

Coast Host "THIS OLDE HOUSE" Bed & Breakfast Coos Bay

Moved from its moorings twice since its construction in 1893, the Joseph Bennett House has found a home . . . and so have Ed and Jean Mosieur, recent transplants from the Monterey peninsula in California. "This Olde House Bed & Breakfast" is the new moniker for the stately former Bennett mansion which was first built on the site of what is now the Tioga Hotel in Coos Bay. Decades ago, to make way for the hotel, the Bennett home was ceremoniously moved further up the hill overlooking the bustling lumber port bay. About 20 years ago, "progress" demanded a parking lot . . . and the home was moved up the hill once again. The Mosieus believe it's there, like them, to stay for awhile. Ed and Jean, you see, love nothing better than to find an old home with character and bring it back to life again. And that's exactly

what they've done to "This Olde House."

"I think it was the inlaid mahogany floor in the hall entryway that hooked us," says Jean. "That, and the spacious verandah where we knew our future guests could relax and watch the oceanliners come into port," she added. This Olde House Bed & Breakfast Inn has been featured in Diane Knight's directory of Bed & Breakfast Inns. "So was our first B&B on the Monterey Peninsula," Ed proudly points out. "That place had a history, too. Jack London used to write his stories in the carriage house!" Ed enthuses.

When asked why they chose to open their homes to virtual strangers, Jean hastens to point out that "they're not strangers for long after coming through our doors! This is our way to see the world, through the eyes and experiences of our guests. It has so enriched our lives!"

The Mosieus know from their Monterey experiences that Bed & Breakfasts are coming into their own.

"We'd like to see more of the grand old homes in Coos Bay become B&B's," says Ed. "In fact, we'd be glad to help folks get one going," adds Jean. "With four suites it's likely we may someday have to tell some visitors there's no room at the inn. It's going to be hard to turn away a real Bed & Breakfast enthusiast. Some may travel far down the road until they do find a B&B with room!"

Fortunately, Ed and Jean discovered the only other B&B in town, The Captains Quarters in Empire, where they'll refer fans of the "cottage industry." "But really, I can see four or five bed and breakfasts doing a thriving business in the Bay Area. People really do appreciate the 'just like home' atmosphere of bed and breakfasts," says Ed.

Taking on the renovation of a 3,500 square foot home built nearly 100 years ago was an ambitious, but rewarding task. "We've always gotten so much more than what we put into it," says Jean. "Many of the people we've met from our bed and breakfast homes have remained our friends throughout the years," says Ed. "It's almost a symbiotic relationship we have with our guests," adds Jean. "Wherever they've been in this world, we get to 'travel' there, too. It's really the greatest life!"

This Olde House Bed & Breakfast is located at 202 Alder St. in Coos Bay. Call the Mosieus and share your travels too. 267-5224.



"The Master Suite" overlooks bustling ship activity in the Coos Bay Harbor. Hosts Ed & Jean Mosieur welcome bed & breakfast enthusiasts to the Bay area.



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