

~ Michelbach ~

The Michelbach story begins with Barbara Michelbach (later England) who came to America from Germany in the late 1880s, married G.E. Lohe in 1890 in Flagstaff and homesteaded in Hart Prairie. Her brother, Peter J. Michelbach, followed her to Flagstaff in 1894. While in Germany, he met Veronica Schwab, who came to America in 1892. They were married in the town's first Catholic Church located on property donated by P.J. Brannen in south Flagstaff in 1898. Peter built a house on West Aspen Avenue which was enlarged to accommodate their growing family and it remained the family home until their deaths at 93 and 95. Peter and Veronica also homesteaded their own farm and ranch in Hart Prairie. They built a log cabin (pictured below) on the acreage which still stands on site today.

Every spring, Peter and Veronica would move from town to the mountain, put in their crops and harvest in the fall. They grew prize-winning potatoes and oat hay which was sold to the lumber mill for the draft horses. Ranching meant driving cattle from the Winter Ranch north of Flagstaff to Hart Prairie and branding at the ranch corrals in early summer.

Veronica and Peter had 11 children, 10 of whom reached adulthood--Eva, Joseph, Barbara, Mary, A.P. (Pete), Cecilia, Theresa, Minnie, Rose and Frank.

Veronica and Peter were life-long parishioners of the Nativity Church (pictured below on their 50th anniversary in front of the church). Like all parishioners who donated time, labor and money to the "new" church, Peter hauled malapai rock from the ranch in his well-known and remembered horse drawn wagon, selecting only rocks covered with the beautiful mountain lichen.

All of Veronica and Peter's children worked the farm and ranch. The cattle ranch eventually went to the three sons and upon the death of Joseph, it was run solely by A.P. (Pete) and Frank. A.P. and wife, Ann, expanded by purchasing the original homestead of Barbara Michelbach Lohe England. A.P. (Pete) ran the entire cattle ranching operation until his death in 1998 at age 92. The ranch was taken over by his daughter, Marilyn, and her husband, Voie Coy, and is still active today. The ranch is the only one left in Hart Prairie that has been in continuous operation. It was honored during the Arizona Centennial with the designation as one of the "Hundred Years, Hundred Ranchers."



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Ann + A.P. (Pete) Michelbach house

Hello Jill,

Thank you so much for the phone call and your interest in our family home at 823 West Aspen. I have been in conversation with my sister, Dorothy, and between the two of us and in-put from Voie, I think we can give you some facts and tid-bits.

As to the owners before Ann and A.P. (Pete), we think the owner was someone with the name of Langston. The reason is, after Voie moved to Flagstaff in the mid-1950's, his dad was bringing Voie to our house to visit and his dad said he knew, or knew of, the man who once lived there by the name of Langston. (Voie's parents once lived in the area in the 1930's.)

Dorothy and I have agreed that our parents moved to the house 1938-1939. Our parents actually lived two doors down the hill to the east of there before moving. Dorothy has pictures from the earlier house when she was around 2, so it would have been after that, placing the move in the above years. In November of 1940, I came home to the house from the hospital when I was born.

As I mentioned, the house was stucco and then painted white stucco for all the years that we were growing up. The siding was placed by 1964 since it was there by the wedding of my sister.

We don't know if the "studio" apartment that is on the south was incorporated into the main house before our parents bought it or not, because as I said, our dad was always in the throes of remodeling or constructing something on the property. In any regard, the house we grew up in was at one time a two-bedroom, one bath with a sun porch on the north side that had beautiful mullioned windows and wood floors. The main entrance to the house was on the north side and the entry was about where one can now see the glass bricks that give light to the stairway inside. As one entered the house, the sun porch was on the right and the living room on the left. A small bedroom was off the sun porch to the south.

Our dad converted the sun porch and small bedroom into a bedroom for Dorothy and me. He placed gypsum board on the walls and ceiling with wooden slats that covered the joints. The original closet was enlarged and on the south wall he built a six-foot-wide wardrobe closet with drawers below. He built an additional closet in the other bedroom as well. He built stairs leading from the living room and remodeled the attic into a bedroom and $\frac{3}{4}$ bath for our brother, Albert. He included two sets of dormer windows on either side of the room.

The bathroom between the two downstairs bedrooms was remodeled in the '50's and reflected the tastes of the day with 5 inch pink tile around the tub and sink vanity with borders of maroon accent finishing tile. The floor was gray tile.

