

inside business

In Sandy area homes

Builders find new foundations

by DAN DILLON

A change is occurring in the construction boom surrounding Sandy. A new method of home construction that is more economical and faster to assemble is making its presence known.

The All-Weather Wood Foundation System has been introduced in the past six months, yet building official Tom Day said it has been part of the Building Code since 1973.

It was developed cooperatively by the wood products industry and the U.S. Forest Service, with the advice of the Housing and Urban Development Federal Housing Administration. The system combines proven construction techniques with the latest technology in below-grade moisture control.

Although essentially similar to traditional wood-frame construction, the all-weather wood foundation includes three significant additions to conventional above-grade methods. These modifications, combined with traditional technology, provide a durable, dry wood foundation.

First, the stress-graded lumber framing and plywood sheathing are engineered to support lateral soil pressures as well as live, dead and climatic loadings. Vertical loads are distributed to the supporting soil by a composite footing.

Although the builders of the three homes built in Sandy have opted for concrete footings, Day said pea gravel is also acceptable as a footing.

All lumber and plywood in contact with or even close to the ground is protected against decay and insects by pressure treating with wood preservatives. These preservatives have been proven by years of research by the Forest Service.

Finally, moisture control measures based on the latest developments in foundation engineering, construction practice and building materials technology are used to achieve a dry,

comfortable basement.

The most important part of this is the gravel or porous concrete envelope surrounding the lower part of the basement. This conducts ground water to a sump, preventing hydrostatic pressure on the basement walls and floor.

Similarly, moisture in the upper part of the basement foundation is deflected downward to the gravel system by plastic sheeting or by the treated wall itself.

The result is a dry basement that is insulated for maximum comfort and energy conservation. And it is easy to install in any weather.

Carl Brinkley of Brinkley Construction has built two

wood foundation homes in Sandy. "Construction eliminates double labor," he said. Rather than framing, forming, pouring concrete, stripping the forms, burring out the walls, placing insulation and sheetrocking, the process is cut in half.

The footing is poured. The wall is framed up with the treated wood and insulation is added. The saving on labor is "around \$1,000," Brinkley said.

Eliminating the large usage of concrete is another advantage of the system. Basements and foundations can be put in in any type of weather. "The weather conditions are better for them because freezing won't

effect the wood," Brinkley said.

The system has been approved by the International Conference of Building Officials, HUD, and "the last hurdle" — the lending institutions and banks, according to Day.

He has slides available that show the building process and document the extra tests that are necessary for inspection of these homes. Stainless steel nails must be used. The closeness of the nails is prescribed in the code.

And people like the result. Brinkley said one customer wanted to go that way. "We've not run into any problem with them at all."



NICK EKLUND, owner of the newly opened Funny Farm restaurant in Boring, decided an eating establishment might be a good place for his accumulation of antiques.

Funny Farm offers chance to dance among the antiques

Nick Eklund is as native to Boring as the berries and beans his father farmed there for 23 years.

So it's somehow right that Boring's newest and, no doubt, wildest eatery is Eklund's brainchild. The 28-year-old's Funny Farm opened at Heidi's Swiss Village complex in late October. And people have been lining up just to get in.

Perhaps they're coming to sample the soups, salads, steaks and sandwiches served by waitresses in felt hats, plaid shirts and overalls. Or maybe people are attracted by the unique decor that is best described as warmly funky.

Antique farm implements are nailed onto the building's facade. The clear tops of old gas pumps make nice homes for tropical fish. Stoplights and railroad crossings, a 1940 Wurlitzer jukebox and old-fashioned popcorn machine, sleds and wheelbarrows hang or hunker here and there.

Eklund's father was a touch skeptical

about how the antiques his son had collected (I've been kind of a scrounge," he said) would be used to beautify an eating establishment. "You take all this stuff and put it in a pile and it looks like a pile of junk," Eklund admitted.

But somehow the clutter imparts a comfortable ambience to the place, like the homey Mason jars beer is served in. "I've always been gathering these little ideas," he said. "I just knew there was something in an atmosphere that would put people in a fun-type mood."

Eklund had helped his father farm until 12 years ago, when the elder Eklund opened Heidi's. Young Eklund hated the business when he started washing dishes at 16.

"But it grows on you," said Eklund, who has done every job in the restaurant business. "It's a challenge to work with the public, and I started to really enjoy it," he said.

Eklund says he has certain inexpensive, casual eatery could succeed where a gourmet dinner house

had failed, and he sold his house, car and lots of other belongings to prove it.

The results have been gratifying, Eklund says. His customers, of all ages and styles, come to eat or drink or dance — or all three. He'd like to add more seating and perhaps live music to the nighttime disc jockey and daytime jukebox he already provides.

As for the name, it was inspired by a house Eklund once shared with four others. All the house residents were antique lovers, and the place looked something like the restaurant does, Eklund said.

"With four people living there, it was like a party all the time," he said. A friend christened the household a funny farm and the name was easily borrowed for Eklund's new restaurant concept.

It's a place where folks of all kinds seem to have all kinds of fun. But don't look for a wild disco beyond the object-strewn entry.

"I'm a country boy myself," Eklund said.

Two men held in connection with robbery

Two Montana men were held in custody at the Clackamas County Jail last Thursday in connection with an armed robbery Wednesday at the Village Store in Government Camp, on U.S.

Highway 26.

Patrick Michael Free, 30, and his brother Ronnie Lee, 27, of Darby, Mont., were taken into custody hours after deputies recovered their bullet-riddled station

wagon one-quarter mile south of the store, according to Oregon State Police.

According to the police, Don Quint, 37, owner of the store, fired 10 rounds from a pistol at the two robbers. He

missed them both but struck their car after they had entered the store armed with a gun and demanded cash. Approximately \$200 was reportedly taken.

Chamber selects officers



Bob Kallen

Bob Kallen of Portland General Electric has been selected 1980 president of the Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce.

The selection was made at a recent board meeting by chamber board members.

Dick Busby of Independent Bank of Sandy will serve as new vice-president. Vicki Ward, wife of dentist Tim Ward, will serve as new secretary.

Rounding out the 1980 chamber board are Kathleen Eldridge, Chuck Jones,

George Morgan, Bill Sundin, Roy Bunting, Ned Dyal and Frank Happold.



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