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TonTriAra, the palatial plantation home of Lou and Teresa Sanders, is their own personal dream come true on the slopes of the Sandia Mountains rather than the banks of the Mississippi. The massive porte cochere welcomes visitors to this touch of the South in the Land of Enchantment. The gracious entry hall, right, is accented by the solid brass candelabra from Spain and dual curving staircases. The marble floor, however, is pure New Mexico, from the travertine deposits near Belen.



AARON WILSON / JOURNAL

Southern Style In the Rockies

Look for it only in books
For it is no more than
a dream remembered.
A civilization gone with the wind.

"Gone With the Wind" by Margaret Mitchell

By Martha Man

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

THE ANTEBELLUM HOME RISING like a phoenix on the slopes of the Sandia Mountains is the culmination of a cherished dream by Lou and Teresa Sanders.

They are not refugees of the Deep South. He is a graduate of Highland High School and has spent most of his life in Albuquerque. She is a native of Clovis.

But both of the Sanderses were drawn to the style of another era by the 1939 movie classic — "Gone With the Wind."

Subsequent cruises on the Mississippi River sealed their love of the Tara style.

The two-story deep red brick residence in Tierra Monte, off the road to the La Luz

trail, acquired a name of its own — TonTriAra — an amalgam of the Sanderses' three grown daughters' names: Tonya, Trina and Tiara.

The home encompasses 11,000 square feet under roof — 7,500 square feet heated — and was built by DiCor, custom builders Emil and Sandra Burbridge, who named their company for their two daughters — Diana and Corena.

The 22-foot-high porte cochere, or covered entry court, leads to the front door. Step inside to another world, a time of cotton fields, cavaliers and cotillions.

A 5-foot-diameter solid brass chandelier from Spain graces the entry hall, flanked by two curving staircases that sweep up to a sitting room landing that bridges the two wings of the second floor.

Under foot are the soft pink hues of Sheherazade travertine marble quarried west of Belen.

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DICK RUDDY