

One thing I remember about the big stove was that Mom and Pop got up every morning to start a fire, first with small pieces of wood, then larger pieces or sometimes coal for longer-lasting heat in the room. All the doors in the kitchen would be closed and when everyone got up, they enjoyed a nice heated kitchen. Also, whenever anyone peeled oranges, the skins were thrown on the stove to give the house a nice sweet smell.

### **Dining Room**

A door from the kitchen led into the dining room. The dining-room floors were of solid oak and always highly polished. Flowered wallpaper decorated the room. The room contained a mahogany table with six chairs and a buffet. Above the buffet hung a lovely gilded mirror, a 25th wedding anniversary present from the family. A half-moon china closet sat in one corner. Mom's pedal-operated Singer sewing machine was in the bay area. Hanging from the ceiling over the table was a stained-glass chandelier. Its different colors displayed many grape patterns; when the light was lit, it was beautiful. In the china closet were Mom's heavily starched, handmade doilies with crocheted edgings hanging halfway down each shelf. A piece of crystal held each doily in place. White criss-crossed organdy curtains were always hung on the windows and the bay area looked like a high white cloud. Later the chandelier was replaced with a new fixture, and to my knowledge, the beautiful stained-glass chandelier was given to one of Pop's labor workers.

### **Living Room**

The arch from the dining room led to the living room. It had solid oak floors and a wood-frame door with small glass panes that led into a room which I will call the den. A second door had glass on its upper part only. This door led into the sun room.

The living room had flowered wallpaper, floral-patterned rugs, mohair furniture, and a Wurlitzer upright piano against the wall between the den and sun room. Later, a TV replaced the radio. An oak banister and stairs led to the upstairs. The space directly under the banister was a place for Pop's desk. An indent in the wall to the right of the desk had a small platform to hold the telephone book and an upright rotary phone with a wire attached to a long earpiece. Years later, a small, modern rotary phone replaced the old one.

The den was a beautiful room with polished oak floors, and starched, dotted swiss curtains on every window; when the sun was shining, it was so warm and cozy. In later years, Mom put her sewing machine in the den.

Why I so vividly remember the machine in the room was while I was making myself a skirt, the needle went through one of my fingers. I still remember yelling for "Mom."