Couple Calls Restoration Work A Dream Fulfilled

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Mrs. Sam Goodwin proudly displays her "favourite room" (the dining room) in her three-story home in Broussard. Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin are doing all the work of restoration in the 16-room house themselves.

Sam Goodwins Fascinated

With Massive "Do-It-Yourself"

By Debbie D'Aquin
Women's News Reporter

BRUSSARD - There wasn't a piece of furniture present when the Sam Goodwins moved into the beautiful old three-story house in Broussard which consists of 16 rooms, 5 porches, 5 bathrooms in working condition and another bathroom in the servants' area upstairs and a den (though there were bed rooms). Even the lighting fixtures had to be re-done, Mrs. Goodwin confessed, because of the 16-foot ceilings.

The house was built by the late Paul Kibbee, owner of the sugar refinery down the road and the local bank. Mrs. Goodwin said that the laborers came from St. Martinville on dirt roads in wagons to build the house. Some of the material was also provided from other countries.

One More Year

The Goodwins have owned the house for 17 years. They started working it two years ago and plan to finish in one more year.

The couple, natives of Arkansas, were living in Lake Charles when they found this house in Broussard caving in and it just needed to be restored," she explained. Before buying the house, the couple had examined every new subdivision in Lake Charles and confirmed Mrs. Goodwin's predictions. "One of those days, we'll find an old house that needs to be restored.

When asked what she plans to do with the house three-year-old daughter, she replied, "We bought the house to live in!" The home will be passed down to some lucky relative if, when her two nieces, when she "loves very much.

The couple started on the outside of the house when the weather permitted. Mr. Goodwin, at right of the steps, and Mrs. Goodwin standing on the porch as they planned to finish in one more year. A usual working day for Mrs. Goodwin begins at 7 a.m. and ends at 9 p.m. (Advertiser Staff Photo)

Insulation

The house is insulated with sawdust. What about heating and cooling? "Open the doors and windows and use the fireplace," she said. The fireplaces are built of old wood and wood. "We prefer gas logs even though there are coal underneath each of the three fireplaces," she laughed.

The house sits about four and one-half feet off the ground on 12 x 12 Cypress wood on brick piers. There is enough brick in these mounds to build a modern house, she noted. The couple plans to continue doing all the work themselves. Mrs. Goodwin works on the house in her spare time while her husband works on the outside of the house when the weather is nice and inside when it rains. They are trying to finish painting the house with one coat of primer before the rainy season sets in. She has just put a swing on the front porch and has built a small room in the corner of her husband's study.

When her husband, Sam, is at home, Mrs. Goodwin said that she eats so many sandwiches that she begins to "look like one." even though she loves to cook. But when her husband is home, she is in the kitchen all the time, making her own bread, cakes, pastries and whatever else strikes her fancy.

Another hobby of hers is sewing. Mrs. Goodwin plans to make all the drapes and curtains in the house. She upholsters all the furniture.

Mrs. Goodwin plans to make a "country kitchen" out of the first kitchen downstairs. An old door is being brought from New Orleans and the Goodwins are planning to make a new one. Mrs. Goodwin's contribution from her childhood home, is the heart of the kitchen.

Her favorite room in the house is the dining room featuring an imported French chandelier above an imported table from England which seats 24 people; a Tiffany window and a walnut fireplace. The table is old walnut hand-made and

AT WORK - The couple works on the outside of the house when the weather permits. Mr. Goodwin, at right of the steps, and Mrs. Goodwin standing on the porch. The fireplace has a lion's head and paw above a design of carved cherubs, grapes and leaves. A twin mirrored side-board of solid mahogany is carved and upholstered by Mrs. Goodwin in green velvet. There are imported mahogany sliding doors separating it from the parlor. A red velvet love seat and matching chairs, also upholstered by Mrs. Goodwin, is noted in the parlor. A hand painted bone china lavabo imported from Holland is in the corner of the room. A painting by her sister-in-law, Mrs. M. A. Hougen of Trinidad, Texas, which won second prize in her Dallas Fort Worth Art Show, hangs in the room. The painting was made from a newspaper clipping of the Goodwins.

The sitting room contains mahogany furniture, upholstered by Mrs. Goodwin, and a large built-in dresser. "Her" bathroom is tiled with three feet up and has colored glass windows.

The second story consists of another kitchen, two bedrooms (for right now) a bath and the servants quarters. The bathroom connected to one of the bedrooms features a silt tub, good when people did not bath with their feet in the same water.

A mahogany staircase connects the two floors, and the third story, to be used for storage, is connected by a steep, narrow stairway.

THE LEMON TABLE - A mahogany table in the Goodwin's dining room, features an imported French chandelier above an imported table from England which seats 24 people; a Tiffany window and a walnut fireplace. The table is old walnut hand-made and mahogany.

TO RELAX the Goodwins enjoy a moment in modern lawn chairs at the back of the house where they can review a large portion of the restoration they've completed. The new posts are being hand-shaped by Mrs. Goodwin first to start on their bedroom, next her bedroom and then the dining room, in which she wants to restor...
PETIT SALON is the name that comes to mind immediately as one enters the small room done in red velvet and white brocade that opens off the formal living room. Both are enjoyed most at Christmas.

WALNUT SIDEBOARD seems an unworthy way to describe the massive imported buffet which dominates one end of the dining room in the home being restored and renovated by the Goodwins.

BUILT-IN is a surprise term for old houses, but this home, built late in the 19th century, boasts a built-in dresser that would please any modern lady.

DETAIL is present in abundance on both floors of the Goodwin home and has been preserved in all its richness. The hall beyond the front entrance holds some of the antiques the couple cherish.

MEMORIES abound for the Goodwins and Mr. Goodwin holds dear this table from his childhood home. With the corner cupboards and hanging iron pots this room will become a “country kitchen.”