

(Intro music plays) Ok so now we're going to go upstairs and see what's up there. So, the steps that we just came up were actually at one time outside. This is the original adobe, and those steps were outside and that's the way you got up to the wraparound porch, the veranda. Now you'll notice the floor sort of slopes a little bit and there was a reason for that. That was done on purpose, because, again, this was all outside at one time. And so, we have to protect the adobe against, primarily, water. And where do we get water from outside? From the rain. And this way the rain would just flow off of the porch, this way and that's why the floor is slanted. And because this was all outside at one time, that's why we see shutters inside on a window. That's rather strange, isn't it? But that's how they did that. Now, this roof was here, and they had nails and hooks that they had on there and they could dry grapes and the airflow would be fine because we could open these windows, and because the airflow came in originally just from outside. But then Mr. Leonis decided that he wanted to enclose this part of the house, and that way he was able to get a couple of extra rooms both upstairs and downstairs.

So now we're in what we call Juan's room. Now, if you remember, Juan was Mrs. Leonis's son from a prior marriage. And when he was an adult, he came back and lived here at the adobe. Now Juan was a very talented man. He knew how to do a lot of things. He knew how to do things with blacksmithing, so he knew how to use iron and he could fix tools and he could make things. So he was very good that way. He also knew how to work with leather. Now in those days you didn't just throw away something when it wore out you tried to fix it, and because he knew how to work with leather, well, he could try to repair shoes. So, he could repair things from the horses like reins and other tack, he could repair shoes as we said, lots of things. So, he knows how to work with iron he knows how to work with leather. Now if we come over here, we see a wooden desk that Juan built himself and so he knew carpentry as well. Another talent he had was in music. He taught himself how to play guitar, a fiddle, and we have a picture of him playing the accordion that he taught himself as well. Very, very talented man, and remember music was something that was very valued because there was no other entertainment and so if you had a party of some kind and invited people over, people who could play music had made it so much nicer. Now, if you come with me over here there is something very special I want to show you. And that is what we call the truth window. Now we keep telling you that this house was made out of adobe brick, and if you were to take away this paint that you see here and look through that is exactly what you would see, that is the original adobe brick. You can even see a little bit of the straw peeking out of it.

Now let's go out onto the veranda. You remember that I said that Mr. Leonis enclosed part of his house, but out here he left it the way it was. And it was beautiful to come out here on a lovely afternoon, watch the sunset, feel the cool breeze, and it was just a beautiful place to rest and relax after a hard day's work. (Music continues to play).

So now we're in Espiritu's bedroom, the lady of the house. And the first thing we notice is this big, beautiful bed with the velvet curtains. Right now these curtains are tied up and they would be during the day. But at night they would be untied and you could push the curtains together. Now why do you think they'd want to do that? Well, some people say, well then you have a little bit of extra privacy. And some people say, well, you wouldn't be disturbed by any of the morning light coming in. But that wasn't the main reason for those drapes. The main reason was that when you untied them, if it was a chilly night, the cold air would stay out here and it would be nice and toasty warm where you were sleeping. And that was the main purpose for those bed curtains. Now, remember, the only source of heat in this house was from the fireplace downstairs. There was no electricity so we had no forced air or heating. We didn't have any radiators so we had to depend on something like this to make it comfortable.

Now continuing on, you know, they didn't have as many clothes as we have today and so what they would do is they would fold them up and put them in the trunk like this. Over here we have a beautiful vanity, it has a marble top to it and it contains several things that Mrs. Leonis really liked. For instance, this black lacquer jewelry case was one of her favorites. And if we move over to this side of the room, we can see on the floor that there is an animal hide. This is from a cow, and they would use something like this for decoration as well as practical reasons because it feels rather nice on your bare feet so your feet wouldn't get cold. Now, I mentioned that they folded their clothing and put them in a chest for storage but they could also hang their clothes on the wall on hooks like Miss Maya is showing. And Miss Maya, I notice that there are some lovely things on this table. Would you like to explain what they are? [Miss Maya] Yes thank you, Miss Pam. This dressing table holds what might have been on a dressing table of a nice lady of the time. This is a comb that would have been put in the hair. This is a curling iron. And the curling irons today would have an electric cord, but of course they didn't have electricity in the house back then so they would put this on the fire to heat it up, or perhaps on the stove, heat it up and you would wrap your hair around it and your hair would curl. The heat from the fire would curl your hair. Similar to what we have today, but just heated from the stove instead of the electricity.

