

## She Built Her Own Victorian Mansion

Georgia McNeely, 79, has proven to be quite a “handywoman” in her later years. She’s carved furniture, assembled grandfather clocks, split cedar shingles and wired a house — all in miniature.

Her 14-room Victorian mansion dollhouse is the result of 25 years of work. “I’ve always been a little bit creative,” says the Scottsburg, Ind., woman. “I used to paint and enjoyed that. It’s hard to quit when I start something.”

McNeely built her first dollhouse for her daughter when she was young, carving the furnishings out of soap. When she discovered the dollhouse in the attic in the mid 70’s she decided to build a big dollhouse for herself. She was inspired by a photo of a Victorian funeral home and drew up blueprints on a 1-in. to 1-ft. scale.

Built solidly of 1/2-in. plywood glued and nailed together, it’s 4 ft. tall, 4 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep. The dollhouse takes three people to move. McNeely cut real glass and etched designs into some of the windows. The roof is made of shakes that her husband Delmar cut into 1-in. blocks and she split with a butcher knife and hammer. The cedar came from a tree cut on Delmar’s family’s farmstead. The siding is yellow poplar.

McNeely used a table saw to cut many of the pieces for the house. But when it came to furnishings she started with her husband’s pocketknife. Her first piece was a walnut wood rocking chair. She eventually graduated

to a professional carving set to carve intricate Queen Anne-style furniture. McNeely says she never really mastered it, but those who look at her work disagree.

McNeely is proud of a grandfather clock she built that actually works with a moon face timepiece, jewelry chain and weights. The house is full of detailed woodwork — a spiral staircase, bookcases with books (blocks of wood) bound in leather, four-poster beds, fireplace, hardwood floors and chandeliers, for example.

“My eyes were good then,” McNeely says, noting she used a large magnifying glass to help with the tiny details.

She spent hours of library research to make the furnishings and decorate the house. She bought a book on electrical wiring and wired the entire house with mini lights. She hid the transformer and wire leads in the attic under a section of roof that she can access.

People of all ages love the dollhouse. It brings joy to friends who visit and her 7 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Because the front and back of the house open up and the dollhouse is on a lazy susan, it’s easy to view every room close up and get lost in the beautiful, small world McNeely created with her own hands.

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Georgia McNeely built this 14-room Victorian mansion dollhouse. It measures 4 ft. tall, 4 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep.



Many spent hours of library research helped her design furnishings to decorate the house.



Dollhouse is full of detailed woodwork, including four-poster beds (left) and intricate Queen Anne-style furniture.



Newly repowered Cub Cadet, right, is equipped with three home-built exhaust pipes on each side.

## Repowered Cub Cadet Sports Pickup Engine

“A few years ago FARM SHOW featured the 1970 Cub Cadet that my friend Dale Lemmerman and I repowered with a 3-cyl. Geo Metro car engine (Vol. 30, No. 6). We recently made a similar conversion to another identical Cub Cadet, only this time we installed the V-6, 2.8-liter gas engine out of a 1984 GMC truck. Now we each drive our own repowered Cub Cadet through antique tractor and engine shows,” says Carlo Shefveld, Brooklyn Center, Minn.

“The V-6 engine called for us to lengthen the tractor frame by 4 in., which we didn’t have to do with the Geo Metro engine,” says Shefveld.

Both sides of the engine are equipped with three curved exhaust stacks, for looks. A seat

for a passenger can be attached and is supported by a single caster wheel that hooks up to the tractor drawbar. The tractor still has its original 3-speed transmission.

The truck engine didn’t leave room for the tractor’s original steering sector. To solve the problem they replaced the original steering sector with one they made out of the tractor’s discarded drive gear. They also made a new radiator to give more cooling for the bigger engine, and they added a new mechanical fan.

“We chose the engine from the 1984 GMC truck because it had a carburetor instead of electronic fuel injection,” says Shefveld.

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Kuvasz dogs are large and well-built with a coarse, wavy white coat. The breed originated in Hungary and was kept as a prized pet by royalty in the Middle Ages.

## Kuvasz Breed Makes Great Guard Dog

The Kuvasz dog breed originated in Hungary and was kept as a prized pet by royalty in the Middle Ages and as a watchdog by shepherds. Today, there are only a handful of breeders scattered across North America.

Kuvasz dogs are large and well built with a coarse, wavy coat of white. This is the outer coat; the undercoat is actually quite soft. These fast, graceful dogs have handsome heads and dark eyes. Males measure 26 to 30 in. at the shoulder and weigh 115 lbs. or more. Female Kuvasz dogs are 24 to 28 in. at the shoulder and weigh roughly 80 lbs. Their lifespan is about 12 years.

Kuvasz dogs are very intelligent and protective. They’re strong willed, and will stubbornly defend whatever they consider their own, including their masters. The dogs do require training and discipline right from puppyhood, but that love and attention will pay off later in the dog’s life.

They’re normally kept outside, partly because they’re so big, but also because of their prolific shedding. If kept indoors, tufts of white hair will most likely be seen everywhere.

Although they do make good family pets, these dogs are best at serving as a protector outside, which was their original role. They’re ideal for standing guard for livestock and home.

“This breed has amazing instincts in the area of guardianship,” says Jane DeJong, of Brucefield, Ont., whose family has bred the dogs for 10 years. “They tend to train themselves easily, knowing their job and their territory. They’re amazing at predator control and never need to be kept in the flock or behind the fence. They protect the whole property from outside the fence. They’re the most cost effective and reliable source for farm protection, and are different than other breeds currently used because they fill two roles -- they need the human family bond as well as the property and livestock responsibilities. Most other livestock guardian dogs have to be left with the livestock and not have any human contact in order to do their job. Another bonus of this breed is that they are hypoallergenic to most people.”

The DeJong family sells pups for \$1,000, which includes breed registration, all health clearances, first shots and a vet check. They ship by air to anywhere required.

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