House at 711 Amherst Doubles in Size

Now A Full Upstairs, New Front Porch, Reoriented Staircase

Twenty-three People at Thanksgiving Dinner

ANN ARBOR — It began on Valentine’s Day and was mostly done by the Remodeler’s home tour in September. In between, we lived on the first floor while all around us the pounding and sawing drywalling, and painting went on.

The only door in-and-out was through the screened porch on the back. Each step of the way, the weather-worthiness of the construction was well-tested, first by rains, and now by the snow.

“We are loving the extra bedrooms, additional bathrooms, the skylights in the two-story stairwell, as well as our craftsman-style front porch,” the family reports. There is even a “library/Mom’s sewing room/exercise room” off the master bedroom.

In the remodeling process, “We met a delightful cast of characters from carpenters to plumbers to painters,” they say.

“It’s been interesting rediscovering our belongings, which we stashed away in every nook and cranny in the basement, the shed attached to the garage, and a storage facility in Whitmore Lake.”

The family lived in the house the whole time, though that involved having the parent’s bed filling up the living room. The kids thought their bed was the perfect trampoline.

“Unfortunately, much of this took place over the summer, which meant we could spend a lot of time on the backporch.”

“We had plenty of space for a family gathering over Thanksgiving,” adds Suzanne. Eighteen people slept in the house while another five joined them for dinner. All ten of the elder Tainters grandchildren were here, including the oldest grandson, “Tophier.” Grandma Boyer came from her residence at Glacier Hills for dinner.

Over the next year, the family welcomes visitors from across the country who might want to make Ann Arbor a destination or may be passing through on the way to somewhere else.

“We are still in the same location, with easy access off I-94.”

“Come visit,” says the family. “We now have plenty of room for our family and friends. If you don’t all come at once, you can even have private bedroom and bath.”

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Canoe Gets Workout in Watersmeet

WATERSMEET, Mi — Tainters and Boyers gathered in August for the annual family camping vacation. The first week was spent within commuting distance of Sheboygan and Port Washington at Pike Lake so that sister Pam, her friend John, and brother Dave could commute to work while we camped. Also within easy reach of the Milwaukee airport since we had to get Ken back from St. Louis where he was studying lock-and-dam expansion on the Mississippi River.

The second week we headed north for Sylvania Wilderness Area. We moved the camp itself, in the rain, to Marion Lake, which was more suitable for the fishing boat, a nice swimming beach, and a delightful view of the lake with. We woke to the sounds of loons.

Ken and Sue went on an all day canoeing outing through the lakes. Another day we paddled kids out to an island to have a picnic. Since this involved one canoe and six kids, only two of which were really big enough to paddle with an adult, and several too small on a lake shore without an adult, it was a brain teaser to work out the necessary back-and-forths.

Another day, Ken and Sue paddled the Ontonagon River from Watersmeet to Burned Dam, winding through forests, sloughs, narrow channels filled with rock, Eagles, beaver, bouncing off rocks.

This is the third year the family has spent a week in Wisconsin with another week in the north. The first year, when Grandma introduced the kids to fishing, Mark and Beth thought they might be able to keep the fish they caught as pets. They were certainly too small to eat!

This summer, Mark and his cousin Brittany fared better and Grandpa and Britt’s Dad, David, cooked up a “shore lunch” from their catch on Marion Lake.
Meg Voted Most Voluble, Demands Recount

Charismatic, competitive, articulate, and possessing a famous sweet tooth, Meg one year had nothing but candy (and rice, her other favorite food,) on her Christmas list. She is now a fan of salmon and steak, as well. Forget the kid meals at restaurants. Once known to wear nothing but dresses and skirts (the twirlier the better) she now favors windpants. Pink and purple are still favored colors, however.

Current Top Interests:

• baked goods
• TV, especially games
• Chronicles of Narnia
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Blessed with excellent balance and kinesthetic sense, Beth does gymnastics for the sheer joy of moving. A careful observer of the world around her, she revels in finding toads, frogs, and bugs. She was especially pleased to take care of her cousin Sarah’s two cats, one a kitten, over the Easter holiday.

