

The Old Shoebox Newsletter

Adventures in modern technology by Marlo E. Schuldt

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A Family History Time Capsule

For many years my wife has dreamed about remodeling the entry to our home. Her heart was set on having a new alder hand railing. She also wanted the decorative bricks removed from the walls. Last Christmas her dream came true. The kids (all adults now) decided to combine their resources, talents, labor and money to make her dream a reality.

The project was completed last February after two months of hard work. I decided to commemorate the big effort by creating a time capsule detailing the project and a brief history of our home as we know it.

I took photos of the project as it progressed. Next I wrote a seven page letter and had every-



one sign the back. I folded the letter, added a new "gold" 2007 dollar and put it in the top of the knuell post and capped it.



Signature and date of the project on the inside top of nuell post cap.



Nuell post with cap off awaiting the placement of the time capsule to be hidden inside.



Nuell post with time capsule inside, cap attached awaiting to be sanded, stained and lacquered.



Exposed walls in the entry. Note the decorative brick (Bottom right) - hard to remove!





The Wallpaper Nightmare!

My wife and I have agreed that we will NEVER install any wallpaper.

This took days to remove and we even had to buy a steamer to get it off the walls. It's not fun when the plaster comes off.

Spay the wall with water to moisten the first layer of wallpaper and peel that off.

Moisten the next layer and peel that off.

Finally, get the steamer and slowly remove the thick and gooey wallpaper paste with the last layer of wallpaper that reveals little problems that weren't fixed properly.

If you put wallpaper back in this house I will haunt you from my grave!

Wall Removal - Scary!

It was very scary standing on the ladder, swinging a crowbar with one hand, hanging on to the ladder with the other hand while missing the chandelier. Then I had to yank off the sheetrock and not catapult off the ladder when it came loose.

Falling? That would have been very bad since it was about 18 feet to the bottom of the stairs leading to the basement.





Nate Bitter Construction at Work!

Nate is shown here after removing the old iron hand railing while getting the floor ready to insert the new nuell post.

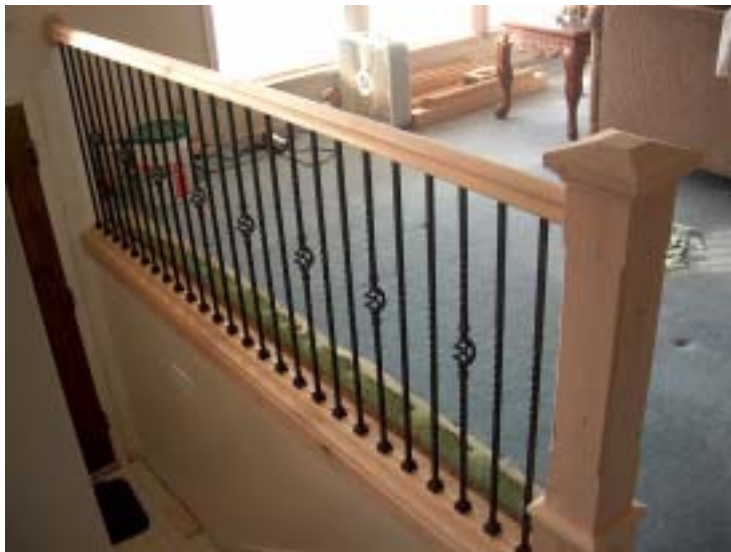
The old railing was so weak and wobbly that it was more for show than protection.



Finally a nuell post that is secure and doesn't budge. Nate sunk the post into the floor and used lots of construction grade glue and many long screws.

I think the new nuell post is the strongest part of our home!

Nate is ready to start work on the base that will hold the ballisters in place.



