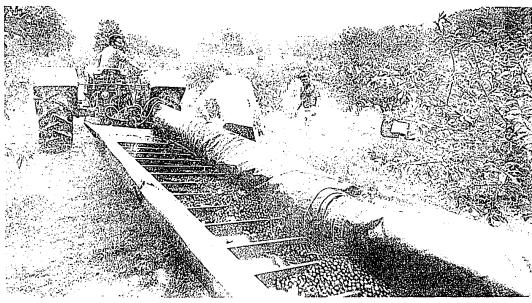


Thursday, August 14, 1986 O&E



Ed Wichert stands in the middle of his cherry orchard on the Old Mission Peninsula as the cherry picking crews and machinery go to work. He did bet-

Changing careers, locations



LD MISSION Peninsula is a long finger of land stretching north out into Grand Traverse Bay from Traverse City.

The pleasant residences along the roads going out from town grow sparser as the distance in-

and fields of raspberry bushes that flourish in the sandy learn that covers the rolling hills. The peninsula has a unique identity and heritage that becomes more pronounced in the rural section heading toward the sleepy little crossroads of Mapieton and Old Mission, past they cemeteries, country schools, vineries, fruit stands and, toward the tip, small, public beaches soughed into the shoreline. Once Ee and Lou Wichert caught sight of the slate blue frame hauson a ridge with a view of East lay, they knew it was meant in them. Last August, we dedided to take a couple of days to explore the form the surface of the contraction of the

THEY SOLD TAERR house in West Broanfield in Geother and moved earth in April In fact, they moved out it a number of weeks, driving truckloads of furniture—their own and that slated for sale in their antiques business.

After he retried from the Bloomfield Hills school system, they had planned to live at a more leisurely pace, expanding the antique business.



Ed and Lou Wichert like to talk about the differences in their lives since they moved upstate saying they are more in tune with nature and the natural forces of climate and changing seasons.

ness — gradually buying and refinishing hranture and building up a clientele.

But once the move was completed, Ed said smiling, "We're doing all the things we said we weren't going to do — work on the house, learn the antiques business and learn how to run cherry crechards."

The 700 sour cherry trees came with the house — they have several rows of trees along the one-track

Staff photos by Stephen Cantrell

dirt lane leading up the hill to their house and more down the east

View of the bay and half the pay

For the next couple of weeks, you'll be seeing stories with an 'ttp-state' logo on them. Why ''Upstate'? Well, that's the term the folks in the northern part of the Lower Peninsula use when they talk about where they live as opposed to 'downstate,' which is where we live and work. And we wanted to find out why they decided to go north and how they like it. When they come 'downstate' it's see Tiger games, go to the Meadow Brook, dustle For the sights of the log city, eatch a transulantic flight at Metro Author they are the sights of the log city, eatch a transulantic flight at Metro Altrapt or grab a look on the way to Florida. Maybe that's the wonder and vitality of Michigan, it's so divrse, you can find almost any lifestyle you want.

LESS THAN a week in the Traverse City area, touring, interviewing and talking to people along the Old Mission and Leelanau peninsulas and I was ready to cash out the IRAs and put a down payment on a mini cher-



Ed Wichert begins to refinish an antique table with the colorful hollyhocks beside the house

ry orchard. The enthusiasm about the quality of life and the time to en-joy it is contaguous. To a person, those who migrated north have made a concerted effort

north have made a concerted effort to combat loneliness by becoming involved in special interest groups and volunteer projects.

After my friends, Charile and Lyna Alberton Quick moved to Traverse City 10 years ago from Beverly Hills, she taught needlepoint classes, did volunteer work, Joined the Questers (antique group), worked part time at the the Antique Barn on the Old Mission Peninsula and chaired several quilt shows put on by the Questers to aid the restoration of the old opera house.

Charile juined Power Squadron,

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Baskets carry her into new life

Laurie Hrt didn't choose to move to Sattom Hret on the Lechanau Prelimstala. She hard divining in the basy subdivision in Autorn Hills.

But as the wife of a Lutheran minister, she knows that moving is a part of the profession. So when he accepted an offer with a cuttern Hills.

But as the wife of a Lutheran minister, she knows that moving is a part of the profession. So when he succepted an offer with a cuttern Su part of the minister, she knows that the succepted and offer with a cuttern Robbie. 5, and Bettamy. 8, said goodbye to neighbors and friends and started nurth. "My daugher couldn't understand why there weren't 50 klus her age around here to play with. Now her friends live on farms and now her plays with all ages rather than just 8 year olds. "It took a while to get used to the different way of Hie, but now it would be hard to go back, she said. One thing Illrt took with her that has helped smooth the transition is her skill in basketmaking. "I learned from a friend downstate who took lessons at Cranbrook, she said. And while there are lots

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Laurie Hirt is cutting aplints for baskets. At left in front are two sizes of Nantucket bask-ets, one of her specialties and at right is the

mold she uses to make them. She dyes the reeds for the Appalachian egg basket at left with the god's eve at the base of the handle.