



Our First Build in 1994-95 With the Lane Family

Fun With a Hammer

By Brian R. Lee

With some guidance and help, building a house can be a lot of fun.

That is Lisa Lane's observation a quarter century later. With help from Habitat for Humanity, now known as Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, Bob and Lisa Lane built a two-story, three-bedroom house in the Kingston area. Lisa said this was the only way they could afford a house in 1994.

They started by purchasing a lot with an existing run-down house on it. They had to start by tearing down the old building after salvaging the hard wood floors in it for their new home. [No other wood was useable in the new home.]

As they worked, they lived out of a camping trailer they parked on the lot with their three children. The tight quarters gave them encouragement to help wherever and whenever they could on the project. Lisa said her husband spent almost every spare moment working on the house.

"We put in a lot of hours," she said.

And in case that wasn't enough work, Lisa also put in a garden and tended that while caring for their three children and hammering nails.

After the old structure had been removed, they had to dig trenches for the utilities and footings by hand. Then the cement foundation was poured and things began to take shape.

Lisa said her favorite part of the project was building the walls of the new home. She learned a lot of new carpentry skills doing that.

"It was a lot of fun," she said. "I really enjoyed it."

They purchased the property by obtaining a loan through Habitat for Humanity in 1994. They were able to move into their completed, new home the following year.

"We were very happy to be homeowners," she said.

While she never pursued a career in carpentry afterwards, she said her work has proven itself over the years.

"It's a nice, sturdy house," Lisa said. "It held up well in the (recent) wind storm."



Bob Lane tears the first boards off the roof of his old house while George Shadle and Jim Shadle start up to help him.
Photo by Roger Fulton

The finished house was over 1,000 square feet of living space. However, several years later they had to add another bedroom and bathroom on the first floor due to Bob's declining health which prohibited him from using the stairs. He passed away a few years ago. Because of the demands of her career, when the addition was needed, she had to leave all the new carpentry work to a contractor.

The house has proven to be an excellent home to raise their family, and Lisa and her youngest son, who was born not long after the house was built, still call it home. The other three children have moved out to start their own lives. But they continue to create memories in this house on holidays and special occasions as the family gathers together over and over again in the place that taught Lisa about boards and nails.



Under the watchful eyes of the Gypsies (Care-A-Vanners), Robert and David help with construction of their home.

"Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love which shows itself in action."

I John 3:18

OUR FIRST HOME: June 1994, Lane Home—BUILDING SITE ACTIVITY

By Verne Blalack

Lane's old house will be gone by the time you read this thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and our first family.

Bob Lane has put in more time than anyone, although no one hits the work site earlier than John Groot.

Thanks to the County Commissioners (especially Jack King) we are not being charged for the material we are taking to the transfer station. The asbestos shingles have to be double bagged and disposed of in Kootenai County.

The west end of the house was honeycombed by the work of carpenter ants, but the rest has given us a pretty fair stock of lumber. With some of this lumber, we are building a 6 ft. by 11 ft. building on skids to leave Lane's refrigerator and our tools in. When the new home is finished, we will take this building to the next site. The old blown in cellulose insulation was bagged, and we will reblow it into the new house.

The old house has some pretty big holes under it, and the front yard appears a little higher than the home site. So, we will be doing a little cut and fill work—probably shoving some of the front yard into the holes. When we finish removing the flooring and shoot a few transit shots, we will know better what is to be done.

We helped a neighbor, Ken James, straighten up his newly moved walnut tree the other morning (the survey showed it to be on our property, and he decided to move it). We hope it survives as it was a pretty big tree to move.

Our architect, Kristina Clark, and her associate, Eric Childress, should have our house plans ready soon, and we will run them through the proper channels to obtain a building permit. Birdsell's, a Coeur d'Alene firm, has volunteered to do the foundation work, and hopefully, Florentino Montez will be able to supervise the framing of the house thereafter.

July, 1994—HOW'S THE HOUSE COMING?

The old house is gone thanks to the following volunteers: Orin Badsworth, Tom Boots, Stanley Cochrane, David Fanning, Richard Fanning, Gene Fulton, Roger Fulton, Frank Gitter, John Groot, Kevin Hutchings, Carl Keller, Fr. George King, Julie Kitchen, Dorothy Klein, the Lane family (Bob, Lisa, Robert, and David), Bob Lane Sr., Florentino Montez, Pete Powers, Jim Roberts, George Shadle, James Shadle, Rick VanHoose, and myself, Verne. (My apologies to any I may have missed.)

Joe Jenicek of Panhandle Pipe and Welding donated his time and equipment to remove stumps and tidy the site up with his backhoe—thanks Joe. Special thanks also go to the County Commissioners for *not charging* us for our many trips to the transfer station.

Coming up next is evacuation of enough soil to set the forms for the footings and foundation. We may also build a little porta potty house over the sewer line to save renting one. We should receive our finished construction plans in early July. Then off to get the necessary permits and on with the show.

