

LEMON IN 1991.

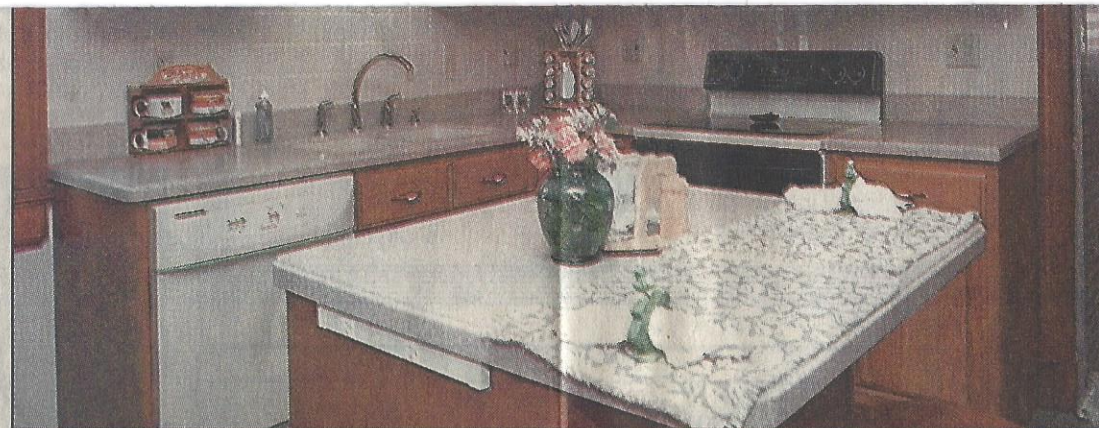
Lemon didn't plan to buy another "project" house last summer, but when the house came on the market, it was just the size he wanted. Plus, he knew that because it was in a historic district, it would always hold its value. Lemon also was impressed with the beauty of the enormous open staircase and the hardwood floors.

In the 11 months since he and his wife, Susan, moved in, "There hasn't been a time when we weren't working on the house."

Although Lemon had sworn he would never do floors again, he did end up refinishing the large home's oak hardwood floors.

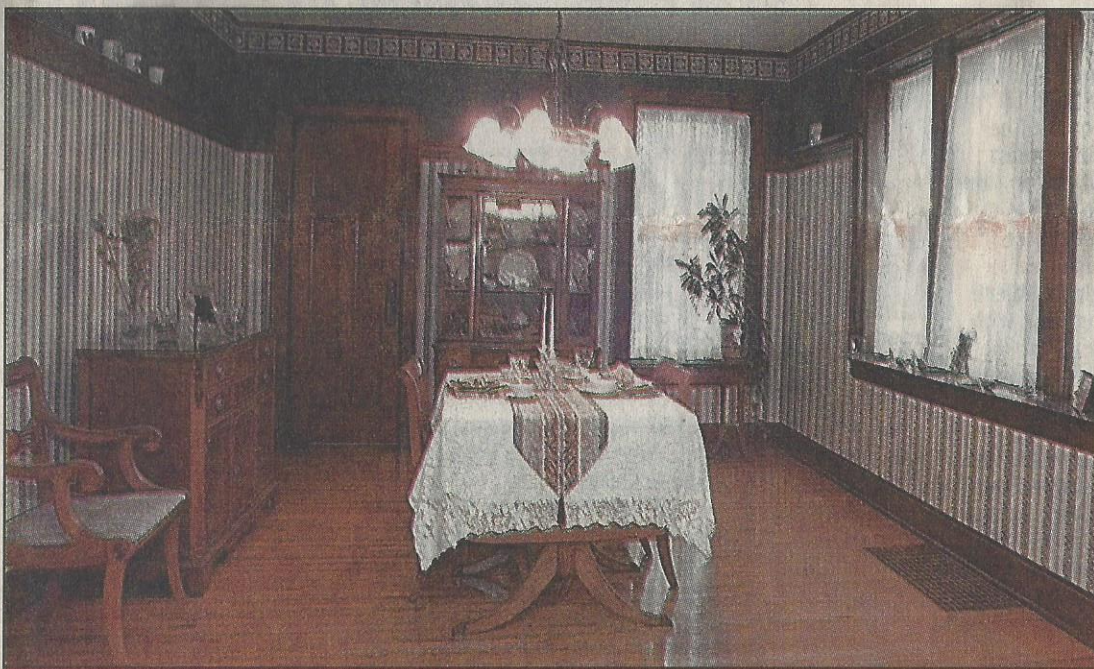
First, Lemon used liquid stripper and then sanded the floors three times. He stained the floors golden oak and applied three coats of polyurethane, using steel wool between each coat. He worked evenings for two weeks to complete the job.

Lemon also stripped layers and layers of wallpaper from each room in the house and skim-coated most rooms. He estimates each room took about 40



hours of hard, messy labor.

Luckily for Lemon, the simple, Craftsman-style oak trim, sliding doors, crown molding and massive paneled staircase are in good condition, so he could concentrate on other projects.



One was redoing the kitchen to gain more counter space and cabinets. The job was a major undertaking. Lemon gutted the kitchen himself.

Then, because he wanted "cabinets that looked like furniture," he hired Leon Miller of Canton, Mo., to custom make solid cherry cabinets.

The Lemons couldn't use their kitchen for eight weeks, but the result was worth it. They now have a beautiful, inviting kitchen where they spend much of their time.

Lemon also brightened up the second floor bathroom with wallpaper and paint and had a ring shower added to the original claw foot bathtub.

Lemon hired an electrician to completely rewire the large house.

To prepare the house for future technology, he had phone lines, computer lines and cable put in every room.

He also had extra sockets added in each room, as well as electronic smoke detectors. An electrical service tube was installed from the basement to the attic so that future wiring could be pulled without going through walls.

Sometimes the Lemons think of the past 11 months as a "nightmare," remembering playing "musical bedrooms" while Lonny redid three of the four large bedrooms. They remember being confined to living in the kitchen and family room while Lonny redid all the main floor rooms.

But in the end, all of the hard work paid off.

H-W Photos/Michael Kip

The house at 417 S. 14th is the third house that Lonny Lemon has fixed up. Lemon and his wife Susan have spent the last 11 months renovating the home.

