

BILL BRESLER/Staff photographer

A view from the front of the Krauch log house that has five bedrooms, one full bath and three half-baths. The Krauchs now represent Wilderness Homes, the company the couple ordered the home from.

New Book Break columnist debuts

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of Katherine Anne Porter? Reynolds Price's "Kate Valden"?

See what I mean? I like short story collections, biographies, books on writing, books that assure me I can look 21 again, and books on books.

I like art books, gardening books, books on the theater, on psychology and psychiatry, books on movies, nature, sports.

I am always attracted to travel books, and probably the most beautiful book I own is "Journey Across Russia." Linger over its 300-plus pages of lush, full-color photos and text is armchair tourism at its finest, I think.

Let me hasten to add, though, that travel books don't have to be big and beautiful to impress me. E.B. White's black-and-white "Here is New York" is pocket-sized, but it puts you in New York as surely as "Journey" takes you across the Soviet Union.

FOR SOME reason, somewhere along the line, I seem to have developed an inordinate affinity for what some call Tales of Terror.

I happen to believe that you haven't lived if you have not yet spent a dark and stormy night with Daphne du Maurier's "Don't Look Now" or "Kiss Me Again, Stranger." The same goes for Rachel Ingalls' creepy love story, "Mrs. Callahan" or Thomas Tryon's strange tale, "The Other."

No, I don't have any rare or an-

tique books. The closest thing to that that you'll find here is an 1899 copy of James Lane Allen's American classic, "The Choir Invisible."

It is, as they say, one of my most prized possessions, and is absolutely the only book I own that is worth more than a pittance in dollars and cents.

In good condition and in its original binding, I stole it for 25 cents at a used book sale at Westland Mall a few years ago. If I gave up the rest of my life to bargain hunting, I'd never unearth a better treasure for a quarter.

Finally, there are the books I am still waiting to be too old for — "The Wind in the Willows," "The Velveteen Rabbit," "Where the Wild Things Are," "The Trumpet of the Swan," "The Polar Express," "I Had Trouble in Getting to Solla Sollew." And, of course, what's a modern-day library without "The Essential Calvin and Hobbes"?

I HOPE, as we've moved along, that none of you has been shocked at the dog-eared, coffee-stained, finger-marked conditions of some of the books.

I also write notes to myself in the margins of these pages at times, underlining phrases I want to remember, or embellish whole paragraphs with exclamation points — sins considered by many bibliophiles to be as red as the ink I use to commit the crime. Sorry, but it's just the way I am. I suppose that's what happens when such an untidy soul falls in love with books.

Rustic-style happiness came in a kit

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The Krauchs are part-time dealers for Wilderness. They conduct periodic seminars and open houses for prospective customers. For information, call 455-0484.

At first Ken Krauch, 33, was startled back when Carol expressed her wish for a log home, a popular style in western states. At the time the two were engaged to be married.

"He looked at me like I had 10 heads," Carol recalled.

Once the decision was made, the couple ordered brochures from companies that deal in log housing. They finally settled on Wilderness, based in Plymouth, Wis., north of Milwaukee. Wilderness offered more than 50 model choices, starting from as small as one-bedroom, one-bath units.

The Krauchs' custom-designed kit cost approximately \$60,000. That price covered logs, interior tongue-in-groove walls, insulation, doors, shingles and other components. It also included the cost of shipping.

APPROXIMATELY \$35,000 THAT Carol had realized from the sale of her house in Plymouth was used to buy a 5.5-acre parcel of land on North Territorial, about five miles west of Sheldon Road, in largely rural Salem Township.

"We used the property as collateral," Carol said. "I think it helps to have your land."

The Krauchs said they experienced no difficulty in obtaining either a mortgage or insurance for their home, which carries a Plymouth mailing address and is located in the Plymouth-Canton school district.

The couple attended a two-day seminar in

Wisconsin. They hired a crew from Wilderness to put up the shell, including logs and insulation. That procedure, which cost \$15,000, took about two months.

Partic set in the day the "kit" of building materials arrived in four, 45-foot semitractor trailers.

"They were all lined up on North Territorial, Carol recalled. "There were all these bundles of logs. I thought, what have we done? Are we ever going to be able to do this?"

The Krauchs selected pine for its warmth and utilized an option that incorporates extra insulation. The logs also are available in cedar. "It's a 13-inch thick wall," Carol said. "It's just a very warm house."

Interior walls are flat, tongue-in-groove panels which fit together. Only the bathrooms, because of dampness, were constructed with drywall, rather than wood.