August, 1994—Building Update

By Lois Shadle

The house is being built! We are working hard to make our dream come true. The faithful board members are on board and with a few hard working volunteers the job will surely get done. We do need more help.

Joe Jenicek was driving his backhoe down the road when our Construction man saw him and promptly followed him to Pinehurst. When asked if he might be available to do some backhoe work, he very generously went right to the building site and immediately leveled out the lot, removing tree roots and old foundation in preparation for Randy Seaton's Bobcat work. Randy and several of our volunteers were then able to excavate the foundation site and remove the cement and stumps from the lot. Joe was not through with volunteer work. He came back and very graciously dug the drainage ditch for the house. Verne Blalack and the Lane family dug the plumbing ditches by hand so we are ready for the foundation forms to be laid.

The crew moved the small storage shed in preparation for moving the Lane's camper trailer (where they are currently staying) to a more convenient spot.

Ken Tilton of T & T Services has offered to put in all the wiring and jacks for the telephone and TV cable. Thank you Ken. We'll be in touch. And thanks Joe and Randy for donating your services and use of your equipment.

It looks like things are moving well, if a bit slowly, and we hope properly. We regret to say that the youth group has cancelled its stay at Lutherhaven. Come on volunteers. "We need help"

Sept, 1994—WE ARE BUILDING!

By Lois Shadle

What a great joy! How many blessings!

Our volunteers worked with the Lane family to demolish the old house, assisted Randy Seaton's Bobcat Service in excavating for the foundation, helped Bob Birdsell (from Blanchard & CDA area) form and pour the foundation, and labored along with the Gypsies to build the floors and walls.

Bob and Lisa Lane and their children, Robert, David and Elizabeth with other friends and family have put in their "Sweat Equity" hours with a smile and some back breaking work.

We are so proud of all these volunteers. *They are giving of their time, money and their hearts — without expecting recognition, payment or praise. They deserve all the heartfelt praise of everyone in our valley. They deserve our help. Lots of willing hands always make the load lighter. Don't be shy. Volunteer your help to build a better community. Ask what you can do.*

As we progress, we are looking forward to working with Jeff Crawford of Systems Design who is donating and installing the gas furnace and water heater; with Jack King, of King's Electric; with Bob DuBois of Sally Ann Mechanical and Jim Shadle, both plumbers; with Ken Tilton of T & T Services who will furnish and install the phone and TV jacks; and with Dick McPeak, a finish carpenter (who has been helping a lot already). We just received word that Bogie and Sons Roofing and Siding will be furnishing and installing the roofing.

Gypsies Mary Ellen Conrado, Herb Quade, Curtis Wilkinson, Bill Bennett, and June Quade help Verne Blalack install the mud sill on the foundation.



October, 1994—From the Trenches

By Verne Blalack

Since Lane's old water line wasn't buried very deep and sometimes froze in the winter, we are now installing a new line from the main to their new home. This installation consists of volunteers (mainly Bob Lane, Carl Keller, and Wayne McPeak) digging a 4 foot trench by hand.

Bob DuBois of **Sally Ann Mechanical** and Jim Shadle have been handling the plumbing. They have finished all the main waste and vent lines and are now installing the copper water lines.

The concrete porch piers and the small slab for the furnace room were poured this past week thanks to our wheelbarrowing volunteers (Bronco Bill Martin, Wayne McPeak, Wendell Swigart, Carl Keller, Bob Lane, Ron Boothe, Jim Shadle, and myself). This means that Jeff Crawford of **Systems Design** can now install the furnace and ductwork. The porch will have to wait until the underground electric line is installed. Hopefully, the next few weeks will see the electric and heating work in progress.

We stacked all the sheetrock (purchased at discount rate from **Ziggy's**) inside the house where it is dry thanks to the metal roofing *donated and installed by Bogie & Sons*.

By the time this article goes to press, the house may be wrapped with Tyvek® and awaiting the vinyl siding. Also in the next few weeks, **Shoshone Glass** (the Sawyers) will probably install our new vinyl windows.

We owe a **debt of gratitude to Du Pont** [Tyvek®], **Familian** [plumbing supplies] and **Shoshone Glass** [windows] for their very generous discounts on their goods, and to these electrical suppliers: **Stoneway Electric**, **North Coast Electric**, and **Thorco** for their gifts. Judy Linscott of **Crown Electric** is the angel who coordinated donations from the Coeur d'Alene electrical companies for us. Jack King of **Crown Electric** is permitting and supervising the electrical installation.

We would also like to thank Bob Green, Terry Gosline, Florentino Montez, and Gary McWilliams for the use of their scaffolding.

