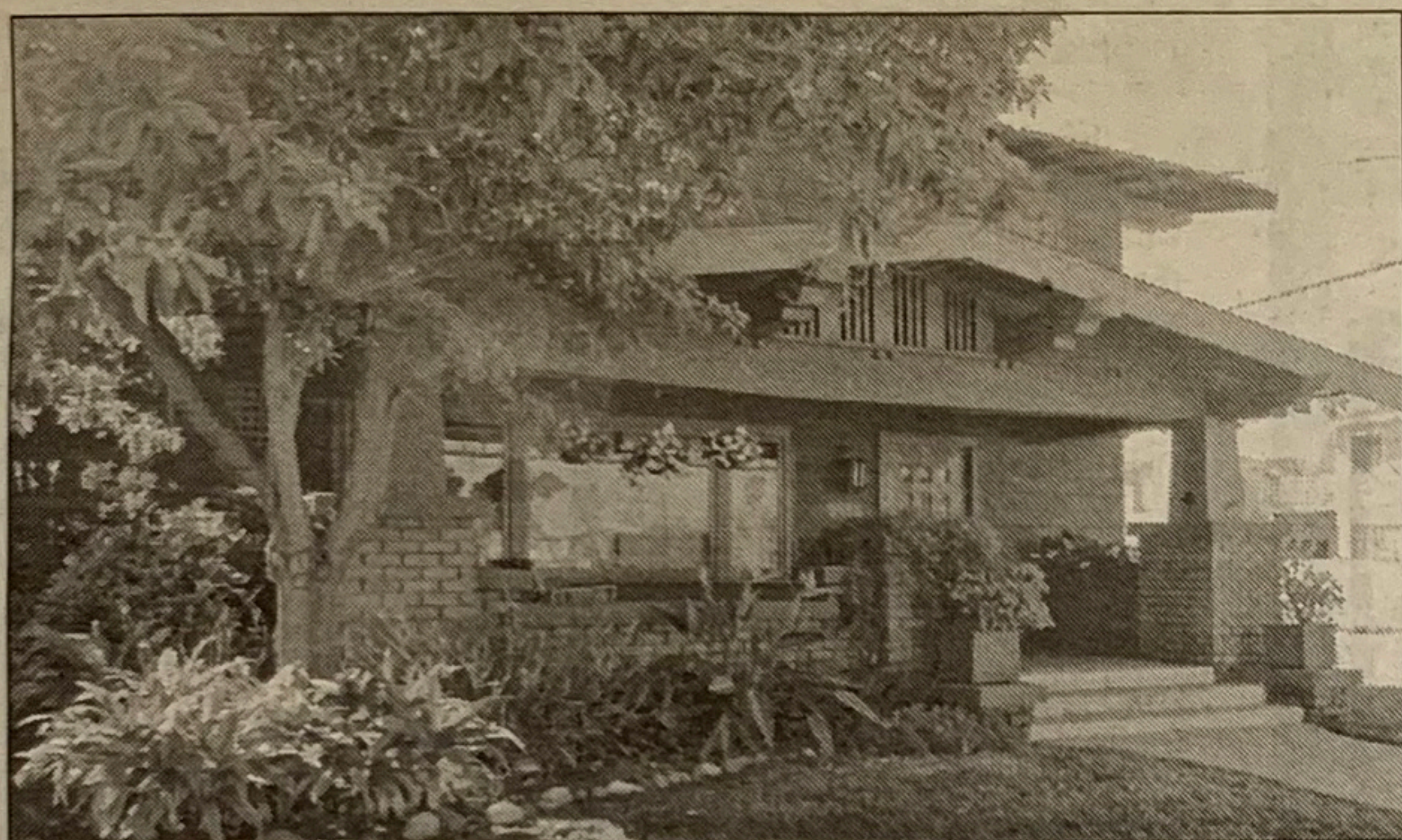


Calendar

Radical Whole-Wheat Architecture

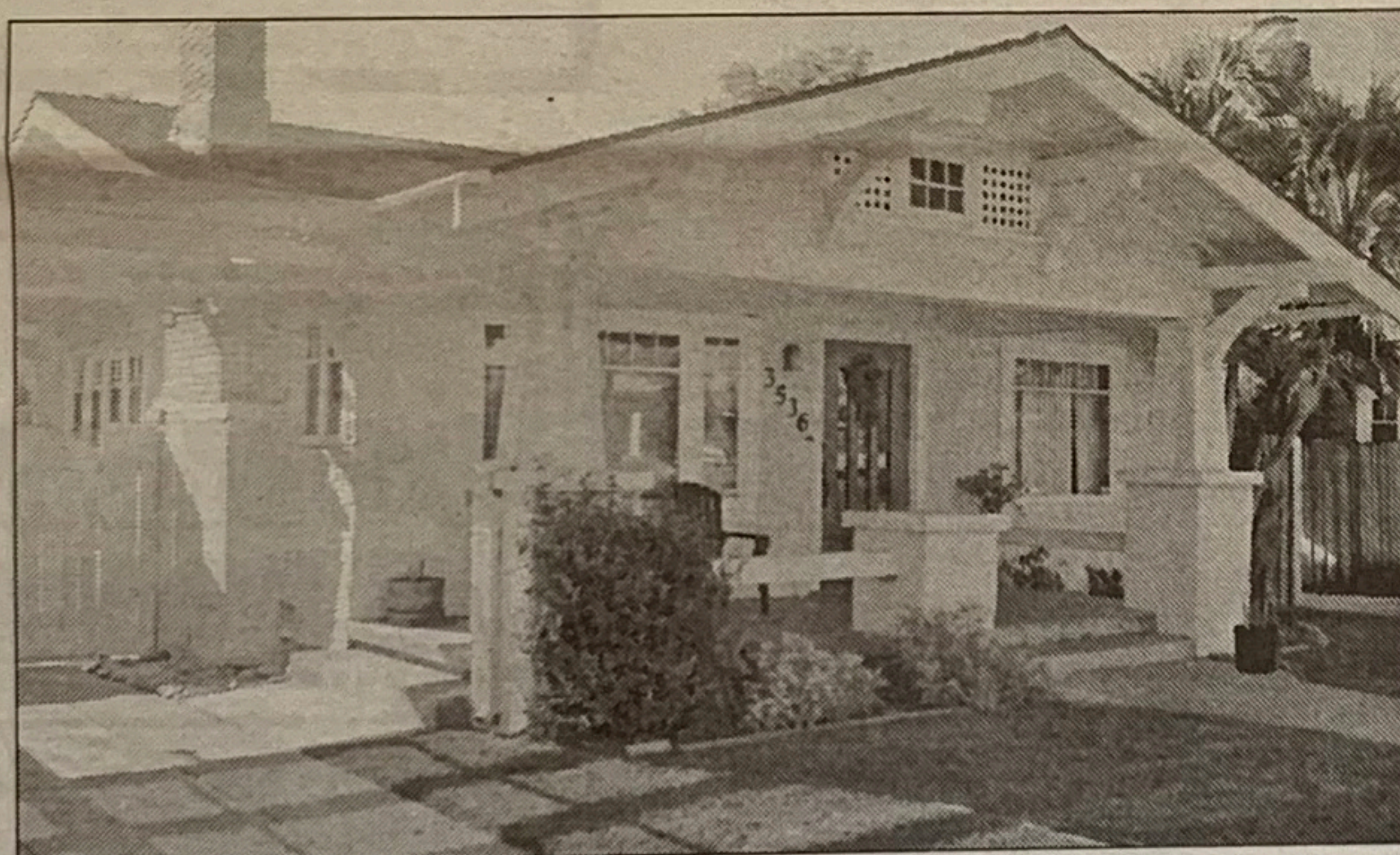
A Pretty Little Shingled Bungalow



3446 28th Street



3505 28th Street



3553 28th Street



3536 28th Street

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVE ALLEN

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& Galleries**
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LOCAL EVENTS

Those of us who have lived in bungalows know their singular charm. We don't wonder why love songs have been written about them. The word "bungalow" itself has charm. Hindu in origin (*bangla* means "house"), it is now used to describe any dwelling with verandas covered by low, wide eaves.

But there is a special look to the early 20th-century bungalows built in San Diego by a gifted eccentric, David Owen Dryden.

"Dryden's bungalows have an Oriental flare," says Don Covington, a local architectural historian and former professor of art at San Diego State University who has studied the man and his houses. "There is the look of Japanese architecture about them, with their exposed wooden-frame structure."

