



This renovated grain elevator serves as Curtis and Shirley Wik's 5-story summer home.

Elevator Home Is A Living Museum

By Janis Schole, Contributing Editor

If it could talk, Curtis and Shirley Wik's summer home at Faulkton, S. Dak., would have a lot of stories to tell. The home is a renovated grain elevator that was built in 1900 and sold to Curtis' father John in 1937 for \$200.

The unique five-story home is both attractive and comfortable, all the while displaying numerous examples of its previous life.

"My dad used this elevator for on-farm grain storage for 23 years and it sat empty for many years before and after that. It's now a place to show off nostalgia and reminders of earlier days," Curtis says. "I've spent the last 30 years slowly renovating and decorating it in my spare time. I used winter months to refinish antique furniture, make artwork and nine stained glass windows so far."

The elevator's original crib walls and huge ceiling beams are left exposed, as is a section of the wooden grain leg, complete with a window to show the interior buckets and belts.

A spiral staircase joins the second and third floor. There's room for just about everything,

including a sewing room, game room and nostalgic "schoolroom." You never forget you're in a former grain elevator. For instance, a wall in the main bathroom is plexiglass with real corn behind it.

Family heirlooms and antiques with local history help complete the atmosphere. Wik's grandkids enjoy the fire pole he installed between the first and second floors, as well as an underground play area with an escape tunnel to the outside.

The third-floor ice cream room is Wik's pride and joy, as it houses an authentic soda fountain from Jones Drug Store in Miller, S. Dak., a root beer barrel, and fan lights powered by a line shaft.

The fourth floor houses two Lionel train exhibits. The cupola (5th floor) is almost complete.

"Over the last several years, we've had more than 300 people per year sign our guest book," Shirley points out.

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Plexiglass wall in the main bathroom has real corn behind it.



Wik's pride and joy is this third-floor ice cream room. It houses an authentic soda fountain, a root beer barrel, and fan lights powered by a line shaft.



Richard Heimberger's grandchildren have fun playing on this home-built, portable teeter totter. It rides on a pair of 4-ft. high steel wheels off an old hay tedder.

Simple Firewood "Unloader"

Unloading firewood from a trailer is an easy job for Harry Scott of Walsenburg, Colo. "I use a piece of chain link fence," he says.

He bolted a pair of 2 by 4's to each end of a 22-ft. long, 4-ft. wide section of fence. His homemade trailer, built from an old pickup bed, is 8 ft. long. Before loading firewood into the trailer, he pulls one end of the fence forward onto the trailer floor until the back end hangs over the trailer's tailgate, then lays the front over the front end of the trailer.

He manually throws firewood into the trailer on top of the fence. Once the trailer is full, he pulls the front end of the fence back over the top of the firewood pile. Then he runs a chain from his loader bucket to the fence. Then he uses the tractor to pull the entire load of wood off the trailer and onto the ground. Or if he wants, instead of backing up the tractor, he can drive the trailer forward out from under the wood. Either way, the firewood ends up in a pile on the ground.

"Firewood is much easier to stack when you can pick it up directly off the ground, instead of having to reach over the sides of a trailer," says Scott.

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To unload firewood from trailer, Harry Scott just uses a length of chain link fence.

Portable Teeter Totter

"After building a swing set for my grandchildren, they asked for a teeter totter. Not wanting a couple of mud holes to develop under a teeter totter in my yard, I decided to build a portable one," says Richard Heimberger, Lucas, Ohio.

After acquiring a set of 4-ft. high steel wheels off an old hay tedder, he built a teeter totter that his grand children can move around anywhere they want to play. He used a length of steel pipe for the axle. The kids sit on a 2

by 10 wooden board with a metal frame on the bottom side to stiffen it up. He also scalloped out both ends of the board to make it more comfortable for the rider's legs. Finally, he painted the seat purple, the wheels red, and the handles yellow.

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