

# The Bainbridge Blabber

**Holiday Edition**

**December 2003**

## Merry Christmas Y'all



### **Change of Life(style) for the Bainbridges:**

This year brings exciting news from the Bainbridge household -- we have moved to Arkansas!!!!



Our new address is:

8565 Promise Land Road (really !!)  
Mountain Home, AR 72653

(870) 431-5140 is our phone number

e-mail remains the same: [rbainbridge@iyf-inc.com](mailto:rbainbridge@iyf-inc.com) or [sbainbridge@iyf-inc.com](mailto:sbainbridge@iyf-inc.com)

When announcing our move, most of our friends reactions were essentially “Arkansas??? Why Arkansas??? (as in, “have you lost your mind”). Daughter Carla, the smooth sales person was much more diplomatic: “Are you guys nuts? People don’t just go on a vacation and then a week later, decide to move there!” We have had to endure endless jabs, jokes and comments about Arkansas and the local residents. Now we understand why some folks are sensitive to ethnic jokes...

For the last couple of years, both Bob and Sandy have grumbled about the bleak Minnesota winters – too long and depressing. Sandy, realizing that Bob always has a ‘greener grass’ viewpoint, suggested that we take vacations to a potential retirement areas and look around. If we didn’t like one area, we would try a different area on our next trip. Having heard several people remark that Arkansas and the Ozarks were a nice place to visit, we decided to start there.

Bob, three weeks before leaving, suggested that we get a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel camping trailer. While Sandy was nervous about pulling a long rig, “no problem” Bob explained that it would be a piece of cake (even though he had absolutely no experience). Well, after examining these units with their separate bedroom, slide out eating area, microwave, gas stove, oven, indoor bath with shower, furnace, air conditioning and cable connection, Sandy decided that this was the kind of “roughing it” camping experience that she could deal with. Bob also fixed up a GPS system with mapping software so Sandy could actually look at the scenery instead of the maps. Bob laughed as she started to exhibit ‘map withdrawal’ symptoms – she insisted on having some paper maps in her lap even though they were never used. So off we went.



Bob wanted a mild climate and he wanted to be on a lake. We started out exploring in Missouri around Truman Lake dam and Lake of the Ozarks. We continued south and came upon the bucolic community of Mountain Home, about 15 miles south of the Missouri line, and 90 miles SE of Branson. We liked the area, scenery, climate, and mostly, the lakes were not all built up. We found a place we really liked on a large lake called Bull Shoals. Not wanting to act too hastily, we continued south through central Arkansas, visited several mountains, and stopped at Hot Springs which has its version of Lake Minnetonka – built up and heavily used, but nice if you like a more urban lake experience. One of the highlights in Hot Springs was camping at Lake Catherine State Park. We enjoy camping because of the quiet and solitude you can enjoy. With that in mind, Bob made sure to request a camping site next to the lake. We got our spot on the lake—directly across (approximately 500’) from a large power plant! What a view – smokestacks and bright security lights all night! What great nature sounds of the generators humming all night! What a memory! We laughed and laughed once we realized that this is what we got for requesting a spot next to the lake. After our rambling through central and southern Arkansas, we found ourselves coming back to Mountain Home to look at the house on Bull Shoals one more time. It has almost everything Sandy has ever wanted in a house, a fabulous view, and for Bob - a big lake with fish and a new covered boat dock. We threw caution to the wind and made an offer on the house. Then we came home.

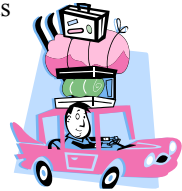


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**Bob and Sandra Bainbridge; 8565 Promise Land Road; Mountain Home, AR 72653**

Once our offer was accepted, there was a marathon of things to do. We had hoped that Sandy's Dad would agree to move down to Arkansas since Sandy is his sole caregiver. Surprisingly, he readily agreed. Now, we all recognize Bob is not known for being patient. Bob originally mused that we would move to our new home in March of the following year but after Sandy's Dad agreed to relocate he quickly convinced himself that we could move by the first week of December!

Our moving company told us that there were items that they would not move – such as liquids. Bob, having a small wine cellar's worth of homemade beer and wine, decided to rent a U-Haul truck and take it down to Mountain Home prior to the 'official' Moving Van move. Well, he decided that as long as he was making a trip, we should take a few more things. We ended up packing a 26 foot U-haul full of stuff and pulling our 30' flatbed trailer piled high with equipment, lawn mowers, gardening equipment, and other assorted items. When we finished packing it up, all it lacked was a rocking chair on top! Sandy drove the fully loaded pickup truck pulling our boat which was also packed high with fishing and boating items. We must have been quite the sight to see. Thanks to CB radios, we could communicate with each other along the way. Aside from blowing out 2 tires on our first day, and lumbering up some mountains at only 15 mph, the trip went fine.



When we arrived, there must have been about 25 neighbors that stopped by to introduce themselves. Since most of them were men, they were no doubt interested in checking out the "good stuff" that we brought down! Bob was actually recruited to join the volunteer fire department – he would be one of the younger firemen! We find that the people here are very friendly and warm hearted.



The moving van came December 10<sup>th</sup> for the 'official' move. We have all been living amongst the boxes since. Sandy is sure that the boxes actually multiply overnight since they never seem to go away! Needless to say, our cars will wait for a while before they see the inside of this garage! Bob has already started contacting people about putting on an addition for his stuff. Sandy tolerates his antics but is insisting on an equal budget for new decorating items.

Sandy's Dad has moved into a seniors' apartment in Mountain Home. So far, he seems to like it. He especially likes the dining room and socialization plus not having to eat his own cooking anymore! We think he is eyeing all of the 'hot babes' and based on overheard comments we know they are eyeing him!

If you haven't guessed it, we really like it here. So far the weather is paradise compared to Minnesota winters. We'll let you know how well we deal with the summer heat.

#### ***Tee for Two:***

In other news, daughter Carla got married in August on a pontoon boat on Crosslake. It was a lot of fun for everyone, and the reception followed at a golf course with everyone playing a round of golf – even Bob! Wish we could send a picture of Carla golfing in her wedding dress!



Well, that's all of our big news for now. We hope that all of you are fine and enjoying life as much as we are. Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

***Sandy & Bob***

***P.S. Sorry about the lack of color—haven't unpacked the color printer yet!***



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