

2 new careers replace retirement

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week with the picking equipment and crew. And while they attached the big metal shaker to tree after tree down the east slope, Ed and Lou looked at the sheet containing the price estimate for his crop which changed twice in 24 hours because the quality was better than first anticipated.

Instead of waiting until fall to start on the house, which was busily sound but needed new floor covering, they tackled it immediately. Ed opened two booths in the

Antique Company, a 20-dealer co-op in downtown Traverse City, and Lou hooked up with Northwestern College in the city to do some teaching and consulting in business and computers.

To make friends they have become involved in the restoration of the Old Legion Hall at the tip of the peninsula.

Still Lou said she frequently asks Ed, "When do you think our vacation is going to end and we should go home?"

Ed, admitting he has an educa-

tor's mentality, said, "I've been dabbling in it (antiques) for the last 15 years, doing shows. I knew a little about antiques, but I'm learning a whole lot more."

HE HAD ALSO taken an MSU course on fruit tree insects, but the spraying every 14 days handles that problem. With his "I-can-learn-anything" philosophy, Ed said when it comes time to prune the cherry trees in early spring, he'll put on his snowshoes and watch the experts before he does his own.

His retirement gift from his fellow administrators and teachers was \$500 toward a boat, and fishing is high on his list of activities. He jogs every day along a road that has a view he describes as "awe-some" and enjoys telling about the sign on an unattended fruit and vegetable stand along his route: "Please use a paper bag and make your own change."

They like to talk about the differences in their lives then and now — not making either favorable or unfavorable comparisons — just differences.

"When the electrical storms come, it's like being on a mountain," she said, "and I can hear the neighbor's cow 2 1/2 miles away — depending on the wind, you can't tell where the sound's coming from... one of the most impor-

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Traverse area growing

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took boating classes and was involved in the opera house benefits. Lou says, "Occasionally, I'm old, dear friends. Happy? Definitely."

Ed and Lou Wicher, formerly of West Bloomfield, had barely moved into their house on the Old Mission when they became involved in the fund raising and restoration efforts for the old Legion Hall at Old Mission. And they're making new friends through her teaching and their mutual interest in antiques.

"And at least four different people used a favorite upstate phrase when talking about finding jobs, 'view of the Bay and half the pay.'"

Connie and Chuck Wagenschutz, Leelanau Peninsula weavers, formerly of Livonia, have made new friends through the shop they opened in their home. They've taken one daughter and her family into moving north and they're working on the second — jobs can be found, she said "but, it takes time."

winter check summer cottages for absentee owners and tidy up and get the docks in the water just before the owners return.

They have some stories on the glamorous 840-acre Grand Traverse Resort built by Paul Niles of Bloomfield Hills. This impressive complex will certainly have a long range effect on the economy in the Traverse area. Tourists and convention visitors have filled the 750 rooms at least four weekends this summer. Rooms are more likely to be available in the fall and winter, but the still-growing resort has a long list of fall and winter activities to lure vacationers.

Our travels took us (photographer Steve Cantrell and myself) to Northport to visit Farmington Hills resident Eddie Joppich who spends six months a year there operating Joppich's Bay Street Gallery, and we found some other local folks ready to tell us their stories.

Although our sampling was small, those questioned about winter said they enjoyed it — for one thing it's beautiful, pristine and intricately woven into the life.

Both quote the popular saying in that area — "view of the bay and half the pay" — but they don't talk about getting rich... they talk about the quality of life and the pleasure they find in just being themselves.

SOME UPSTATERS have invented jobs for themselves such as the lady who keeps the racks of informational brochures on local artisans filled, or the guys who during the

Living closer to nature

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of basketmakers "upstate," she may be the only one making the Nantucket baskets.


"It is an involved basket and generally expensive," she said. "It involves carving (the handles) and soldering (pins in the handles to make them swing easily).

HIRT SAID the Nantucket baskets always have a wooden base and they are always made on a mold with the ribs tapered and thinned.

Through her interest in crafts she met weavers Connie and Chuck Wagenschutz and other artisans. She sells her baskets through Weaver's Wares, a shop the Wagenschutzes have in their home.

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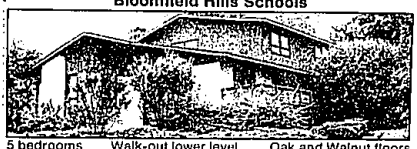
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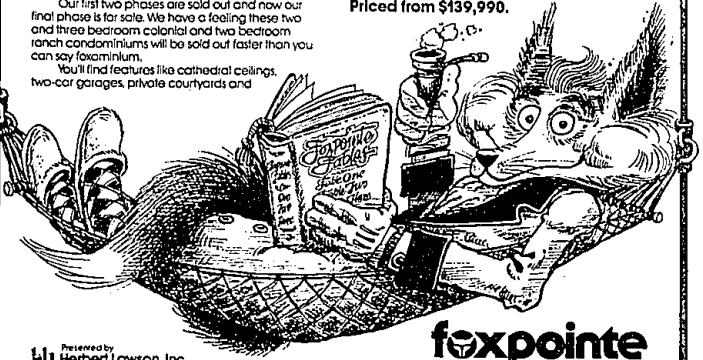
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