Dryden was 34 years old when he came here in 1911 from Monrovia, California, where he had been

apprenticed. By then, builders in Los Angeles County were already part of the Arts and Crafts movement that had jettisoned Victorian style and reinvented pre-Industrial era aesthetics. Bungalows were part of that revival. The Greene brothers, Charles and Henry, were the most famous Southern California bungalow builders. They embraced what is known as the Craftsman style of architecture. Covington credits Dryden with bringing that style here and making it his own.

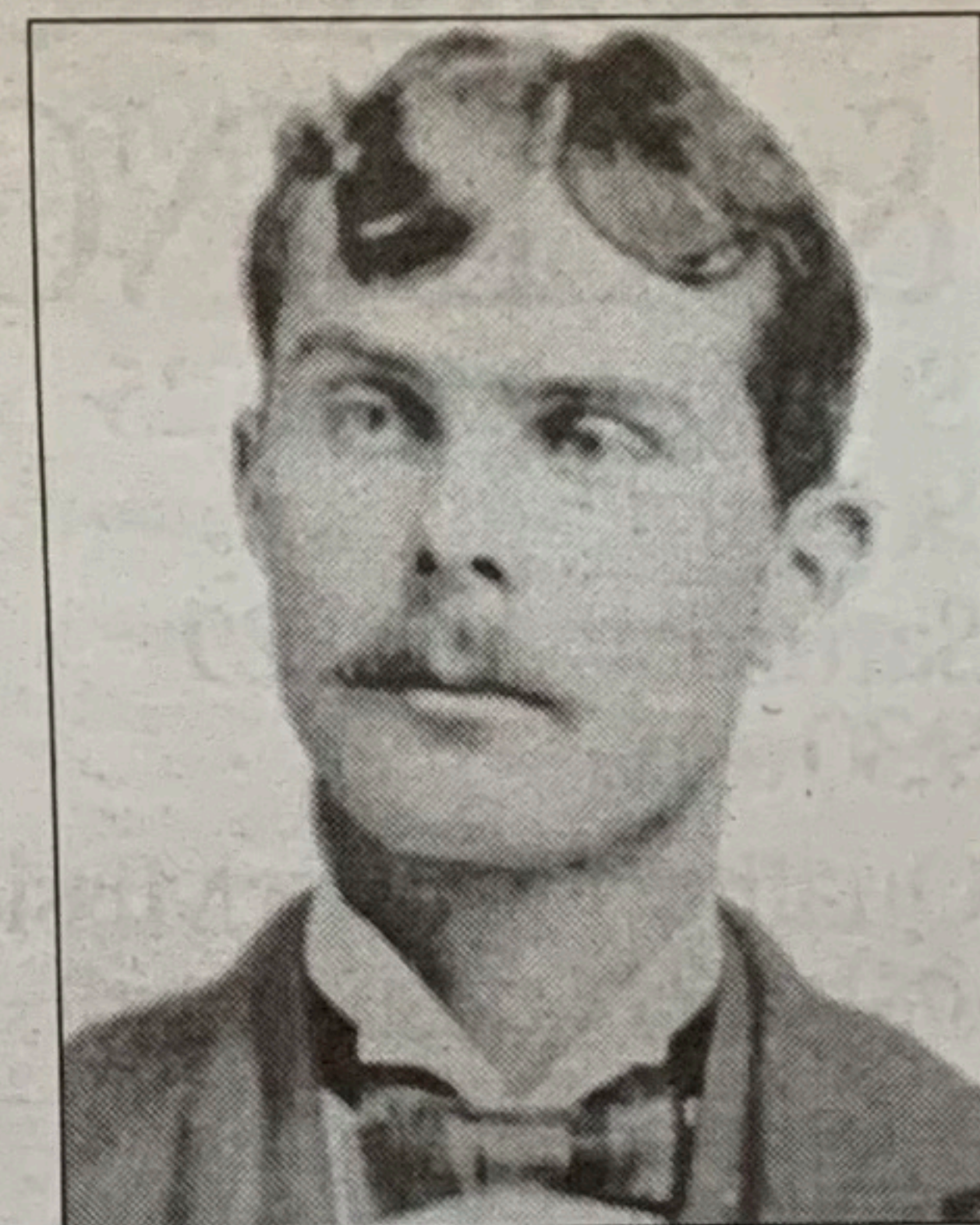
The difference between a Victorian house and a bungalow is the difference between a wedding cake and a loaf of whole-wheat bread. Even a basic bungalow would have seemed radical to San Diegans of Dryden's day. His sloping roof lines, deep eaves, and heavy beams that supported those eaves must have struck them as that much more revolutionary.

