



towel racks and photo frames wrapped in Christmas paper on the walls.

"I bought the shower curtain and towels because I had wrapping paper that matched. I was going to put the paper on the walls, but when I got everything up except for the wrapping paper, I changed my mind," she said. "That's just too much."

One of the upstairs guest bedrooms dubbed "the modern room" features snowy scenes from Country Living and modern looking Christmas décor.

"I change the pictures with the seasons," Faye said. "I think this room is done. Maybe."

Another of the guest rooms features two wooden Santas, several antique toys including a pedal car, and a church pew.

"The Santas stay here all year-round," Faye said. "I don't have anywhere else to store them, so they just stay put."

Faye said she no longer plans to buy new items until after Christmas when the discounts are in effect, but every once in a while something will catch her eye before the holiday.

"It's hard," she said. "I try not to buy anything until after Christmas, but I'm not very good at it."

She also bought a lot of items at auctions and has been given a lot of family heirlooms.

"I'm very lucky to have a lot of family stuff," Faye said. "Most

of what I have is from family or auctions. I have a lot of nice things, but I didn't spend a lot of money for them. I'm cheap."

It usually takes Faye about a week to put everything up.

"I usually start just before Thanksgiving and have it done when I get back from Thanksgiving with my husband's family in Pennsylvania," she said. "It's a long process, because I do clean all the windows and pull everything away from the walls and clean. When I put it away, I do the same thing except it takes a little longer because I have a lot of things in their original boxes and I have to find the right boxes and put things away in an organized fashion."

Faye and Pete have lived in their house for nine years and have had many happy times.

"I work in Sioux City and my husband works in Sioux Falls. We have discussed one of us switching jobs and moving to either Sioux City or Sioux Falls, but we're happy where we are so we'll just keep driving. This house has been a lot of fun. We've had a lot of great Christmases here."

■ by Tera Schmidt & Photos by Kathy Larson

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