

## 213 Pearl Avenue Celeste & Bob Dennerline

- Built in 1929
- Originally driveway where the deck is now.
- Living room floors are original oak. Bedroom floors Douglas fir.
- Original lath and plaster walls throughout.
- Fireplace is original so gas logs instead of real wood as interior walls are thin and deemed unsafe for burning wood.
- Funny, melted bricks on face of fireplace are “clinkers”. Clinker bricks are closer to fire in process of making bricks and tend to burn and misshape and make clinking sound when knocked together.
- Recently “refreshed” kitchen to reflect original 1920’s style. Put in black/white tile and turquoise (when stripped walls down through layers of paint they were turquoise!

The main house of our cottage was built in 1929, surely one of the last houses completed before the depression. There was originally a driveway where the deck is now. The garage, apartment, back bedroom, back bathroom and larger kitchen were added in the 1960s.

The living room floors are original oak. The bedroom floors are Douglas fir. When we first looked at the house when it was for sale in late 2001, it had wall to wall blue carpeting that had covered the floors for at least 5 decades. After walking in the house, I walked back to the front door, bent down, grabbed a corner of the carpet and pulled it up from the tack board. Underneath I saw the beautiful wood floor and said to my husband, “I want to live here”. We purchased the house in 2002.

Notice the beautiful original lath and plaster walls throughout the house. When I had the new kitchen door installed the contractor had to widen the opening. After the cut, I could see the horizontal lath boards all lined up from floor to ceiling. The living room is all redwood. It was all dark natural wood when we purchased the home. We loved it, but it made the room too dark so we painted it white except for the ceiling panels. The painter told me I would hate it and that I should paint it all white. I held my ground and it’s one of the things I love most in the room. Another interesting thing in the living room is the fireplace. It’s also original which is why we have the gas logs instead of real wood. The interior walls are thin and deemed unsafe for burning wood. The funny, melted bricks on the face of the fireplace are called “clinkers”. Clinker bricks are the bricks that are closer to the fire in the process of making bricks. They

tend to burn, misshape, become heavier than normal bricks and make a “clinking” sound when knocked together. They became very “trendy” among builders around 1900, especially in the “Arts & Crafts” style homes in Pasadena. They probably made their way down to the Island because so many of the original residents were from Pasadena.

Over the years we have replaced all the windows. We put in the pull down screens when we bought the home. I chose the old fashioned double hung style to match the era of the home and the privacy glass in the bedrooms and bathrooms for obvious reasons. The new windows are heavy but I love the double hung style because when it’s hot the warm air in the top of the room exists faster.

I painted two of the paintings in this room. The shirt has “postcards” painted from photos I’d taken; one of our family dog, Katie, who was actually wearing sunglasses in the photo. The other is of my flip flops and sunglasses painted right after returning from a vacation.

The first room off the living room is the “junk room”. You will be seeing it in a rare form; clean. The sewing machine was my mother’s. She bought it from the Singer Sewing Machine Company in 1949 for \$352.24. She paid \$214 down and then made 15 monthly payments of \$15.60. On it she sewed almost all her clothes and those of her three children, including me. Note the original payment schedule and photos of the clothes she sewed on the sewing machine. The white box on top of the brown dresser has photos and trinkets that belong to my mother, Edwina. Also notice in this room the beginning of the original wall and ceiling texture that continues through the rest of the house.

In the front bathroom, notice the arch above the bathtub. Just another beautiful touch from the 20s.

The second bedroom is the “master” bedroom. The “master” hates it and says it’s so small he can hardly breathe in it. I say it’s “just right” because you can lie in bed and not have to get out to turn off the light. We removed the closet door in this bedroom, like the other bedroom, to create more wall space.

As I said before, the back bedroom and bath were added in the 60s. Hanging on the walls in this room are photos of my family. The photo over the bed is of my Grandma Brown and friends wrapped in seaweed. She’s the one with the red tie on her bathing cap. This is probably in Santa Monica, as is the photo of my father, the baby, held by my Grandpa Brown (red hat band), with Grandma in front of their beach tent in 1925. The photo of the boy rowing (in red striped shirt) is my father (the baby from the photo on the right). The photo of the girl in

front of the Balboa Pavilion is my mother in around 1938. When we purchased the house I removed 4 doors from inside the house to create more wall space. In addition, I had the door in this room reversed. It used to swing into the room making it impossible to put a large bed in the room. Now, it swings out into the hall.

The open shower design of the back bathroom came from pure frustration. The previous shower took up most of the room. We've boated all our lives, so having a shower with a toilet inside seems perfectly normal.

We recently "refreshed" the kitchen to reflect the original 1920's style of the house. We put in the contrasting black/white tile and painted the room the turquoise color it is now. The funny thing is that when we stripped the walls down through all the layers of paint, they were turquoise! We didn't know it when we bought the new paint. I love bead board, so finding the bead board tile for the back splashes was a real delight! We used all the leftovers in the back bathroom. I also love the little hidden shelf (above the crockpot) that hides our placemats. I decided to open up the cupboards on top of the stove. We didn't have a pantry, so the carpenter took those cupboard doors and made the pantry that sits just beyond the kitchen – across from the aprons. I painted the painting over the black cabinet. I call it, "all things created Equal". The bathing beauty photo over the table is from Newport Beach. Look at all the children between the legs of the beauties. The cartoons that hang over the red chair, were drawn by famed Warner Brother's animator, Rod Scribner, and feature my grandfather, P.P. Brown. Grandpa was a best friend and fishing pal of Rod's dad. I designed the Dutch doors that lead to the patio. Just sketched them on an envelope and gave it to the window/door maker.

The outdoor patio is made from termite busting TREX. Long ago, there used to be a driveway where the deck is now. There is still a "cut" in front of the house. Our former neighbor, Harry Kemp, who lived in the house next to the deck for many decades before he and his wife passed away, told me that one owner of this house decided to build a garage on top of the driveway. The man spent many months constructing the garage to his satisfaction. When it was complete, he drove his big old winged Cadillac into the garage and immediately realized that he couldn't get out of the car. The garage was too narrow to open the car door. He pulled the car out of the garage and tore it down that very day! Today, the deck is our favorite "room" in the house.

Due to the current drought, we recently pulled out the groundcover in front of the house and put in artificial grass. We did it ourselves with a box cutter and a 6" nail every 6 inches. We love looking out the front window and seeing little kids run on the grass and cross the bridge.