

# The Pueblo Chieftain

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## Filling in the blanks

[Print Page](#)

*Look into past helps to bring Lake Avenue house to life*



CHIEFTAIN PHOTOS/CHRIS McLEAN -- The red-brick house at 1007 Lake Ave. dates to the beginning of the 20th century.



Homeowner David Webb talks about the vintage details he and wife Nicole are emphasizing in their turn-of-the-century home that's located in the neighborhood where he went to high school.



Afternoon sunshine floods the staircase of the Webb house, creating a warm vantage point for the couple's cat, Eunice.



Some of the original hardware, like this knob on the front door, remains in the house.

**By MARY JEAN PORTER**  
**THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN**

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Thirty years isn't so long in the life of a house.

Owners change, walls get new paint or wallpaper, the staircase's patina deepens with another generation of feet, traffic rushes by, kids wheel up to the Dairy Queen on the corner.

The red-brick house at 1007 Lake Ave. has seen it all and, at age 109, is a graceful witness. The subject of a Pueblo Chieftain article in 1979 that noted its many large windows with colored glass, the house is still light-filled and still elegant.

David and Nicole Webb are the owners now. They bought the house just before they married in September 2006 and came back from their honeymoon to lots of painting. They both worked for Comcast in Denver then, but he's no longer employed and has time for both home research and restoration.

"One of the big things we're into is the history. During the Depression, it was a boardinghouse. I've found out who

lived here from time to time," David Webb says.

His search of city directories, census records, telephone books, Central High annuals, and maps at Robert Rawlings Public Library and of wills and warranty deeds at the Pueblo County Courthouse has taken him to the period before 1898 when the property was owned by Lakewood Land Co. Etta Dickerson bought the land in 1898 and sold it to J. Euclid Miles, who worked in real estate and insurance, in 1900. Miles soon built the house — he's listed as "resident" in the 1900 city directory and the house's "footprint" shows up on the Sanborn insurance map for 1905.

"The map also showed a stable in the back and what must have been an outhouse. I found remnants of the brick when I was putting in the garden," Webb says.

Miles died in 1924 and his widow Katherine owned the house until her death in 1926. Subsequent owners included James and Rachael Kendrick (1939-1965), Mark Mendenhall (1965-1986), Richard and Marianne Ryan (1986-1990), David and Cassandra Sierra (1992-1996), Roger and Katheryn Cain (1996-2006), and the Webbs.

David Sierra and Webb were friends 20 years ago and Webb says Sierra did much of the work to bring the house to its current good condition. The Webbs had the exterior repainted, a new roof put on and the backyard fenced. The couple painted throughout the interior and they've replaced nearly all the light fixtures, either with antiques or reproductions. He made structural improvements to the mud room and ran electricity to the basement for a workshop. They also created a workshop for Nicole in the unfinished attic.

Webb estimates he spent 40 hours at the courthouse, 60 hours at the library and another 20 hours online at home researching the house and its occupants through the years.

Early tenants included James Gogerty, superintendent of terminals for Denver and Rio Grande Railroad; Charles Bullen, manager of Minnequa Lumber Co.; William (Wilhelm) Berg, chief draftsman at the CF&I, who'd immigrated from Sweden; and members of the Ranus family, who owned a hardware business on Union Avenue.

"The daughter of one of the families who lived here in the '30s is coming to visit and we are most excited for her visit, to find out more about the house," Webb says.

One of the mysteries they'd like to solve is where the maid's staircase exited in the upstairs bathroom. The Mendenhalls removed the staircase to gain more kitchen space.

"There's so much history about the people. It's not hard to find if you're willing to spend the time. Anybody who wants to find out the history of a house can do it."

Webb has lived in Pueblo since he was a child. He graduated from nearby Central High School and says he's always loved the neighborhood but never thought he could afford to live there. The older houses in what once was South Pueblo are affordable, he insists, particularly when compared with newly built homes in other parts of the city or with historic homes in Denver.

"This house in Denver would be \$800,000 easy."

Webb hopes people continue to buy Pueblo's older homes and fix them up — both for the houses themselves and for the history they represent.

"You see one house get fixed up and soon the neighbors are fixing up theirs. One house at a time."

He's been studying for a real estate broker's license, which he expects to get next month, and hopes to specialize in older homes. And because he's been thoroughly bitten by the history bug, Webb has joined Historic Pueblo Inc. and Pueblo County Historical Society.

Anyone who knows history about the house or who has photos they are willing to share may send an e-mail to Webb at [1007lake@gmail.com](mailto:1007lake@gmail.com).

An article about the house at 1007 Lake, headlined "Pastel windows highlight home," was written by Mary Jean Porter and published March 4, 1979, in The Pueblo Star-Journal and Sunday Chieftain as part of its Landmark series.

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[«] Return to Home

[x] Close Window