



Photo courtesy Missouri Ruralist.

Second floor of converted barn contains main living area and kitchen. Bedrooms are located on the third floor.

"A GREAT PLACE TO RAISE CHILDREN."

Old Barn Makes Warm Inviting Farm Home

By Joe Link

Friday the 13th. An ominous date for almost everyone, but especially for Sylvia and Mark Dove. On that day 10 years ago, their farmhouse burned to the ground, leaving them and their 8 children homeless.

But the Doves are a resourceful family, and they weren't about to let fire get the better of them. They just moved into their barn.

"It certainly isn't your Better Homes and Gardens-type house," says Sylvia. "But it's made a good home. It's been a good place to raise our children."

The fire came 3 years after the Doves made a 3-month trek across the U.S., looking for a place where their children could get a quality education, a place where "kids would feel good about themselves." They found what they were looking for on a Jackson, Mo., farm. Eighty acres, a nice farmhouse, and a 40-year-old barn just up the hill. A dream come true.

Fire might have changed their dream a little, but it certainly didn't destroy it.

Sylvia, with tape measure and notebook in hand, went to the barn. She drew up the plans and a local handyman did most of the work. Sylvia and Mark did insulation and

wiring. Three months after the fire — and after spending all their savings — the Doves moved into their new home.

On the bottom floor, cement was poured over pipes and gravel to give them a large area for laundry and play. An original shed for wood storage and a new garage are attached.

On the second floor is the kitchen and great room, a large area with earth tones. "We wanted to keep it rustic, keep it simple." The Doves used barn siding for the walls, and brick-looking flooring over the oak floor. The room is warm and inviting. Picture windows offer a spectacular view of the valley below. A wood stove sits by one wall, its flue channeled through a silo the Doves built onto the side of their house-barn. The silo looks original.

The bedrooms — just 3 altogether — are on the third floor. The girls' room has 2 beds. The boys' room has 9 bunks against one wall, 3 high and 3 long. Along the opposite wall are storage shelves, color-coded to help the boys keep personal possessions separate. Next door is the master bedroom, and completing the floor are 2 bathrooms. And, of course, there's a well-planned escape route in case of fire.

DEUTZ-ALLIS LETS CUSTOMERS DRIVE THE COMPETITION

Tournament Of Combines

Competitive combines met in the field at the Tournament of Combines held last fall near Rochelle, Ill.

Sponsored by Deutz-Allis, the event allowed the nearly 500 farmers in attendance to drive and inspect several different makes of machines in one place. The Illinois field day was one of a series of three held throughout the Midwest last fall.

"It's a great opportunity to see several makes of combines together," says Ralph Pribnow, a Mayville, Wis., farmer who attended the event with the idea of trading combines. He got a close look not only at the Gleaner machines but also Deere, International, Massey Ferguson, and New Holland.

After a field harvesting comparison test, combine specialists brought each brand in front of the crowd to

evaluate the machines and answer questions.

Carl Zajack, a Deutz-Allis dealer from Thorp Wis., brought seven customers down on one of several busses from Wisconsin.

"It's more convincing when we're able to get farmers here to demonstrate and explain the differences among combines," he explains. "It's also a good opportunity for them to talk amongst themselves about the machines."

Tom Stadtmueller, marketing manager at the Gleaner Combine Plant in Independence, Mo., says the idea for the Tournament of Combines started four years ago with dealers in southern Indiana. He notes that the farmers get a chance to operate any or all of the machines and that some farmers never even try the Gleaners.

ICE-COVERED STRUCTURE "STANDS IN" FOR THE ROCKIES

Rock-Climbing Farmer Scales Silo "Mountain"

When Bob and Karen Grenzow returned to their farm near Elkhorn, Wis., after attending a mountain climbing school in the Colorado Rockies, they needed a place to practice. They found a big challenge right out by the barn — their 45-ft. silo.

"We go out west whenever we can but our ice-covered silo gives us a good workout in the meantime," says Bob Grenzow. He simply strings a garden hose to the top of the unused, empty silo, attaches four herbicide fan-type nozzles to it, and waits for cold weather. Once started, it takes 1½ to 2 weeks to make enough ice to climb. The ice is generally about 4-ft. thick at the bottom.

Bob and Karen climb the ice with ice axes in hand and spiked shoes, called crampons, on their feet. They always use a rope for safety.

"By making a few minor adjustments with the nozzles we've found that we can vary the degree of difficulty of the climb. If we want a wider base or more vertical ice near the top, we simply direct the spray to the spot. We can also create different routes to the top. As for the climbing itself, we've found it to be as difficult, or even more difficult, than many of the natural ice climbs



By changing the angle of water nozzles, the Grenzows can vary the difficulty of their "ice climbs".

in the Rockies," says Bob.

The Grenzows, who raise veal calves, say they've had interest from other climbers who want to rent time on their silo but say they've refused for liability reasons.

The house-barn has worked fine, says Sylvia, but it hasn't been without problems. One slight inconvenience is that all the ceilings are only 7 feet tall. Also, the second-story floor slopes somewhat.

The Doves have no regrets about making a home from an old barn with a tin roof.

Says Sylvia: "It makes a lovely sound whenever it rains."

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mark and Sylvia Dove, Rt. 1, Jackson, Mo. 63755 (ph 314 833-6956).

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