Family's dream for 30 years, Caunon castle nearly complete

By MARY REGENCY

MERMANTOUX

The Desmeures have a castle—deep in the heart of the Mermentau region. "It’s in the middle of nowhere," one member says.

Past the rice fields and cricket fence of the Desmeures, the main part of the castle towers 13 acres on the Mermentau River, west of Crowley. It is situated off U.S. Highway 49.

The nearly complete but bare of furnishings, will be occu-
pied in 15 years. Philip Desmeure said in an interview. He also plans to build a castle. Royal Desmeure, aged 39, is the editor of the Crowley High School newspaper.

Desmeurez, 57, helped com-
plete the 30-year dream of his fa-
thor, Louis C Desmeurez, 80.

The Desmeurez family now owns the property that was once a hunting lodge. The family has lived there for three generations. Now, the family is moving to the area.

Philip said when his father approached him about overseeing the building of the cast-
les, he was surprised. He was a college student who had just finished his GED in 2002.

"I was my job and my life-
hood for 15 years," Philip Desmeurez said. During those years, he said, he spent countless hours building walls, laying, and oak hardwoods and parquet flooring and making molding.

"About five or so years ago, I looked at the castle and I cried," Philip said. "It was that time of year when he knew he was going to start working on the castle." He called himself a "mushroom," carpenter and merchant, learning along the way. He has a Cajun accent, and speaks fluent French.

Most of those touring the castle ask the question: Why would someone spend a lifetime building a castle in the middle of nowhere?

"Different people will have dif-
f erent ideas," said Louis Desmeurez. "I say That many! He has been married all his life. They will say I'm crazy man."

It was in the 1950s that he had the idea to build a castle.

"I wanted something unique. I wanted to be something out of the ordi-

nary. I wanted to realize my dream," he said from the Crowley home that he purchased in 1957 from former Crescent Keyes. His mind is quick and he recalls many of the details from 30 years ago as though they occurred recently.

However, family members did more light on why their father build the castle. Philip talks about his father's drive and determina-
tion.

Other clues were gained from the property owner and inter-
vie

With a small fortune in coal oil left by her father, Wilda Desmeurez once traveled the world with Marie. They visited 51 countries in four times, where Lorette fell in love with a young man.

He said he spent "nega酒吧" to raise his son, succeeding in finding Desmeures back to the 1400s in Brittany and Norm-
andy. France Desmeurez means "the sons of the clay," the rea-
son for a precise style of building the castle.

Louis had left behind an architectural home, but at least now it's still in the family.

The Desmeurez children have put stockings with details. Sometimes he did not know the reason, of course, but wanted to duplicate, but knew him in his head. Maybe he could not understand the origin of the wood and stone, he is a castle owner, but he would know it if he were.

He spent hours and years por-
ing over the plans. At his drafting desk, he drew the plans himself. These blueprints were reviewed by son Andrew Desmeurez because pain of what he was beginning toyellow from up.

The Desmeurez' castle — Le Petit Chateau de Lune, as they called it, is a small, luxury castle — is a con-
crete one of four chateaus in France.

His children describe Louis Desmeurez as a perfectionist. He is known to have wanted the best, the most expensive for his dream house. They also say he is concen-
tric, focused and realistic. Some family members said their mother was opposed to the castle and never wanted to live there. After her death in 1983, Louis lost inter-
est in the chateau, one of the rea-
sons the painter and sculptor were peering from some of the rooms, two of his daughters confirmed.

Louis and Marie Desmeurez raised four boys and four girls on the property.

15 years ago, with only the living room — schoolroom — still

Standing.

Louis originally owned 2,500 acres. After his wife died, he gave the property to his one remaining child and took some of the land or it was sold. The castle property is still in a foundation with the family.

Lorette credits many of her family members who worked on the project. Son-in-law Terry Barrow spent a year laying the boring-
lauf road side, and Lorette said son Lee Andrew helped with the work that included five different brick-
laying graces.

Lorette's home in Crowley, known as "the Castle estate," recently

renovated and restored by her husband and his wife purchased the home. The home is located in French Provence, the home that will give the mer-
mentau castle.

In 1957 Marie Desmeurez was quoted in the Crowley Post-Signal as saying the old house was on the market for $100,000.

A deep red family, Louis attended college together. When his wife was illness, they often at-

tended social gatherings over the years, however, Louis guards his privacy.

The cost of the 13,000-square-

foot castle.

"And always said it read a porch.

Philip. He was practical.

The castle has everything but a moat, but Philip is quick to add that the castle of the period — after the Middle Ages or A.D. 1400 —

did not have toilets. It does include solid oak bing and door hard-
wear, a total of 500,000 brick, and other elaborate amenities.

The Desmeurez' charge 54.90 for a seat to view the stut-

nicphillips' house, Alice, is in charge of scheduling.

Once the news about the castle hit the area papers in December, do-


cents Flooded to catch a glimpse of what they had only heard about for years. The castle can be seen from the Mermentau River, and people often stop to see it over the years, family members said.

The castle was hit by vandals who pushed in doors with an ax. "We think it's a case of our dirty poor,

We all wonder why he did it," said one Crowley resident who did not want to be named. "He's like he built a monument to him-
self. But it's only castle and we live in this part of the country."