1890s TB hut donated to museum

By Tonya Bell

The Gazette

Jim and Shirley Day had a piece of history in their property for decades. But now they have given up that history for something more functional—a garage.

The Days had one of the original tuberculosis huts from Mt. Calm, a tuberculosis sanatorium that existed in Manitou Springs in the 1890s.

"It's the last one in Manitou Springs, the only one left intact," Day said. She said other houses in the area have been converted into other structures and converted into small homes.

The Days moved the hut to a storage shed for supplies while they were restoring their home, but in the light of the original condition. When the couple got the building permit for the garage, they decided to donate the old TB hut to the Miramont Castle across the street from their home.

"It was there when it came from, we felt that it should go back to them," said Shirley Day, who lived in the house with her family for 15 years.

The hut was dragged intact to the castle two weeks ago. Day said she worried about how sturdy the old hut would be in the rough move. "We didn't really know what it was going to be like. We wondered, is it really going to hold up?" she said.

Tuberculous huts were used in the late 1800s and early 1900s to house patients with the disease. The huts were monitored so that air could flow freely through them. It was believed at the time that the dry, fresh mountain air would help cure the infectious disease. The huts also helped contain the spread of the disease by keeping infected people away from others.

A few years before construction of the Miramont Castle in 1915, the area served as a sanatorium and housed about a dozen TB huts up until 1933. When the huts were cleared away, many neighbors were left.

The management of Miramont Castle, which is a tourist attraction, hopes to completely refurbish the two-room hut to be relocated and used as an exhibit, said executive director Bob Yager.

"We're trying to rescue every detail possible," Yager said.

He said they are looking for iron beds and sturdy oak that would bring back the hut's historical feel. Right now it sits in the castle's parking lot until a connected area can be constructed. However, the hut can still be toured.

"Visitors can use it in the state it's in now," Yager said. "We're still going to have to remove the walls when the restoration of the hut will be complete."

Shirley Day, left, watches Friday as the last remaining tuberculosis hut in Manitou Springs is moved from her property to Miramont Castle across the street. The hut will be restored at the castle and put on public display.

Hearings focus on citywide fire standards

The Gazette

The Colorado Springs Fire Department will hold two public hearings on developing citywide fire coverage standards.

The public-comment sessions will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday and a week later on Oct. 14 in the council chambers in the City Administration Building, 30 S. Nevada Ave.

The Fire Department's coverage area has expanded significantly over the past decade, with emergency responses rising from 16,000 during 1988 to more than 30,000 calls last year.

Prayer/We want a healthy city

From ADAMS, section of the city, for harmony, for the youth and for the spiritual welfare of the people.

"We are the church, and this is what the church does," Langley said.

We are all part of the team, just as doctors do what doctors do, lawyers do what lawyers do. We are all part of the team, just as doctors do what doctors do.