

BITS 'n PIECES

* By NANCY FARMER

"Town's Oldest Structure to be Mobile Home." A mobile home? You must be kidding, I said; When the article about the old Cook homeplace in the Thursday's Tribune, I read.

Intrigued by the picture of the old Cook homeplace I fell to wondering about it. Who wouldn't like to step across the worn and splintery threshold and take a peek inside? And once inside, to step ever so lightly on the wide boards of the floor, and listen to them creak as they spring back in place.

To look closely at the 200-year-old logs on the inside; chinked between with some air-tight substance, long since dried out, crisped, and curled at the edges, and fallen away.

To peer up the old brick chimney, step upon the wide stone hearth, the stones dug out of the North Carolina mountain side, and put in place by strong young hands, with an eye to setting up housekeeping for himself and bride. And remember, as you stand, little ones who've warmed their toes by the log fire on wintry nights. Hear the howling storm around the side of the house, and feel the sting of the wind as it whistles cruelly and creeps through the crevices.

See in your mind's eye a rocking chair, high-back wicker, curved, where an old man sat smoking his corn-cob pipe. And across the hearth from him, another rocker, where Grandma sat with her knitting in her lap, straining her already age-dimmed eyes by the lamp light from the table at her elbow.

One can almost see, even smell, old Spot. Aged too, lame now and almost blind, lying at Grandma's feet. Content just to be alive and asking nothing in return for his devotion, he relaxes, his whiskered face resting on his front paws.

Glimpse the old farm kitchen, off from the rest of the house. See the fire where the wood stove stood, and smell across the years, the butter milk biscuits rising in the oven, baking to a golden brown. Watch the sparks, like diamonds, as they belch out from the top of the chimney, and spread out, whipped by the early morning wind, across the roof on a cold, wintry morning.

Hear Grandma, trudging through the snow to the barn, lantern swinging in his hand, to milk old Bossey.

Picture the long wooden bench behind the hand-made wooden table, against the chinked wall. Run your fingers along the edge of the table and feel the scars, the nicks, put there by a young farm lad who, still in knee breeches, finds no more convenient place to try out his prized possession, his new pocket-knife.

Peer through the small pane of the window at the sunset. See it in all its beauty. And dream along with those who lived and dreamed in other years . . . whose dreams are all gone . . . either shattered or fulfilled . . . but whose memory is cherished, whose tin types grace the albums of their descendants . . . stuck away in some one's attic . . . relics of another day . . . another age.

Oh . . . for a glimpse into the old Cook homestead! 'Twould be a glimpse into another world . . . and somehow we, of the 20th century, might find it refreshing.

Maybe some day I shall. Who knows?

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Cattle Rustling Has Become Big Business

A hundred years or so ago a man caught with someone else's cattle wound up dancing on air from the nearest cotton-wood tree.

Cattle rustling is still big business, but the risks have declined considerably. Colorado officials say they often are hard-pressed to get a judge to take the crime seriously.

"You take a fellow who's been caught re-handling stolen cattle," Colorado State Sheriff Vince Blanco agreed. "and unless he's got a prior record, the judge puts him on probation and he's right back at it."

Many attorneys say they would rather defend a rustler than prosecute him because the chances of winning the case are better.

Colorado Logan County Sheriff Vince Blanco agreed. "You've almost got to catch them in the act," he said. "What makes it so bad is that farmers don't check their pastures for several days at a time. By the time they discover their loss and report it, their livestock has probably gone through an auction several hundred miles away."

High meat prices these days have caused some persons to go "shopping" in ranchers' pastures. Livestock rustling, a multi-million-dollar-a-year business, has taken a sharp upward swing during the past several years. Although no national tabulation of losses is available, estimates are that livestock losses due to rustling this year could reach \$30 million.

In Colorado, sheriffs throughout the state report on scattered instances of cattle, sheep and hog rustling. Authorities credit stiff brand laws in the state for keeping the situation in hand.