It took about six months to construct the house.

Local crews were hired, at a total cost of around \$26,000, to do the interior work. For some, it was their first experience with log construction. Coordinating the different tasks required much juggling, and some crews had to be replaced.

"REALLY, IN THE LONG RUN, we were just glad it was built and over with," Carol said.

A few weeks after the house was completed, about 80 friends and family members celebrated as Carol and Ken were married in front of Carol's cherished fireplace. The fireplace is encircled with eye-catching stonework. The melon, honey-hued oak fireplace cover dates to

around 1910 and came from a home in Detroit that was going to be razed.

The log house has become a haven for the busy Krauchs. Both Ken and Carol hold full-time sales jobs. Carol also has additional demands as a part-time college student and mother of four children from her prior marriage.

Son Patrick Sheehan, 20, a construction worker and college student, helped a lot with the interior. Erik, 18, and Sarah, 15, are students at Plymouth Salem High School. Jennie, 13, has severe mental and physical impairments and attends Our Lady of Providence, a private school in Northville Township.

Carol, who is active in advocacy groups for mentally impaired, hopes to obtain a degree in psychology and work with families of handicapped.

The house — filled with antiques and old, homespun furnishings — reflects Carol's deep love for the country look.

"You can't put new things in a log house," she said.

Old-fashioned farm implements and tools have taken new life as decorations and wall hangings. In the bedrooms are four-poster beds and brightly-hued quilts. Hardwood floors are bare. Here and there are heart-shaped braided rugs.

A bench in the great room, refinished by Carol, came from an old train station in Ann Arbor. In the kitchen is a handsome, oak Hoosier cupboard, dating to the early 1900s.

"A log house isn't for everyone," Carol said. "If everyone liked the same things, it would be a dull world."

Artists' workshop

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A resident of Lathrup Village, Thayer is presently an instructor at the Center for Creative Studies and the Detroit Institute of Arts. Her art work is in galleries in Chicago, New York, Boston and Detroit, as well as in corporate collections at General Motors, Ford Motor, Dow Chemical, Michigan, and at least 20 other collections out of state.

Joppich, of Farmington Hills, will share practical ideas and suggestions based on 30 years' experience as an artist that includes being cur-

tor of her own gallery, Joppich's Bay Street Gallery in Northport in the heart of the picturesque Leelanau peninsula. Currently a teacher with the Visual Arts Association of Livonia (VAAL), she has taught at the University of Detroit Architectural School, at Marygrove College and at Midland Center for the Arts.

Time will be allowed during both sessions for questions.

Cost per session is \$3 or \$5 for both. For more information or to register, call the arts commission at 421-2000.

briefly speaking

• FIBERARTS

The 19th annual Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild sale will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 22 at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Road, Ann Arbor.

Items for sale will include baskets, scarves, hats, wearables, placemats, wall hangings, pillows and rugs. There also will be demonstrations of various fiber techniques such as weaving, basketry, spinning

and quilting. Handwoven fashions will be modeled throughout the day. There is no admission charge. For more information, call 663-7454 or 994-5475.

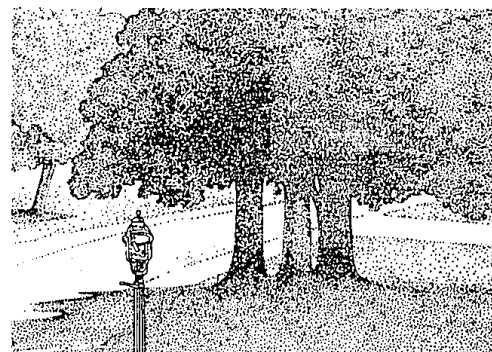
• GARDENING CLASSES

A basic gardening seminar will be presented by the Master Gardeners Association of Wayne County from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 22, in the Wayne County Extension and Education Center.



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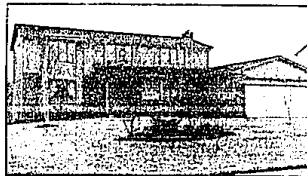
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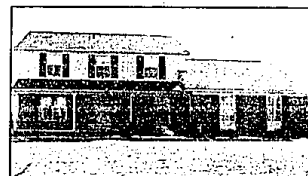
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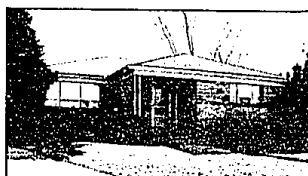
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