

REAL ESTATE SECTION



Photo by
Maureen Moore

58 School Street built in 1908

The significance of the house at 58 School Street comes from its association with the Whited family. Not only did Charles Whited build the house but he and his wife also lived there. In 1913, Charles Whited was appointed Postmaster for the City of Willits and his son, Pat, was his assistant. Whited also operated Whited's Hall, located on West Mendocino Street, near School Street. The hall was used for dances, plays, and also as a skating rink. Whited was also involved in the City government, serving four years on the Board of Trustees and, in 1903, he was selected Chairman of the Board. Whited was obviously prominent in the community and the five room bungalow he built reveals his abilities as a craftsman.

The Craftsman Bungalow is a one story home with a gable roof. The house has projecting eaves with exposed rafters. The roof is further supported by exposed brackets. The main entrance to the house is through a recessed veranda porch. The house is covered on overlapping boards.

Now & Then

58 School Street

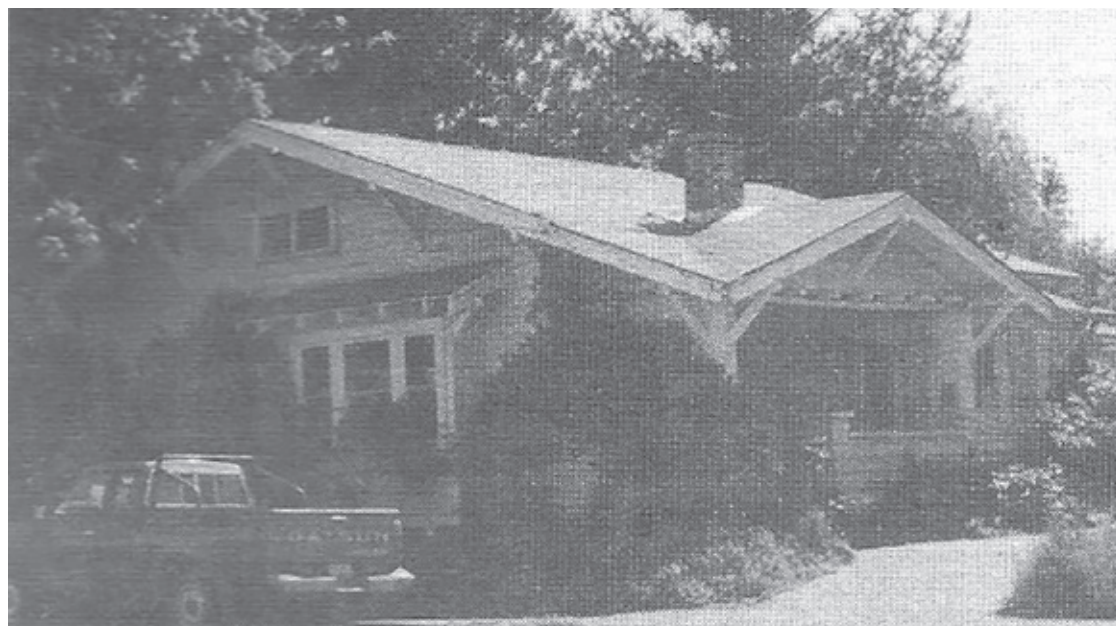
Original builder and resident of this Craftsman bungalow was Charles Whited, Willits postmaster and dance hall owner

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COLUMN | Real Estate Beat

Everything must change

Musician and songwriter, Benard Ighner wrote the song "Everything Must Change." He died last year at age 72. Although Ighner never achieved great fame himself, his song was recorded by some of the world's great jazz and soul musicians. I think, because the lyric reveals the great truth of existence. "Mysteries do unfold."

Likewise, Stephen Sondheim's magnificent song, "One More Kiss," from the musical "Follies," tells the human tale of growing older and changing, even, eventually surrendering to – whatever comes next. I guess I'm in a philosophic, sentimental mood.

I remember growing up in a number of rented houses, then, my parents bought a brand-new 3 bedroom / 2 bath house with family room and double garage. The cost: \$14,000. When I was 18 I left Oregon and moved to New York City to go to school. My first apartment in the East Village became vacant when the former tenant, Lilian Paradise, murdered her pimp there. Boy, if those walls could talk! That apartment was home to me, a place to be young and learn

how to be on my own.

I've changed a lot and called many places "home" since that time. Your journey is different from mine. If you are young, there will be many surprises ahead. If you are older, there's still much ahead, even if you're near the end of this life's journey.

I can hear you saying: "How in the world does this relate to real estate?" Well, as we change, so do our living circumstances: How we live, our needs, and where we live changes as we do.

When you're young, there's that first place. Then you, hopefully, open a savings account and begin to build up a cash reserve to buy a house someday. You may travel around before you decide where you want to live. Even then, your life often changes, and you are drawn to live somewhere else.

In today's world, you may buy into a co-housing development where you have an apartment instead of a separate house. You may choose a tenants-in-common building or a farm. Something else may present itself to you as "home." Our housing needs

evolve with our lives. "Everything must change."

With family, disability, or just growing older, needs in a home tend to change. Hopefully, a special someone comes into your life and what they want turns you in a new direction. Now home has to work for more than just you. Perhaps children come along with their special needs.

Disability may or may not have its own special requirements in housing. Certain disabilities may make a house with stairs or high countertops difficult or impossible to live with. If you can no longer walk, the design of your house will have to allow you to get through the doors, use the toilet, bathe, prepare meals, and all the other necessities of life.

Dementia is a challenging and difficult change that many go through, especially as we live longer. People with dementia have very special needs as they embark on this often frightening journey.

