

Nestled in the open countryside is the quiet little town of Avon. There you will find one of the oldest homes in rural South Dakota.

Built in 1903, the Greenfield Home served as the social center point for many years.

For the last 24 years, Charles and JoAnn Bryan have called the Greenfield Home their home, and it all happened by chance.

The couple, originally from White River, had lived in Springfield for several years while Charles worked at the Springfield College. When the college closed they moved to Iowa.

Still owning the home in Springfield, it was during a visit in 1986 that the Bryan's path in life changed.

One of their grown kids said they were going to an estate auction in Avon. Not having plans to attend, Charles and JoAnn headed towards Springfield. Charles says when they got to the Springfield turn they decided to go ahead and just check out the auction "with no plans to buy anything."

As it turned out the auction was for the Greenfield Home and its contents.

"We wanted to see the house because we'd never seen it. But they had it closed — having had an open house earlier."

They convinced the auctioneer to allow them to walk through the house. And to their surprise they knew the lady selling the home — in fact they had known her for years and never knew she owned this home.

Through the encouragement of their son, that day ended with the Bryans as the proud owners of an 83-year-old home.

"It was in tough shape when we bought it. The roof was leaking and it hadn't had any maintenance repair in probably 30 years," said Charles.

And so began a journey to restore the home that would take the Bryans two years and many miles driven. Just about every weekend was spent

in Avon making repairs to the old home.

"It was a lot of work and a lot of fun. We did basically all the work ourselves except for the roof."

There was no furniture at the house during those two years except for lawn chairs and two large tables that they could use as workbenches or to stand on.

"We had two Thanksgivings and two Christmases in the house before we even put furniture in. And really they were some of the best holidays," says JoAnn.

Thankfully there wasn't much work to be done inside the home. There was some water damage from the roof leaking. And of course, it needed fresh paint and wallpaper. Charles says they were happy they didn't have to repair or replace the woodwork — which is believed to be original to the home.

"The woodwork in the home, we never

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This statue of Shakespeare is located on the banister for the stairs leading upstairs. It was originally a gas powered light but has since been converted to electrical



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