



Looking off back deck from beside the redwood tree toward FollyAnna – in the middle is the stump of the old manzanita tree that was near the shower area for so long – it had been doing quite badly for some years, many branches dying, until sometime in the past year it just fell over and had to be taken down completely



View from the back deck with the manzanita gone

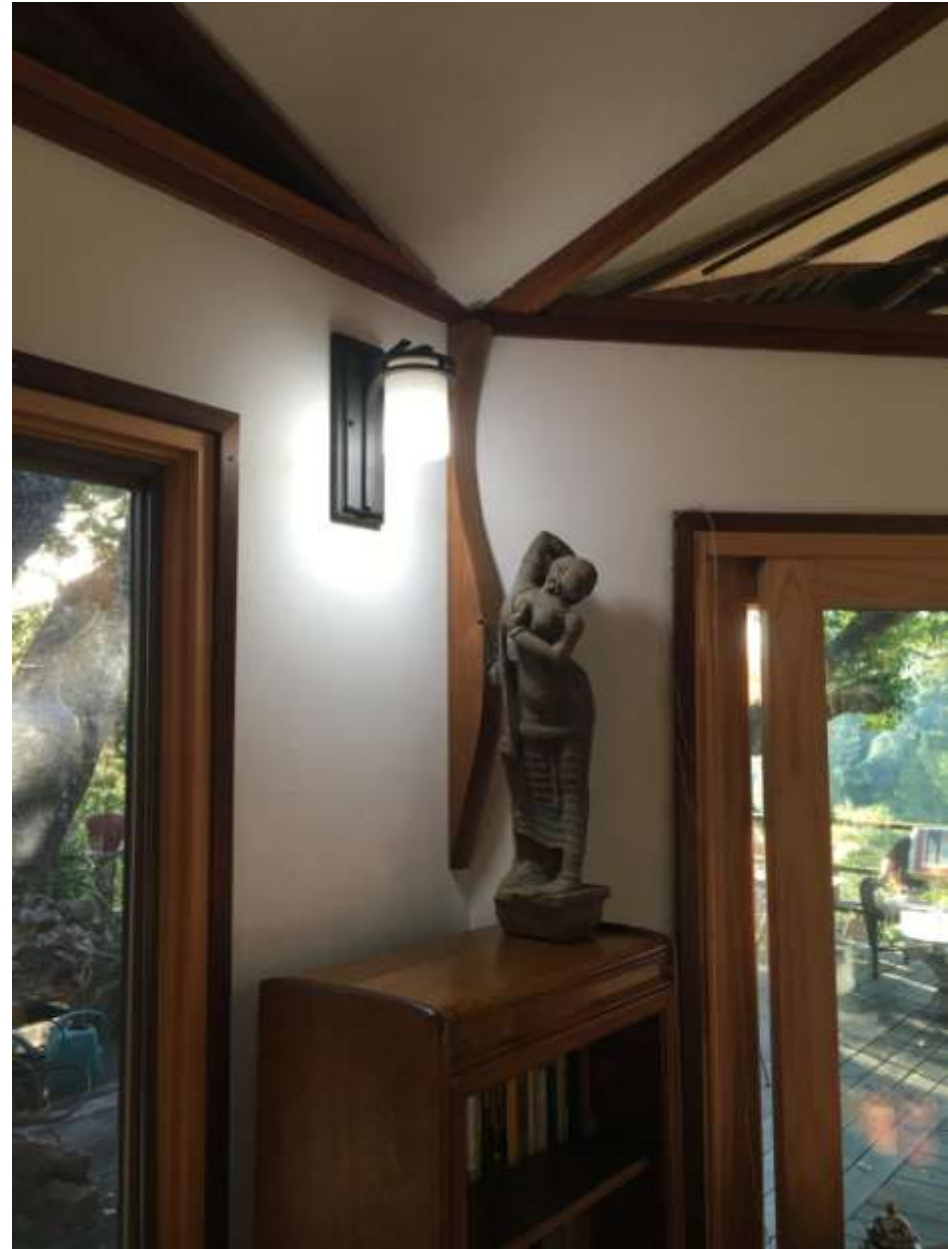


View from back deck downhill toward the vineyard – Erasto and others have been clearing it all out quite a bit, for sake of fire prevention



