



Mill • Direct News

Living the Log Home Lifestyle

Winter 2016/2017



VIEW FROM THE MILL

By Levi Hochstetler

This fall we have had some of the nicest weather that we have had in recent memory. The leaves were beautiful into November. One of the trees in our front yard was absolutely gorgeous just a few days ago.

This past weekend the family got together at our log cabin. Where better to have quality family time than at the cabin, particularly on lovely, cool, fall days? With the weather so pleasant we did our cooking outside in an open kettle. Naturally I become the chief cook whenever that happens. (Chief stirrer.) There simply isn't anything as flavorsome as food cooked over an open fire regardless of who does the cooking. But the experience of having family gathered around the fire, the smile and spark in a grandchild's eyes, as each help themselves to their fair share of Grandpa's cooking, is simply awesome. What gets the family together as does a log cabin, and the memories that are precious (almost sacred)?

Getting ready for Log Cabin Days causes a lot of excitement here at the Mill. Now that it's behind us, things have kind of quieted down, though we have a lot of catching up to do. We apologize to all our clients that have been neglected because of Log Cabin Days. It causes our greatest dilemma. Should we be doing it again or not? For two weeks during Log Cabin Days, we can't serve you like we want. Still, many people that come seem to really enjoy themselves. Happy Holidays!

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23 Most Frequently Asked Questions about Log Homes

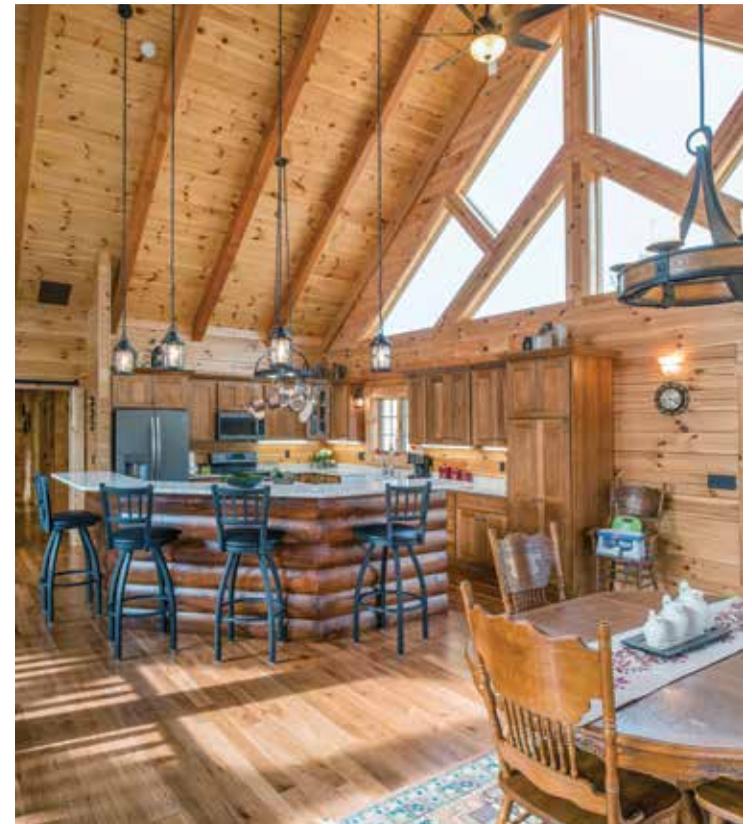
- By Levi Hochstetler

This story is the 2nd part of a continuing story.

#8: Could I or a friend design our log home?

It depends on what experience you or your friend have. Most manufacturers have experienced designers that often surpass even seasoned architects. Take our design staff as an example. Steve Lykins heads up our design department and reviews every plan that we produce. He has designed 100's of log homes, not taking into account the fact that he is a registered engineer and has taken 4 years of architectural school. This is in addition to our other experienced designers and company experience gained thru the design and production of 1000's of log and timber homes over a period of more than thirty years. For medium size homes we charge \$3000 down and all but \$1000 goes towards the purchase of the package. So in actuality you are paying only \$1000 for your design work. This is, hands down, the best bargain of your entire home. Never will you get more valuable professional guidance for the price. So why, if you could get such an extraordinary value would you want to second-guess one of the most important steps of buying your dream home with less experienced designers?

continued on page 2



Log Cabin Days a Resounding Success! - *By Bill Dinkins*

FUN, EXCITING, INFORMATIVE, and SCRUMPTIOUS are just a few of the words that describe Hochstetler Milling's Log Cabin Days. But OUTSTANDING FAMILY EVENT probably summarizes it the best.

