

Clean Fiction
Human Interest
Features

The Advocate

True Stories
Achievement
Stories

W. B. Ziff Co., 608 S. Dearborn St., Chicago Advertising Representatives BEN DAVIS, Jr. Feature Editor THE ILLUSTRATED FEATURE SECTION—March 14, 1931 Pictures in the Illustrated Feature Section were posed, and do not depict principals unless so captioned.

The "Mystery House"—Nothing Else Like It in the World

Superstition's Own Residence with Its "Goofy" Stairways, Trap-doors and Secret Passageways

By DON CHARLES

John H. Brown, formerly a resident of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, occupies the world's largest and oddest building. It contains 160 rooms and covers six acres. It is so large and rambling that even Mr. Brown must have



WORLD'S LARGEST RESIDENCE
FRONT VIEW
NEAR SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA



WINCHESTER, MYSTERY HOUSE NEAR SAN JOSE, CALIF.
FORMER HOME WINCHESTER, CT. WORLD'S

within a few weeks of each other, a tiny babe and a beloved husband. These events had a shattering influence and caused her to leave her girlhood home to seek a happier spot in the West. Because of this experience, she became imbued with the idea that she should build and build. It was thus that the strangest house in the world came to exist.

This former home of Mrs. Winchester is now known as the Mystery House. For thirty-six years it was in continuous process of construction. Millions of dollars were spent. The interiors were finished in costly hardwoods, with doors and windows of art glass inlaid with German silver and bronze, while from the ceilings hang gold and silver chandeliers. A number of the art windows are now valued at \$1,000 each and the main entrance doors at \$2,000.

STRANGE ROOMS

Many of the rooms were built "as spirits directed," and are equipped with blind chimneys, stairs that go nowhere, hundreds of closets, some of which

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the place marked off with arrows in order that he may not be lost within his own house.

Mrs. Sarah L. Winchester, wife of the famous rifle manufacturer, built the house and was building it right up to the time of her

death. In fact, she believed that as long as she continued to build it she would continue to live.

Nearly fifty years ago, in New Haven, Connecticut, devoted a young wife, lost

Above—Front view of the mystery house, a beautiful and fascinating structure
Left—Interesting back view of the strangest house in the world. Note the numerous steeple like structures that indent the top in the background.
Below Left—The sun porch with floor skylight.
Below Right—This is a scene from the interior of the gigantic freak, showing the goofy stairway. There are 7 flights, and 44 steps to go up 10 feet.



SUN PORCH WITH FLOOR SKYLIGHT
NEAR SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA



INTERIOR OF A GIANTIC FREAK.
THE GOOFY STAIRWAY
7 FLIGHTS, 44 STEPS TO GO UP 10 FEET.
WINCHESTER, MYSTERY HOUSE
NEAR SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

A Striking Double-page Feature on Pages 4 and 5 of this Issue