

Stately Cobblestone Home Commands Panoramic View

Editor's note: This is another in a series of articles describing cobblestone homes in the Geneva area.

By **MILDRED JENNINGS**

Commanding a magnificent view of Seneca Lake, is the stately home of Eugene S. Boerner on W. Lake Rd. It is one of the outstanding cobblestone structures in this area.

Mr. Boerner is plant research director and hybridizer of the Jackson Perkins Company in Newark. He is originator of the famous roses which have taken national and world honors, including the more recent popular Pinocchio line of floribundas.

Because they are his life work, naturally the gently-terraced gardens of the Boerner home include hundreds of colorful roses in attractive arrangement. Their fragrant odor mingles with the delicate scent of old-fashioned lavender growing along the terrace steps.

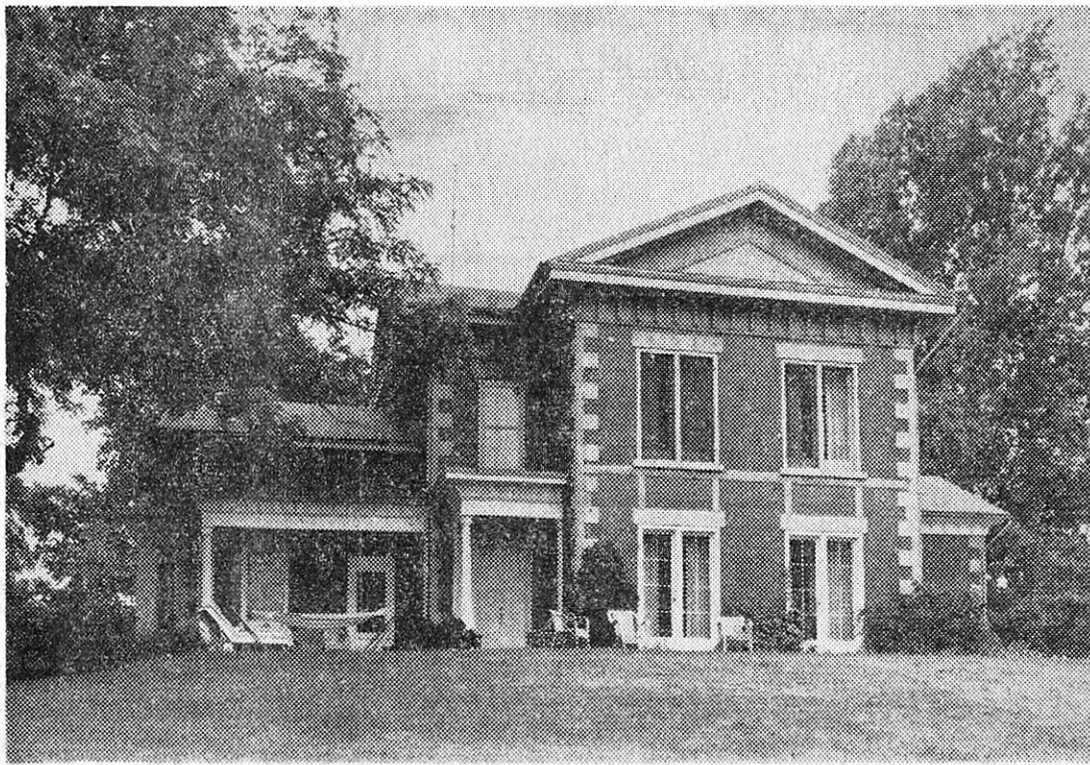
Trees Prominent

On the front lawn, hovering protectingly over the residence are immense ancient black walnut trees, the pride of the owner. Stretching far up the hillside at the rear of the home are acres of farm land, part of which is devoted to cattle raising. Also prominent in the farm possessions are several fine specimens of Daschunds, which come in for plenty of attention. The dogs have their special quarters in back of the home.

Dating back to the pioneer days, the cobblestone structure, built about 1830, looks down with quiet dignity over the blue waters of Seneca Lake just beyond. This is not only a house but it is a real home in every sense of the word. A spirit of friendliness and old-time hospitality pervades the whole atmosphere. You sense it from the moment you step into the main hall with its quaintly beautiful paper with design of rich-hued mauve roses and deep green leaves on a white background.

