

# Adventures in McCloudland

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Back in Oakland we continue to tell shocked friends and family. Most, after determining that we weren't kidding, just smile and wish us well. Some have to tell us horror stories about someone who had bought a place "just like it." Others said it was just what they want to do, and comment how brave we are. More than a few ask, "Did you ever see that movie, The Money Pit?"

We spend every day and night going over the existing floor plan and sketching out new arrangements. We figure we could start out with about 10 rooms on the first floor. We'd done some research and determined that B&B's with fewer than 8 rooms really tie down the owners as the income cannot usually support enough staff to allow the owner/manager any free time. The rest of the hotel rooms could wait.

People we have known for years comment that they admire our ability to take such a risk. (It truly doesn't feel like a big risk. Just a change of direction.)

Others quote failure rates for new businesses. Something like 65% in the first two years.

Someone asks us if we had seen the TV series Faulty Towers. We haven't, so start renting the tapes. We'd also never seen Bob Newhart's series about running an inn.

Naïve is the word. If we had known what was coming, we would have holed up in our predicable life and not even ventured this way again. But even Alice kept poking at that hole ...chasing that silly rabbit.