

# Getting 100% of the dream

## *Doing it right in the second Parade home*

*Editor's Note — In this issue, are the second and third articles in a series on the homes that will be in Grand County's first Parade of Homes, the Grand Escape, this August. This home was constructed by Icebox Builders, owned by John Berendes, and the one starting on Page 2 was done by Blake Inc., owned by David Rogers.*

**by Harry Williamson**

What happens when a builder is allowed to do a house that is exactly right? That fully puts the word "custom" into custom home. A home that gives form to every portion of the owner's dream.

One hundred percent.

The whole enchilada.

These are the homes that were made of the very best materials and finishes, that had the highest possible attention to detail. They are the slower builds, taking between a year and two years to complete.

Such a home sits on a large acreage west of Fraser, constructed by John Berendes' Icebox Builders and his team of subcontractors.

"It wasn't going to be this until the owners realized what they had in me and the subcontractors," Berendes said. "When they realized what we were capable of, it really took off."

To say it is a beautiful home is to say the Mona Lisa is mildly attractive.

It is a home that blends together seamlessly, a comfortable sense of completeness as one moves from the great room, and its uniquely ceilinged dining room, to the guest suite, and still

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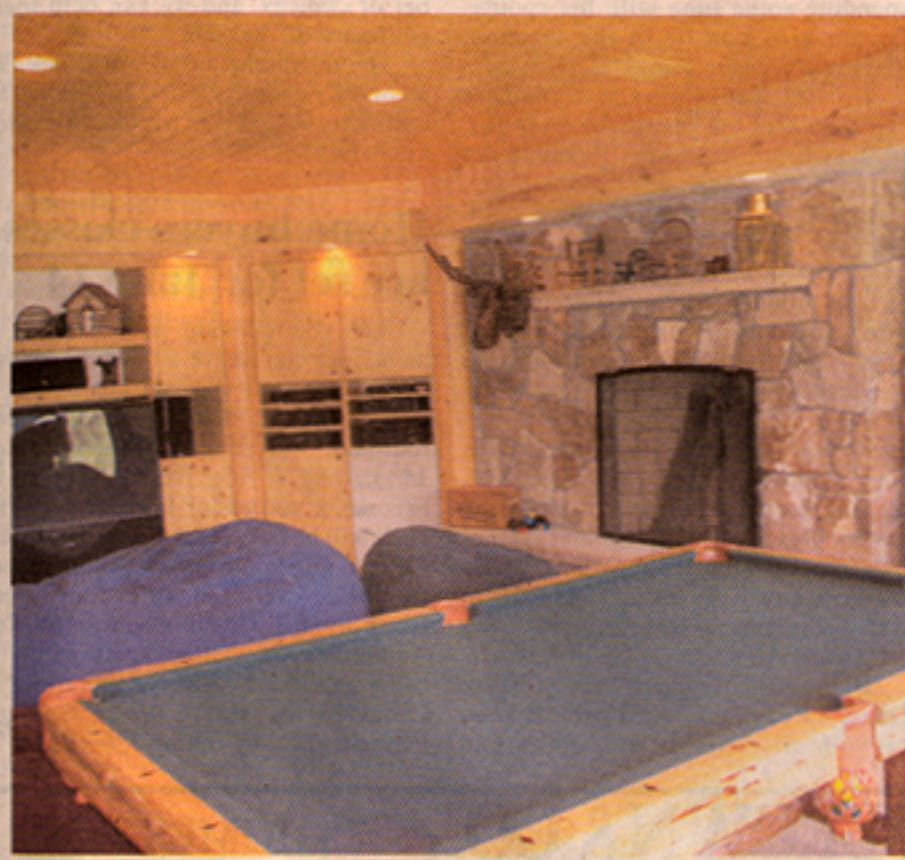
### *Home meets all of the goals*

Pictured is an exterior and interior view of the home constructed by Icebox Builders, owned by John Berendes, which will be featured in the 2004 Grand Escape, Grand County's first Parade of Homes. The home features unique log work, natural woods and stonework, and a myriad of unique special features.





# *With custom, owners can have it all*



**FURNISHINGS ALSO FIT** — The home is filled with furnishings that complement the mountain design and family feel of the home, such as the rec room at left, the master bedroom above, and even the raccoon carving by Paul Stark.

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upwards to an observatory tower with a winding staircase.

Downstairs is kid territory, for the owners' three children and their friends, divided into a "moose" bunk room and a "bear" living area. The recreation room is designed for family living, incorporating both plop-down space to watch the home theater system, and a large area for the pool table. There is a walk-out patio, along with two decks on the main level, a smaller one off the dining room, and an extremely large

## *TAKE YOUR CHOICE!*

*Fish the river, the lake or the canal!*



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# Home is filled with fine features and finishes



one on the other side of the great room, with a hot tub, and an eating area. The decking material is maintenance free, with no exposed fasteners.