Once again Log Cabin Days was a resounding success for the over 3,000 people that attended. Greeted by wonderful fall weather, the two-day event, held Friday, September 16 and Saturday, September 17, attracted families from all over Ohio, as well as several neighboring states. The event included the always popular Lumberjack Show, the self-guided Log Home Tour, and an expanded petting zoo with games for the kids. Thanks to homeowners who opened their homes, plus donations from tour visitors, \$2950 was contributed to the American Cancer Society. It also gave visitors the rare opportunity to visit seven log homes, talk candidly to homeowners, and perhaps plan their own "dream" home. The petting zoo gave kids a chance to see and pet llamas, a pony, a calf, puppies, kittens and rabbits, or sift through wood savings for small trinkets. A coloring contest kept some children occupied while others chose to ride through the woods with their families on a horse-drawn covered wagon. Hundreds attended the lumberjack show which featured competitive events like axe-throwing, wood chopping and various sawing contests. Except for the Log home Tour most events were free.

For those interested in purchasing a real log cabin, an auction was held on Saturday. Cedar Creek built the 13'x24'

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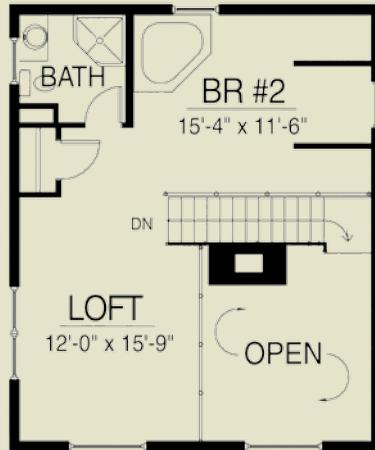


The perfect little cottage for that secluded spot in the woods or on the lake with the wrap-around deck on the side and back and the gabled porch on the front, where viewing nature up close and personal is a daily occurrence.

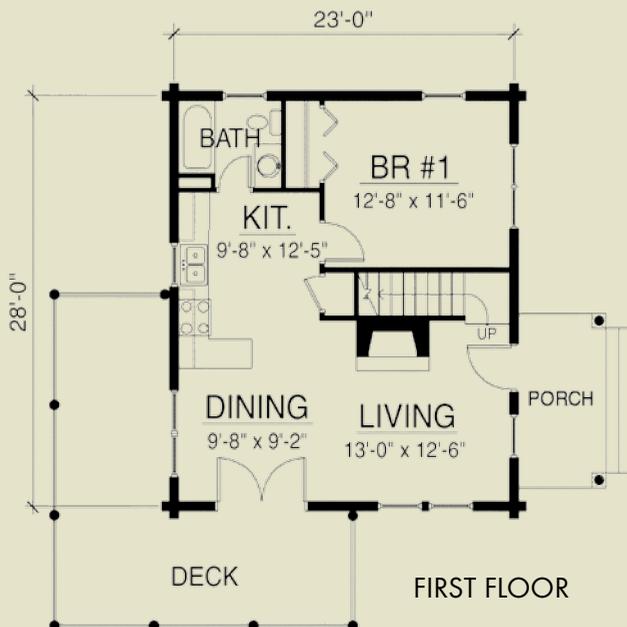
Inside, this cozy 2-bedroom home features the always popular open-concept great room with fireplace and exposed timber ceiling and French doors leading out of the dining area to the deck.

Upstairs, the full-length shed dormer provides an 8' high rear wall in the bath and loft, plus a second bedroom.

You'll love the quaint look of this home inside and out. And, the price can't be beat!



SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

23 Most Frequently Asked Questions about Log Homes - continued from page 1

#9: Are log homes energy efficient?

Yes, very much so!

Several years ago the National Bureau of Standards did an energy-efficiency study on homes near Washington D.C., using various different construction types including solid logs. The test was named "Mass Wall Field Study." The purpose of the experiment was to study how the thermal mass effects the energy-efficiency of a log home compared to a stick home.

