

A House Is Just A House, But The Robbins' Is A Home

By Pat Savage

"Workable, livable, affordable and lovable," are the most descriptive words that one can say about the home of Winona and Merilean Robbins. Not a new house by any means, as it was built in 1918 by Jacob Zittercob, and was purchased from John Hickey by the Robbins' in 1956. But to them it is "OURS" and that is all that's important.

Into this house came the Robbins with their three children, Sherrill Jean, Clinton and Craig. As they settled in, Winona and Merilean found a million and one ideas for remodeling dancing around in their minds. From these ideas emerged the different aspects of the couple. He being a mechanic, turned to home designer, planning all the remodeling projects. From planning, he turned to carpentering, remodeling the whole house. Not one to let only the inside look good, the landscape artist appeared and a beautiful job he did. He has 1/4 of an acre in lawn and lots of shrubs, thus cutting down on flowers because of lack of time.

But the first project in the early years was the remodeling of the bathroom because even in those days bathroom space was essential. The other projects followed as the years progressed.

A back porch was turned into a bigger and more workable kitchen in 1966. Today in this fantastic kitchen you will find a built-in refrigerator, three ovens, (one electronic), a unique spice rack made from baby food jars, a towel drying rack that is vented so the furnace heat dries towels and a built-in clock lazy susan made from hay baler rollers.

To add a special mark of distinction to this homey room is the counter with the Robbins' own monogram on its base. There is plenty of seating room to accommodate the whole family, grandchildren too. Gracing the end of this beautiful counter is a lovely wooden bowl and an interesting game both made by Merilean. To further enhance this kitchen of kitchens is the built-in telephone desk and cupboard

including storage space for card tables and a place to file things of importance, built-in too of course.

Having utilized the back porch for more space, the front porch was the next to go, as it became eight more feet of living room and entry way in 1969. Here Merilean put his furniture skills to work crafting table and chairs, china closet, four-foot walnut candleholders and a beautiful grandfather clock. He has also built the fireplace, block work included, and laid the carpet in the front part of the house. This enviable fireplace is thermostatically controlled, has an ash dump and the woodbox fills from outside.

He also likes to work on metal sculpture and the ship which sets on the hearth, the fantastic wall hanging, the candle holders, light fixture and coat of arms, and the upholstered davenport shows what a true craftsman he is.

When daughter Sherrill Jean married, her bedroom was made into a utility room that is like all homemakers dream of working in. It has a built-in ironing board, soap bin, sewing center, pantry with storage for several cases of canned goods. The special point of interest in this particular room is the spoon collection with spoons from this ambitious couple's travels throughout the Western and Southern states. Merilean made the beautiful spoon rack which holds 72 spoons now, and has room for expansion.

The children are all grown and no longer live at home so rather than let the boy's bedroom sit idle it was converted into a den. There are shelves to show off keepsakes, an antique lamp, dishes and tools. Gracing the wall is the bobcat that Clinton shot. Merilean also put together an eye-catching string picture of a ship for this room. When time permits, the Robbins hope to build a large desk and finish the cupboards in this room.

The master bedroom in this home is fantastic and is beautifully set off by the handsome solid walnut bedroom set which was constructed by Merilean. The

special feature is the jewelry closet with a place for everything and as Winona says, "Hopefully everything in its place." Lights go on in the closets when the doors are opened. The bedroom has two-way switches so you can go to bed, then turn out the lights. The beautiful drapes are electrically operated from this room, as are all the lights in the house. You can certainly detect the touch of Merilean's hand throughout the house as he did all the wiring, including the drapes and all of the wonderful special lighting.

Perhaps you are wondering if Merilean and Winona spend every minute working in the home. Well not every minute, because this "Jack of All Trades," is a school bus supervisor at the Nyssa High School bus garage during the day and sometimes early mornings and late into the evenings. Winona is administrative secretary at the Malheur County Mental Health and Counseling Center in Ontario.

When she isn't at her regular place of employment she is always right behind her successful husband, but really a step ahead thinking up another project for his "leisure" time, or handing him his tools when he's working on a project.

Her hobbies, besides her husband and family, including five little grandsons, include painting ceramics and beautifully done they are. There are many on display in the home. She also makes yarn pictures which are arranged on wood from the barn they tore down a few years ago. In the back yard is a quaint wishing well they built from this same barn material.

This interesting couple with their "Let's see what we can do now" attitude are opening their doors during the Malheur Memorial Hospital Auxiliary parade of Homes this Saturday and I'm sure that the old adage, "Jack of All Trades and Master of None," certainly doesn't apply to these friendly people, because masters they are when it comes to making a house a home. Come and see for yourselves.

Apple Valley Items

By Frances Smalley

APPLE VALLEY - Tracy and Rhonda Griffin of Baker, Oregon were weekend guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Griffin of Nyssa. On Saturday they visited in the George Griffin home and all were Saturday evening dinner guests. On Saturday afternoon Mrs. Leeland Dewey and children and Mary Honey visited with the Gary Griffin family at the George Griffin home.

Mrs. Mary Honey was an overnight guest on Thursday of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bowen at Payette. On Thursday evening they celebrated a birthday anniversary for Mrs. Bowen with dinner at Maudie's Cafe.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jackson and family of Bend, Oregon came in Thursday at the Dwight Seward home. Mrs. Jackson and children visited there until Sunday while Mr. Jackson attended an Education meeting at Boise Friday and Saturday. They left for home on Sunday.

