

## *Kenny and Esther – kennyandestherstinyhouse.blogspot.com*

### *Basic Stats:*

- What is(are) your name(s)? **Kenny and Esther**
- What do you do for a living? **Many things. One or both of us have been in school for several of the last few years. We've spent a lot of time working on a conservation ranch. Esther is also a professional flutist**
- How many people do you/will be living in your tiny house? **The two of us.**
- What part of the country do you live in? **We live in New Mexico**
- How many square feet is your house? **The interior is about 147 square feet. The sleeping loft adds another 51, a storage loft another 20**
- When did you start your build? **January 2013 is when nails and screws started going in. We did several months of planning, designing, and budgeting before that.**
- Is your house complete? **No, but its coming along fast!**
- Have you been documenting your tiny house build and if so, where can people find that information? <http://kennyandestherstinyhouse.blogspot.com/>

### *Background:*

- Why did you decide to build? **We don't particularly like paying rent. When we lived and worked on the ranch, our housing was taken care of. It was kind of eye opening to see how much money you save and stress you can alleviate when you don't have to make those gigantic payments every month. So we started thinking about alternatives for the future (considered an RV, and a yurt), and settled on a tiny trailer house mostly for aesthetic reasons.**
- What was your life like before your tiny house? Were you fairly active, have you always had 'projects' going on? Were you fairly sedentary and looking for a change? Did you tend to work too much? (This question is an effort at trying to figure out WHO gravitates to the tiny house lifestyle) **Kenny's built and worked on a lot of other projects, so the tiny house hasn't felt too different or daunting (though this is by far the largest project yet). Right now he's working about full-time on the house.**

- How did you come to hear about the movement, figure out it was right for you and get started? **Came across the tiny house movement on the internet. We've always been big on self-sufficiency, so this fits right in with our lifestyle.**
- What is/was your design inspiration? **Our house is completely original. We got some ideas from the Tall Man's Tiny House, but for the most part just based it off of what we want and need. It will have cedar siding and a pitched roof, like many, but is completely unique inside.**

*Technical:*

- How do/did you find the time to work on your house with a job, kid(s), relationships, AND building a house? Did you do anything special to keep the balance? **We've worked on/off seasonally, and timed this to coincide with a "down" period. It leaves plenty of time for building.**
- Have you run into any problems with your local codes? How did you solve them? **Not yet! We're building on a trailer, and so far have only gotten positive comments from neighbors.**
- Where did you get the tools that you use? Were they yours, borrowed, rented etc.? **We already had an extensive collection of tools, (we only had to buy two tools for this project). This project alone is definitely making that investment pay off.**
- How long did (are you expecting) construction to take? **A few months**
- Have you/were you able to stay on schedule? **So far things have moved quickly, though we don't have very specific expectations for how long this should take**
- What is/was the most time consuming portion of your build? **We haven't gotten to it yet, but I suspect finish work inside will be very time consuming**
- What is/was the most limiting factor for your build? **We've never done this before! If we every build another we'll probably do some things differently.**
- Is your house on a trailer? If yes, how do you attach to the trailer? How do you move your tiny house? (Do you have a truck, do you hire it done?) **The house is bolted to the trailed with 1/2 carriage bolts from underneath. That way, if anyone ever wants to remove it some day, they can. We bought an '89 Dodge diesel truck to move it. We first considered renting one to move it, but are very glad we got our own truck instead. It means we can move all our own construction materials (no delivery costs), and can move the house whenever we want to. The truck also fits in with our other projects and jobs.**
- Do you have accessory houses/dwellings that you use to supplement storage/working/living? **There will be a storage shed on the front for solar**

batteries, some tools, etc. Also considering welding tool boxes to the trailer for extra tool storage. The trucks have ample tool box space as well. We may end up needing a storage shed once we move it.

- Where did you get your plans? **We made them ourselves**
- Have you consulted any 'professionals'? (structural, mechanical, plumbing, design etc.)? **We have friends and family who have more experience with things like solar power and electrics, but we haven't hired anybody for this.**
- Are you insuring your house? With who? **We would love to insure our house, but know this might be difficult. We would appreciate any advice or leads on this (email: [esther.fredrickson@gmail.com](mailto:esther.fredrickson@gmail.com))**
- Have you been using any sponsorships to help fund your house? How do you go about finding that sponsorship? **No**

### *Specifics:*

- What sort of items do you have for cooking? **We haven't bought them yet, but we're looking at a propane fridge and range from Unique Off-Grid**
- Are you tied to the power grid or are you off grid? **Will be off-grid with the option of being on**
- Are you going to have a washer and/or dryer? **No**
- Where does your water come from? **Will either hook up, or haul and transfer to two 45 gallon tanks under the kitchen counter**
- What kind of toilet are you going to have? **A composting toilet made by AirHead**
- What do you use for a heat source if anything? **Woodstove**
- What are some of the space savings tricks you used? **Built-in furniture for storage underneath, folding table, under-the-counter appliances**
- What do you have for insulation? **We built our house out of structural insulated panels (SIPs). They're basically polystyrene insulation and OSB sandwiches. They are stronger, lighter, and insulate better than stick frame construction. Would definitely recommend this option for anyone planning a tiny house build.**
- Where are you planning to park your tiny house? **We don't know for sure what's coming up next in our lives, but wherever it is we'll take the house with us!**

### *Personal:*

- How much will/did your tiny house cost? **We've budgeted about \$23,000, without the truck.**
- What is/was the most expensive part of your house? **The SIPS panels were the single most expensive item. Had we built stick-frame, though, that would have been the studs, insulation, and sheathing.**
- 'Best' injury story (worst injury)? **None yet! Hopefully none to come.**
- What has been your biggest accomplishment with your tiny house?
- What is/will be the biggest benefit to living in a tiny house? **Monetary freedom from paying negligible rent and utilities (we may or may not have to pay to park it, and we'll pay just a few bucks a month for propane)**
- Is there anything you'll miss about living in a standard house? What will you miss the most? **Finding a space for tools and camping equipment might be a little difficult- other than that we're really looking forward to living in our tiny house!**
- What has been the scariest part about building your own house?
- If you could change one thing about your house what would it be?
- Did you have cash in hand to complete your build, pay as you go or take out a loan to construct your house? **Cash in hand**
- Have friends and family been skeptical or supportive of your ideas? **Definitely supportive, though a lot of people have admitted they couldn't live in a space that small**
- Is there anything else you would want other people to know about your house and build? **You can build for yourself something more rewarding than what money can buy!**