So, now we're going to go to the sitting room. Often times when you lived on a rancho you were far away from other women and other friends that you had. So, you might gather with your lady friends and sit and do sewing or sometimes quilting in a lovely room like this. One of the wonderful things we have here is an 1854 sewing machine. Now imagine what it was like before sewing machines were invented where if any clothes that you had had to be sewn by hand. So, the sewing machine was really an amazing invention, and we have a very early sewing machine here in the room. I also want to point out that we have a bustle form, and we have a dress with a bustle. Now, when you see movies sometimes, you'll see the ladies or the girls with dresses that go out really far. Well sometimes they went out evenly all over, sometimes they went way out, and sometimes they had what's called a bustle which is this kind of lump in the back. And this form right here was to help them achieve that look. That looks a little bit strange to us today. And this dress here shows what a dress would have looked like on a person on a lady in those days. (Music plays).

Let me ask you this question, what would happen if you had to get up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom? Do you think you'd want to pull on all your clothes and take a jacket and a lantern, because you know there's no inside plumbing in this house. You would have to go outside much further away from the house to the outhouse. Do you think you'd want to do that? It's dark out there. There could be wild animals out there. You might meet up with, oh I don't know, a coyote or a skunk or a mountain lion. No that's not what you would want to do. So, what people had were called chamber pots. And chamber pots were receptacles that they would have in each of the rooms I have an example of one here. They were plain or fancy and you would use this instead of going outside. Well, I'm glad we have indoor plumbing in our houses today, aren't you? Now I'm going to show you another example of the chamber pot. This one is made out of wood, and it has a lovely tapestry top to it. And you could open it up and then you could take care of whatever you needed to at the time. Now I have another question for you. Who do you think's job it would be in the morning to go around and collect all these chamber pots and pour the contents in the outhouse outside? Now, let me just remind you about one thing, there were a lot of families that lived here. Workers and so on, and they had children. So whose job would it have been to empty those chamber pots? Yeah, it would have been one of the younger children, just

think. You could have had that job if you were living here back then. But I'm glad we don't have to do that today, aren't you? (Music plays).

Now, back in the 1880s we didn't have indoor plumbing in the house and so when you had certain needs you did them in what's called a privy or an outhouse. Now, the word privy means private or privacy and of course that's what you want when you are taking care of those basic needs. Now the outhouse or privy really would have been much further away from the house than what we have on our property. So, you couldn't wait too long if you felt that need. And basically, all this was, was a hole that was dug in the ground and then a wooden structure like this would be put over it. If you see inside, you can see there's a platform and there's a hole cut out for your bottom, and you would use this and eventually the hole would fill up. And then they would move this wooden structure out of the way, they would put some dirt in that hole, and then they would dig a new hole and put this wooden structure back over it. And again, this was further away from the house, hopefully downwind because you know it could have a little bit of an odor.

This is what we call the Orsua room. Now, there was an adopted granddaughter, and her name was Maria and she lived here when she was a little girl. But when she was grown up, she married a man by the name of Pedro, and she and Pedro came to live back at the adobe here and they lived in this room along with their first three children. Now, the baby of the family would sleep in this hammock, and that was really kind of nice because if the baby got fussy during the night, the parents could just reach up and rock the baby. Another child would be in this crib at the foot of the bed, and the third child would probably have had a little place on the floor. We see in this room that, again, there are no closets and that they hung their clothes on the wall. There's also a sewing machine in here, a more modern version of one you may have seen upstairs. And again, because they didn't have a lot of clothes, they could store some of their clothes in a chest like that which sometimes was used for travelling, but it has drawers on it and they could fold up their clothes and put them in there. We have some children's toys over here; this might have been what they played with. If you look over in the corner, there's another sample of a chamber pot and a picture of Maria when she was a little girl. That's her long hair on her shoulders, isn't that amazing. But you know the family had to move out after a while because they went on to have more children. In fact, they went on to have an additional 15 children. Wow. So that along with their initial 3, that's 18 children. No wonder they had to move. I'd like to point out one other thing in this room. And that is this unpainted little piece of wall. In pencil across there it says, "tranquility lives here" and it's signed 1902 by the old lady of the house - that would have been Espiritu. So, she really loved this place.

Well, here we are back where we started, we sure hope you enjoyed learning all about the adobe and the grounds and the things that you've seen and learned. And we hope someday we hope you're able to come here in person and see all the things we've talked about. Until then, see you around the ranch! (Music plays out).