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"IT'S ABOUT THE PEOPLE"

Togetherhness | Helpfulness | Friendliness

*We Remember
We Celebrate
We Believe*

River of Dreams

Sue

Born in Green Bay
Graduated from Preble High School
Attended UW GB Before Moving to Germany
Careers at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College In Basic Education/ Grants and then Enrollment Services and Assessment Center
Retired 2006

Art

Born in Hamburg, Iowa
Graduated from Appleton High
Served in the US Marine Corps 1955-67
Specialist in Infantry, Military Police & IT
Served in Okinawa, North Carolina, Virginia, Washington DC
After USMC worked for State of Wisconsin in IT
Became IT programmer for NWTC
Returned later as NWTC IT Manager of Administrative Services.
Retired 1997

Met when walking out of work at the same time at NWTC, sparking a lasting relationship

Married 1992

*Currently Live in Green Bay
Retreat in Couillardville*



Art and Sue in the beautiful garden on their Couillardville property at 4528 Rocky Run Lane

FAMILY

Tracy (Gregg) + three grandkids - Blaine, MN

Amy + two grandkids - Green Bay, WI

Becky (Mathew) + two grandkids -Brussels, WI

Art is Honorary Father and Grandfather

Finding Paradise

Though they aren't Couillardville "natives," Sue and Art have lived here longer than most, acquiring their piece of paradise along the Oconto River, on Rocky Run Road W, back in 1993. Since then, they have turned their slice of the former Carey farm into an amazing display of flowers, exotic plants, and woodlands, all anchored by a charming weekend cottage offering fine river views in either direction.

"We love nature," Art says. "After we got married, we were looking for a place (in the country) and found it here. We just loved this place from the very first moment. It's our heart and soul. There's not a day that I don't talk about being here!"

Sue believes that it was fate which led them to Couillardville. "It was a Sunday and we were scanning through newspapers looking for a suitable property," she recalls. A tract in Door County caught their eye and they immediately contacted the realty company. The agent that responded was a memorable personality. "We called him Jungle Jim," Sue says with a big smile. "In the dead of winter, he had a

Crocodile Dundee hat and a Bowie knife on his waist!"

After he described the property to them, Sue and Art allowed that they were not really interested in being in the middle of the woods and scratched the Door County idea. An experienced real estate agent, "Jungle Jim" asked if they had ever thought of being by a river and offered to show them such a tract along the Oconto River.

"It was a blizzard cold day and we cancelled," Sue chuckles. "But he was persistent and the next Sunday we parked on County Road J and walked in. There was nothing to see but ice and snow, but the spirits moved us to buy it without really knowing what was underneath."

Their instincts were rewarded the following spring when the ice and snow disappeared, revealing the property in all its beauty. "Jungle Jim was proven right with a beautiful hill flowing down to the river," she explains. "And, as Art says, from that spring we have treasured our time here!"

They soon put their riverfront property to good use, hosting family members from as far away as Minnesota to come

visit them in Couillardville for what they called "River Daze."

"This was not a hotel, lacking indoor plumbing and so on," Art says. "But we would camp out, cook potluck meals, canoe up and down the river, have father/son races on the driveway, and share good food and lots of laughter together."

Putting Down Roots

Among the many things the Vyse's quickly experienced when choosing to call Couillardville home is the generosity of their new neighbors, both in spirit and deed.

"Everyone made us feel welcomed when we came here," states Art, "especially Ron Carey and Don Glynn. Talk about the salt of the earth. I've always felt that way about farmers."

Sue agrees, also singling out the Careys and the Glynns. "These were the first people we knew here and as our little neighborhood on Rocky Run Lane started to develop, we made friends with Charlie and Carol Janssen, Nick and Kristen Stewart, Pete and Eileen Gossen, John and Judy Hill, Gail and Josie Fenlon, and new friends Emery and Amber Orlikowski."

Art points out that when they first arrived in Couillardville, they were working hard to turn their property into the showplace it eventually became. “We started from scratch building what you see today. So we didn’t have a lot of time to get out into the community and meet people. We were still working regular jobs, so it was ‘mow and go’, though we did have occasional cookouts and things that helped gel relationships with what we call our river friends. Later on, of course, the Machine Shed Reunions opened the door to becoming friends with many others.”



Art and Sue at their very special and serene gathering place



Peaceful Resting Place

In many quiet spots around the River of Dreams property from the lawn under the big trees to the garden to the river bank you will find beautiful placements of two chairs similar to the ones in this photo. Visitors can not help but notice this warm and peaceful connection of Art and Sue and their special place on earth.

A Spiritual Meeting

While Art and Sue physically met while leaving work at NWTC many years later Art recalled:

“On May 10th, 1972, Sue was having open heart surgery at St. Lukes in Milwaukee, and on the very same day I had a serious motorcycle accident in Madison.”

“We didn’t know each other at the time, but I do believe we met spiritually that day.”

“First-generation” Contributors

Sue and Art Vyse are perfect examples of how “first-generation” Couillardville residents—those with no previous local family connections—are making a positive impact on today’s evolving community. Whereas the original settlers and their direct descendants long defined the ethos of Couillardville, that role is now shifting to newer residents as the “founders” fade from the scene and their homes and farms pass into new hands.

Our Couillardville Experience

By Art and Sue

Our property on the Oconto River at 4528 Rocky Run Lane in Couillardville, fondly named 'The River of Dreams', has been a very special and serene gathering place for us and our family since we first stepped foot on it in 1993. In the early years, we spent most of our time down by the river having family cook-outs, tent camping, and canoeing. After we built the cabin and started developing the upper area, we had many family and friend gatherings, which

usually included making soups, stews, and having fish boils; pulling anything we could from our garden to make them. Each summer we would have a 'River Daze' weekend which was a fun time of relay races, water balloon toss, bocce ball, scavenger hunts; all those fun outdoor activities. The 'River' always echoed with laughter! Many of those same traditions now carry over to sharing with our grandchildren; they love coming to the River for

bonfires, games, and the specialness of 'just being together'. Another annual tradition in the Fall is the 'Pumpkin Patch' weekend, which usually wraps up the camping season, as the weather is getting cooler.

We bought Rocky Run, Lot 2, across the road from us, in 1998, from Ron and Linda Carey. About 5 years ago, Becky and Matthew bought Lot 1 on Rocky Run Lane; they will be carrying on and establishing their traditions!

In Search of Couillardville

While there is room for debate of how far out the Couillardville community extends there is no doubt that the heart of Couillardville is located in the Couillardville Memorial Park, an Oconto County Park. The park with its state historical marker and the memorial bricks honoring Couillardville residents and friends from the founders is set to be the "place" for all of those with a Couillardville connection. Several years ago in conjunction with the renovation of the park a bank

account was created to handle the funds received and spent in improving the park and selling bricks. The account is for the "Friends of Couillardville Park" and is currently administered by John Matravers. To continue to enhance the beauty and use of the park for years to come and to support its role as the heart of "Couillardville" it is important to have the engagement and support of many.

Are you interested in helping support the sale of memorial

bricks, enhancing the park, building a communications focal point for Couillardville history and community connections, etc. ? Contact either John Matravers or Leon Janssen if you have interest in supporting these efforts.



New Placement of Couillardville Sign Facing County Road J