



Above: The dining room table once belonged to Diane's grandparents. It was a wedding gift to them in 1915. Below: Diane gives a lot of credit to her father for helping her work on the house. As a tribute to him, located by the front door, Diane has his hat and gloves hanging from a coat rack that no one else gets to use.



tractor understand what her vision was.

In the process of moving walls Diane discovered that there was one room that they didn't know was there. The little room became the stairwell to the basement, since it was too late to change things.

"One of the regrets I have is not knowing that at one time there was a doorway that lead straight into the dining room."

Diane is really grateful of her contractor and electrician because the showed her how to do a lot of the things herself.

"Not many would do that for you," she said.

To anyone that asks, Diane says the house isn't done yet. There are still things she wants to do.

"I tried to keep the house looking like it could have looked 111 years ago."

Many of the items inside the house were taken from other homes that were either being thrown away or destroyed. Everything from flooring to columns and fireplace mantles were things Diane found herself or family and friends told her about. Even some of the artwork on the walls were at one time windows.

"The majority is hand-me-downs, auctions, or given by friends," said Diane.

"We had so many people help us. It was tough times. I was working a lot of jobs — but it was amazing how many people believed in us. That was worth it."

Diane got the idea for a B&B from a sister-in-laws parents. They ran a B&B in Iowa and she thought, "I can do this."

Diane's little Bed & Breakfast has become popular over the years. Most of Diane's business comes from word of mouth. And it has worked for her so far.

She has hosted visitors from all over the United States, as well as Australia, Germany, England and Canada. The guest registry has welcomed a Miss Nebraska and Adrian Fiala, the Voice of the Huskers.

"It's fun because when they come in they are strangers, and when they leave we're friends."

Many times the house is filled with music from guests to the B&B. In one instance, four seminar-ians who practiced their a cappella in the house. One morning, local priest Fr. Loeske said Mass for the group in the living room. Another time, Diane says, a guest practiced wedding music on a large 16th century bass in the living room.

The home is so beautiful that the home and the yard have been used for many wedding photos.

Through out the entire project Diane says her motto is "I think I can – I think I can," from "The Little Engine That Could."

"Being raised by my parents who worked morning till night - their 12 children all learned a great work ethic. If you want something bad enough - you have to work for it."

That was something she really needed to get things done in this house, said Diane.

"I had a vision and great family and friends who helped in one way or another and I can't thank them all enough. My children learned a lot in the process and have taken that experience with them. Sometimes things don't go the way you want them to in life, you get knocked down, but you have to get back up and keep trying.

The house isn't finished yet, and maybe it never will be. But I'll keep trying."

■ Story by Heidi Henson and Photos by Kathy Larson

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