



Tom Riordan
Executive Editor

They exchanged big job, fine home for sand, sun

You're 53. You earn \$60,000 a year. You own a beautiful home in Bloomfield Hills. You have a devoted wife and 14-year-old son. Then one morning you read an ad in the Wall Street Journal:

FOR SALE - Old, established resort hotel in western Michigan. Needs lots of attention, but has great potential. Owners have other interests. A real steal at \$325,000.

Your pulse rate quickens. Gears in your mind seem to shift into high. You suddenly see yourself walking into the front door of that resort, a string of keys in your hand, a sales agreement in your hip pocket.

Your brains keeps telling you the whole idea is crazy. Your heart is singing a different story. And what would your wife say?

IF YOUR NAME IS Bob Severance you say, "This is it!"

You're 99 percent certain that your wife Jan will agree — and she does.

After all, she was raised in Hart. She loves the sand and sun of Lake Michigan.

For you, born and raised in Grand Haven, taking over the resort would be a homecoming of sorts.

Well, friends, that's the way it all happened last February.

Bob Severance, then manager of a Detroit Lear Siegler, Inc. plant, spied that Wall Street Journal ad. He called the owners to say he'd like to check out the deal. But Bob seemed to sense he was half way home even before he saw the old Driftwood Lodge on White Lake.

The complex of six buildings did need work, lots of it.

Both Bob and Jan were delighted to dig in.

So Bob quit his job, sold his home and bought the resort — with a hand from his banker.

As Bob told me last weekend when my wife and I spent three days at his resort, "You don't have a board of directors to report to. Everything you do you do for yourself."

AMONG THE FIRST THINGS they tackled was to refurbish the resort's Galleon Restaurant, advertising it with attractive signs at key spots on the roads around Whitehall.

Most importantly, Bob and Jan added a marina out front on White Lake. Right now Bob is talking about expanding that facility, doubling his present 22 slips. But that takes time and permission from the Department of Natural Resources and the Corps of Engineers.

The Driftwood is located a few yards from the channel which joins White Lake to Lake Michigan, perfect to handle all types of power and sail boat traffic.

OF THE DRIFTWOOD'S current 22 slips, all but six are rented out for the season. That leaves precious few for the ad of boats which constantly pass by Bob's place, coming in from up and down Lake Michigan.

As all the activity outside zips along, Jan is buried in her chores of ordering for the restaurant and scheduling the battery of mainly youthful employees.

Are Jan and Bob happy with their decision of last February?

Bob is quick to answer. "It beats the hell out of Detroit."

AS IT TURNED OUT, the Severances are one among many who have escaped to the delights of Oceana County.

Take Linda and Darwin Bennett, former metro Detroit residents. Now they publish the 15,000-circulation weekly Observer, headquartered in Montague. They arrived on the scene half a dozen years ago, bought the weeklies in Whitehall and Montague, plus a shopper. The Bennetts then started issuing a free circulation paper to every home in the area.

They have watched their gross business climb from \$60,000 to \$300,000 — and they have the strained backs and bloodshot eyes to prove it. But Linda and Darwin continue to smile as they battle hike after hike in Postal Service distribution rates.

If Jimmy Carter really wants to learn about the plight of the small businessman, he might do well to invite Linda and Darwin for a visit in the Oval office.

NEXT DOOR TO THE NEWSPAPER is Home Port, where you can purchase World War II ammunition boxes and Liberty ship hatch covers. Made of white pine, these are perfect for fashioning into desks and coffee tables.

Home Port owner James O'Brien, who put in six months as a gunner on a Liberty Ship during World War II, shows customers how to magically fashion furniture from the apparently useless wood.

West of Montague, about five miles, is the 18-hole, watered fairways of Old Channel Trail Golf

course. Run by Lyle L. Leeke, formerly of Redford, the layout is extremely well maintained. Now that the course is enjoying steady play, Lyle is about to plunge into a new venture — subdividing his shag range into prime residential lots along Lake Michigan.

BUT A VACATION, even a mini variety like ours last weekend, isn't complete without one bit of entertainment.

For Marilyn and me it was seeing on Saturday evening a tremendously invigorating "Up with People" session at the rustic Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

Freshly-scrubbed and bright-eyed, the cast of 100 young people between 18 and 26 had their audience of some 2,000 laughing, clapping, singing.

The one number that really got to folks was "What Color Is God's Skin?"

The answer came when the handsome male soloist sang to us. "It's black, it's brown, it's yellow, it's white."

That really tells it all for "Up with People." In song and dance, the group shares brotherhood and love with those who attend its concerts. And the spirit never fails to infect.

Right now "Up with People" has five troupes on the road. They travel in 50 states and 42 countries, living with families in communities where they perform.

At the end of the Blue Lake performance, the young emcee was profuse in his thanks to Whitehall area host families.

"Thank you for welcoming us into your homes into your hearts - and into your refrigerators."

What a delightful close.

Aged should prepare for dental visit

Dear Dr. DeFrancesco: What special precautions should be taken by older patients before they visit a dentist?

J.T.

1) Do not eat for several hours before visiting a dentist, for nausea and vomiting sometimes accompany extensive dental work or the giving of a local anesthetic. Moreover, it is not proper to receive a general anesthetic shortly after eating.

2) If a patient knows himself to be sensitive to any drug or medication, he should so inform the dentist. This is particularly important if one is sensitive to novocaine or adrenalin.

3) If the patient has a heart condition or any other major disability, the dentist should be informed be-

fore he begins work on the teeth. Also, it is perhaps best to get permission from one's doctor before receiving major dental treatment.

4) Preferably, dental work on older people should be performed in the dentist's office only if it can be accomplished with no anesthesia or with only local anesthesia. It is much safer to hospitalize an older patient who requires general anesthesia.

Dear Dr. DeFrancesco: Does infection of the teeth, gums, or mouth ever lead to infection elsewhere in the body?

G.W.

Yes, infected teeth are frequently the source of distant infection, including infections of the valves of the heart, kidney infections, and joint infections.

Remember that the tooth socket has small blood vessels at its base, and these vessels drain into the general circulation.

Dear Dr. DeFrancesco: Is it important for older people to be in good general health in order for dentures to be fitted accurately?

T.L.

Yes, poor general health may be accompanied by a condition in which there is swelling or retraction of the gums and mucous membranes of the mouth.

If artificial teeth are fitted at such a time, they will not fit when the general state of health has improved.

Dear Dr. DeFrancesco: Does bad breath often originate from the teeth?

M.S.



Dr. Joseph DeFrancesco

Yes. The following dental conditions may contribute to bad breath:

- Failure to remove and cleanse dentures regularly.
- Infection of the gums.
- Failure to brush teeth regularly and to remove food particles.
- Failure to have decayed teeth removed.

More than fame
and more than money,
is the comment warm and sunny.

-B. Braley



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