



Inge Bustard and daughter Marilyn examine a model of the first diesel engine made which sits in their primitive pine cabinet.

Festive fun at Rockwood house

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Rockwood Miller

With the festive season just around the corner, Inge and Marilyn Bustard are in the giving mood and they are offering Rockwood merchants and residents the opportunity to share an old fashioned Christmas at the Colonel Strange House.

The mother and daughter moved into the old stone house — located at 238 Main St. S. — two years ago and recently completed 18 months of renovation to repair falling ceilings, cracked plumbing, shredded wall paper, broken floor tiles, a malfunctioned furnace, to name a few projects.

"It's a nice feeling to restore the house the way it was (in the mid 1800s)," says an excited Inge, who invites locals to help introduce the renovated residence of Lt. Colonel Henry Strange, the founder of the village of Rockwood.

"A lot of people want to see the house. It's part of the village and we'd like to show it to the village."

Planned for each of the first three weekends in December, is a tour by the original owner of this historical house, Squire Strange, who built the first mills in the village. Though he passed away many years ago, three people — one for each weekend — will dress up as the interesting but eccentric

Squire, and recount some of the history surrounding the house.

Displays will showcase the many Rockwood businesses, including artists and artisans, who have already confirmed their appearance at the house. Merchants will create a Christmas display featuring some of their products.

Some of the displays include a decorated Christmas tree by *Doodles*, exterior and interior Christmas decorating by Diane Ottema-Yanchus from *Times and Seasons* and bags of spices from *Marshall's General Store* in Eden Mills.

As well, *Knechtel's* is offering a Christmas hamper as a door prize, a horse and wagon will take people on a "sleigh ride" to explore the many curious and interesting shops through town and Santa Claus himself will be on hand.

"That's what has made the preparations so nice — everyone has offered to participate," Inge says, adding the house will be used for meetings, seminars and small weddings in the future.

"Rockwood's having a party and we're asking the rest of the world to come," adds Marilyn, who says next year's plan includes dressing in 1860s clothing.

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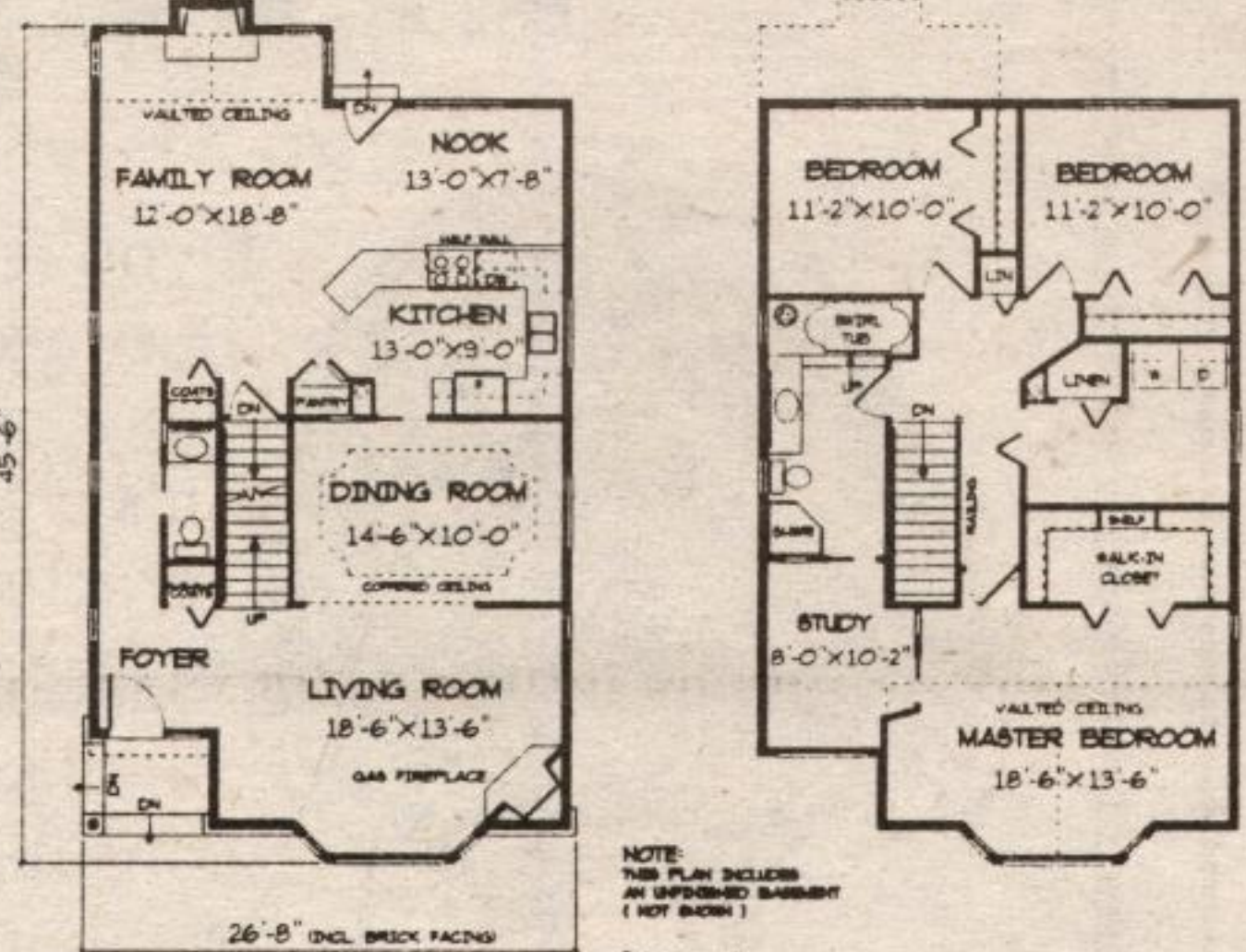
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A large utility room is conveniently located upstairs where most of the laundry is generated. The master bedroom features a vaulted ceiling, walk-in

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Car stolen from rural driveway

A vehicle was stolen from a rural Eramosa home last Tuesday.

The 1990 Oldsmobile, valued at \$8,000, was parked outside in the driveway of the Conc. 7 residence when it was taken.

Police say the car's owner had left the keys inside the vehicle. The area OPP is investigating.

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