Keeping up with history *in Gearhart*



This home is lovingly preserved and smartly improved

Step into the house on Gearhart's Gin Ridge, and you'll step into history.

If the early 20th century potbelly stove in the corner of the dining room doesn't emit a sense of the past, then, possibly, the pencil marks along the room's archway, dating from the 1940s, showing the heights of the children growing up in the home, will.

Or maybe the claw-foot tubs in two of the bathrooms recall the stately home's construction era.

Built in 1908, before Gearhart became an incorporated city, the 2,156-square-foot home at 235 S. Ocean Ave. has been lovingly preserved and smartly improved.

Reportedly once owned by the Blitz family, of the Blitz-Weinhard Brewing Co., the five-bedroom, 2.5-bath house retains the original fir wood floors and wood paneling on the walls and ceilings. Yet, an elegant staircase leading to a spacious deck in front of the house, added only a few years ago, provides the style a Gin Ridge house should have.

Listed with realtors Rinda Shea and Melissa Eddy of Windermere Stellar, the house on a double lot has an asking price of \$885,000.

Even more than a century ago, when families built summer homes to last for generations, the goal was to relax and have fun at the seashore. With an expansive living room and dining room, along with an updated kitchen, this home could easily fulfill that goal.

"We spend a lot of time playing cards in this room," said Brett Corrick, who owns the house with her husband, Wayne Corrick. The room is a small alcove, just off the living room.

Natural light streams through the windows on three sides of the alcove and flows into the living room, which has a view of the hills to the south from another wall of windows.

Although the home is heated by gas, on cooler evenings, the Corrick family often gathers around the brick, wood-burning fireplace, which has a gas starter.

Wood beams in the living room continue into the

adjoining dining room where the home's turn-of-the-century feel is greatest. A built-in buffet and china cabinet along the southern wall will hold many place settings for holiday meals at the long table in the center of the room.

A small bedroom and full bath is adjacent to the dining room. There's another surprise in the bathroom: the original gravity toilet still works, even with the wood cistern.

A butler's pantry and updated kitchen with lots of counter space fill out the main floor.

Upstairs, four comfortable bedrooms – some with ocean views – and a bathroom are ready for family or guests.

A full basement with a game room and a half-bath contains plenty of storage areas for beach toys.

While the home's interior provides lots of cozy corners and entertainment space, the outside – the deck, front lawn and basketball hoop – are popular gathering spots.

"I've always had a passion for renovation, for hardscaping and landscaping," said Brett. "The exterior of the home is where we put most of our attention."

The Corricks bought their home to reconnect with family history – Brett's grandparents had once owned a house in Gearhart. With the Blitz house, they not only acquired a home that embodied Gearhart's past, but they found a community of friends who watch out for each other.

"That's the beauty of Gearhart," Wayne said.

"Kids can be kids and be safe."

In addition, "We have met a lot of friends of my grandparents and parents we wouldn't have met otherwise," Brett said.

The home is only a few minutes' walk from the beach, the public tennis courts, shops and restaurants. Yet, its setting on a double lot with a view of the ocean and the hills is private and serene, just as it has been for more than 100 years.

"I feel that we honored the home," said Brett Corrick. "But I love that the previous owners honored the history."

Story by Nancy McCarthy | Photos by Brandon Barnes