"But several Eastern states, among them Iowa, have asked us for copies of our brand regulations to cut down on the sale of stolen beef," Rowe said.

"It's gotten to the point in some states where you can sell a whole truckload of stolen livestock at public auction with no questions asked."

American National Cattleman's Association records reveal the extent of the problem. In 1971, estimated rustling losses were \$15 million nationwide. Texas authorities estimated a loss of \$1.75 million last year and Alabama authorities predicted farmers and ranchers there would lose \$1 million this year.

One of the areas hardest hit by rustling is the Southeast, a relative newcomer to the livestock industry. Officials in Florida and Alabama say the size of ranches, often as large as 500,000 acres, makes policing extremely difficult.

Methods used by rustlers vary. Some livestock thieves simply wait until a rancher and his family are gone, back up to

his loading chute and drive off with his herd.

An easier but less profitable scheme is to shoot an animal in a pasture, cut off the choice hindquarters and leave the rest to rot.

Insurance company officials say farmers and ranchers are compensated for only a small percentage of their actual losses. A primary reason is that most policies require that the insurance company be notified within 24 hours of the theft. Ranchers often don't discover the loss until days, or weeks, afterward.

Some state livestock organizations have set up their own groups to combat rustling. The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association last year reported its special agents had solved more than 200 cases involving over \$2 million in stolen livestock.

In Florida, a state livestock association offers a \$500 reward for conviction of a rustler, and some county agencies there offer as much as \$1,000.

Eddie Williams, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Williams of Union Grove, route 1, has been selected as the 1973 Iredell County Star Farmer.

The program locally is sponsored by the Statesville Farm Mills.

A member of the North Iredell FFA Chapter, Williams was selected for this honor on the basis of his outstanding supervised practice program and his leadership and scholastic ability.

He has been an active and encouraging member of the North Iredell Chapter and Vocational Agriculture Department since 1970.

His supervised practice program involves raising and marketing feeder pigs and crops. He presently has a five-bred sow operation and 34 sows which he owns, operates and manages. He recently constructed a modern 18-sow farrowing house.

He lives on a dairy farm in New Hope township and helps his father in operating mostly. His hog operation is his own in which he works part-time. His father, brother, and young Williams milk and care for 60 dairy cows with very little help.

Williams recently received a District Electrification Award at the State FFA Convention. He is a senior at North Iredell High and, after graduation, will attend N. C. State University and study agriculture.

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KITCHEN SEPARATES BREAKFAST, DINING ROOMS

in the basement and an adjoining shop and storage room that is slightly larger. Both rooms exit under the above deck.

Four bedrooms are neatly arranged on the second floor which comprises slightly less than half of the 2,249 square feet of space contained in the house. The first floor contains 1,208 square feet. Two equal size bedrooms are located on the front of the house. Both have ample closet space with one having a walk-in closet. Window placement allows plenty of unused wall space. A third adjoining bedroom offers easy access across the hall to a bath.

The family room opens onto an outside deck with protective handrail. Three windows offer an excellent view from the family room.

The breakfast room is partially divided from the family room by a three foot high partition and the breakfast room has a view onto an outside deck.

The 502 square foot garage on the front of the house has entrance to the hall and foyer area. An attractive stone walk leads to the front stoop of the house and there is a court area perfect for planting beside the walk.

For further information on plan no. 2229 write W. D. Farmer, P.O. Box 49463, Atlanta, Ga. 30329.

By W. D. Farmer

This charming two story rustic dwelling has the kitchen separating the breakfast room and dining room. The latter also has the added privacy afforded by a wall between it and the kitchen.

A major feature of the entire house is its useful basement containing 711 square feet. There is a large play room with a fireplace

in the basement and an adjoining shop and storage room that is slightly larger. Both rooms exit under the above deck.