Tempo Retained

Interior as well as the surrounding grounds reflect the efforts of the owner to keep the old tempo of his former home on a Wisconsin farm. During his youth, he lived in a large farmhouse where he and his family enjoyed a quiet liesurely way of life, quite differ-



BUILT in 1830, the imposing Boerner home on the W. Lake Rd. took 50 loads of stone to construct, retains traditional atmosphere of former days. The owner has furnished the home with many interesting articles obtained on trips abroad.

ent from the dynamic present-day

While recreating the traditional atmosphere of former days, Mr. Boerner's home possesses all of the modern conveniences. He has kept the original natural pine floors in the living room. Part of the original wide pine flooring in the kitchen has been used as a frame for the fireplace in the study. The mellow antique look of the polished pine boards lends a distinct charm to the room.

Central feature of the attractive living room overlooking the terrace and the lake, is a recessed fireplace, very striking in effect. Walls of this room are a gentle green shade.

Greens Predominate

Predominant colors throughout the home are greens and soft yellows. The ceiling of the dining

room duplicates the deep color of the roses in the paper of the main hall adjoining.

Summer time is a busy time at the Boerner home. Relatives and friends come to visit and that "lived-in" feeling of a real home is even more apparent. But there's plenty of room for everyone, even to the dormitory at the rear which can accommodate several visitors.

A large master bedroom on the second floor has long French windows which provide an excellent view of the lake.

Mr. Boerner travels frequently to Europe in connection with his business and he has brought back many interesting and beautiful articles for his home. For instance, the lovely French doorknobs matching the gold paper of a first floor bedroom. These are centered with French medallions.

Antiques Included

There are a number of beautiful antiques included in the home furnishings. Most of them are family possessions with special value and significance to the owner. There are paintings by family artists; gold vases over 100 years old; Delft china, and other articles.

In the study are several beautiful trophies, national and European, awarded to Mr. Boerner for his distinguished work in roses.

The Boerner property was formerly owned by Jephthah Earl. Jephthah Earl Sr., came here from Wilkesbarre, Pa., shortly after 1789. At that time, Geneva consisted of a few log cabins and the young pioneer followed an Indian trail to his location in the unbroken wilderness. When he settled here, he bought 200 acres of Charles Williamson in the town of Seneca, about 2 miles southwest from Geneva. In 1810, he received the deed from Robert Troup suc-

cessor to Mr. Williamson in control of the Putney estate.

Farm Added

Mr. Earl's son, Jephthah, was born in 1806. He married Eliza Hutchinson of Bellona. They remained in Bellona until 1830, when he sold the property there and purchased the farm at Kashong. His original purchase was 210 acres to which he added the farm originally owned by his brother, Jesse, of 125 acres.

The premises were then but little improved, sixty acres only being cleared and there was only a log house and a frame barn. This barn was one of the oldest if not the first built in the town. He erected a distillery, built a store house at Kashong landing, and established a grain market.

The Earl mansion was described by a historian, as "a fine structure of fine cobblestone and generous dimensions."

Last of the family to occupy the home was George Earl and his wife and daughter, Margaret Earl, who is now Margaret Hutchinson of Rochester.

Mr. Earl sold the home to James W. Brennan of 159 Maxwell Ave., in 1912. Mr. Boerner purchased the property from Mr. Brennan in August, 1942.

Canal Used?

It is said that it took fifty loads of stone hauled from Lake Ontario to build the Earl home. However, Mr. Boerner the present owner, is of the opinion that the stones may very possibly have been from Lake Erie by the Erie canal.

A beautiful herringbone pattern distinguishes this particular type of cobblestone structure. Each stone was said to have been individually measured by being put through a hole in a board.

History has it that when the Fall Brook line came through the area.

Jephthah Earl gave the land on which the station was built. It was called Earl's Station. Stipulation was that every train passing through from both directions was to stop at the station. Four trains came through every day. When the station building was removed several years ago, the property on which it stood reverted back to the estate again.

Railings Decorative

Decorative iron railings originally graced the front of the home, both on the first and second story. Mr. Boerner hopes to restore this type of decoration duplicating the early appearance of the structure.

The immediate lakefront area, which was willed to the children of the Earl family, was purchased several years ago by Mr. Boerner. He plans to remove some of the trees along the shoreline to provide an even better view of Seneca Lake.