

Couple buys old farmhouse, plans duplicate of original

By PAUL ALEXANDER



We haven't turned out an "historical" column in a long time. Some time back a friend called us about a special house-building project on the golf course road south of Cornelius, just a stone's throw from the Forest Hills golf course.

A young couple in Portland has purchased an old farmhouse and 30 acres at the location and is well on the way toward moving into a home that could be one of a kind in the county.

Hiring an architect and a carpenter, the new owners are having an exact duplicate of their old farmhouse built onto the south side of the existing house to form one large dwelling.

The new structure will have the same high, narrow windows and doors, same type of siding, and the owners are even duplicating decorative (gingerbread) siding on the gable ends.

Not only is the outside being built the same as the adjoining farmhouse, but the inside of the addition will be the same as the original house.

Being a historical buff, we called around to see whether we could trace back to the original owner of the venerable house.

We thank Mrs. Marvin Krahmer, Calvin Krahmer's mother, for steering us to Mrs. Charles Brandaw of 1570 NE Barberry Dr., Hillsboro, who was born in 1910 in the old farmhouse that our story is about.

(We should mention the Krahmers also are pioneer stock that dates back to the early 1880s.)

Mrs. Brandaw has been most cooperative in helping us research the history of the house.

Our historical record should start with the genealogy of two families. Mrs. Charles (Cornelia) Brandaw's parents were named Herman and Cornelia Liebenow. There were 10 children in the Liebenow family, five girls and five boys. Mrs. Brandaw was named after her mother.

Mrs. Brandaw's mother was Cornelia Scheuerman before she married Herman Liebenow. There were eight children in the Scheuerman family. (Mrs. Brandaw said she is quite sure the name Scheuerman had two "ns," but one was dropped somewhere down the line.)

Our story is about Mrs. Brandaw's

grandparents, Henry and Marie Scheuerman, who came to America from Russia in 1876. No doubt the crossing that far back was made on a sailing ship.

The Scheuermans came West after they arrived, first living in Kansas, before coming to Oregon in 1882. They stayed in Portland for two months before moving out to what is known as the Blooming area in Washington County.

Mrs. Brandaw enlisted the help of her sister, Theresa, who lives in Portland, on the early history of their grandparents, Henry and Marie Scheuerman.

Mrs. Brandaw said her sister Theresa also was born in the farmhouse of our story. She said she is not sure whether her other sisters and brothers also were born there.

As a side comment, Mrs. Brandaw said she understands it was quite common in those days for births to take place in grandparents' houses.

We speculated roads were almost impassable, transportation was slow and perhaps grandmothers were called upon to be midwives in those days.

It was no bed of roses for Henry and Marie Scheuerman when they arrived in the Blooming area. The entire area was covered with virgin timber, and they had to cut trees to have a space for a garden.

They lived in a garage-size building back of the place the old farmhouse now stands while their house was being built.

Neither Mrs. Brandaw nor her sister has a record of exactly when the house was built. One could speculate it was built either in 1882 or '83.

We have not been able to learn how much land was acquired in the beginning, or what type of a purchase it was — donation land claim, homestead or bought from the railroad. These were the three ways land was obtained in the west in the early days.

Mrs. Brandaw and her sister have fond memories of going to Grandma and Grandpa Scheuerman's house on Christmas Eve. The children slept upstairs on the floor, lined up like a picket fence.

There is a winding staircase in the old farmhouse, and "how we kids liked

sliding down the banister," Mrs. Brandaw said.

Everyone attended church Christmas morning to hear Pastor Staebe give his Christmas message. After church it was back to grandma and grandpa's house for a big Christmas dinner.

We asked Mrs. Brandaw about her school days, and she said she and her sisters and brothers attended St. Peter's Lutheran Parochial School at Blooming. School opened each morning with an hour of religious instruction.

Before World War I, German was taught half the school day and English the other half. The teaching of German was dropped at the start of the war. (The Scheuermans spoke German.)

Mrs. Brandaw said she can remember knitting squares that were sewn together to make blankets for the soldiers in France.

Returning to muddy roads in the winter and dusty roads in summer, she said her grandparents were farmers, milking a few cows and raising crops, and her grandfather drove a milk wagon, delivering canned milk to the condenser in Hillsboro.

