

Happy Thanksgiving! (2011 Newsletter, Published September 2014)

Work on the house after my heart attack last year almost came to a standstill. Everett pitched in and got the patio room ceiling rafters, floor joists, and flooring in. Including repairing the deteriorated kitchen floor. This is the way the patio room sat for several months, due to emergency family situations.

Creating the design for our new kitchen took considerably longer than I intended. One of the first major problems I encountered were the measurements. Each time I measured the room, I came up with different figures, and I knew I was not making mistakes. I began punching holes in the walls to measure directly from the concrete blocks and/or framing. It turned out there was nothing wrong with my measurements, they were accurate for the location I took the measurements from.

The problem was not in my abilities, but with the house itself. The ceiling both sags in the center and slopes. The kitchen partition wall was two and one-half inches out of square, and the vertical exterior walls tilted inward at the top a good one and one-half inches. After adjusting for these problems, our original design for the new kitchen was impossible.

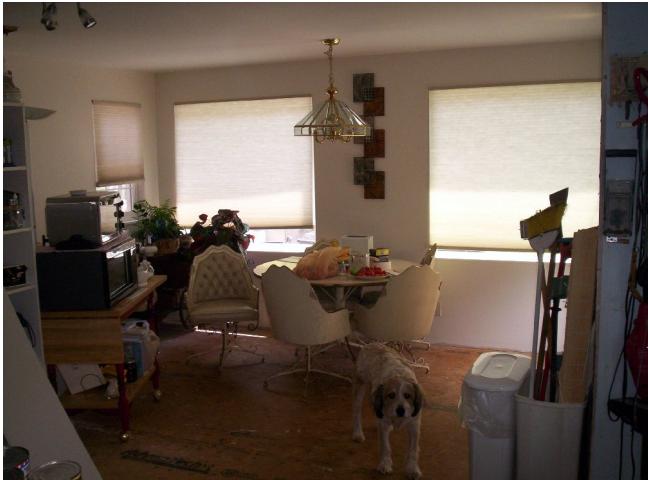
Our early intent was to use the patio room like a mud room, and place the washer and dryer out of the kitchen area. The necessary fall for the sanitary plumbing negated this idea. Once the original concrete block exterior wall was removed and the floor installed, we decided to include this room with the kitchen. This put installing the electric in the patio room on hold until we finalized our designs.

To ensure I had accurate calculations, once again Everett came by and helped remove the upper cabinets in the kitchen. The ceiling was installed after the original cabinetry, so the ceiling was open to the attic after their removal. The left picture was taken the day the drywall was pulled down. The old ceiling sagged down in the center here too, but I later corrected the problem.



Once the engineering drawings were completed, I tackled finishing the patio room first. Installing the electric was a long slow process for me, as I ran out of energy very fast. After I had the rough-in for the patio room completed, I hired a neighbor to install most of the drywall, especially the ceiling. I did the corner beads, taping, and finishing myself, working only about half hour per day until finished.

You'll have to excuse the mess, because I had to tear out a lot of stuff in the kitchen for measurement purposes, and we only have so much working room in this little house.



While I was in the process of finishing the patio room, we were hit with tornado driven hailstones the size of racket balls. We were hit so hard, the hail shattered six of the west facing roof rafters, and destroyed the new siding we just finished installing about sixteen months ago. Because all the roofers were busy handling the simple tear-offs and slap-downs, they wouldn't consider taking on a job with structural damage. So we went over three months with no roof, and replaced the useless tarps several times.

Much of the work we completed inside the house suffered a lot of damage from the many heavy rainstorms during this time. Cleanup up after each rainstorm was a constant battle. Even though I removed wet insulation from the attic as fast as possible, our living room ceiling came crashing down on Debi and the pooches. No one was hurt, but this section of the house had gray blown in insulation, and really made a royal mess of our living room.

We finally found a contractor who would take on repairing the roof on our house, garage, and we decided to add a new roof over the storage sheds whose tops were beaten in. These pictures show it after we bent the metal back up and installed the roof. Siding will come next year after winter passes.



After we had a new roof, I finished the patio room, and will continue with our kitchen remodel in the 2012 newsletter.

Provided nothing else goes wrong this year.