

Wireless POS system takes historic mansion into 21st century

If a crow were to fly 20 miles southeast from Seattle's hustle and bustle, he would find himself in the lushly green and tranquil Maple Valley, Wash. There, in 1905, Norwegian immigrant Olaf Olson built his home atop 88 acres of scenic countryside with the Cascade Mountains as a backdrop.

A working dairy until 1995, the house and equally historic, barrel-vaulted barn are now surrounded by a nine-hole, links-style golf course (The Links at Olson Mansion), several stocked fly fishing ponds, a heated swimming pool, and an 18-hole miniature golf course.

was already in place, but nothing had been done with the house itself. Their exhaustive efforts have not only restored the home to its turn-of-the-20th-century elegance but also have given it a functionality and purpose to take it well into the 21st.

The fourth floor of the 10,000 square foot, craftsman-style mansion is now the Solomons' residence. On a lower floor, four guestrooms are offered as Bed & Breakfast suites; customized weekend packages can include golf or fly fishing.

The dining room, *Jeremiah's twenty-nine:eleven*, opened to the public this spring, with a six-course dinner served on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. Meals feature northwest regional and seasonal cuisine, complemented by regional wines and elegantly presented on fine china with gold chargers and flatware. The herb-crusted rack of lamb has been especially popular. A tea room, also with period decor, will open May 1, offering lunch and afternoon tea Wednesday-Saturday.

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There is a grill located in the golf course pro shop near the links, and food service on two patios and at poolside during warm weather. The Olson Mansion is also a popular setting for weddings and other special events.

Providing first-class hospitality in an historic home has presented some unique challenges. Colleen Solomon explained, "Because the mansion is on the King County Register of Historic Places, we're not allowed to make major changes to the structure. The kitchen, for example, is quite small." Colleen went on to compliment chef Paul Bebich's ability to produce great meals from the small space. "We were very fortunate to find Paul living only a few miles away. Of everyone we interviewed, Paul is the one who best grasped our vision for the restaurant. And his food is already getting rave reviews from our diners."

The Solomons knew that providing prompt, accurate food and beverage service with such a sprawling operation would be difficult, and turned to technology for help. Their accountant researched POS systems and determined that the Restaurant Manager™ POS system from ASI offered the best value.

Installation of the system brought them to yet another obstacle; the mansion is a rare example of concrete construction in a residential building. Coupled with the historic constraints, this would make running wires to patio and poolside stations impossible. The Restaurant Manager™ wireless Write-On

Handheld™ has proved to be the perfect solution.

Unlike anything else on the market today, ASI's patented Write-On Handheld uses intuitive handwriting recognition to place orders and is ideal in a traditional table service environment as well as a unique setting like this. Colleen speaks with enthusiasm about their Restaurant Manager™ POS system. "We have a completely wireless installation, so no holes had to be drilled in the interior or exterior walls. We use the wireless handhelds on the patios, at poolside and in the dining room. We also have a central station on each floor of the mansion, and the system server is up on the fourth floor. It all works perfectly."

And the service they've received from their local reseller, Pacific Coast Systems? "They've been wonderful! Very prompt to respond to our calls. Any problems are almost always a case of our still learning to use the system; they've been very patient with us. I recommend them highly." *HN*

For more information on the Restaurant Manager POS System, call your local reseller today. In Washington or Alaska, call Pacific Coast Systems, Inc., the premier POS provider to the NW hospitality industry for over 22 years, at (425) 827-5399.

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