Small, quality touches abound, ranging from the oil-rubbed, bronze hardware on the custom-made doors, to the granite backsplash in the kitchen, cut in the form of a mountain range. As one more of many examples, a small bathroom off the great room features a gorgeous hand-fashioned copper sink.

When talking about the home now, a couple of years after it was completed, John starts with the log work, fully-scribed Douglas firs that mesh with each other perfectly, sometimes three or even four logs joining at one spot. This log work, done in a post and beam style of construction, includes a majestic

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**BUILDER AT REST** — Pictured above is John Berendes, owner of Icebox Builders, Inc., standing in a corner of the home's great room. Berendes specializes in high quality custom homes, working closely with the owner to get exactly the desired result. Shown at right is the home's larger deck.



# Parade will also feature Notes at 9000 music

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prow at one end of the great room. This log wall stretches up for two floors, encasing windows, which provide light and the mountain view.

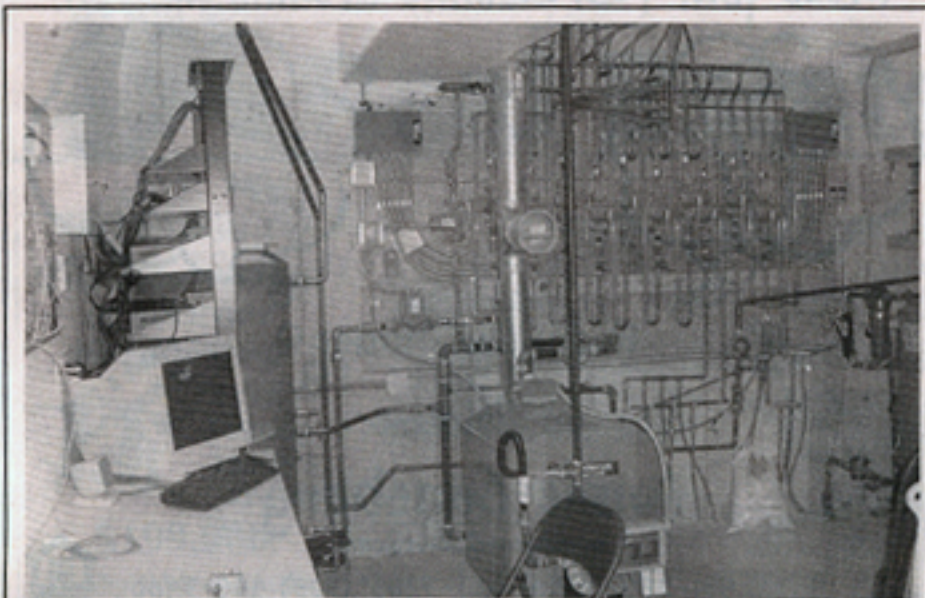
"This home is as custom as it gets, and the log work really separates it," Berendes said.

The home also features a wide range of numerous types of wood,

including the walnut, pine and hickory used in the floors and some of the ceilings. Walnut pegs or "plugs" were hand-placed in the hickory floor.

Lodgepole pine, taken from the standing dead on the property, was used for all of the railings and banis-

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**SMART HOUSE** — The home built by Icebox Builders is a so-called "smart house," with the owner able to monitor functions from his primary home.



# Parade of Homes needs volunteers

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ters, hand fashioned with a draw knife, carefully leaving knots and other "imperfections" in the wood.

Berendes also used pine branches from the property to build the mirror frames in several of the bathrooms.

Nationally-known wood carver John Stark did numerous animal and wood-scene carvings on the stairway, including a raccoon peering playfully out

from a post. Another paramount feature of the home is the stonework, both inside and out, done by local mason Rick Demarest and his crew. The massive stone chimney in the great room serves both the room's Rumford-style, wood-burning fireplace, and also a gas fired one in the basement. Demarest estimates that approximately 15 tons of stone and concrete were used in the fireplace construction. He also dupli-

cated the stone work above the stove in the kitchen. Berendes believes that such a home can only happen where there is an extremely close relationship between the builder, and the owners and architect, both of who, in this case, lived in the Boulder area.

"I often talked with the architect, and almost daily with the owners. They knew exactly what they wanted, and they wanted everything exactly right," he said.

He added that such demands might frighten off some builders, but that he took great pride and enjoyment "in satisfying an owner like that."

"These jobs let me show off what I

can do. After it's completed, I take a lot of pride from the accomplishment," he said.

He added that there are a number of excellent small builders in Grand County who have developed outstanding reputations simply by word of mouth. "We have earned an excellent set of references from owners who are now are close acquaintances and friends. We are going to protect these hard-earned reputations by doing the highest quality work, and by charging a fair price," he said.

The phone number for Icebox Builders is 970-726-5098, and John's cell phone number is 970-531-3435.



**BUNK ROOMS** — Downstairs, in kid territory, there are two bunk rooms, one named for moose, shown above, and the other for bears.