

GRACEVILLE HOUSE

The big front porch on the old house is missing and the big front stairs is pushed up to the front door. Doesn't quite fit.

Grandpa used to sit on the front stairs and feed his pet squirrels. One day the old fart next door (Housley) shot the squirrels, and this caused a lifetime riff between the two of them.

The front porch was a great playroom for us kids and was where Ole slept in his last years.. He couldn't navigate the stairs to get to the Master bedroom, so he had a bed added to the front porch. He could breathe easier on the porch.

He had Ashma pretty bad from smoking Carlton or Pall Mall cigarettes. He called them those "dual ringed bastards". The filters had two decorative rings printed on them.

His favorite spot in the house was in the kitchen. He had a chair by the kitchen entrance from the side yard and basement. His chair was next to a window and the kitchen stove so he could look out at Della's gardens, keep warm and watch her cook.

Della spent a lot of time cooking on the old coal fed range. I don't think she was ever happy getting her new stove to the right heat level for her great cooking. I remember her great fried chicken and mashed potatoes.

The first bedroom as you climbed the stairs was the boy's bedroom. The second door on the right was the girls bedroom.

On the left side was a large master bedroom.

In the back of the boy's room there was a small attic accessed via a small door. It was a museum of things great and small, and I loved to play in there.

I remember it held the WWII war memorials stuff saved by Uncles Earl and Marvin. A German helmet liner, uniforms, flags and most of all some cloth hankerchief size war-time era pictures. Eventually grandma put the attic off limits. Too bad the house can't talk.

I believe the attic memorial stuff eventually made it to the local American Legion club on main street and it's any bodies guess where they went after the legion closed. For many years, Saturday night at the legion hall was a real hot spot for the veterans.

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