While Jacksons were at Swards, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Pierce and family of Boise were Saturday evening dinner guests, Mrs. Burton Smith was a Saturday visitor and Gary Seward and Ronda Downs of Nampa were Friday evening visitors.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Wagner joined other family members on Sunday afternoon in the Reed Wagner home to celebrate a First Birthday Anniversary for little Angela Wagner.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Williams who have been visiting her sister Mrs. Oscar Nichols the past ten days left Monday for their home at Greer, Idaho.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Morgan were elk hunting near Elk

City last Thursday thru Saturday. Rodney and Jill Morgan stayed with their grandmother, Mrs. Helen Wilson while their parents were gone.

Mrs. Laura Bale and Mrs. Mary Honey attended Tuesday morning Bible study class at Tina Fox's in Nyssa.

Mrs. Laura Bale and Mrs. Mary Honey attended Senior Citizen meeting at Nyssa, Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Bale moved from Rome, Oregon to Apple Valley on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Bale visited Mrs. Laura Bale on Sunday afternoon.

Dwight Seward accompanied George Roth and Woodrow Seuell to Burley on Sunday evening, where they will attend a Co-op Directors meeting on Monday.

Mrs. Arlo Hamilton of Eugene, Oregon visited Thursday thru Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Knox.

Mrs. William Knox and Mrs. Hamilton of Eugene, Oregon visited Saturday with Mrs. Nell Correll, Mrs. Ed Sells and her cousin from Portland also visited on Saturday with Mrs. Correll.

Mr. and Mrs. William Anders of Lakeview were Sunday afternoon visitors in the Waldo Smalley home.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smalley of Hermiston, Oregon were Saturday visitors in the Waldo Smalley home and other relatives and friends at Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Barr of Nampa were Saturday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. David Bay.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Matthews of Auburn, Wash. were Thursday evening visitors in the Lloyd Dibble home.

OUT OF THE PAST

10 YEARS AGO

Sam Hartley, a farmer in the Adrian Soil and Water Conservation district, was one of eleven outstanding co-operator nominees to receive honors last Thursday evening at the awards banquet of the 18th annual meeting of the Oregon Association Conservation Districts. He received a walnut plaque, plated with gold and inscribed to read, "OACD—Oregon Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts—1966—Outstanding SWCD Co-operator—Area 11—Sam Hartley."

Elwin Francis McCrady, a 1963 graduate of Nyssa High School and former National Guardsman, is now in training with the Green Beret Special Forces at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E.L. McCrady, enlisted in the U.S. Army and left by plane from Boise on August 28 this year. He recently completed basic training at Ft. Polk, Louisiana.

20 YEARS AGO

Construction of approaches for the new bridge across the Snake River at Nyssa is expected to continue through this month with the weather being the determining factor for a definite shut-down date according to Tom Medford, superintendent.

All piers have been completed and crews are now working on the approach from the Idaho side which is expected to be completed this winter. If weather permits work will begin on the Oregon approach before operations are halted this winter.

Latest reports on the arrival of steel for the structure are still for March delivery and there have been no notice of further delays because of a recent steel strike. Medford said the bridge will be completed next summer if all materials are delivered.

Fannie Eaton of Williamsburg, Michigan, and J. Maurice Corey of Nyssa were married November 1 at the home of the groom at 107 Reece Avenue in Nyssa with the Rev. Paul Ludlow performing the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Corey are making their home in Nyssa. Mr. Corey was an employee at

the Journal prior to his retiring.

30 YEARS AGO

An estimated kill of 50,000 pheasants was made by hunters in Malheur County during the open season that extended from October 19 to November 3, with bag limit of eight cocks a day and a possession limit of eight allowed, the state game commission announces. An unprecedented number of transient hunters took advantage of the good hunting available.

At 11 a.m., Saturday morning, November 23, an unfamiliar hum will be heard at 1450 Kc on the radio sets of Nyssa. The hum will be then promptly substituted by the strains of the National Anthem and a few seconds later there will be a strange voice saying "good morning" citizens of Snake River Valley, you are for the first time listening to the Voice of the Snake River Valley, KSRV, 1450 on your dial, located two miles north of Ontario, Oregon."

Managed by Gordon Capps KSRV has at present serving as the nucleus of the staff: Al Corwin, head announcer; John Powell, assistant announcer; John Powell, assistant announcer; Chuck Harland, chief engineer; Ted Loud, news reporter, and Velma Morton, secretary.

40 YEARS AGO

Nyssa has a new hospital with the establishment of a nursing home this week by Mrs. Tom Dixon in the Herman Towne house. Mrs. Dixon has been doing nursing for Dr. J. J. Sarazin and is a competent nurse, it is said.

The Towne house has been fixed up to take care of several patients with three or four rooms on the first floor devoted to rooms for patients while the Dixon family have fixed living quarters in the basement.

Remodeling work at the Nyssa Pharmacy is now completed, with Mr. McCoy now having one of the nicest drug stores anywhere in the territory. Lon Root was in charge of the remodel work and was assisted by Mr. Neson.

The hay price in this vicinity was set at \$6.50 per ton last week when over 600 tons was sold in the Kingman Colony district at this price.

Issues for 50 and 60 years ago are missing from our files.

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