

Site Search

Enter search term

[Advanced Search](#)

[Marketplace](#)

[Real Estate](#)

[CareerSite](#)

[Automotive](#)

[Local Coupons](#)

[Place an Ad](#)

[Personals](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Online Store](#)

[News](#)

[Local & Regional](#)

[News](#)

[More Local News](#)

[Ray Orrock](#)

[Breaking News \(AP\)](#)

[Election Results](#)

[Photo Gallery \(AP\)](#)

[Lottery Results](#)

[Traffic](#)

[Weather](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Sports](#)

[Raiders](#)

[A's](#)

[Warriors](#)

[49ers](#)

[Giants](#)

[Sharks](#)

[Cal Sports](#)

[Stanford Sports](#)

[Prep Sports](#)

[Columnists](#)

[Turn2](#)

[Latest Scores](#)

[Business News](#)

[MondayBusiness.com](#)

[Spotlight](#)

[Sunday Feature](#)

[EMAIL ARTICLE](#) [LINK TO ARTICLE](#) [PRINT ARTICLE](#)

Article Last Updated: Wednesday, December 24, 2003 - 2:52:01 AM PST

Other ARTICLES IN THIS SECTION

Christmas decorations

[Families give the ultimate holiday gift](#)

[Cops nab key Valley drug suspect](#)

[Castro Valley man brightens holidays in San Francisco](#)

[Volunteer organization going under](#)

[Light displays](#)

[Burlingame honors beloved soccer coach](#)

[Dutra bill seeks funding for cities](#)

[Holiday man dies in crash](#)

[ACE train still settling into new home](#)

[Obituary: Veronica Edmonson loved being with her grandchildren](#)

[Fred](#)

Trevor has it.

Trevor credits his penchant for elaborate decorations to his grandfather.

"My grandfather used to do very creative things on a lot of the holidays," Trevor recalled.

"That was his genetic contribution to me. He had a special door that he put up on Halloween. The kids would press a button. Lights would come on, wheels would spin and out would drop a piece of candy."

When Trevor married his wife, Sandy, the young couple decorated their apartment for the holidays. When the family -- which now includes three kids -- moved to their current home in Pleasanton seven years ago, Trevor started with a modest outdoor display.

"The second year we were here, it kind of mushroomed," Trevor said in what can only be called a huge understatement.

"The first year we were here, Mickey and Minnie (were inside clear) boxes, but they were sitting out on the walk. I looked at it and said, 'I can do better.'"

Mickey and Minnie are, indeed, the famous Disney rodents. In this case, they're two oversized, electronic mice dressed in fancy Christmas attire.

Top Listings

Jobs

[APARTMENT](#)

[Click for details.](#)

[HEALTH CLUB](#)

[Click for details.](#)

[LEGAL](#)

[Click for details.](#)

[NURSING PT](#)

[Click for details.](#)

[SOCIAL SERVICES](#)

[Click for details.](#)

[DENTAL](#)

[Click for details.](#)

[MEDICAL](#)

[Click for details.](#)

[DRIVER](#)

[Click for details.](#)

[All Listings](#)

[Op-Ed](#)
[Opinions/Editorials](#)
[Reader's Letters](#)
[Write a Letter](#)
[Talk Back](#)

[Bay Area Living](#)
[Berkeley Rep](#)
[Food](#)
[Inside Out](#)
[Behind the Wheel](#)
[Movie Listings](#)
[TV Listings](#)
[Soap Opera Recaps](#)
[Travel](#)
[Horoscopes](#)

[Community](#)
[Bay Area Best](#)
[What's Up \(pdf\)](#)
[Almanac](#)

[Special Reports](#)
[100 Years of Flight](#)
[Are We Safer Now?](#)
[Separate and](#)
[Unequal](#)

[Education](#)
[STAR Scores](#)
[Teacher Support](#)
[Great Schools](#)

[Services](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[Vacation Hold](#)
[Change of Address](#)
[Delivery Issues](#)
[Newsletters](#)

[About Us](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Feedback](#)
[Place a Classified Ad](#)

Trevor's improved display for the romantically linked mice came from his extensive Halloween decorations, which include ornate shelves he made and attached to columns on his home's exterior. Two enormous plastic gargoyles perch on the ledges.

