

# First Bathtub, First Telephone on South Battery Installed in the Lucas Home

## Age-Old Atmosphere Still Remains in Modernized Home

South Carolina's first telephone exchange was set up in Charleston on August 28, 1879, and the first telephone to be put in a home on the Battery was used in the residence now occupied by Colonel and Mrs. James D. Lucas and family.

Tourists now abroad in Charleston visiting old homes and old landmarks will find another 'first' in the Lucas house at 49 South Battery. The first bathtub, for the regularly scheduled Victorian Saturday night bath, was installed there. The bathtub, with its unique copper tub enclosed in wood, has long since been replaced for something more modern, but the distinction still remains.

### KING DEEDS LAND

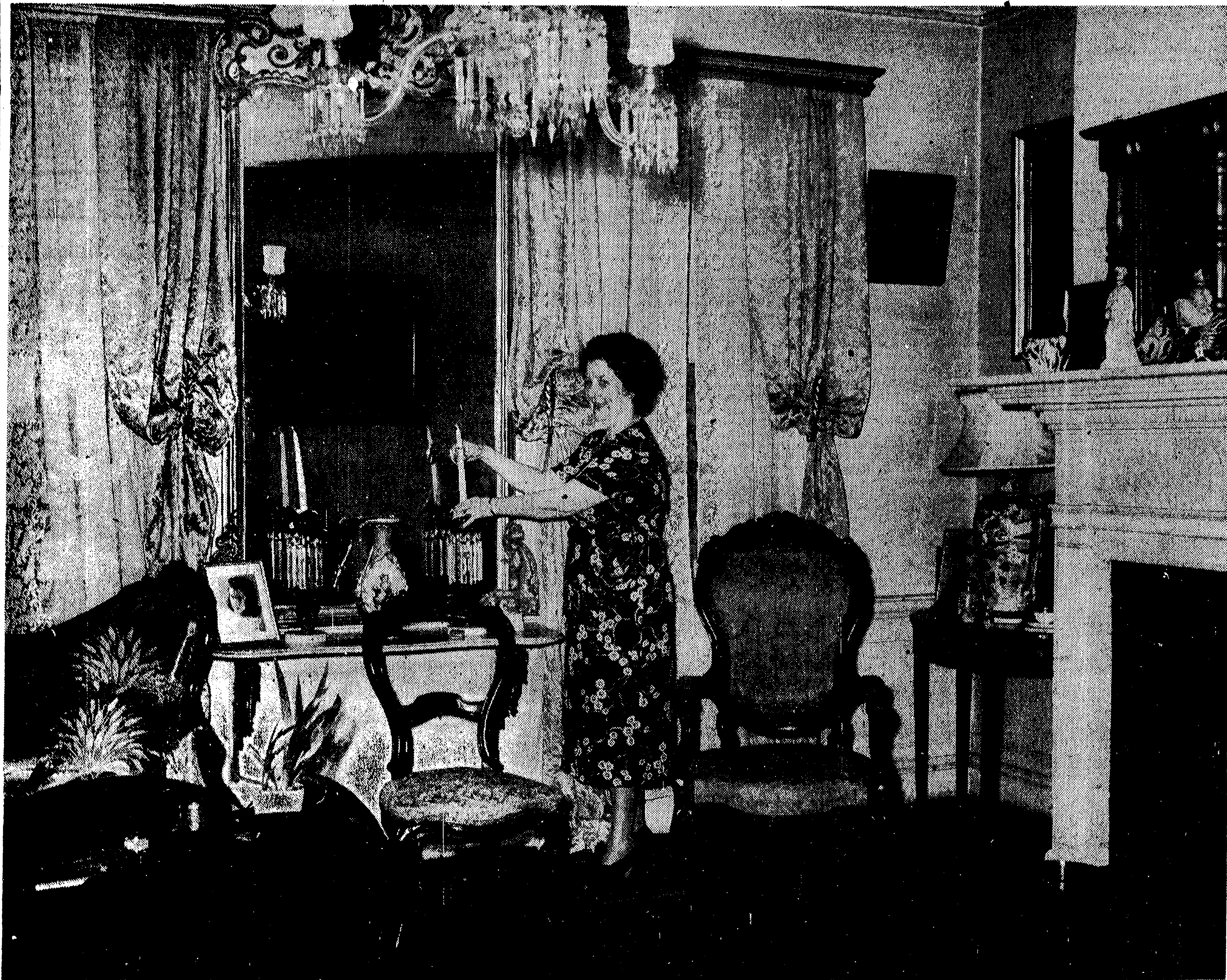
For 150 years the Lucas home has withstood the ravages of time. The original floor is intact; the unusual newel post stands in the hall; the mirror, now going blind with age, hangs in the living room as does the portrait of the builder, Colonel James R. English, who obtained the deed to the land upon which the home was erected from Francis Salters to whom the property was conveyed by the King of England. Old prism chandeliers have been wired and, while the residence has been completely modernized, the age old atmosphere remains.

Colonel English decided to build the Lucas home around 1800, some 47 years before the inventor of the telephone was born; 27 years before the B & O Railroad started the first promotion campaign for train service; 16 years before Baltimore celebrated the lighting of gas street lamps; 28 years before Noah Webster published his dictionary; 30 years before Daniel Webster's reply to Hayne; 61 years before the bombardment of Fort Sumter; 51 years before the San Francisco fire; 36 years before Sam Houston was elected president of Texas; and almost 108 years before man found he could fly through the air.

### ENGLISH TYPE HOUSE

Colonel English seriously considered plans for building the home in the same year George Washington died at Mount Vernon. He decided finally to build the single English type house, cater-cornered on the lot, with gable ends to the street. That he built well is evidenced by defiance of the elements to do the home any lasting damage. In 1887 an earthquake shook it some and a tornado once ripped off the roof but sturdily it still stands as a monument to its builder.

Mrs. Lucas possesses the original deed given by Salters to Colonel English, Mrs. Lucas' great grandfather, who came to Charleston in 1788 with his mother. The present generation of Lucas children—Miss Virginia Lucas, a graduate of Ash-



**MRS. JAMES D. LUCAS** is pictured in the drawing room of her ancestral home at 49 South Battery which was built around 1800 by her great grandfather, Colonel James R. English, on land which was deeded from the King of England. (Staff photo by Reilly.)

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# Lucas Home

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iel Hall and student at the College of Charleston, James D. Lucas, Jr., veteran student at The Citadel, and Mrs. Van Noy Thornhell, the former Jane Lucas—is the sixth generation of the same family which has resided in the home, | '