

THE DOLL HOUSE

When the grand tour of the Cannon Building reached the large hobby room, Elaine and Ted Cummings' two granddaughters stopped dead in their tracks. There at the middle table sat Rod Bubeck working on a big beautiful doll house. He graciously removed the dust cover and showed them the rooms, and the porch and how the doors opened and closed. They were smitten! Later he called and asked if the girls would like to have the house. It seemed he was looking for a loving family to adopt and treasure it. Needless to say, Mom was consulted and she was almost as enthusiastic as her daughters. Now all that remained was to finish the interior and get it to Chicago!

Rod took Elaine shopping for the paints she would need and provided some wallpaper samples and wooden flooring and turned her loose. This was a first time project, and she had no idea she would have so much fun putting it all together.

It is to be noted, however, that it is much easier to paint, paper and fit flooring for a real house than for a model. She made pillows and comforters for the beds and even a rug for the living room with a matching door mat. She framed a photo of the two granddaughters to hang in the bedroom. A decorated Christmas tree and staircase garland are stored in the attic. The porch and front door were decorated for Halloween which was coming up. The furnishings were purchased, including pots and pans for the kitchen, and it was time for the road trip.

One little problem – the dollhouse would not fit in either of the Cummings' cars! A rental car was secured, and off they went through the hills of West Virginia just as the trees were beginning to show their autumn colors. Arriving in Chicago in the morning, they were able to set everything up and watch happily as the delighted girls spotted it when they came home from school.

Perfect, right?

Well, during this wonderful visit, Ted took a tumble and damaged his left elbow resulting in a non-displaced fracture. There went the drive home!

The rental car people graciously accepted an early return in a different city, and tickets for a one-way flight were purchased for their return. Even though Rod gave the house to the Cummings, it is undoubtedly the most expensive dollhouse ever but worth every penny! It is filled with so much love and will delight those little girls and their mother! And their own children! For years to come.

– *Martha Frakes* –