

Rancho Romero, J. E. McAdams' Home, Sits On Top Of A Mesa

By BETTY MELBURN

"Wouldn't you know some Easterner would come along and find the most perfect spot in all Arizona for a house?"

So said an old time Tucsonian when first he visited Rancho Romero, home of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. McAdams.

For indeed, they found a perfect spot—a high flat mesa between the north end of the Catalinas and Or-

acle Road. And the location has been perfectly utilized for just the sort of ranch house in which Mr. and Mrs. McAdams enjoy spending their winters.

In 1934, they came to Linda Vista on a vacation from their large turreted English-style home in New Carlisle, Ohio, where Mr. McAdams raises registered Herefords and show horses. They fell in love with the area and decided they'd like to own a ranch somewhere between Tucson and Oracle.

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Finally, they chose a flat nose of land—only one of its kind for miles—high above Canon del Oro. Architect the late Joseph Joesler drew the plans, and when excavation was begun, the ruins of an old Indian pit dwelling were discovered.

"Then we knew why this particular site was so nice and flat. With a complete view in every direction, it was an ideal location for an Indian village," laughs Mr. McAdams. "They flattened it, centuries ago."

A ranch house they wanted and a ranch house the McAdams got—a low sprawling U-shaped adobe with tiled roof, high beamed ceilings, a gigantic fireplace, and broad porches on both sides. Ivy covers the entire front of the house, and has poked through the living room wall, where it is being carefully tended as it circles back and forth above windows and bookcases.

British oak furniture—massive, yet light in color—is ideal in the huge high-ceilinged living room. Walls are white, carpeting gray, upholstery a blue-gray tweed and draperies a cheery yellow homespun. Rose Andree Brown was the interior decorator.

Artist Ray Strang was a friend and frequent visitor of the McAdams. Above the fireplace hangs his painting of Mr. McAdams supervising the first load of Herefords ever delivered to Rancho Romero. Another large Strang shows a different section of the ranch. Persian copper candlesticks flank the fireplace, and other handsome Persian copper pieces add richness and gleam to the room.

Books, statues, treasures from far places (Australia, most recently) give the home an individuality and friendliness, a wonderful warm quality which reflects the charm and personality of the owners. Mr. and Mrs. McAdams have a daughter, five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren! They both ride daily, both like to shoot, both are tremendously interested in their show herds, here and in Ohio.

And both enjoy the peacefulness and know how to enhance the tremendous natural beauty of Rancho Romero. They take pleasure in the rich velvety lawns of the flat mesa, the handsome old ironwood trees, the carefully riprapped citrus grove planted out of the wind down the hillside, the junipers, pepper trees and palo verdes, the luxurious flower gardens and cactus forests on their mesa. From it, they gaze one way to the Canon del Oro, another way to Romero canyon from which the ranch takes its name, still another way to Montrose canyon with its 75-foot waterfall (visible this time of year to the naked eye, but even more spectacular through glasses), across bright green fields in the foreground, they watch their cattle grazing clear to the top of the Catalinas, a five-mile stretch of which forms their back yard.

And they seem glad that Rancho Romero is theirs.