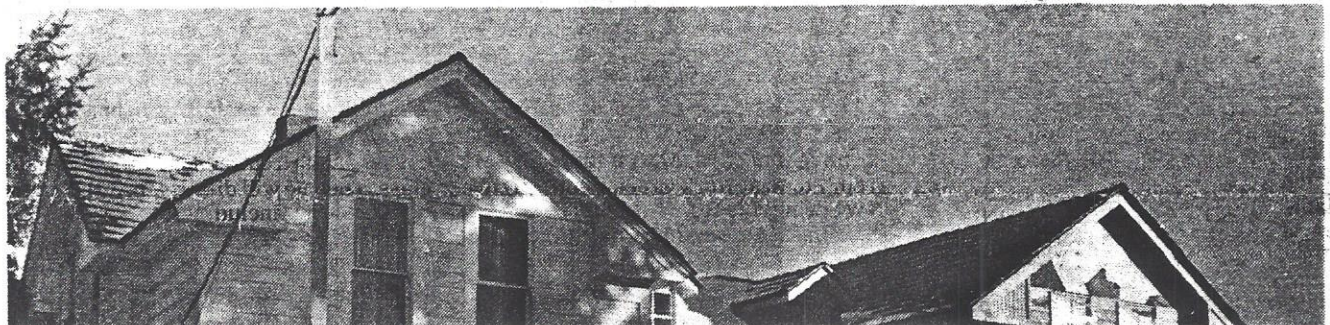
During muddy weather he often would get stuck in the mud with his team and wagon. In the summer the dust was over ankle-deep. (With all the uproar over chuckholes, our roads could be much worse than they are.)

The winters were cold, and the snow would get so deep some winters it hid the fence posts, according to Mrs. Brandaw.

We asked whether she could remember any landmarks in Hillsboro. "We didn't go to town very often in those days, but I do remember going to Hillsboro to see the dentist," she said. She said she also remembers the electric train that ran through Hillsboro.

We still have a lot of unanswered questions about the old farmhouse — what year was it built, who sawed the lumber, and did they use square nails?

And, one could ponder, will the new owners on a still night hear the voices of happy youngsters sliding down the hand-hewed banister?



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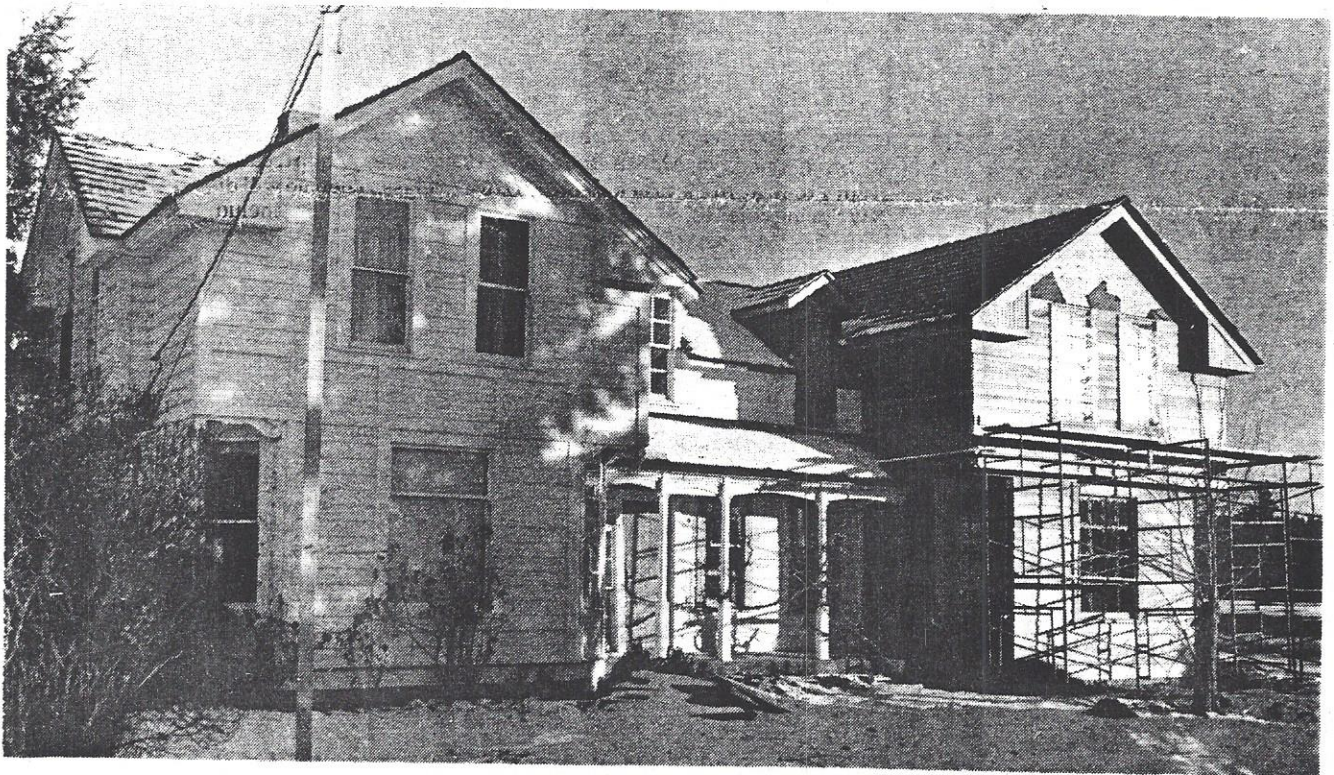
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FARM HOUSE, left, on Golf Course Road near
built before 1900 is being

house. New construction is requiring specially
cut lumber, according to owners. Farm house
was built by Henry and Marie Scheuerman, ear-
ly community.