

## Sailboat to Medieval Castle

**A northeastern Oregon couple brings a bit of the Old World to the State by building a medieval-like Castle**

by Richard Cockle, Correspondent, The Oregonian

Fred and Marsha Hauptmann spent four years building their mountain aerie and call it *Coeur d'Lion*, which means 'Heart of the Lion'. With battlements designed to fend off sieges by feudal knights, the castle is four miles from the nearest plowed road. It boasts an 8 foot arched entry door that weighs 500 pounds, 2-foot thick walls, a 28-foot watchtower; the living room has a 14-foot ceiling and a 7 ft by 14 ft handcarved mantel above an open fireplace. The walls are wainscoted and much of the trim is gold leaf. Framed prints of old masters hang here and there.

During the winter months, the only access is by snowmobile, snowshoes or skis.

The castle surmounts a lonely, storm-battered ridge known as The Divide, where winds clock at 100 MPH and storms heap snow 4 feet deep. The castle is heated by wood stove and powered by solar cells. Due to inaccessibility for ease of marketing, it has a well-stocked 22-foot pantry. A 1,000 pound bank of batteries provide electricity when clouds shut down the solar panels. Water comes from a mountain spring, pumped into a 2,000-gallon underground tank.

Despite their remoteness, Snowmobilers regularly drop by and the couple occasionally hosts dinner parties for as many as 30 people.

The idea for the Castle developed during a 1985 trip to Germany, Noticing Old World buildings that have been continuously occupied for as many as 800 years, Fred thought, "Why don't we do that in our country?" The idea formed a dream.



The couple and their three children, now grown, sailed the Caribbean in their 35-foot sloop part of each for seven years. The "castle dream" became possible after their sloop was hit by lightning and burned in a Fort Pierce, Fl., dry dock. With the insurance settlement, the Hauptmanns began building, doing the work themselves. The total cost of the castle was \$170,000 in 1999 and presently is valued at \$800,000.

In order to return to the sailing world, they would have to sell the castle which is something they are not eager to do. Asked about the inconveniences of living in this remote area, Marsha replied, "Helmet head. This is what a Snowmobile helmet does to the most elegant hairstyle. Cougars and Bears are a minor problem that is easily dealt with.



*The Hauptmann's door knocker is an example of the Old World effect they strove for throughout their castle like home.*