

OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

John Russell and Ann Rivers [yes she uses her own name] lived for quite awhile at opposite sides of Cleveland before they ever met, and then after what they call a long courtship, they were married, and eventually retired here to 138 Hawthorne after some looking around.

John is "99% retired". He was a research chemist for B.F. Goodrich, working with rubber and plastic. Now he is part owner of a company in Cleveland that makes plastic catheters for open heart surgery, and he goes to Cleveland frequently. The catheters are a marvel of technology [he showed me one]. Since they are meant to be extremely flexible during the surgery, they have inside them a stainless steel wire designed not to touch any part of the catheter and to keep it from kinking. Fantastic!

Ann is a self-employed psychologist under contract three days a week to the Neuse Mental Health Center where she counsels adults. In Cleveland she worked at the Rainbow Babies' and Children's Hospital counseling parents and staff in the premature babies ward. In fact, she continues to go back there and do counseling videos on the growth and development of the preemies, but she loves being at Neuse, saying it's the best place she's ever worked.

I noticed an enlarged photograph of a little girl who turned out to be John's grand-daughter sitting in front of a plate of "green eggs and ham" prepared for her as a reminder of Dr. Seuss's book. She was adorable, that little 4 year old, but did not look pleased about eating the colorful meal!

Ann has 4 sons, 1 daughter, and 4 grandchildren, while John has 1 son and 1 granddaughter. They are both tutoring for the literacy council and are active in the North Carolina Coastal Federation and the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship, of which John is Vice President. They are vigorously learning to sail, and in between they flit about in kyaks [they have 3 and would welcome calls from others who want to go paddling]. Ann also has done white water rafting and long distance biking. She wants to cross the country on a bike, but got distracted recently when she had an opportunity to go to China to see a friend. She got to Inner Mongolia. Hardly anyone else ever has! Anyway, she's looking for biking companions here. In extra, unfilled moments Ann and John do Great Books and Bird Watching. I'm wondering where they found the time to let me come in, but I'm grateful they did!

MARY DOLL

It was, for a moment, disconcerting: I walked into the living room of Judy and Bill Poit at 127 Beechwood and greeted them both. Then I turned and met Barbara and Bob Poit. I thought I saw two Bills [or two Bobs, as the case may have been]. Actually, of course, they're twins. Bob and Barbara were here looking at property in anticipation of moving down.

Anyway, Bill and Judy are here now, and feeling very good about it indeed after three months. Bill has recently retired from Grumman [quite a group of you guys around here, huh?] where he was an associate research engineer. On a wall in one of their rooms is a giant poster given him when he left; Bill is shown intently concentrating in front of a variety of technology, and in one photo he's in what he calls a moon suit, creating some sort of lasers out of molten glass.

Judy spent 20 years as the administrative assistant to the superintendent of schools where they lived, in Rockville Center, Long Island. When she left she was presented a computer which is keeping her busy these days.