

SEARS CATALOG HOMES

Sears House - "Rodessa" 1923



During Preservation Week, Mrs. Alma Hebenstreit received the very first Sears Catalog Home award on May 14, 2001 at the Village Hall. Her home, located at 531 S. Euclid, was built in 1923 from the Sears House mail order kit and is the "Rodessa" model.

A couple from Chicago had purchased the home from Sears Roebuck & Co., and were building it by themselves. During its construction, they would ride to Villa Park and sleep in a tent in the backyard. At some point, the Hebenstreit family rented the house to help pay for their expenses. After being discouraged by the muddy roads in Villa Park and lack of sidewalks, the original owners decided to sell the house before they ever moved in.

The Hebenstreit family purchased the house for \$3,500. Surrounded by prairie land, the neighborhood was really a great place to raise their two children. Following its architectural style, the house was expanded in the 30's. A family room with a lovely stone fireplace and a back porch were added.



Alma Hebenstreit celebrated her 100th birthday in 2001 and has lived in this house for over 75 years. On February 3, 2003 she was pleasantly surprised when her friends at Villa Park Community Recreation Building, joined in song to wish her happy 102nd birthday, the day before her actual birth date. She was presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers and everyone was treated to refreshments including the beautifully decorated cake topped with three candles - a one, zero and two. Even Larry Rogowin from the Villa Park Review came out to cover this special celebration that included best wishes from Villa Park President, Rae Rupp Srch, and Jenny Campbell, program supervisor.

Alma and her caretaker, Myrna Rew regularly visit the *Senior Center*, 320 E. Wildwood on Mondays and Fridays to dine on meals prepared and delivered especially for seniors by York Township Kitchens, Lombard. They and several others, who also play pinochle on these days at the drop-in center, especially enjoy the Senior Meals Program.

This is not the first time Alma has been recognized by a Village of Villa Park group. On May 14, 2001 she received the very first Sears Catalog Home award from the Villa Park Historical Preservation Commission during a village meeting.

Her home was built in 1923 from the Sears House mail order kit and is the "Rodessa" model. Hebenstreit has resided there since she and her husband, the late Henry Hebenstreit first rented the home from its original owners and then purchased it nearly eighty years ago.

The Rodessa - Original Sears Catalog Information

A PRETTY LITTLE HOME



The RODESSA

Honor-Bill

\$907⁰⁰

No. 2041 "Already Cut" and Fitted, \$907.00.

See Description of "Honor-Bill" Homes on Page 7.



At the above price we will furnish all the material to build this four-room bungalow, consisting of lumber, lath, Fire-Chief Shingle Roll Roofing, mill work, porch ceiling, siding, flooring, finishing lumber, building paper, eaves trough, down spout, sash weights, hardware, medicine case and painting material. We guarantee enough material to build this house. Price does not include cement, brick or plaster.

IT IS hardly necessary to say that this is a most attractive little home. The illustration proves it beyond a doubt. Furthermore, the price is also attractive. Much thought and expert advice have been expended in designing an exterior that will make this bungalow appeal to lovers of artistic homes, while the floor plan appeals to all people desiring the utmost economy in space. This plan is very popular with our customers, as proven by the sales of other houses with a similar arrangement. If you have only a moderate amount to expend on your home and wish to secure the biggest value for your money with the greatest results in comfort, convenience and attractiveness, you can make no mistake in purchasing this house.

Main Floor A glazed front door opens into the living room. A door leads from the living room to front bedroom, and door leads from the dining room to the kitchen, doors lead into the rear bedroom and bathroom, which has medicine case. Two good size closets. Rooms are 9 feet from floor to ceiling. We furnish our best "Quality Guaranteed" mill work, described on pages 120 and 121. Interior doors are five-cross panel, with trim and flooring to match, all yellow pine, in beautiful grain and color. Windows are made of clear California white pane, with good quality glass set in with best grade of putty. Porches have fir edge grain flooring. Paint for two coats outside, your choice of color. Varnish and wood filler for interior finish. Stratford Design hardware, see page 129. Built on a concrete block foundation, excavated basement. "Honor-Bill" frame construction and sided with narrow bevel clear cypress siding. All framing timbers are of No. 1 quality yellow pine.

OPTIONS

Sheet Plaster and Plaster Finish to take the place of wood lath, \$13.00 extra.
 Screen Doors and Windows, \$11.00 extra.
 Screen Doors and Windows, block wire, \$11.00 extra.
 This house can be built on a lot 27 feet wide.

IF ESTIMATES and SPECIFICATIONS for plumbing, hot water, steam or warm air heating systems, electric wiring material, gas or electric fixtures are desired, write for them, mentioning the RODESSA Modern Home No. 2041 in your request.

Our Guarantee Protects You—Order Your House From This Book
 Price Includes Plans and Specifications.

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO. CHICAGO

Villa Park Historic Preservation Commission — Photograph by Carol Marcus