As we age, at a certain point, living alone or with an older partner often requires living someplace where you have others there to help you do the daily things of life. "Ay, there's the rub" as Shakespeare wrote in "Hamlet."

We live in a society where older people and the disabled are sometimes discounted, even disrespected. If you are older and don't have the financial means to move

into some kind of care facility, you could be in an untenable position. In California we are fortunate to have In-Home Support Services, but that's often not enough.

If you qualify, IHSS can help with services such as housecleaning, meal preparation, laundry, grocery shopping, personal care services (such as bowel and bladder care, bathing, grooming and paramedical services), accompaniment to medical appointments, and protective supervision for the mentally impaired. IHSS is designed to help Californians remain in their home or even a care facility longer.

You may need assistance getting qualified for IHSS. You can begin by calling the California Department of Social Services at 1-800-952-5253. In Willits if you need help with that, try calling Adult Protective Services at 459-2889. If you suspect someone needs help, please call APS and alert them that someone needs help.

For someone near death there is sometimes hospice care available. Hospice typically will come to your home, or wherever you are living, and provide help in the dying process. Remember, the dying are still alive. As a society we have a moral obligation to help our fellow humans to live in decent conditions until they die. That's my opinion.


We have a great need in our area for affordable palliative care (pronounced pal-lee-uh-tiv). This is care for people who are seriously ill, including children. Affordable

The rest of Change | From Page RE4



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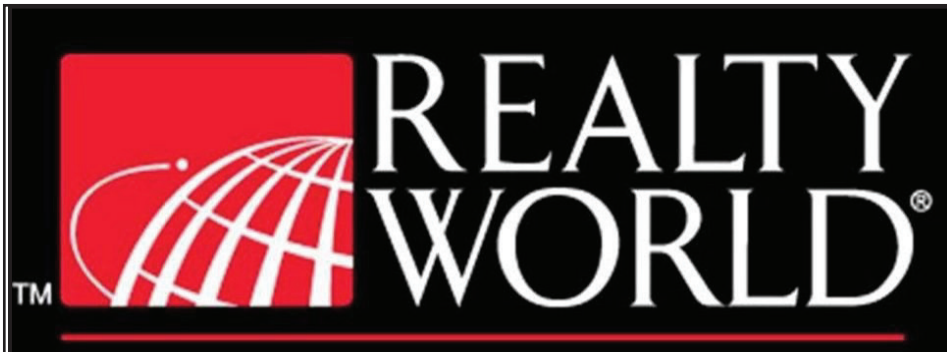
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Meet Coldwell-Banker Mendo Realty's new Realtor, Audrey Low

If you have met Audrey Low, you know she is a happy and hardworking person. Prior to becoming a Realtor, Low spent a year in an administrative and marketing position at Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty. She is working out of Coldwell Banker's Willits office at 1460 South Main Street.

Low honed her real estate marketing skills, gained expertise in the internet-based real estate software programs, and learned about the business before becoming an agent.

Her goal is to make the process of buying or selling property go as smoothly and amicably as possible for all parties. With an agent as kind and friendly as she, Low puts her clients at ease. Her philosophy is to focus on the positive in life, and she knows that people can achieve their dreams.

Low holds a master of science degree from California State

At left: Audrey Low, now working as a Realtor at Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty's Willits office.

The rest of Change | From Page RE4

facilities are virtually non-existent. We need to develop palliative care for those who need it. Is this a real estate issue? Perhaps, perhaps not – but it's definitely a "home" issue. This may seem like a very un-real estate agent thing to say, but everything is not about money. It's often about decency and caring about and for each other.

We have a shortage of palliative care specialists in our area. Let's find a way to attract some. We need their expertise and guidance.

We need to find ways to alleviate pain and suffering when possible. We can help others, and ourselves, to end life naturally and lovingly. The physician who thinks that prolonging life at any cost is the way to avoid failure is, in my opinion, misguided. Death is the last stage of this physical life. It's inevitable and natural. Explore informed choices for end-of-life options.

An advance directive form is a written instruction you can prepare that becomes part of your medical record. It goes hand-in-hand with a living will and a do not resuscitate instruction. If and when you can no longer speak for yourself, your written instructions can speak for you. Make sure all local hospitals have your written instructions on record. If you take those directives to them, they will scan them and

keep them on file. Pack your instructions in your luggage when you travel. That way you will not be "kept alive at any cost" to quality of life – if that is your wish.

The concept of aging in place is getting more attention. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines aging in place as "the ability to live in one's own home and community safely, independently, and comfortably, regardless of age, income, or ability level," as per Wikipedia. It's usually cheaper for someone to stay in their home then be moved to an expensive care facility.

It requires an engaged, informed community that acknowledges the transitions in life as we age, to develop systems for us to live well from birth to death. Ultimately, we can't prevent everyone's suffering. That's part of the journey. Each one of us can choose to do our best for ourselves and others. Love fits in here somewhere. Why the journey unfolds as it does is the great mystery.

Bill Barksdale was a 2016 inductee into the Realtor® Hall of Fame. He can be reached at Coldwell Banker Mendo Realty Inc. at 707-489-2232 or bark@pacific.net

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For information or an appointment to view please call:

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Willits Weekly | November 8, 2018 Willits Weekly's Real Estate Section - Edition #28 - Publishes on the second Thursday of the month Pg. RE5



Featured Property: 36700 Mendocino Pass Road, Covelo

Listed at \$315,000

MLS #21814773

Beautiful views from the second-story deck of this lovely 4 bedroom, 2 bath 2,600-square-foot home sitting on 20 acres. Great neighbors, four small ponds, two springs, large fenced garden areas, small possible guesthouse, and well-equipped garden/shop area. Owner will leave generator, fridge and most everything needed to live comfortably on this property. Flexible financing as well.

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