The stick-framed building used approximately the same amount of energy as did the solid log building during the winter heating season. However, the stick-framed building used approximately 32% more energy than the solid log building during the summer cooling season and 82% more energy during the spring and fall. Accordingly, a significant thermal mass effect was observed during the spring and fall heating season as well as during the summer cooling season. Overall the solid log building performed about 38% better than the stick framed, even though the solid log had 20% less R-value!

The key thing to remember is that a log home, when properly sealed with gasket etc., is a very energy-efficient home. On the other hand, a log home that is not properly sealed and has air leaks is a very difficult home to heat.

#10: Should I go with a 6" or 8" thick log?

Here in Ohio in, climate zone 5, it's a toss-up. It isn't cost effective with today's fuel prices to justify the added cost of going with the 8" thick log. However, it does make it easier to meet or exceed energy codes by using the thicker log.

If you're building in Vermont, which is zone 6, there is no question you should use the 8" thick wall. On the other hand, if you're building in zone 4 such as in Kentucky, 6" is more than adequate.



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#11: Don't log homes have more maintenance than stick homes?

On the inside, there's actually less. Most log home owners want mostly wood rather than drywall on the inside walls which, like wood furniture, has very little to no maintenance. Generally, on the outside though, like any wood sided home, there is more maintenance than on, let's say, a vinyl sided home. However, with all things considered, there's not as much difference as one might think. In fact, when you consider the expensive type of maintenance, such as wind and hail storms, or even little-league baseballs, log homes perform much better. Right after hurricane Katrina we got multiple calls from the coastal areas of folks who saw how log homes weathered the storm when everything else was wiped off the map!

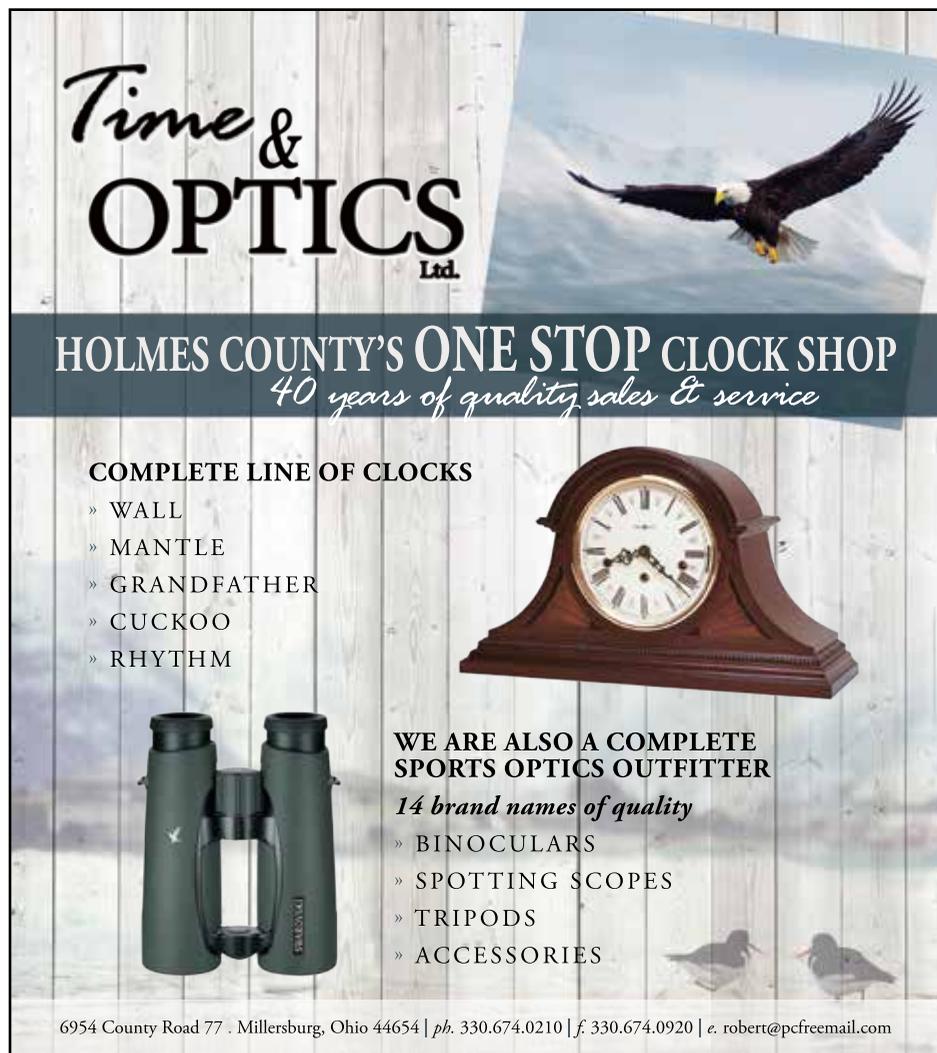
A log wall is an honest wall; if there is a problem you can see it the first day. In fact, because of this, log homes are often given a bad rap. Whereas, in a stick framed cavity wall, there can be an insect or water problem hidden behind the siding or drywall for years, and not before extensive damage is done before the unsuspecting homeowner is finally aware of it.