Her Current Top Interests:

• Molly, the American Girl Doll
• Magic Treehouse Books
• gymnastics, soccer, ice skating
• Evan (an eighteen-month old neighbor) and other small children of her acquaintance
• cuddling with her mom
• craft projects
• tubing on the local snow hills
• baking with Dad

Fifty Years Later, Bride (Again) Fits in Wedding Dress

PORT WASHINGTON, WI March 12, 2000— Family and friends gathered here for Lowell and Patricia Tainter’s fiftieth wedding anniversary in March. The occasion presented a fine visit with cousins and old family friends. The Bride modeled her wedding dress for her appreciative children, grandchildren, and husband.

Grown Up Cousins A Hit

On the Boyer side of the family, we have become reacquainted with “grown-up cousins” Sarah and Katie, Russ and Mary’s daughters. Last year they were both in Ohio and thus in driving distance for visiting Ann Arbor and their Grandma Boyer often.

Still Employed, Kid Activities Fill Spare Time

Milestone (7?) Birthday Reached

A button from a friend, says it all: “I’m just a kid in a 50-year-old body.”

Twenty-three years and counting as a science writer for the University of Michigan, Suzanne does not expect to be retiring any time soon. Now part of the team that developed and maintains the UM’s research web site, her training in communications fundamentals in the UW Ag Journalism department is coming through again. Recently, she has also been involved in training programs for research staff.

She has been helping out the elementary school with their editing and web publishing needs, and also serves as the school’s representative to the district-wide PTO council, which is an education in local politics and district issues. As “troop camper,” she accompanies the Brownies on winter camping trips (in a lodge).

For more news and photos: www-personal.umich.edu/~stainter Email: stainter@umich.edu boyerkd@msu.edu

Northside Students Are International Mix continued from 1

community.

Mark has started first grade. The girls are veterans of the school, now in third grade, each in a different classroom.

Ken and Sue are now juggling work schedules, and sharing afterschool care with neighbors to accommodate lessons of various sorts and playdates.

Helen Grothaus, “Grandma G” 99

November 1, 1900 — December 17, 1999

About this time last year, the family gathered in Port Washington for a service marking the death of our beloved grandmother and Great-grandma “G”, Helen Grothaus.

Many of our friends met Sue’s grandmother through the years and remember the spry woman that she remained until all but the very last years.

Her love of reading and vocabulary, her appreciation of the out-of-doors, her ability to embrace change (and she certainly saw a lot of it over her life), and her strong sense of personal responsibility are a legacy passed on to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

It was a bittersweet service. We had all thought she would live to 100, but as illness took its toll in the last few years, she had come to think perhaps she had lived long enough.

We recognized her increasing difficulty, and Sue’s Dad spoke for all of us when he said our only regret was that the youngest great grandchildren would not know her as we had.

We gathered again over a rainy Memorial Day weekend in Grundy City, Iowa for the burial at the family cemetery in Hazel Green. The plot is a place for visiting Ann Arbor and their Grandma Boyer often.

Still Teaching Hundreds at MSU

The most traveled member of the family this year has been Ken, who, as a result of serving on several National Research Council committees, has been to Washington, DC (several times), St. Louis, and Woods Hole.

One task involves reviewing the Army Corps of Engineers cost-benefit analysis for expansion of locks and dams on the Mississippi River, a topic that has made the news in recent months.

He continues to teach, including “principles of micro-economics” to the masses, and is filling in as graduate program director.

He found himself in the center of a controversy over intellectual property rights for professors teaching on-line.

This year, he has been the consistent soccer parent, and also serves as the PTO treasurer.

Next year he hopes to reinvigorate the garden.

Ken at Burned Dam in the U.P.

Boyer Scrutinizes Lock & Dam Plans, Truck Size & Weights

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