Hopefully the later part of October will find the home electrified, heated, insulated, and ready for the interior finish work. I hope so because it gets chilly in November and wouldn't it be nice if the Lanes could spend Christmas in a new home instead of a small camp trailer? **You** can help in many different ways such as working on various committees (fund-raising, public relations, family selection, site selection, family nurturing), digging, hammering, etc. *No talent's too big or small. Also, we're down to between 3-4 thousand dollars in the bank, so donations are certainly appreciated and needed.*

Notes from the Materials & Volunteer Coordinators

Ron Boothe & LaDonna Boothe

The construction of the Lane house is moving along with the help of a group of dedicated volunteers. SVHfH has received some much needed help from local businesses, as well as businesses in CD'A and Spokane. *When calling volunteers to work on the construction site and procuring materials for the house, we are met with such a willing spirit. When people have the necessary time, materials or money, they are willing to work with Habitat for Humanity. Thank you for that.*

We are at a point in the construction when it is necessary to reach out to the community for more of this help. Following is a list of materials that will be needed to complete the house: Vinyl Siding; R-19 Fiberglass Insulation; Sheetrock Tape; Sheetrock Nails or Screws; Metal Corners for Sheetrock; Floor Tile; 2 Outside Doors; Carpet for Master Bedroom and Stairs; Baseboard; Inside Doors; Kitchen Sink; Cabinets; and Fill Dirt (about 20 cu. yds.).

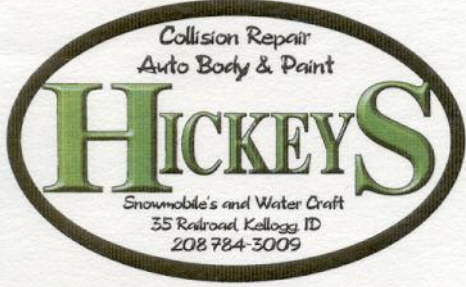
If you would like to contribute particular items or funds toward the purchase of these materials, please let us know. *Another option would be to pay for a square foot of the home. Your investment would be \$40 per square foot. This would be a good way for donors to designate the use of their contributions without tying it to a particular item.*

[The big hope was to be able to finish this home by Christmas. However, construction crews were unable to finish the back steps area due to the weather and the clay soil that held moisture. Next month, the special coverage of "Make a Difference Day" spearheaded by Gladys Trecker, which earned national recognition and the Lane's home dedication will be featured.]

We can disagree on all sorts of things, but, thank God, we can agree on the use of a hammer as an instrument to manifest God's love.

Millard Fuller President and Co-Founder, HfHI and The Fuller

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We are honored to receive these donations.

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*From Alana Reynolds
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Greater Blessings Fund

Verne & Judy Blalack, Josephine Davis,
Andrew Dawson, Christiana & Josh Mace



At Garry's Auto, Garry Dodge and Jim Dodge accept an appreciation certificate from Bob Whitman and Ellie Arguimbau. Jim and Nida Dodge's home build was featured in an earlier Silver Bulletin issue.

Coming Events

Mar 20—Board Retreat, Mountain View Congregational Church, 9 AM to Noon.



Brian Harden and Cheryl Bryant of Building Maintenance-Ace Hardware accept an appreciation certificate from Ellie Arguimbau and Bob Whitman. For years, this business has supported our efforts with generous prizes for our fund raisers and discounts.



On behalf of F & H Mine Supply, Holly Turbak accepts a thank you certificate from Ellie Arguimbau and Bob Whitman. F & H Mine Supply has supported this newsletter since we started selling ads.

Here's Help for SVFCH . . .

- ❖ I'd like to join the "300 Club" and pledge at least \$10 per month for one year. Please note 300 on your check.
- ❖ Here is my pledge for \$ _____ per month for one year.
- ❖ Here is my gift of \$ _____.
- ❖ I have a house and/or land to donate.
- ❖ I can make a no-interest loan for \$ _____. Please call about working out the details.
- ❖ I can provide construction materials either discounted or at no cost.
- ❖ I would like to help with construction and/or committee work. Please call me to help or send a volunteer form.

- I do not wish to be on your mailing list.

I do not wish a receipt or thank-you.

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Please return to Silver Valley Fuller Center for Housing, Inc. ☐☐ P.O. Box 338, Smeltonville, ID 83868 ☐☐ 208-682-3240

We are featuring the Lane Family in this issue.



County Commissioners, Jay Huber, Mike Fitzgerald and John Hansen accept an appreciation certificate. Shoshone County Commissioners have been staunch supports of our group since our first build, the Lanes, offering a waiver at the transfer station for the trash left from our builds.

As you can tell from the accounts of our early homes, it really takes a community effort for non-profits like SVFCH to function. Please offer your help with any board member, President Bob Whitman, Vice President John Boy Delaney, Secretary Ellie Arguimbau, Treasurer Tami Atkins, Directors: John Hopper, Kathy McPeak, Norm Holtz, and Duane Little. Or call me, Judy Blalack at 208-682-3240.



Another great supporter is Rick Fuller of the Mouse Pad. He & Ben keep my computers running so I can produce this newsletter and also donate occasional prizes and ads.

We need the donation of a "Fix-It-Upper" or a generous discounted sale so a low income family can afford a no-interest mortgage. Such a donation or discount counts on your taxes. Call John Hopper at 208-784-1202 or 208-512-0804 or Duane Little at 208-786-7572 if you have such property.

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