Dryden houses went up citywide, especially in Mission Hills, Loma Portal, University Heights, and North

Park. Their first owners were professional people. "Doctors and dentists, in particular, or retired industrialists from Eastern cities," says Covington. "And most were fairly wealthy." They needed to be, since Dryden houses were relatively expensive. "Usually \$3500 to \$4000 to build, they sold for double that amount. It was high for the period, when many other houses were selling for \$2500 to \$3000."

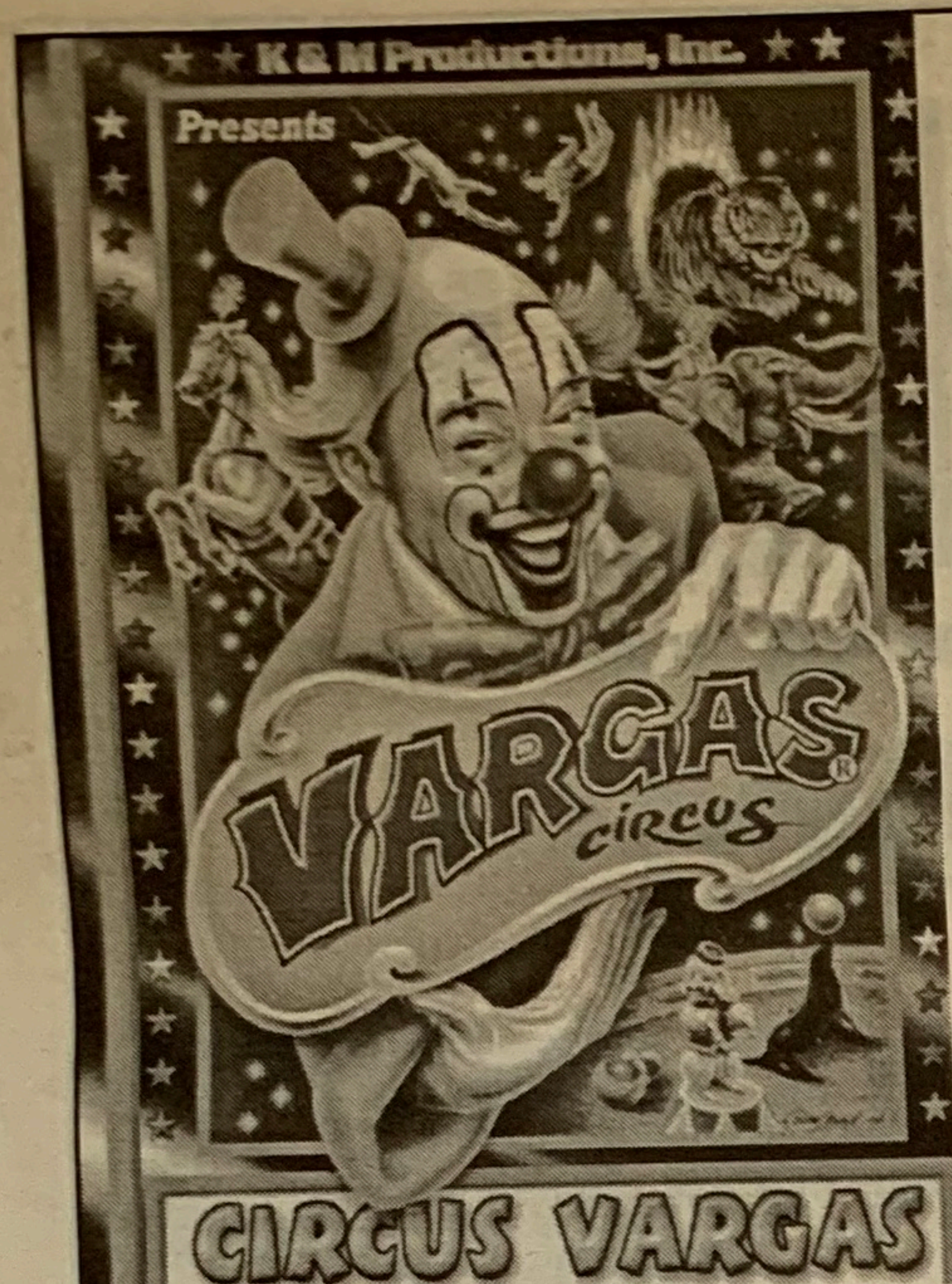
The quality of the materials and attention to detail — outside and inside — account for the price. Covington lists these characteristics: "A lot of art-glass windows. Woodwork done with very fine wood. Built-in cabinetry. Ceiling and wall details." All of it requires a kind of craftsmanship beyond run-of-the-mill.