Wood is a natural material, making it warmer and cozier than any man-made material such as drywall, vinyl or concrete. Perhaps there's more maintenance, but so it is with natural grass compared to artificial turf. The question is: who would want to play with their grandchildren on a maintenance-free yard of fake grass or take time to smell the artificial roses? All types of homes have maintenance and like someone once said, "If you don't want to maintain a home you'll have to buy a condo, but who's willing to squander their whole life in a condo?"

#12: Aren't log homes prone to insects?

No, not any more so than any other home. In fact, cavity-loving insects such as yellow jackets don't nest in a solid log wall. The misconception that log homes are more prone to insects is the fact that if you have insect problems you can see it right away, whereas with stick homes they can be present for years before the unwary homeowner realizes it. Regardless of what home you own, stick or log, you should hire an exterminator to go over your home at least once a year. 🏠

This article continued in the next issue.



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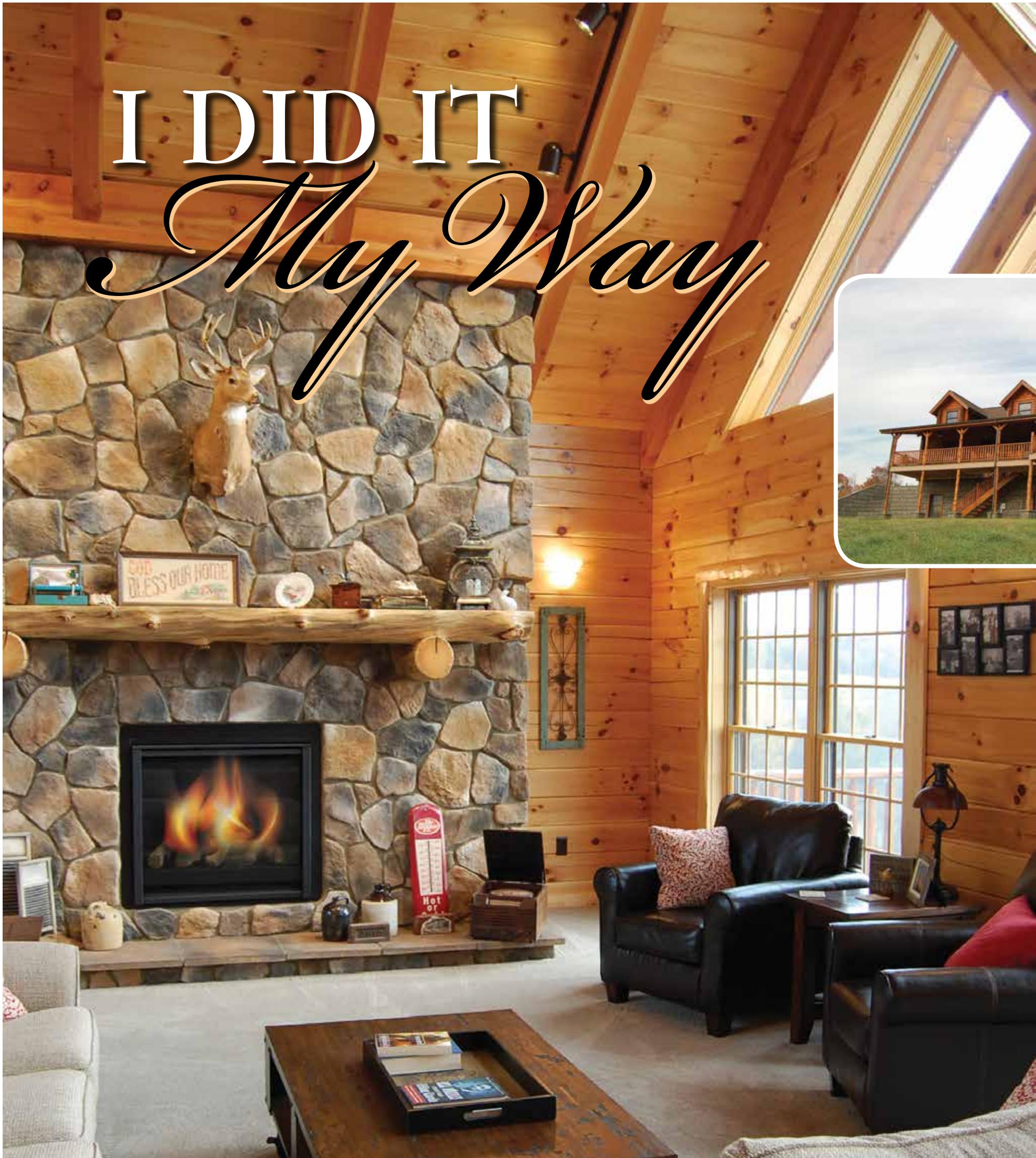
It's that time of year when we wish to invite you to come in and enjoy the casual and relaxing lifestyle that makes a log home so special. Refreshments will be served.