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Before-The-Job Training Underway At Bernhardt

Pinkney A. Lail, right, an instructor in the furniture division at Catawba Valley Technical Institute, Hickory, instructs John Tucker, left, of Statesville and Claude Campbell of Troutman in the use of a cut-off saw. Actually, he's warning

CVTI Training Staff, Employees At Bernhardt's Troutman Plant

A major innovation in technical education is in the works at Catawba Valley Technical Institute in Hickory. Bernhardt Industries Inc., headquartered in Lenoir, is building a 395,000-square-foot, 8.95-acre case goods plant in the Iredell County town of Troutman, and the CVTI furniture division is training nearly everyone in the new plant for their new jobs.

"This is the first time a technical institute has ever taken on a project of this magnitude," commented Robert E. Bliss of Morganton, chairman of CVTI's furniture division, widely known for one of the finest facilities and instructional programs of its kind in the South.

"We're going to train the big majority of employees in this new plant," Bliss added, "from the top supervisors to technical people such as expeditors, inventory control clerks and supply room personnel to the machine operators themselves."

Now in its second week of operation, the ambitious new training program began on the CVTI campus Sept. 10 with a 32-hour, concentrated supervisory training program for all first-line supervisors who will work in the new Troutman plant.

"Bernhardt has been hiring nearly all of their personnel in the Troutman area," Bliss said, noting that some of the supervisors will be transferred from Bernhardt's furniture production units in other cities such as Lenoir and Statesville.

This week the program began its second phase with two supervisors and 12 machine operators training in two teams at the extensive furniture production laboratory on the CVTI campus. Six machine operators are assigned to each newly trained supervisor.

"At this point, we have no feel whatever for how long it's going to take to complete this

training," the CVTI division chairman said. "Whether it's 15 weeks, 30 weeks or 50 weeks—anything within reason—we're going to stay with it until the job is done."

Currently, the new Bernhardt personnel are receiving instruction 8 a.m. to noon, five days per week, on the CVTI campus, and Bliss estimates that it will take two or three weeks for each person to gain "a working knowledge of how to operate three or four different machines."

While one group is training in sanding and rough mill work, another group, also composed of six operators and one supervisor, will be training in finishing room machinery and cabinet room work.

After these first 12 machine operators have a "working knowledge" of the necessary equipment, another group of 12 trainees and two supervisors will receive instruction on the CVTI campus for about three weeks, then a third group.

Bliss feels that the emphasis of the training project should be able to shift from the CVTI furniture lab to the plant in Troutman within about 10 weeks.

"After each of the three groups of machine operators is trained on the CVTI campus during approximately a three-week period," he explains, "Then they go back to the Troutman plant and assist in the training of other employees in their areas of work."

The CVTI furniture division head adds that, in addition to personnel already trained by the institute, further training in the plant itself will be conducted by two CVTI furniture instructors assigned to the Troutman plant permanently.

Meanwhile, Bliss and several Bernhardt officials will be supervising the entire training project, "recording and developing information in an effort to help other companies."

"Furthermore, all of the people taking part in this project will be getting the same kind of training. Instead of just learning a job, everybody in a given area will be hearing the same thing."

What implications does the Bernhardt project have for the future of technical education? Bliss concludes, "We hope to have, someday soon, a special training team which will do nothing but work with starting up new plants, provided of course the Bernhardt project is as successful as we feel it will be."

Such a training team, he added, would consist of a project coordinator who would assist in management training, a person to coordinate the training of machine operators and a technical advisor who would train technical personnel.

FOR WATCH REPAIRING SEE Hoyle Setzer 118 N. Main

Instructions For A Spool Sander H. Ray Denton, left, an instructor in the furniture division at Catawba Valley Technical Institute, Hickory, teachers Junior Moore of Troutman the operation of a spool sander in the school's furniture laboratory. Moore, an employee of Bernhardt Industries in Troutman, is taking part in the company's special training program at CVTI.

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Instructions For A Spool Sander

H. Ray Denton, left, an instructor in the furniture division at Catawba Valley Technical Institute, Hickory, teachers Junior Moore of Troutman the operation of a spool sander in the school's furniture laboratory. Moore, an employee of Bernhardt Industries in Troutman, is taking part in the company's special training program at CVTI.

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