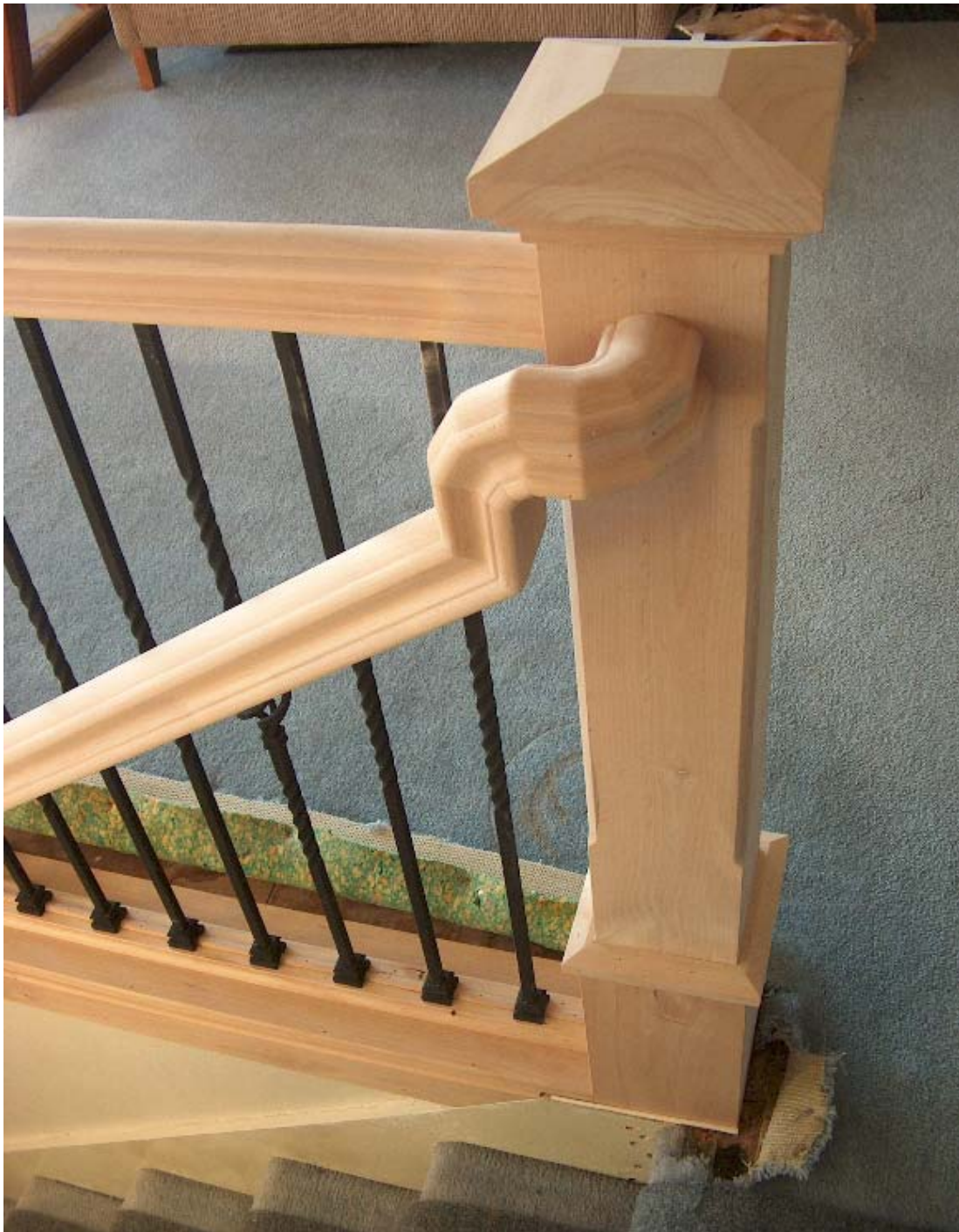
The upstairs railing and ballisters are in place. What an improvement over the old shaky and dangerous railing that would not have passed current building codes since an unattended small child could have gotten their head in between the old ballisters.



The remains of the old hand railing.



New railing is installed that leads to the landing and middle railing now installed.



Look at the beautiful custom construction of the handrail as it joins the newel post. I'll bet you have never seen such a work of art. To say that Nate Bitter is talented and creative would be a compliment but a gross understatement!