This is also an ideal time to discuss your building plans with our experienced design staff and get a free, no-obligation estimate. Our McKay model is at the intersection of Hwy. 60 & 95. 5 miles north of Loudonville, Ohio. The second model, the Black Fork, is only a 1/2 mile up the hill at 552 Hwy. 95.

**Open House days are: December 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 & 31.
Closed on December 24 & 25. We hope to see you!**

I DID IT

My Way



Frank Sinatra's classic song, *I Did It My Way*, must have been ringing in Ron Nichols' ears when he embarked on the challenging task of building his own log home. It all began on a leisure motorcycle ride with his wife, Jane, when they stopped in Loudonville, Ohio, and noticed a flyer advertising an upcoming event at Hochstetler Milling...Log Cabin Days. This peaked their interest, and a couple weeks later they returned for the event and went on the log home tour, where they visited several log homes and talked to the owners. That sealed the deal.

Ron had purchased 17 acres of picturesque rolling hills farmland many years before and thought this would be ideal site for a home someday. When he married Jane, that day had arrived. As a foreman at a construction company he was able to borrow their heavy equipment and do all the excavation work himself. He had already sketched a floor plan and met with Steve Lykins, Hochstetler's designer, to draw up the blueprints.

The 2-story home features a spacious, open-concept great room, kitchen, and dining area opening out to a large deck which overlooks a scenic valley and provides a wonderful "calendar" view of the surrounding landscape. The great room has an impressive stone fireplace, lots of windows (for star gazing), and a towering, timbered cathedral ceiling. This upper level also has a large master bedroom with adjoining master bath and convenient laundry (for Jane). They have "his and hers" laundry rooms, since Ron's work clothes are usually dirty and relegated to the downstairs laundry room. The walkout lower level has two additional bedrooms, a bath, and a large

entertainment area with a TV and wood-burning fireplace.

Ron broke ground in the spring of 2014; and by working 16-hour days - 8 on his regular job and 8 at home, plus weekends - he put the final touches on in June, 2016 and they moved in - finally able to enjoy the fruits of their labor. Walnut Valley, an experienced log home builder, built the shell (including stacking log walls and constructing the roof), while other contractors built the fireplaces, kitchen cabinets and doors, and installed plumbing. But the majority of the rest of the work was done by Ron and Jane. Jane did insist on a couple unique features: the sliding barn door in the great room, and a porcelain farm sink in the kitchen. She also wanted a covered porch on one end of the full-length deck to take advantage of the view in all kinds of weather. They both were anxiously awaiting a new, and very unusual, dining room table. The top is made of black walnut and the two massive legs with branching roots are white cedar.

I asked them what they liked most about their beautiful home and Jane quickly responded, "the great room," while Ron calmly added, "I did it my way." 🏠

For additional information about the home of Ron & Jane Nichols, please contact Hochstetler Milling at 800-368-1015.



