Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/182725226

Downloaded on May 13, 2020

COURIER-POST

Real Estate

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1980 5H

The 'Wenonah Castle,' (top center) in Wenonah is for sale for $595,000. Veranda (bottom center) overlooks terrace. Entrance foyer (right) is in the grand style of opulent late 19th century mansions. Elegant dining room (left) has Tudor ceiling and a wall plate rack, a popular 19th century feature.

Courier-Post photography by Ron Kasdin

Live in turn-of-century opulence

By JOHN G. BRIGGS
Of the Courier-Post

If you're looking for a 26-room house, has Ken McIlvaine of Harvest Realty got a deal for you.

The 3-story stone and half-timber Tudor mansion at 380 Mantua Avenue in Wenonah was built by Edward L. Farr of the Farr & Bailey Manufacturing Co. in Camden. He named it "Little Grange." Today most people call it simply "the Wenonah Castle."

Building the castle spanned the administrations of four U. S. Presidents. The date "1897" carved on the west gable shows the original part dates from the administration of Grover Cleveland. Final touches were added in 1910, with Theodore Roosevelt in office.

The price tag: $595,000. For an all-cash offer, they might even shade that a bit.

YEARS AGO the Courier-Post used to run a feature called "My First Job." Edward L. Farr described his, on his father's farm in Manchester, Maine:

"At an early age I was compelled to work on my father's farm. I fed the chickens and the pigs, hoed corn, planted potatoes, picked strawberries and early became convinced that my constitution was too fragile for a farming existence."

He didn't have to farm, because his father moved to Camden to start an oilcloth factory. Young Farr became bookkeeper and, on his father's death in 1885, a partner in the firm of Farr & Bailey. He headed the company for 40 prosperous years.

"I do not think anyone can draw any moral from my experience," Farr told the Courier-Post. "Naturally lazy, I have done what I thought I had to do with fairly satisfactory results."

FARR MARRIED a South Jersey girl, Mabel R. Greene, in 1885. By the time they had five children, Farr decided he needed a bigger house. The site he chose was Wenonah, then a new resort (incorporated 1883) on the old West Jersey Railroad. Between 60 and 65 passenger trains a day made it an easy commute to Camden. The town, named for Hiawatha's daughter, accommodated visitors at an enormous hotel, the Wenonah House, which had a famous chef and was known all over the country.

After purchasing a 9-acre tract two blocks from the Wenonah railroad station, Farr commissioned Philadelphia architects Price & McLanahan to design his house. Farr acted as his own contractor, outlining specifications in meticulous detail and inviting bids from suppliers. McIlvaine has two enormous bundles of correspondence, with carbon copies of Farr's typed letters and replies from builders supply firms, including the Volney G. Bennett lumber company of Camden.

Stone for the walls was quarried and cut to size at the Mermaid Quarry in Chestnut Hill, Pa., then ferried across the Delaware to Wenonah. Cost of cut stone, delivered, in 1897: $1 per 2,000 pounds.

One letter in the file is from an architect who wrote Farr in 1898, asking if he might submit a design. "Please be advised," Farr shot back, "that my house is already built."

MABEL GREENE FARR died in 1899, leaving Farr with five children. He was married again, to a widow with five children of her own. Feeling "Little Grange" was too small to accommodate his large family, Farr built an addition which was completed in 1910.

The house remained in Farr's possession 50 years. In 1947 it was acquired by a real estate developer, Robert Merriam, who sold off seven of Farr's original nine acres. The present owners, George and Marilyn Brann, made extensive renovations in 1965, modernizing the kitchen and several bathrooms.

Unchanged, however, are the dining room, with wood beamed ceilings, hand carved wooden cabinets and an antique crystal chandelier. Wood paneling, stained-glass windows and sliding doors are other "Gay Nineties" features.

REAL ESTATE BOOKS

By ROBERT BRUSS
Gannett News Service

"How to Think Like a Tycoon," by Bill Greene (G.P. Putnam, New York). 253 pages, 1980. $10.95.

Do you really want to become wealthy? The first message of this unique book is that becoming rich is as easy as rolling off a log. Well, almost. Bill Greene, the rather unorthodox author, points out that rolling off a log isn't easy. It takes a little work (first to find the log, put it in water, and then roll off). Real estate wealth and financial independence comes just about as easily, he says, if you use his secret techniques.

Another big theme of this how-to-do-it book emphasizes legally avoiding income taxes, thanks to real estate investments.

