

Log House

Something Different

By ELIZABETH STEWART
Womans Editor

When Jerry and Rita Simmons started planning for their new home they decided to use a rustic look and wanted a setting to enhance it.

They also wanted something different.

Their new home when completed on Oak Grove road near Maple Springs will encompass their original ideas and more.

The Simmons are building a luxury log house, probably one of the first such magnificent residences in this state, a triple story with 18 foot cathedral ceiling throughout.

Jerry, principal at Waco Middle School, and Rita, resource teacher at Polkville School, are using their summer vacation to construct their new home.

Jerry is doing a lot of the work himself.

The logs, a total of 375 plus gable logs for the 76 foot by 36 foot residence, were shipped from Vermont, each lettered and numbered. The Simmons flew to New York State and spent three days learning how to build log houses and inspecting some of them in the area.

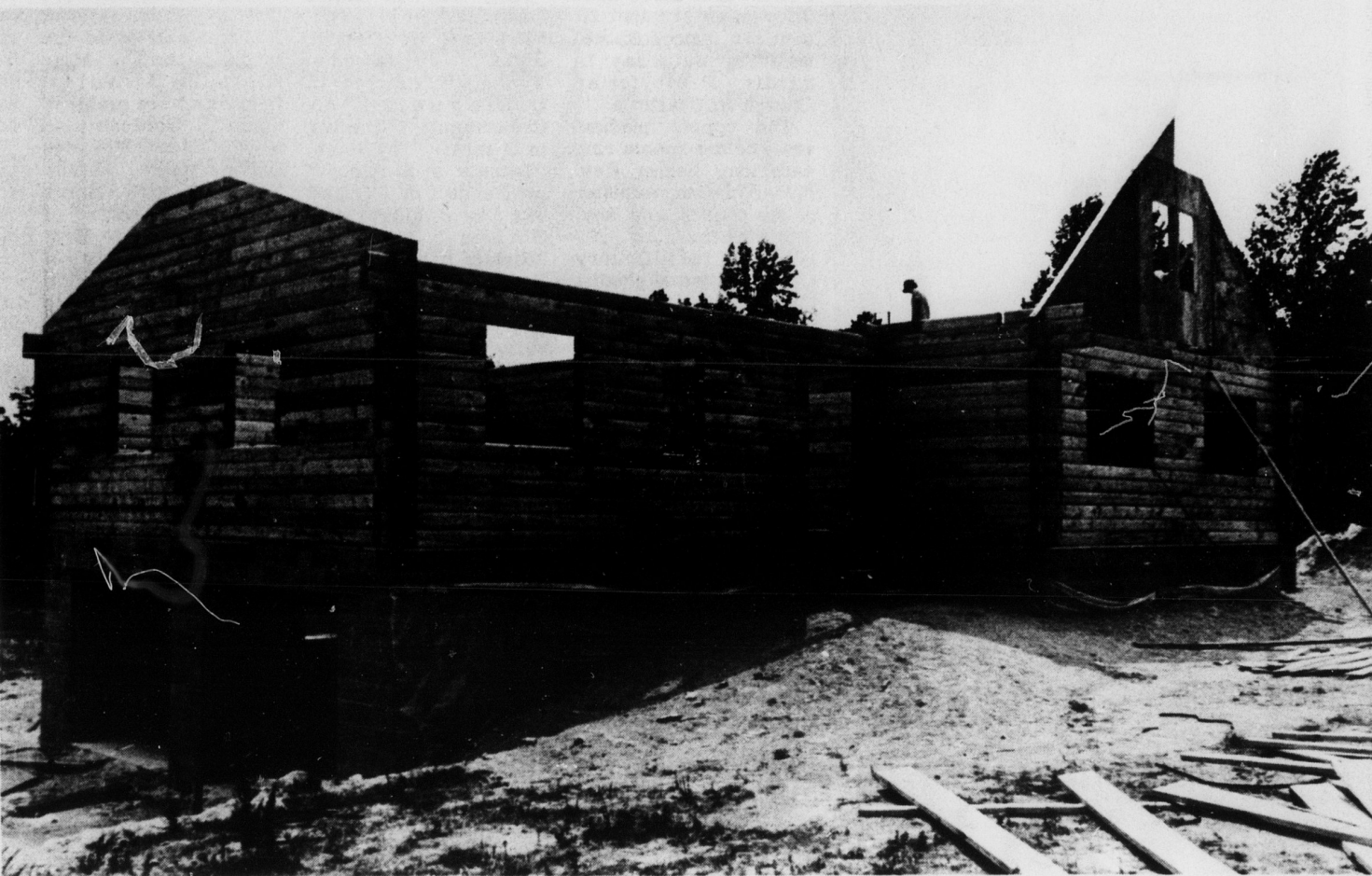
Raymond Blanton, contractor, terms the mammoth project "a little like building a giant erector set," the logs put together with 12 inch spikes with no nail visible on inside or outside. Jerry plans to double treat the logs, stain the 40 foot long beams and lacquer all the ceilings himself, a project which will take a lot of time and probably won't be completed by the reopening of school.