Log Cabin Days a Success - *continued from page 1*

cabin on site during Log Cabin Days. The cabin came complete with 6x6 log sidewalls, exposed timbered ceiling and insulated roof system with metal roof, and covered 6' front porch. It could be easily transported to a building site and was the perfect-sized weekend getaway, hunter retreat or guest house.

Other activities included seminars addressing log home planning, financing, and maintenance; booth exhibits containing log home style furniture and furnishings, builders and craftsmen; a silent auction for a multitude of handmade items; hand-hewing, hand-peeling, and blacksmith demos; chain saw carving; even a vintage steam engine-driven portable sawmill in operation.

No all-day family event would be complete without some authentic old-fashioned, mouth-watering, finger-lickin' food - and this was no exception. The tantalizing smell of barbecued chicken on the grill punctuated the air and was served non-stop throughout the day - accompanied by noodles, potato salad, baked beans and a variety of pies. There was also homemade ice cream, fresh-squeezed apple cider, apple butter and kettle-cooked popcorn to further tempt your taste buds. Fresh produce; locally-made Amish Swiss cheese and trail bologna; plus assorted jams, jellies, honey and maple syrup rounded out the menu. I think it's safe to say no one went away hungry!

An "Early Bird" breakfast, at 7a.m. on Saturday, and featuring kettle-cooked scrambled eggs and bacon, real stuffed sausage, pancakes, donuts, coffee or juice, started the day off on a positive note.

Thanks to all of you who came, we trust you and your family enjoyed yourselves and we look forward to seeing you at the next Log Cabin Days in 2018.

Meanwhile, we hope your holidays are full of family, friends and of happy memories! 



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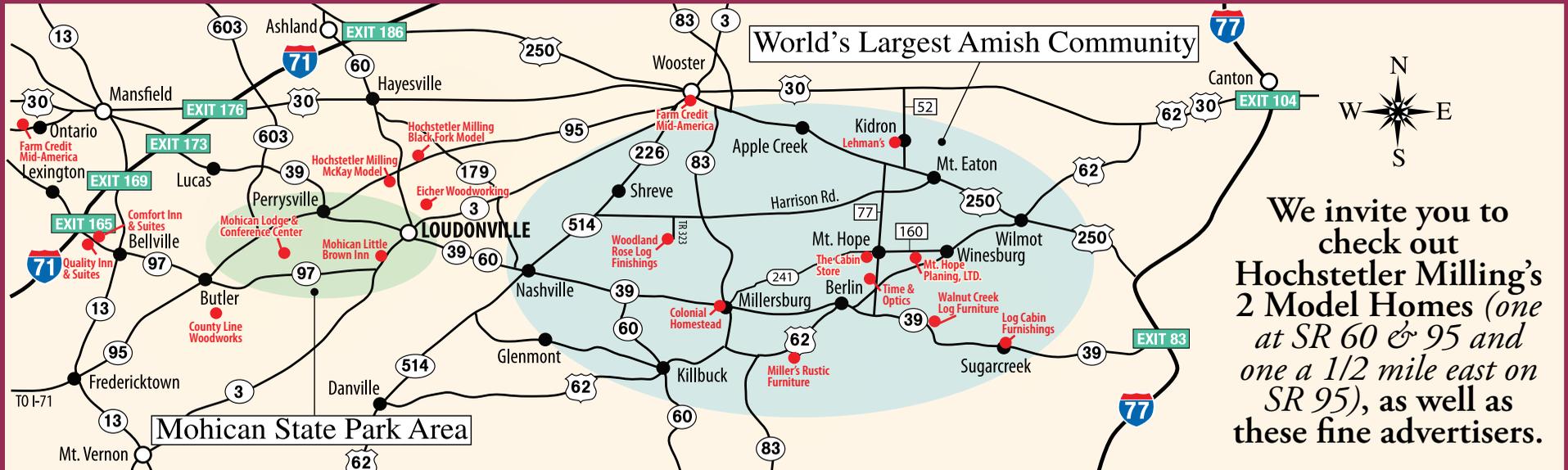
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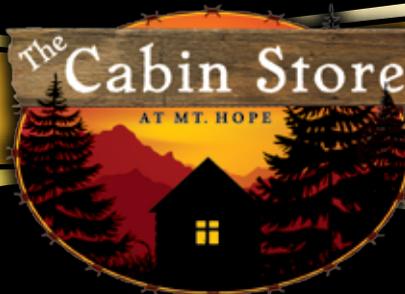
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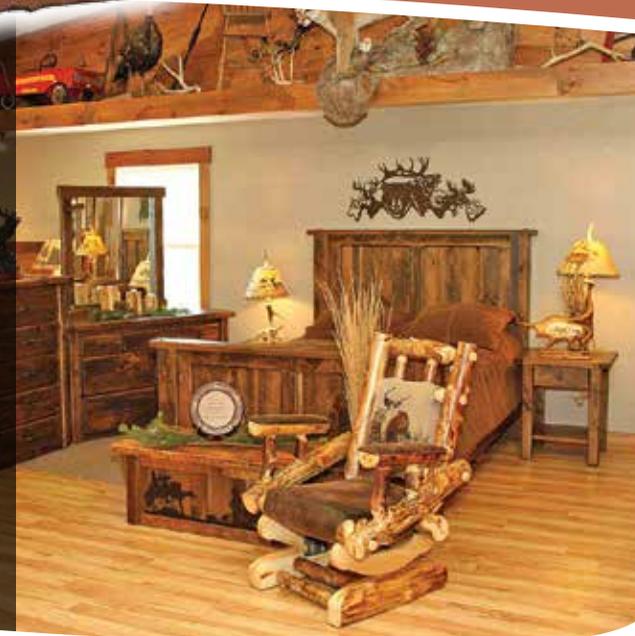
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CABIN FEVER “One for the Record Book” by Doug Coen, as told to Bill Dinkins

