

# Dream House

*Carlson's abode proves elegant reproduction of Victorian home*



The builder asked Janie Carlson to stay away the day he hung the light fixture from the top of the three story tower.

Story by  
Sharon Nesbit  
Photos by  
Terry Farris



Pete and Janie Carlson's new home is meant to be a "house from another time."

**J**anie Carlson's old house is a new fraud. At first glance the house off Regner Road looks like it has stood for years — an architectural leftover in the middle of the new Dawncrest subdivision. Ornamental shingles, pointed roofs, lacy doodads and a weather vane atop a three-story tower all point to antiquity. But a closer look reveals raw earth where lawn should be. Brass gleams too brightly. This house is too new to be old. It is, instead, a skillful and elegant reproduction and only four months old.

Janie, who was chiefly responsible for its construction, likes to think of it as an instant heirloom. "It's not a house built for resale value," she admits. "I want to leave it to my children and grandchildren. I want it to be the Carlson house forever."

Pete, a Sandy Chevrolet dealer, and Janie, saleswoman at Portland's Towne Shop, have been married 38 years and are the grandparents of nine. This is their dream home.

It looks large and sprawling but it has only two bedrooms, a big one for the Carlsons and a small one for visiting grandkids. The architect, Jeff Miller, specializes in making small houses look bigger, Janie says.

And, while it may look old, it is not an old folks' house.

There are stairs for one thing — a steep flight up to the seven-foot-high front door, a descent to the basement garages and a climb up the tower to the master bedroom.

Janie, a refugee from a ranch style house at Brightwood, revels in the stairs. "My thighs have never been so firm," she says, "and I have lost five pounds."

There are the usual trappings of a Victorian home — two bay windows, three fire places, a wood stove and fluted woodwork with carved rosettes handcrafted by builder Mike Nicholson.

But there are also eye-popping modern things that

would send Victorians into a tizzy — a matching toilet and bidet standing like side-by-side thrones in a skylighted room, a sophisticated alarm system and one whole closet of rolling shelves — built just for sweaters.

The house is furnished with the antiques that Janie has collected. It is no accident that there is niche for everything. She sat down with pencil and paper and literally drew the house around the furniture.

A bay window in the grandkids' room is there to hold a doll house. A small anteroom just outside the master bathroom exists because she needed a place for a French dressing table. A tan marble fireplace in the living room was built especially for a wooden mantel.

"I found that mantel years ago in an antique shop and put some money down on it," Janie remembers.

"I went back with friends every so often and visited it and put a little more money on it. The owner of shop said he'd never had a piece that had so many visitors."

The Carlson house may be new but it holds

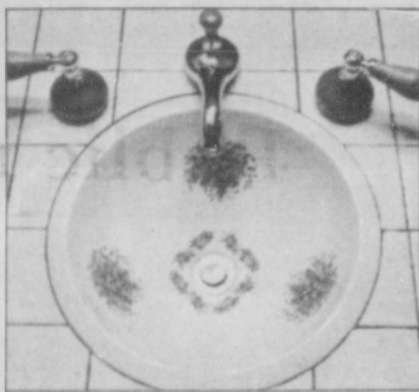
old memories. There is a claw-footed bathtub that was full of gin when they bought it at an auction. "Somebody stole the gin and all we got the was the tub," says Janie. There are shower tiles purchased on a trip to Sweden. And a bathroom sink made by Enna Pottery with the Carlson's name etched in it.

There are luxuries. "Poor Pete works long, hard hours and when he gets home he needs steaming," she says pointing out the gray marble shower stall with a built-in steam bath.

And there are brave touches. To match the smoky blue carpet, Janie had the blue wash put on the oak woodwork in the kitchen and the family room. It took courage to put a coat of blue transparent paint over oak, she admits.

"When it is all done," Janie says, "I want it to look as though it was from another time."

*Living well is the best revenge.*



Blue violets trim bathroom sink.

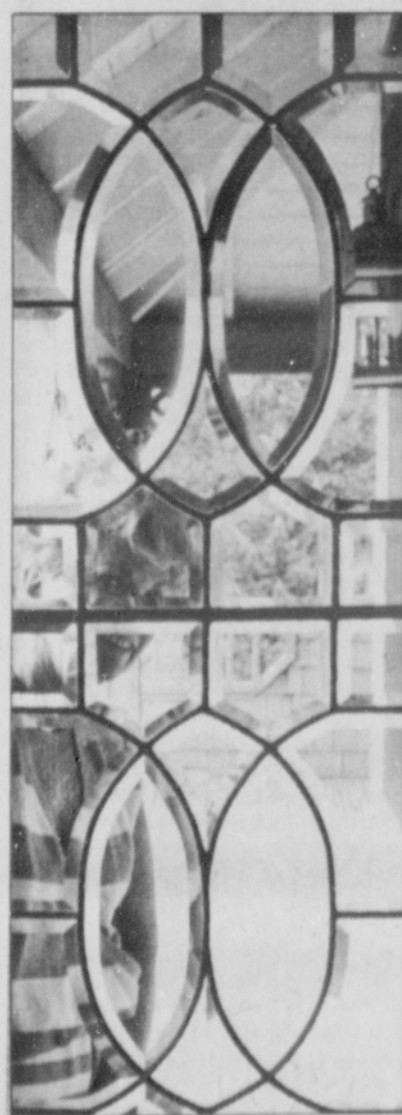
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**Congratulations to JONELLE STROUP**

Jonelle Stroup is prep of the week. She was selected to receive the Cliff O'Harrow Cup, which is given to the most outstanding senior. The nine finalists went through a rigorous application and interview process. Academics, involvement in extracurricular activities and leadership qualities were among the factors taken into consideration. Way to go, Jonelle!



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Builder Mike Nicholson made a door to hold this piece of leaded, beveled glass from Carlson's collection.

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