

## CASTLE STORY

By Lee Werner

The story started over 65 years ago when I was a little girl. I loved fairy tales, and always dreamed that when I grew up I would be able to live in a castle.

When we bought this property (220 acres) we planned to build our house down by the lake and waterfall, and my husband (Dale) picked a place by the lake to build his building for his business. I had a ceramic and porcelain business and needed to have my building near the entrance to the property. This is when I decided to build my Castle. Dale asked me to draw what I wanted. So I drew a building with 2 towers (one on each side) of the building, a door in the middle and the battlements on top. I showed Dale the drawings and said this is what I would like to have.

A few days later Dale came to me and said he liked my idea of building a castle. He asked me to draw some plans for our house. I spent a lot of time trying different layouts for everything we needed. After a while I decided we needed to build 4 buildings:

1. A building large enough to hold all my molds and all my hobbies.
2. A building for Dale's business.
3. A building to put all our equipment in (tractors, trucks, saw mill, etc.).
4. Our house.

The house was going to be a one story house for us to live in. Then one day I thought that since this was a castle why not put in a couple of secret passageways for the grandchildren. They would have a lot of fun playing in them.

Shortly after this Dale and I went out to dinner with our daughter and her husband (Debbie and John). I told them about the secret passageways and Debbie said why don't you put in some other things and open it up to the public. That would give you and dad something to do when you retired.

I looked at our plans for the house and started to see a lot of places to put in secret passageways, hidden rooms, hidden staircases, etc. I showed Dale some of my ideas and he came up with some more. So our house began to grow. We now have plans for secret passageways, secret rooms, hidden staircases, a maze, a fun house, an observatory, a treasure room and many more surprises for people to find when they come to stay at the castle.

### TOUR OF THE CASTLE:

You walk across the draw bridge over the moat, into the portico, and then to the front door. As you enter the front door, you will be standing in the entrance hall with its 32' ceiling. In front of you is the grand staircase to the second floor. To the right is the Chapel. Behind the chapel are the bride and groom's rooms. Both these rooms have full bathrooms.

To the left of the entrance hall is a formal dining room. Those who would like to have a small dinner party or occasion would be welcome to rent this room. For those who would like to have a larger occasion there is the large ballroom in the back. On nice days your party would be able

to expand from the ballroom to the covered patio outside and into the courtyard.

In the ballroom area are plans for four restrooms.

On the other side of the dining room is the kitchen. The tower on the left side of the castle is part of the kitchen. Behind the tower is the working kitchen and behind this is space for the walk in freezer and refrigerator, warming trays, etc., a pantry and storage space.

From the entrance hall to the right on the other side of the chapel are the master living quarters, running from the tower on the right side to the back of the castle. The tower is the sitting room, then the bedroom, 2 walk-in closets, bath, laundry room.

Back to the entrance hall and up the stairs. The staircase goes halfway up then splits to the left and right to the second floor. On the second floor are 9 guest suites ( four in front including the two towers and five in the back), laundry room and an exercise room. The five suites in the back open to the rear porch. There is also a walkway and door so the people in the front bedrooms can use the rear porch. There is also a patio over the portico with doors on each side of the open area of the main entrance hall.

The steps to the dungeon are in the ballroom under the main staircase. As you go down the stairs in front is an area with tables and chairs where you can relax and have refreshments. To the left is a large granite out cropping that was incorporated into the dungeon. We plan on putting scenes on the stones with overhead lighting for people to enjoy. To the right will be some computers to play video games. We plan to put in some pinball machines. In the back to the right is a movie theater. In the back to the left will be more entertainment.

#### OUR PLANS FOR THE CASTLE:

To start with we planed to open the castle with people coming for the weekend (Fri 6 p.m. before dinner until Sun 2 p.m. after lunch) with one price pays for everything .

They will spend their time exploring the secret places. When they want a break there are hiking trails, river, water fall and lake to visit.

There is a 3 acre lake, a waterfall, and The East Branch of Little River wanders through the property. There is a dock and ramp in the lake and three paddle boats.

As the business grows we plan to open up more days.

THE CASTLE S SECRETS WILL REMAIN JUST THAT UNTIL WE SELL. THEN ALL SECRETS WILL BE GIVEN TO THE NEW OWNER.