



Young works in a tight corner.

Staff photos by Terry Farris



Rick Young, right, takes a breather while his wife, Jodi, and son, Ryan, look on.

Real logs bring the quality home

by DAVE PINSON
Staff writer

Rick and Jodi Young are loggers of a sort. They are the sort of loggers who buy 137 freshly cut Douglas Fir trees and peel, stack and split them into a four-bedroom home fit for a millionaire Daniel Boone.

The Youngs have taken it upon themselves to construct a 2,800-square-foot log home out of logs cut down about a month ago in the Springfield area.

The home is going up log by log on their five-acre portion of forest near 362nd Avenue, north of Sandy.

Don't even suggest that the Youngs build a log kit home. Rick, who is a Portland firefighter when he isn't splitting logs, is likely to scoff at the idea.

"The quality of the house comes with the

opportunity to run full-length logs and not have butt-jointed logs," he says.

Monday, he explained why he thinks his choice is better.

"It's this beauty of the natural logs," he said, rubbing his hand along a still-wet log, "not the machined logs."

Rick is 28 and tall enough to remind people that Abe Lincoln once split logs for a living. His wife Jodi manages the small house-shop nearby where they are raising their two sons and their expected child.

Jodi Young was surprised when Rick first broached the subject of building a log home. But now, as the walls take shape and she can envision the carpeting, the kitchen and the rest, Jodi says it's a good idea.

One thing, however, leaves her apprehensive. And that's decorating the inside. She said she watches television shows like "Lit-

tle House on the Prairie" and old westerns for ideas.

The Youngs receive elbow grease help and advice from Mark Fritch, who is a builder of log homes from kits. Fritch and Rick Young have spent about 20 days on log work.

Young said most if not all of the log work will be completed by the end of the month. Then comes the roofing, the interior and the finishing work, he said.

When's the move-in date? Young said it'll be a while yet. "It'd be nice to do it by the end of the year," he said.

And if the family does move in this winter, Young said, it will be moving into a well-insulated home.

"The logs have the ability to absorb the

heat," he said. "They hold a heat where an insulated wall cannot."

Where the logs come together in the corners, Young is using a shrink-to-fit notch to assure against drafts. As the logs dry, they will shrink in size and will provide a tight, weather-secure home, Young said.

Young tried out his theories on a small 10-foot by 15-foot log pump house. The glowing logs and the neatly tiled roof of the pump house attest to the care that he puts into his work.

As for the home under construction, the Youngs now stand on the sawdust-covered plywood floor surrounded by stacked logs that make a man's arm look like a pretzel. They smile in anticipation of their real log home.

"The quality of the house comes with the opportunity to run full-length logs and not have butt-jointed logs. It's this beauty of the natural logs, not the machined logs."

— Rick Young

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