

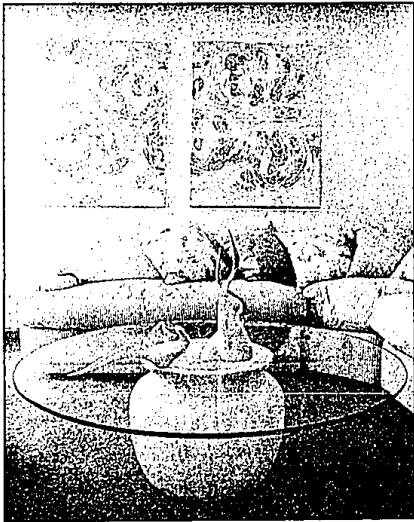
Creative Living

Mario McGee editor/591-2300



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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

A medium-sized pottery pot painted white serves as the base of an attractive coffee table in the Green Valley model living room. The glass top came from Pier 1.



Pioneer spirit

By Mario McGee
staff writer

First of series of two articles
on log homes.

IT COULD be due to all the optimism that has flavored his life of late.

Or it could have been just plain old market savvy that lead to the decision.

But whatever the reason, Livonia realtor-broker Lou Ronayne has a new pioneering spirit, especially as it relates to a house he has for sale in a country setting outside of Plymouth.

It's a 2,100-square-foot log house that looks every inch a replica of its historical forerunners, but with some very modern applications.

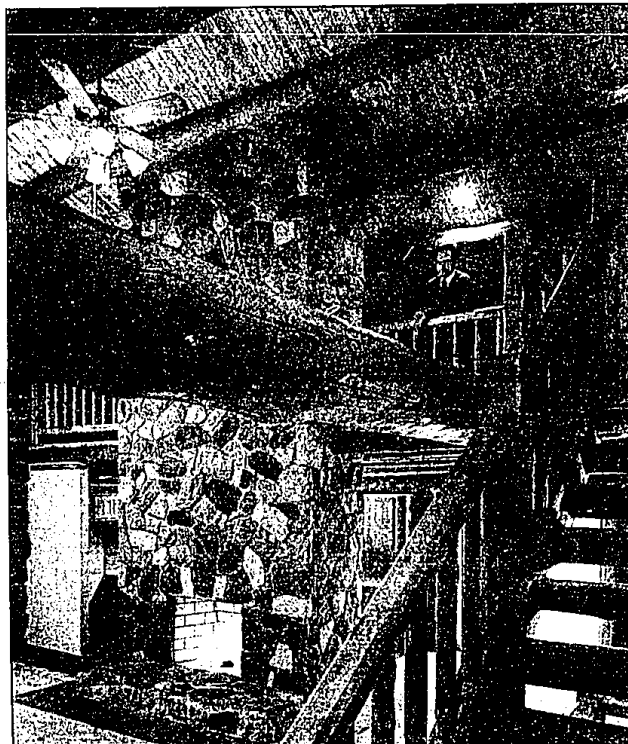
THE HOUSE SITS on a partly wooded lot on Curtis Road in Salem Township, north of Territorial, and has been the object of attention ever since building began last fall.

Actually, the whole thing began as an "interim project" — something to do while several other real estate ventures were waiting to take shape, the 32-year-old Ronayne said.

Involved in the project with him is his business partner, Andrew Lendrum Sr. As Lendrum-Ronayne Development Co., the pair is also developing a residential site, Fox Creek Meadows, at Seven Mile and Newburgh in Livonia, and a condominium project, Crystal Pond, at Joy and Newburgh, also in Livonia. Construction on both is scheduled to start next month.

But in the meantime, came "the challenge of this project," which started by an individual who contracted for the home and then was forced to drop it because of personal problems.

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Andy Lendrum stands on the second floor of the log house he and his partner Lou Ronayne built.

'Make-do' task stirs ingenuity

By Joan Boram
special writer

THE GENERAL public thinks of decorating as a "fun" job, with unlimited funds available to indulge your own personal taste, says Joanna Doyle.

"Not true," insists the Farmington Hills decorator with a sigh.

"It is more like decorating your own home, but with added complications. You have the same budget problems, but it's a compromise between your own and the client's taste. And, in a model home, you and the client must second-guess the public. The model's decor is often a factor in the buying decision, so there's pressure on both of us to do the right thing."

The "right thing" in the Green Valley subdivision model she was hired to decorate was a combination of modern, traditional, and art deco. Key colors throughout the model are easy-on-the-eye lavender, pink and white. Shiny black accents add art deco sparkle.

"I did more shopping at T.J.Maxx, and they just love me at Pier 1. One woman followed me around Pier 1 and bought everything I bought be-

cause it all looked so sharp," she said. Proudly, Doyle points out a pair of Royal Doulton figures she picked up at T.J.Maxx "for practically nothing."

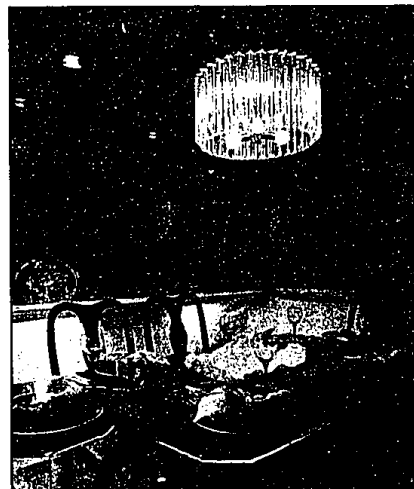
IT TAKES MORE than shopping at discount stores and flea markets to get the right effect for the right price. Like most decorators, Doyle has a cadre of talented artisans who create items according to her specifications for a reasonable fee.

For instance, an Italian artisan and his son make pottery of a fiber-glass-plaster mixture. Sometimes they use existing molds, and sometimes they make molds to conform to Doyle's drawings. She paints the pottery whatever color her project calls for.

In the Green Valley model, Doyle painted two medium-sized pots white and topped them with glass circles from Pier 1. The results are elegant and unique coffee tables at a very reasonable price. In the family room, an Ali Baba-sized pot was painted pale pink, and filled with stiff grasses spray-painted pale pink and lavender.

Steve Girard, of Contemporary

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Metallic gold-and-black material for placemats in the art deco-style dining room came from a van conversion shop. They cost about \$2 each. In retail stores, they could run about \$20.



Lou Ronayne (left) and Andy Lendrum show off the front porch of the 2,100-square log house that sits on a wooded site on Curtis Road in Salem Township. The two partners are also involved in two housing developments scheduled to start in April in Livonia.



Maybe the exterior reminds you of pioneer days, but the kitchen is thoroughly modern — complete with dishwasher, track lighting, tile counters and oak cabinets.

Photos by Jay Asquini