When completed, the house will have a beautiful pine finish and natural look, which is what the couple want to achieve.

Jerry said that he and his wife had studied history of log houses and were confident after talking to owners in upstate New York that fuel bills can be cut in half because of the good insulation, noting that even in early colonial times log cabins were "built so much tighter to keep in the heat."

Jerry and Rita discovered first hand how comfortable and warm a log structure can be when they spent several nights in a log home in the Cascade Mountains of New York when the temperatures outside were near zero.

Some features of the house will include a full basement with fireplace in the basement and also in the den, double sliding glass doors and triple windows which give a panorama of the mountains and the lake in front of the house which sits in the middle of a 38 acre tract of land, a large kitchen, an upstairs "loft" which will feature a study and music room for the couple, who are both talented musicians, three bedrooms, all large with

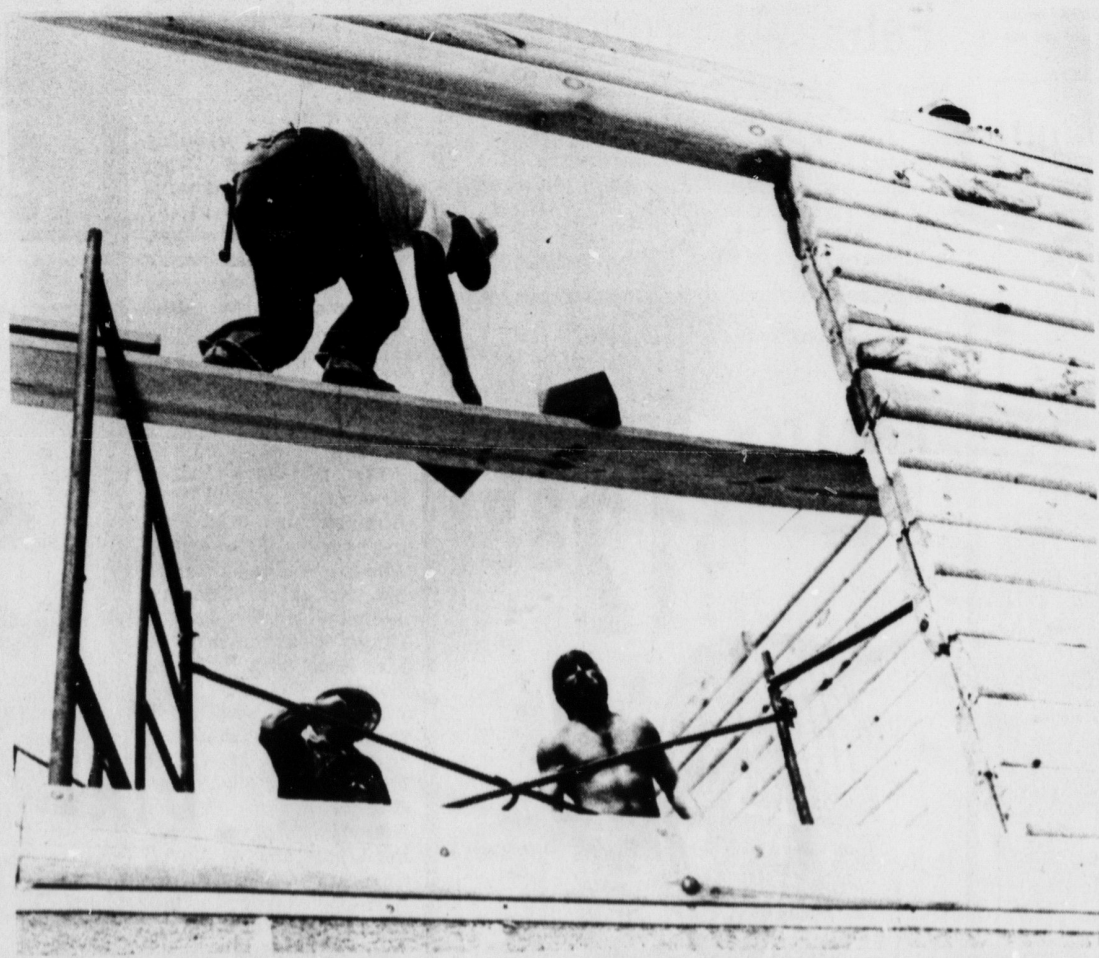
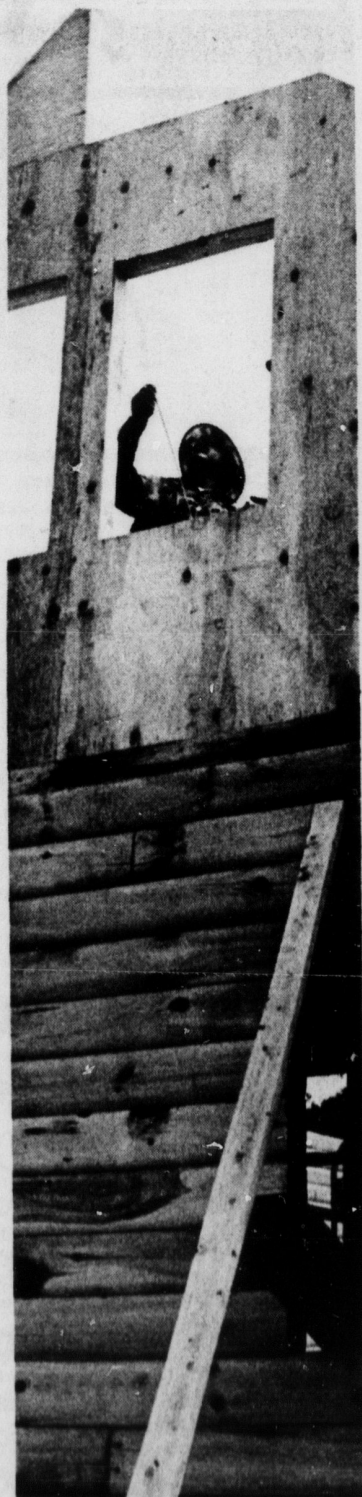


Photos by

Tom McIntyre

Logs for Jerry and Rita's house

shipped from Vermont...



Workers say it's like building a giant erector set....

ample closets on the upstairs level, a deck which runs the whole back of the house and a circular stairway you can see as you enter the home, from the fireplace and into the upstairs loft.

The interior walls are of one inch northern white pine and will be natural while the outside will be finished in clear stain.

Raymond Blanton's sons and other relatives are giving Jerry a hand in building the house, including Wayne and Ronnie Blanton, Wes Blanton, Richard Blanton, Steve Ware and Bill Sayers.

The Simmons house is Jerry Simmons first venture into the building business. He said he got

the idea from a friend in Winston Salem, Rita liked it too and they studied books on the subject of log house building and then made a trip to New York to see log houses and to learn how to put them together.

The big project got underway the last week in June.

There are two log houses in Cleveland County and the third, the "Fletcher Carolina" house was built with round logs.

The Simmons house is a luxury log home and when completed will be a showplace and a home the two young people will be proud of.

It is located about a half mile from Rita's parents, Dale and Eusebia Volbracht.



Lake gives picturesque setting

for Simmons' new home ...