"This wasn't just building," Covington avers. "Dryden was creating works of art. I think houses of that period are like little works of art." Not fine art, but folk art. "I think of Dryden as a folk artist."



David Owen Dryden

The greatest number of extant Dryden houses are in North Park, between 28th Street and Pershing. Covington counts 18 of them in a four-block area. He and his wife live in one at 3446 28th Street, on the corner of 28th and Myrtle. Dryden himself once



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Friday	Mar. 31	5:00	7:30
Saturday	Apr. 1	2:30	5:00
Sunday	Apr. 2	2:30	5:00
Monday	Apr. 3	5:00	7:30
Tuesday	Apr. 4	5:00	7:30
Wednesday	Apr. 5	5:00	7:30
Thursday	Apr. 6	5:00	7:30
Friday	Apr. 7	5:00	7:30
Saturday	Apr. 8	2:30	5:00
Sunday	Apr. 9	12:30	3:00

Tickets on sale at
Clairemont Town Square.

OCEANSIDE

VALLEY DRIVE-IN
(Mission Ave. and Hwy 76)

Monday	Apr. 10	Opening Day	7:30
Tuesday	Apr. 11	5:00	7:30
Wednesday	Apr. 12	5:00	7:30
Thursday	Apr. 13	5:00	7:30
Friday	Apr. 14	5:00	7:30
Saturday	Apr. 15	3:00	5:30
Sunday	Apr. 16	3:00	5:30

Tickets on sale at the circus.

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Calendar LOCAL EVENTS

lived in a house a block away.
"In San Diego he lived in
many different places, but he
stayed there the longest. It's a
pretty little shingled
bungalow."

In 1925, Dryden left San
Diego for San Francisco and
began building in the Spanish
Revival style — "all stucco,
arches, towers, and colorful
tile," Covington says. "It was
a style gaining popularity in
the 1920s, a style he started
developing here, and it was
his last style. He was out of
the building business by the
1930s. That was the
Depression."

Dryden was born in
Northern California. But as a
child, he moved to Oregon,
where he grew up. "And
that's where he really learned
house building, where it was
all that woodsy kind of look."
Covington has been to
Oregon to interview Dryden
family members for a book-
in-progress. "I visited his
granddaughter and daughter-
in-law, who live in Klamath
Falls. I saw his grave, the
whole works." He describes
Dryden, who died in 1946, as
"flamboyant, quixotic," and
"a personality who ranged
from high to low." He says,
"He loved the ocean and
owned some fancy
automobiles, and loved to
drive on the beach. You
know, there weren't a lot of
roads in those days, anyway."

He also describes this
scene: "His family said he
made and lost three fortunes
in his lifetime. He spent wildly.
He paid for things out of his
pocket rather than having
accounts. He was very loose
with his money. He just threw
it away. And some relatives say
he literally threw it away. He
would go out to the cliffs, like
Sunset Cliffs, and throw
money out to the water."

On Saturday, the Save
Our Heritage Organisation
will sponsor Covington's
lecture on Dryden — part of
a weekend-long celebration
of Arts and Crafts style by the
historic preservationists. On
Sunday, Covington's home
will be on SOHO's six-house
tour, three of which are
bungalows built by Dryden.
One of them, unmistakably,
resembles a pagoda, although
the inscrutable Dryden never
saw the Far East. SOHO
simply calls it "aeroplane
Japonesque."

— Jeanne Schinto

David Owen Dryden:
Bungalow Builder
Lecture by Don Covington
Saturday April 1, 2:00 p.m.
The Silver Gate Masonic
Temple
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Third-floor lodge room
SOHO members, \$10;
Nonmembers, \$15
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