"As I looked at that, I said, 'I bet I could do the same thing for Mickey and Minnie,' " he said.

He fashioned similar ledges painted white to match the mice's costumes. The cartoon couple are safely ensconced from the elements in clear plastic cases handmade by Trevor.

Trevor, in fact, makes most of the items on display in his well-manicured front yard. Years ago, he struck up a friendship with Bob Stanley, well known in the Valley for his elaborate holiday light display dubbed "Bob's World." Stanley makes most of his fancy light displays out of wood.

"I don't want to say it was a one-upmanship because it really wasn't," Trevor said with a chuckle. "Bob complained that the problem with the wood stuff is that there was no paint known to man that would keep the wood from warping. I said, 'I'll solve that problem. I'll just make my stuff out of metal.' "

Turns out that metal is way more expensive than wood, a problem Trevor shared with an old college buddy who happened to work for a metal company. The upshot is that the friend gave Trevor -- free of charge -- 2,000 pounds of 20-foot steel rods.

Trevor graciously accepted the ton of steel and stored it in his garage, slowly whittling away at the supply as the years pass. He used some of it to build a large lighted Eiffel Tower for a friend's Bastille Day party. The elegant tower is now part of the Christmas display.

"Last year, I built a working volcano for him," Trevor boasted, adding that visitors won't get to see the volcano. "I didn't make that one to withstand the test of time."

Trevor tries to add at least one item to his display each year. This year's addition is a second electric train sitting atop a 10-foot pole, complete with a Santa perched at the very top. It's a design Trevor has been honing for three years. It still needs some fine tuning, he said, frustrated the 40-pound train display is so difficult to perfect.

Additions in recent years have included carousel horses and a candy cane fence. The first electric train runs around an elevated track that encircles an outdoor column.

"I design a lot of the metal work on the computer," he explained. "Then I bend it all up, weld it and put on lights. It became a hobby. The one thing I do throughout the year is put these things together."

The Trevors, knowing Fred's penchant for outdoor decorations,

had extra electrical outlets put on the outside of their home as it was being built. Trevor safely encases all electrical plugs in waterproof plastic to extend their lives.

And yes, the whimsical display costs a pretty penny to operate each year. Trevor revealed the family's electrical bill doubles around the holidays, but brushes it off as being a minor annoyance in an otherwise fun-filled season.

"I like doing it for the kids," he said of the fanciful display that draws a steady stream of cars through the otherwise sleepy court. "It's just something I enjoy doing. It's somewhat of a form of creative expression for me. I enjoy talking to the people who come by. People come from all over the place to see it."

The Trevor's home, which Bob Stanley has jokingly dubbed "Fred's World," is at 2805 Tudor Court in Pleasanton. Directions to Fred's World, Bob's World and other elaborate holiday displays in the area can be seen at <http://www.lightsofthevalley.com/>

The Web site, run by Livermore resident Alex Dourov, has photos of each home. Information about special events, such as Santa visits or neighborhood luminaries, also is included.

Got a good column idea? Or maybe you're just curious about something around town. Send your ideas or questions to Zoe Francis at zoe@zoe francis.com or call 925-461-1170. Letters may be sent to 4770 Willow Road, Pleasanton, CA 94588.

[↑ RETURN TO TOP](#)



[Subscribe to the Tri-Valley Herald today!](#)

Visit sites within the ANG Newspapers network:

[InsideBayArea.com home](#)

[The Oakland Tribune](#) | [Alameda Times-Star](#) | [The Argus](#) | [The Daily Review](#) | [Marin Independent Journal](#)
[San Mateo County Times](#) | [Tri-Valley Herald](#) | [Vallejo Times-Herald](#) | [Milpitas Post](#) | [Pacifica Tribune](#)

[CareerSite](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Automotive](#) | [Travel](#) | [Community](#) | [Shop](#)

[About ANG Newspapers](#) | [Privacy Policy/Terms of Use](#) | [Job Opportunities](#) | [Contact Us](#)

©1999-2003 by MediaNews Group, Inc. and ANG Newspapers