In the “surprises are still everywhere” department: An old Art Deco skil-saw that Ann’s father got in the 1930s, when all machines were stylish

An example of the complexities facing the average California homeowner: The beautiful 16th(?)-c. Indian stone lassie looked beautiful on the bookshelf, but in earthquakes was prone to wobbling wildly so Ann would have to run out and hold her down to keep her from falling off. So how to stabilize her in case of earthquakes, whilst still leaving her easy to pick up and cart away in case of fire? For a stylish solution, first find a graceful piece of wood in the basement, acquired years ago for no particular reason from a local furniture maker, that fits in well enough with the overall woodiness of the décor, and affix it firmly to studs in the wall ...



... then add an eye hook to said wood where it nearly touches said lassie (zoom in to see hook in middle of photo, just under her right breast) – through which hook can then be run a colorful cord, sash, or leash (not pictured) to go stylishly around the lassie's waist, holding her firmly enough to defend against quakes but easily untied or otherwise released for quick getaway in case of fire. That's the goal, at least. Another idea was to use a carabiner-type ring instead of the rigid eye hook, so you save her by releasing the hook rather than untying the cord/sash/leash – but we didn't have such a releasable ring on hand, so went with what we did have on hand, as an initial attempt.





For this one, no explanation required!



Entrance/parking area to the Knights Valley Cemetery – I remember all of this as very wooded and shaded, but after the fire a lot of trees burned and/or were taken down - partly because there's a power line running through here (not evident in photo), and protecting powerlines from falling trees is a high priority on PG&E's part



This is the actual entrance to the cemetery -



This is the wooden gateway – totally burned up



Fire damage to trees in cemetery – we weren't allowed into the cemetery itself because things were still iffy, so these photos are from road looking in to cemetery



Fire damage



Manzanitas burned at bottom



The trees marked with green letter/numbers were burned enough to pose eventual probability of death of tree, so PG&E is paying to have them taken down now (or soon) so as to not be liable for future damage – if you zoom in to the photo you'll see a number of trees marked with green ...



The big monument to Calvin and Elvira Holmes is in there – along with a number more of trees marked with green, slated for taking down ...



Fred's stone is in there – the little pink finger in exact center of photo. All the Holmes memorial stones seemed undamaged by the fire, but a lot of the trees are burned enough to be slated for taking down



More green markings on burned trees ... The little pink finger of Fred's stone is again in the center of this photo, if you zoom in enough



Across street from cemetery, Calvin and Elvira's original mansion (here seen in a quick snap from the moving car) was untouched by fire – it's actually a winery now (for past 15 years or so), I was in touch with owners but not a good time for a visit, they said house OK but some of their vineyards were burned



Farther up the road in Knights Valley was the house where Fred was raised for the first five (I think) years of his life, and where (I think) all the other siblings were born - and where Dorothy died (and Patsy was injured) in the farming accident. We visited some years ago and I took photos, but can't easily find them now, so here's a Google Maps view – dark roof of house in center, white roof of outbuilding above it, car in driveway. Not sure when this is from, probably the past year or so – in any case, before the fire.



This, alas, is the view coming in the driveway now – fireplace and chimney still standing (just right of center), but the buildings all gone.





Remains of the house – ashes and charred metal





The front porch or stoop, with stairs leading up to it -



In front of the front porch was this ancient oak - charred



The roots of the oak extended over a small creek or rivulet running in front of the house – but roots too charred, which means the oak may not make it either



Portrait of a steel-belted radial tire after a fire: The molten metal at bottom is the tin or aluminum or whatever of hubcap, while the wires in middle are the steel belts – the rubber tire completely burned away



Portrait of a hot tub after a fire: The outside is melted and charred, but the inside presumably had water in it, so the fiberglass or whatever didn't burn



The tree on right was next to the outbuilding with white roof in Google photo, so tree burned when building burned; tree on left wasn't beside a building, so survived



View of site, with (I think) Mt St Helena in distance