

# The Bainbridge Blabber

Holiday Edition - December 1997

*As years go, 1997 has been a "timeless" year for the Bainbridges – that is, a year without adequate time. Each year we seem to be busier and busier. We expect that it is the same with all of you as well.*

## ***Career Moves***

We sold off the technology for our little business late last year, having no aptitude for a consumer oriented business and the tremendous amount of marketing and advertising expense needed to sustain it. That left us poking about for opportunities, and other itinerant ways to make a living and spend our days. Bob began networking and calling on prospective clients to drum up some consulting business. It wasn't long before he had three steady clients and others lined up in the wings. In the meantime, Sandy took a position as Controller with a small software reseller last Fall. She also acts as the Director of Consulting, does product demos and seminars, as well as client needs analysis. The work is interesting but the time commitment is high.

Both career moves should enable us to establish a base of consulting business up North (see related article).



## ***Bainbridges to move to North Woods***

In order to try to gain some control before life truly passes us by, we decided to attempt to simplify our lives.

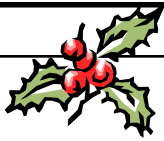
We made a decision to put an addition on our lake place in the Brainerd Lakes area, and move up North on a permanent basis. We had hoped to move before years end but construction on the place up North is progressing at a snails pace. The crew of Ralph and Alf from the TV show "Green Acres" comes to mind since it seems that the more progress we make, the more ceilings and walls get torn out, or cut into – and the finishing is slow in coming. Of course, with the remodeling, everything gets rearranged and displaced. We have one set of kitchen cabinets in the living room propped up against the fireplace, and an assortment of boxes on the floor and dining table each holding various contents of pots, food, and cooking utensils formerly housed in said cabinets. Additionally, there are assorted toolboxes, drills, levels, pry bars, etc sprinkled in among them. We now have the dream house of many a man: a combination living room-workshop!



## ***Vacation 'Rocks' with Bikers***

Our vacation consisted of a weekend trip to the "House on the Rock" in Wisconsin. Some eccentric guy who couldn't hold a job, decided to clobber together a house on top of a rock pillar. Of course it was a curiosity and he figured he could make money charging people to see it. Over the years, he collected all kinds of "stuff" which he put into the house. Eventually, he needed to build on more and more "rooms" to accommodate all of his collections. Now the "house" encompasses several buildings and takes about 5 hours to do a complete walk through. It was indeed, something to see. Made Sandy feel like an absolute minimalist! Of course, since this place is in a little town, and we had not planned ahead, we ended up traveling about 40 miles to Madison to find a motel for the night. Lucky us, the Harley Davidson convention was in town and all of the motels were full of bikers – mostly guys with long gray hair, tattoos, and black leather somewhere. Fortunately we found an obscure motel on the edge of town and avoided most of the "festivities".





### ***Grandson Hams it up!***

This Fall, our grandson, Loren passed the last of the five Federal licensing exams for ham radio operations. At age 11, he is one of the youngest persons in the country to have accomplished this. He is now licensed to teach, and is in fact, now teaching Morse code to students at the local technical school. Studying for the exams was something he did on his own, without prompting from his parents. There was even an article on him in the local paper. We chose not to include it here, so as not to be too obnoxious, about it, but we are, obviously, very proud!

### ***Sandy Sharpens Focus***

This year marked another defining moment for Sandy as she finally crossed over to the bi-focal set. She actually was pleased to get them having grown weary of trying to read fine print. Vanity, however, prevailed as she opted for the invisible style lenses.!

### ***Turkey 'toiled' Again***

Thanksgiving was held at our house once again. We had a moment of panic when, as we were preparing to put the 23# bird in the oven, we realized that the roasting pan had been packed away and was in a box in a storage building up north. Bob offered the oil drain pan as a substitute, but Sandy recovered admirably by using the bottom of a broiler pan and a bunch of aluminum foil to cover the bird. The results were perfect!



### ***Major Garage sale Delayed***

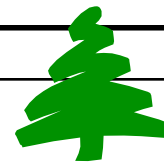
In order to clear out the Arden Hills house for open houses and showings, we have moved at least half of our belongings up North and have most of it stored in boxes in our storage buildings. Don't know how long it will take to unpack, but it will be a daunting adventure once we start. Sandy is on the warpath to encourage Bob to thin out some of his stocks of two, or three of everything. She even volunteered to get rid of one or two sets of dishes if he would relinquish some of his excess tools, etc. "Keep the dishes" was his reply. So, we may need to put an addition on to one of the storage buildings next!!!!

### ***Bob's Mother moves to Presbyterian Homes***

We had to move Bob's mother into a nursing home late this Fall. It was a sad and somewhat bittersweet experience. However, with her current fainting spells and back pain from a compression fracture, she will get better care in her new circumstance. She is in a very nice facility with many skilled and caring staff. We are hopeful for the best from this latest move.

### ***Editorial***

Heard a fellow on the radio the other day talking about Christmas letters and how they traditionally consisted of only two things: bragging and complaining. Hope we have not overdone it in either area, but if we have, please forgive us. It's just good to keep in touch - at least once a year.

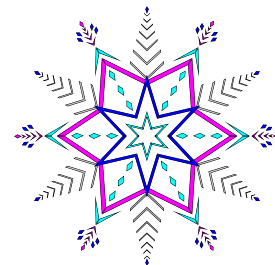


### ***List of Big Losers***

Sandy is pleased to announce that she and Bob lost a combined total of 70 pounds over the summer. Cooking on a diet is a challenge at best, but Bob was especially well controlled over his intake. Now we can fit into all of those old clothes that Sandy was going to get rid of. What luck - especially since she doesn't have time to go to the mall anyway! (Don't know that she agrees with that logic, but it works for Bob!)

### ***Home For Sale***

The Arden Hills home of Bob and Sandy Bainbridge is for sale. It is hoped that the property will sell soon. Talks concerning timing of the sale are deadlocked. Bob is ready to move immediately. Sandy would prefer not to move until more progress is made on the remodeling being done on the addition up North. She wants sheetrocked walls and electricity restored to the kitchen area before relocating. A compromise position may be a possibility.



*May all of you have a wonderful Christmas with the blessings of home, family and friends. And may the New Year bring*