

For Sale: Rare Piece of Local History

JOSEPH PREVOST
Staff Writer

Built some 89 years ago and remaining in the family for another 79 years, the house at 300 State Street is up for sale.

Currently owned by Betty Mahmood (of *Not Without My Daughter* fame), it is a rare piece of local history that she has painstakingly restored to its original condition, right down to original appliances.

The house at 300 State Street was built by the Fletcher family who's patriarch, George N. Fletcher, was one of our town founders.

He arrived in the area in the mid-1800's making his venture in the logging industry.

Later he joined other town fathers and founded Huron Portland Cement (now owned by Lafarge Corporation) as well as

other major industries. Fletcher's influence has left a very long legacy of industry that remains well entrenched in our community. More information on Fletcher can be obtained at the George N. Fletcher Library reference section (211 N. first St., Alpena Michigan, 989-356-6188).

Mahmood acquired the stately home from the Fletcher family in November of '93 for an undisclosed amount. She is selling the home for a little over \$1.2 million. It stands regally on an impressive slice of Thunder Bay Shoreline, apart from its neighbors.

Upon entering the house you are whisked away to a time when life was very different and the address 300 State Street was not even within the city limits of Alpena.

Its design and technology are a testament to the affluence of its original

owners. The house has hand woven, imported, seamless, wool carpets. It's nearly impossible to tell they are almost as old as the house is. The carpet in the master suite's sitting room cost nearly \$45,000 when it was imported from France and installed over half a century ago.

The house was designed for housing both family and servants. The north end of the house was intended as the servant's area. The remaining two thirds were for the family.

The kitchen, the servants' workspace and their living quarters were distinctly separate.

No expense was spared in building this house.

With five marble fireplaces, a grand dining room, and a library covered entirely in walnut.

The house is constructed of poured concrete and filled



The Fletcher House is a time machine back to the 1800s.

Photo By Joseph Prevost

from end to end with the best woodwork.

The kitchen is separated into three rooms by function. And the windows are constructed of copper with leaded windowpanes.

The basement houses a full service bar with a pool table and access to the elevator that goes directly to the master suite on the second

floor.

In a separate part of the basement is a fully functional bowling lane complete with original balls, pinsetter, ball return and score sheets.

The pinsetter is manual though, considerably limiting single player bowling.

As if that was not enough there is a private tennis court overlooking Thunder Bay.

Lee Pumford of LeValley Real Estate, Saginaw Michigan, 800-547-1918, was very accommodating in providing a tour and information.

Though Mahmood was hoping to entertain the tour of her home herself she was unable to make it but expressed her gratitude for the interest.

Coast Guard Surprising Stateside Contributor to War Effort

KATIE PIZZA
Staff Writer

With the ongoing war in Iraq it seems necessary to focus some attention to the people here in Alpena who are involved in the military.

The war effort is not simply something that only takes place "over there" but is also relevant inside the United States' borders as well.

One surprising branch of the

military that is involved in the war effort is the Coast Guard. While they are primarily known for their works protecting the coastline they are also present in the war with the use of landing craft and needed vehicles.

While the Coast Guard "may not have high numbers, [they] are a part of what is happening [in the war]," according to Chief Brad Adams of the Coast Guard.

This is not a new occurrence; the Coast Guard was involved in World War II causing one member of the Coast Guard to receive the Medal of Honor (an award given for bravery) for his efforts.

Another branch that is involved in the war effort is the Army. One group of soldiers that are especially involved in Iraq are the Special Forces or "Green Berets" as they are more commonly known.

Members of this group are at this time in Iraq and are presently waiting for further instructions.

At the moment, the U.S. is not relying on ground fighting but preferring to focus their attention on air tactics to destroy targets, which is still relevant to the Army because of their use of helicopters and other air transportation.

The Army is considered to be the "main force in Iraq

because [the Army is] self-supporting and can accomplish pretty much anything," according to Staff Sergeant Todd Easterday of the Army.

The reason for this is because the Army is the largest military branch and can have more soldiers readily available for whatever need may arise.

It is certain that a need will arise for both of these branches in the ongoing war

and it is also important to note that these branches are always looking for more people to join their ranks.

For information about joining the Coast Guard or about the Coast Guard in general please contact Chief Brad Adams at 356-1656.

For information about joining the Army or about the Army in general please call Staff Sergeant Todd Easterday at 356-6102.



Brownbag Lunch

"The State of Current Events"

April 9th, 23rd

11:30-12:30 p.m. BTC 107D

Left: Kappa Beta Delta Inductees at the March Induction Ceremony. Photo Courtesy Jay Walterreit.

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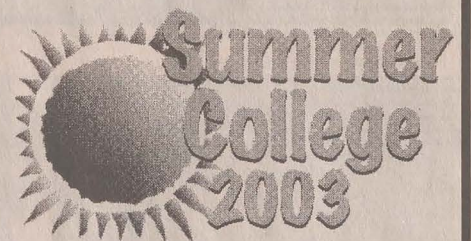
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