We remember the house with its 7-inch baseboards, 9 feet ceilings, a window seat on the east side, wood floors (that were covered through the years with sheet flooring, linoleum in the kitchen, and eventually wall to wall carpeting). Some walls originally had wall paper, but the main rooms were plastered. The kitchen had cabinets that went to the ceiling, an eating area for table and chairs, overlooking the backyard. The kitchen led to a porch to the outside and across the room that connected the apartment to the main house....in other words, one left the kitchen to go onto the porch which led to outside or to a door to the apartment. It also was the laundry room. The porch had a door on the floor that led to the cellar where the furnace was located and where our mother kept goods that she had canned. Heating at one time was done by coal. There is a coal chute (or was) outside on the ground on the east side the house. Heating was converted through the years from coal to oil, to

propane, to natural gas. With the remodeling of the main house a natural gas floor furnace was installed between the dining room and the living room in the early 1950's.

Our parents removed the china closet (maybe to give more room in the hall behind it). They eventually took out the window seat and of course the stove was removed when the floor furnace went in. Our dad built a covered entry porch off the living room on the northeast side that included a coat closet. Our mother had the sliding glass doors and outdoor patio done by the mid-1950's.

Regarding the rest of the property. We had a good-sized vegetable garden on the east end of the yard. Grown there among other things were corn, strawberries, rhubarb, radishes, potatoes, carrots, onions. The southside of the yard was fenced and rock pavers were placed. It enclosed the clothes lines, a small outdoor fireplace and a grassy yard. On the fence were always grown sweet peas, mainly for their fragrant flowers. There was huge lilac bush in the corner of the house and a beautiful white/pale pink rose bush that grew under the window-seat window.

There were out buildings on the property when our parents bought the property, mainly a barn that sat on the southeast corner of the lot. It probably was a hay barn at one time in its life, since it had an upstairs that had a loft door. Our father used the building to restore automobiles and paint them in his "spare time". There is an L-shaped building about 60 feet long and 20 feet wide in the middle of the property that they converted into apartments. My sister remembers the building having a "car port"-bay area on the west end of the building. By the early 1940's the building had been converted into three apartments. They also built a free standing, two-bedroom little house on the south side of the property that abuts the alley. Housing was scarce after World War II and our parents definitely fulfilled the need with the five rentals they built or remodeled into residences.

In the back yard by the alley, there was a rock and concrete incinerator where all of us burned our trash. Eventually the city prohibited burning within the city limits and I believe it has been removed.

Our parents owned the house until their deaths. Our dad, A.P. (Pete) died in 1998 and our mother, (Ann) in 2000. They each were nearly 93 years of age respectively.

Side Notes regarding the west end of town:

Across the street was the city park.....which we considered our "back yard". It was an open and cleared wooded area, no grass, just dirt and pine needles, leading up Mars Hills to Lowell Observatory. There were only a couple of tennis courts, three-four swings, high slide, monkey bars with four rings on chains, a teeter totter, and a teetering platform merry-go-round that someone would push and the fondly others would stand and hold on for dear life by the bars in the middle. I think they are now outlawed. The park was not in use very much in those days but did come alive in July with encampments for the Pow Wow and Fourth of July activities.

As a side note...in the late 1940's-early 1950's, there was once a plan to build a swimming pool at the park. The Boy Scouts had a project for donations to be given for the construction of it. Long story, short. The man who was responsible to build it, took the money and left town. For many years there was a concrete indentation on the grounds, which the city finally filled in.

Historically, during the late 1800's-1900's, the city cemetery was located in the park area.

Recollections from Marilyn Michelbach Coy, Feb. 2020

ADDENDUM to 823 W. Aspen history

The Michelbach family purchased the house from Fred and Maria Langston around 1938. Fred was a plumber by trade and owned Fred Langston Plumbing and Heating from 1921 until he left town in 1957, according to his obituary. I'm not sure if he was married to Maria (as listed in the 1929 City Directory) or Susie (as listed in the 1930 Census)—it's a bit confusing because he did have a daughter named Maria. The family was residing in the house during the census reenumeration in 1930:

Fred M. Langston, b.1897 in Texas, age 32
Susie W. Langston, b.1897 in Oklahoma, age 32
Theona, b. in Texas, age 13
Marie, b. in Texas, age 11
Edna, b. in Texas, age 8
Mary Wayne, b. in Arizona, age 5
Lois Ruth (Lillus), b. in Texas, age 2 ½
Fred Jr., b. in Arizona, infant

In order to go back before the 1930s for title chain, you'd need to go to the county building on Cherry and look at the old oversized deed books:

Langston family 1920s-1930s

Michelbach family 1930s-2002

Cothram family 2002-05

ISHMAN Properties (several involved) 2006-13

Guelzow family 2013-18

STRATMAN/KELLY 2018

OUTBACK STUCCO INC.