Nag’s Head, North Carolina has often been regarded as a “hot spot” for deep sea fishing and this notoriety was not overlooked by my uncle, Jack Herrington. He had booked a charter with local legend and captain, Harry Baum, aboard the “Jo Boy,” and was eagerly anticipating the trip. Jack mentioned he’d like to catch a dolphin, so that’s what they set out to do.

When Jack hooked into his first “dolphin” he expressed surprise at the remarkable strength of the fish until several minutes later Captain Harry said, “It’s not a dolphin, Jack, you’ve got a blue marlin!” The big fish was “pushing up the sea” a foot in front of him, much like a porpoise, and after 30-40 minutes of runs jumped about 2/3 out of the water before splashing down. After a tense 2 -3/4 hours “tug-of-war,” and with Jack’s arms feeling like noodles, the monster was lifted aboard. Onlookers quickly gathered at the dock when the fish was brought in, but the scales weren’t large enough, so they hauled it in a pickup to a larger scale where it was weighed and later listed in The Guinness Book of World Records - Atlantic Blue Marlin - 1142 lbs., caught by Jack Herrington, July 26, 1974.

My Uncle Jack was in the record books and had a newspaper photo to prove it! I was a mere high school freshman at the time and couldn’t wait to show my classmates the picture, especially those arrogant “know-it-all” seniors. As I proudly announced, “Look what my Uncle Jack caught,” and simultaneously whipped out the newspaper clipping, I was met with suspicious stares. One said, “Your uncle didn’t catch that,” while another added, “I’ll bet that’s not even your uncle.” Needless to say I was totally devastated and upset that they wouldn’t believe me (must have said one too many fish stories).

Later that year one of my friends, Steve, came to school with an equally unbelievable story. While hunting on my parents’ “back 40,” he had come upon “Big Boy,” an often seen big buck that patrolled the woods. Only 20 yards away, he nervously raised his bow and took careful aim, released the arrow and watched it’s flight - a perfect hit - in the heart. Except the big buck just flinched and bolted off. Steve happened to look down, only to discover the point of his arrow had broken off. Naturally, this was a little too much to believe and I told him so. “So, you want us to believe you got that close to “Big Boy,” and you had an arrow malfunction? Right.”

The way I saw it this evened the score - until I made an alarming discovery. While plowing a field with my 6-bottom plow, I would routinely turn around and look for arrowheads in the upturned earth. One day, a yellow stick caught my eye and I jumped down to inspect it. The yellow stick turned out to be part of an arrow, along with the point. So, Steve was telling the truth - but after undergoing so much skepticism and ridicule, I decided to keep this finding to myself.

Meanwhile, Uncle Jack’s record marlin can be seen at Oregon Inlet Fishing Center in North Carolina - after gracing an entire wall in Jack’s house for many years. FYI- the current world record Atlantic Blue Marlin is 1402 lbs. and was caught off the coast of Brazil in 1992. 🏠



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