

by Chad Richardson
staff writer

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As a young boy, Lest Olson remembers when Charlie Ames lived in the towered house at 207 W. Second St.

He remembers seeing Ames leaving town in his Dodge Touring Car, with his big red hunting dog riding shotgun and his shotgun in the back seat.

As Olson remembers, the time was the early 1920s. He also remembers a night the Ku Klux Klan paid a visit to Ames, also in the early '20s.

"A bunch of us neighbors were sleeping in a tent in the back yard and we heard a noise about midnight — cloppety-cloppety — coming down the street," Olson said. "So, I ran up in the front yard and there were all these horses and men with white gowns on, coming down the street. They got down in front of Charlie's place and set up the cross and set it on fire. I never forget that night."

Ames never did own the house. Rather, he rented it as so many others have. His time there, as well as that red dog's time, though, is marked forever.

With pride, the home's current caretakers, Bob and Heidi Langfeld, show several doors that the dog chewed on. The doors are still used. 6-5-1997 H/G