The third big emphasis of the book is it takes little or no cash to get started in real estate. Greene lavishly illustrates his concepts with his personally-tested methods.

This is a practical, easy-to-understand book filled with examples of how Greene amassed his fortune. His lively writing style is far from dull. The book is made even more interesting and humorous by abundant cartoons illustrating concepts explained in the text.

Topics discussed include how to start thinking like a tycoon, why it pays to be financially independent rather than a "wage slave," how to get along with bankers, finding the bargain properties, how to buy property without cash, secrets of successful property management, how to legally never pay income taxes again, why inflation makes real estate owners rich, and even a book list for more recommended real estate reading.

The book is autobiographical. It tells how Greene started out in real estate, including explanations of mistakes not to make.

BREAKTHROUGH!
Pre-Built Poloron Homes
Constructed on your lot or ours

Models from Mid-Forties to Mid-Eighties
FEATURING:
• Wall-Wall carpet throuot
• Wood kitchen cabinets
• Custom 1 piece fiberglass tub/shower units in choice of color
• Delta faucet & shower head controls
• Insulated Doors
• Plywood sheathing
Andersen Perma-Shield double hung wood windows w/screens
R-30 Ceiling Insulation — R-19 Wall Insulation
DIRECTIONS: Take Black Horse Pike (Rt. 168) to Chews Landing Rd. make left and go 1 mile to Little Gloucester Rd. here right go 1½ miles to sample home on right
RIIFF REALTY
627-3440
HOURS: Daily 12-4

Vanhoe
Condominiums
Housing for Mature People (45 years or older)
Sneak Preview In Blackwood, N.J.
by Matteo
All Units Include
• New Carpets • Individual Heating Systems • Individual Hot Water Systems • New Kitchen Appliances
• Colors Range's Wall Oven • Stainless Steel Sinks • Private Balconies available with most Condominiums
Priced from $24,490
$10,990 down payment, mortgage rate 10% for 25 years
Hours: Sat. & Sun. 11-5; Tues. & Thurs. 6-8
Directions: Black Horse Pike to Prospect Ave., turn right to Parking Area
For More Information Call 227-9302 or 227-2413

Before Autumn Leaves, Before Anything, Discover
Kings Grant.
THE IDEAL PLANNED FAMILY COMMUNITY
Lakes, tennis, golf & more year-round pleasures.
35 minutes from downtown Philadelphia.
1800 acres of family environment.
Less than an hour from Atlantic City.
Model Homes open for inspection.
(609) 983-0500 983-4110
DISPLAY CENTER
HOURS: 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sat. thru Wed.
EVESHAM TWP., NJ
FROM Philadelphia: Take any bridge to Route 70, then to Route 73 South. Exit at Brick Road East, left onto Evans Road, right at Willow Bend Corner. Signs will lead the rest of the way.

PROMOR CONST. OFFERS:
HOMES PRICED TO SELL WITH EXCELLENT FINANCING!

The Incomparable
Taunton Trace
Colonial Patio Homes with Society Hill Look Of Old Philadelphia
10¼% INTEREST
30 Yr. Mortgages Available To Qualified Buyers While They Last.
Priced in the mid-sixties INCLUDING
• Fireplace • 2½ Baths • Air-Cond. & much more
Call 963-0055/854-7877
HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 12-5 Sat. & Sun. 11-5:30 Eves. By Appt.
DIRECTIONS: Take Rt. 70 East to Jct. with right past the Marlton Circle (Rt. 73) right on Marlton Pk. approx. ½ mile to Taunton Trace on right
Country Club Living in Historic Medford
These are not Condominiums, they are "Fee Simple Ownership" Town & Patio Homes.

SAN RAPHAEL
11¼% Mortgages
25 Year Term to Qualified Buyers
8 LOTS SOLD IN 6 WEEKS
Only 7 Lots Remaining
BUY NOW AT $51,990
All Models Feature:
• Energy Saving Gas Heat • Capitol Thermo Break Windows • Good Schools • Low Taxes • Fully Insulated • Much, Much More.
SAMPLE HOMES AVAILABLE WITH PRICE REDUCTIONS OF $1,000
DIRECTIONS: From Berlin Circle take Rt. 73 South to Jackson Rd. make a left & go 1½ miles to San Raphael at Ashland Ave. Turn right and go 2 blocks to sample.
Hours: Open Daily 12-5 Closed Friday
767-7688 or 854-7877

Copyright © 2020 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.
Powered by Newspapers.com