P.O. Box 3763
Sedona, Arizona 86340

ESTIMATE

Date	Estimate #
7/30/2024	567

Name / Address
Caitlin Kelly 823 W Aspen caitikeooy@gmail.com 928-863-6553

Project

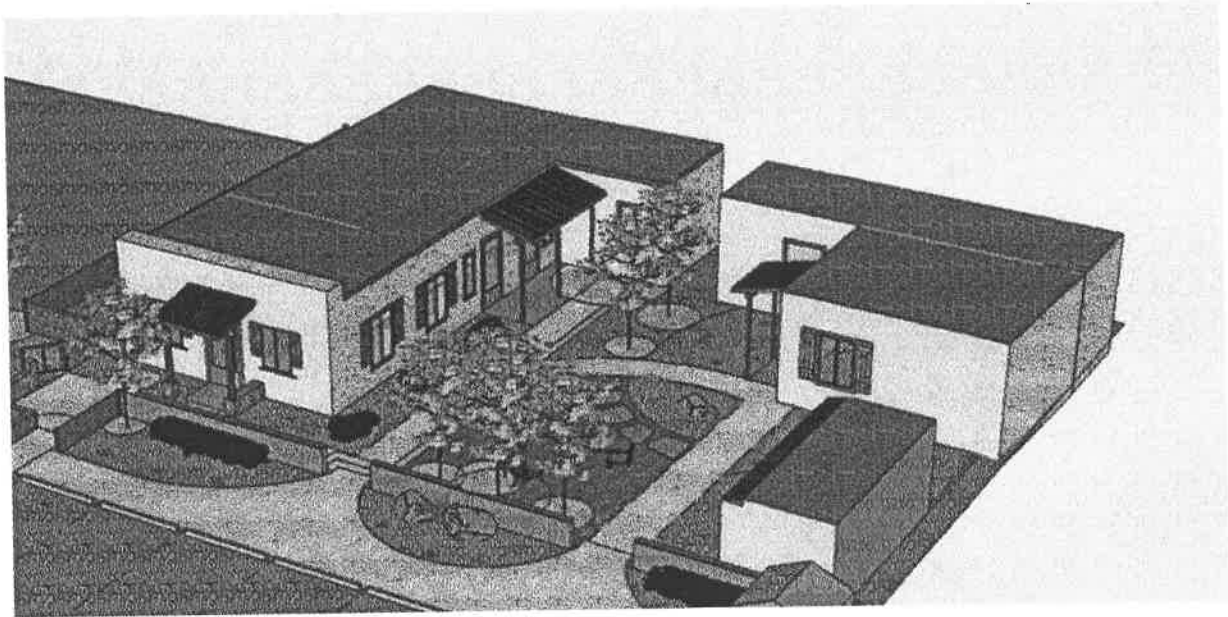
Description	Total
<p>Stucco homes and storage building and front block wall Not including back walls. Storage building and the one next to it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Scrape off all loose stucco and prep work for new * Bonder and new stucco base coat and mesh over old stucco finish * Primer coat and synthetic stucco sand finish semi smooth <p>Rip off old parapet flashing and replace with new flashing or we will apply new stucco and waterproof the tops</p>	25,000.00

Total	\$25,000.00
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Price only valid for 30 days. Does not include taxes, bonds, permits or fees unless noted. 20% deposit required on acceptance.

Signature _____

Phone #	Fax #	E-mail	Web Site
928.300.9992	928.779.6901	outbackstucco@aol.com	www.outbackstucco.com



823 W ASPEN AVE UNIT 1 X Q

Show search results for 823 W ...



PARCEL INFORMATION
APN: 10024015B

Tax Account #: R0016474

Tax Address: 823 W ASPEN AVE FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001

Owner Name: KELLY CAITLIN & STRATMAN CHRISTOPHER

Owner Address: 823 W ASPEN AVE FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86001



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