FEATURED HOME



Italian Baroque Treasure on South Mountain Avenue

CONTRIBUTED BY MIKE FARRELLY, MONTCLAIR TOWN HISTORIAN. PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANDREW WANDER

HIS MONTH'S property is one of the French Norman style houses on South Mountain. The 1982 Junior League Preservation Survey says that it is a Queen Anne style house with a French Chateau façade. To my untrained eye, the house appears to be mostly French Chateau.

It was built about 1894 for Abram & Charlotte (Dingley) Terhune. The architect is unknown. Abram was a (shipping) freight broker and senior partner of Williams & Terhune in NYC. He also served as the recording secretary on the board of The Neptune Submarine Co. They cleared wreckage from active shipping lanes by blowing up portions of the sunken ships and removing them from the water. Abram passed away in 1906. Charlotte stayed in the house until 1908.

This house on South Mountain Avenue is Mediterranean in style with touches like a broken pediment and columns that are suggestive of Italian Baroque. It was built about 1902 for Henri and Florence (Meek) Emetaz. Henri immigrated to the United States from Switzerland. Florence was born in Italy although her father was an American. Henri called himself a "self-employed financial agent". In April of 1907 they announced to the Montclair Times that they were going to spend the next two years in Europe. Her passport application indicated that they were going to visit her ailing mother and settle her father's estate. They sold the house. When they came back they moved into an existing house on Lloyd Road.

The next owners were Edgar A. and Evelyn (Trull) Bates. They came from Webster, Massachusetts where Edgar ran the shoe factory his father started, A J (Andrew J) Bates & Co. It is now part of Wolverine Worldwide, a large footwear and uniform company. AJ Bates had its headquarters in New York. Edgar moved to Montclair when he became president. Evelyn came from an old New England family. She graduated from Smith College. She was president of the College Woman's Club from 1918 to 1920 and was elected president of the Smith College Club in 1936. She was active in the League of Women Voters and was a delegate to the International Suffrage Convention held in Rome in

1922. She returned as a delegate to the convention when it was held in Geneva (1950). She was very involved in the Unity Institute and helped to bring important classical artists to Montclair. Edgar passed away in 1935. Evelyn moved to New York in 1941.

In 1942 Frank Malcolm Minor and his wife, Margaret, moved in. They had lived on Upper Mountain Ave. Frank passed away a couple of years later, Margaret remarried in 1949. She and her new husband, William M. Stevens, continued to live in this house. She was very active in the Junior League and was instrumental in setting up the Junior League Thrift Shop at 411 Bloomfield Ave. He was a personnel manager for McKinsey & Co., management consultants.

The Stevens family moved to Belleclaire Pl. around 1967. From 1967 to 1980, or so, the Petersens owned this house. Raymond J. Petersen and his wife, Rosalie, had nine children. They were both involved in their children's activities. They were both active in the Junior Essex Troop, an equestrian group for children and young adults, and active in their church, St. Cassian's. They both raised funds for the Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus, commonly known as the "Verona Fathers" because the order originated in Verona, Italy. The Comboni Missionaries have a residence on High Street. Raymond and Rosalie both volunteered at St. Vincent's Hospital (formerly on Elm St. where the Charles Bullock School playground is now). Raymond was on the board of governors. He was deeply involved with the Boy Scouts. In 1973 he was awarded the Good Scout medal, which is not given out often or frivolously. It is occasionally given out to people who embody the tenets of the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. Raymond was named "NJ Father of the Year" by the International Father's Day Committee. Gov. Richard Hughes presented him with the medal in Trenton on June 4, 1966. Raymond spent almost his entire career with the Hearst Organization. He started with Hearst a few years after he was mustered out of the service. He was a 1st Sergeant in the Army during WWII and earned a Bronze Star in the European theater.



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He became the publisher of Good Housekeeping Magazine. ▶

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He was eventually promoted to the position of Senior Vice President with Hearst and was a trustee of the Hearst charitable Foundation. He was given an honorary doctorate in journalism by St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

According to the 1982 Junior League Preservation Survey the next owners of the house were Eugene "Gene" Rubin and his wife, Carol. The data on the house may have been compiled a year or two earlier. The telephone book from 1980 shows that they lived in our featured house. Suburban Essex telephone books for the next few years do not mention the Rubins. They might have lived in Union at the time.

The next time we hear about Gene is in 1988 when he opened up the Stone Balloon gift shop on Valley Road. A Montclair Times Article, dated June 16, 1988, which covered the opening, says that he had been the owner of Wicker World in West Orange and that his wife was Sandy. They sold the Stone Balloon to Leonard Bergman in 1990. Several Montclair Times articles from 1981 and 1982 say that Frank Sarcone lived in the house. He was the owner of 695 Bloomfield Ave., the former PSE&G building and former home of Luna Stage. There was a bit of controversy because he wanted to lease space to a methadone clinic. Most Montclairians did not think the Bloomfield Ave building was a good place for the clinic. It did not open in Montclair.

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REAL ESTATE

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Property Address	List Price	Beds	Baths
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448 Washington Ave	\$879,000	5	4
4 Macopin Ave	\$899,000	6	4
30 N Mountain Ave	\$1,249,000	11	5
152 S Mountain Ave	\$1,399,000	5	5
96 Undercliff Rd	\$1,688,000	6	5
105 Up. Mountain Ave	\$1,750,000	8	6
411 Park St	\$1,999,900	6	8
330 Up. Mountain Ave	\$2,225,000	5	6
9 Capron Ln	\$2,499,000	6	6
10 Heller Dr	\$2,499,000	5	6
125 Lloyd Rd	\$2,600,000	5	7
27 Heller Dr	\$2,645,000	6	7

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LIBRARY CORNER

Earth Day All Year Long

CONTRIBUTED BY MOLLY HONE

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