Nate is an intuitive artist that marries his creative genius and unique vision into the native woods he works with. He works his wonders with a photographic mind that utilizes a tape measure, pencil, saw and sander. His final artwork is expressed as he uses the perfect stain and lacquer. What a unique masterpiece! Best of all, we will literally feel of our son-in-law's handy work each time we touch the handrail going to and from.



Nate's attention to detail and consideration is admirable. He carefully taped off and around the new railing so that we will not have to repaint after he finishes.

Sanding and staining is now complete. We await the final lacquer coating today that will seal and protect our new masterpiece..

I'm going to insist that Nate sign his work. Yes, his signature will be hidden on the inside of the cap along with this letter.

Best Wishes and I hope you enjoyed this little glimpse into the past and the people that lived here.

Best Wishes - Marlo E. Schuldt

February 17, 2007

My name is Marlo E. Schuldt. Leanna and I are the current owner's of this home. The home has had at least two prior owners. We have made some significant changes and upgrades to the home during our tenure here.

The kitchen had to be remodeled when the shower leaked in our bed room.

It ruined the floor in the kitchen, pantry, next bathroom, ceiling for the storage room in the basement and the vanity in the downstairs bathroom where the water leaked down the wall. The leaking shower caused close to \$4,000 in damage. We put in a new Purgo floor in the kitchen, painted the cupboards and put in new counter tops. I had to put in a new wall in the middle bathroom since that is the wall I tore out first trying to find the "leak" which I thought was the shower fixtures in the next wall. **It wasn't!** It was the shower pan (floor) that leaked into the three other rooms that caused so much damage. I also replaced the middle bathroom floor with ceramic tiles. I replaced the master bath floor, put in new linoleum, tore out the shower – big and heavy job and had a new shower, with glass doors installed with simulated marble walls.

Nathan Bitter, my son-in-law is a very talented finish carpenter and built this custom handrail for the downstairs and upstairs split entry.

The handrail and new entry way were a joint Christmas present for Leanna. Nathan Schuldt (baby of the family) paid for the materials for the hand rail. David Schuldt (oldest son) paid for the new tile in the entry way (landing). I, Marlo Schuldt, tore out the old decorative brick, put in new sheetrock in the entry, taped, sanded, and painted the entry way. Leanna and I also took off (steamed) three layers of wallpaper (a most difficult and time consuming job) in the living room that took three days. I also had to resurface and sand all three walls and seal the walls before painting. *We still need to paint the ceiling.*

Nate and Kathleen (Kath is the 3rd daughter in our family of five) also donated some of the Alder wood for the handrail. And of course, Nate Bitter sacrificed many hours doing all the custom construction, staining and lacquering of the railing.

I started tearing out the walls the day after Christmas. It took over a week to tear out and construct the new walls. That was a real dusty mess. It has taken until today to make all the progress stated above.

We also enclosed the walls out on the deck over the garage so that my mother, Velma Olsen Schuldt could have a place to live in her declining years so we could take care of her. Mom passed away three years ago at the ripe old age of 96. I'm typing this letter out on the "deck" since this is now where my home office is located for our LifeStory Family History business.

My wife would like to live here forever. However, as my knees continue to deteriorate, I doubt I will be able to continue to "climb" those stairs for many more years. The new hand railings will be a big help especially the new railing that goes downstairs that was never there Another building code violation from the past.

I wish you all the best and success if you are the new owner of this home. I hope you are not tearing out this hand railing since this letter is hidden in the nuell post unless someone in the family told you that it is hidden here or you are a member of the family who wants this old memorabilia for posterity.

We've had many wonderful family experiences in this home. I hope you continue to upgrade it and take care of it and have many of your own wonderful family experiences to add to its history.

Best Wishes,

Marlo E. Schuldt

I got this idea (hiding a note) from my father, Edward H. Schuldt. He used to sign the bottom of a chair with his name and date if he remodeled or fixed something. I have also signed the little rocking chair I made the kids for a Christmas present years ago and other tables and objects I have built, fixed or refinished.