



Photo by Darlene Moss

The Lake Shastina home currently under construction by M&M Builders is the first of its kind in the county. Property owner Ruby Hunt is having her new home entirely

framed in steel — starting from the ground on up. The home will be wrapped in stucco, and a metal roof and fence will make Ms. Hunt's home practically fireproof.

Lake Shastina has first all steel framed house in county

It may be a novel approach to building right now, but if timber prices continue to soar, steel framed houses may be the rage of the age for homebuilders in Siskiyou County.

Right now in Lake Shastina construction is underway on the first all-steel framed house in northern California. For property owner Ruby Hunt, cost wasn't the primary concern when she chose to build her home out of steel — it was fire safety.

But when she realized that she would be saving almost \$20,000 by building with steel there was no doubt in her mind that she had made the right decision.

The materials to frame the house arrived on June 23rd, and seven days later the framing was almost

finished.

According to Mark Meyers of M&M Builders, steel construction projects often take less time than wood. While the same basic framing techniques used in wood construction have been incorporated into the steel framing system, he claims to realize up to a 10 percent savings in labor when steel materials are used.

The waste factor is another consideration. When using wood, a lot of scrap material is left over at the end of a job, and most of it goes to waste. With steel construction Meyers says there's very little scrap, and what is left is recycled and turned back into cash.

Ms. Hunt says she's thrilled with the idea of steel construction. She points out that aside from the fire

safety factor, steel will not rot or warp, it can't be damaged by termites, it's stronger than wood and has a seismic 4 rate.

Ms. Hunt is new to Siskiyou County. She purchased her lot in Lake Shastina seven years ago but continued to live in the Bay Area until she recently retired as a project engineer in the medical division at Varian Associates.

For now she's staying with her sister and brother-in-law, Eleanor and Joe Carl of Lake Shastina, while her new home is being built.

Aside from the all-steel frame construction, Ms. Hunt plans to have a steel roof, and metal fencing around her home. The house itself will be wrapped in stucco and practically fireproof when it's finished.