



# Seldovia Gazette

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Seldovia, AK

54 °F / 12 °C

Light Rain  
at 12:53 PM



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Thursday, June 8, 2006

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### Doug Pieren - Seldovia's Green Thumb *by Charity Winters*



For the past 20 years or more, Doug Pieren has made Seldovia a beautiful place. His talents in landscaping and gardening have provided Seldovia with flower beds, trees, and shrubs that have added life and color to this quaint little town. Everyone, tourists and townsfolk alike, can't help but to admire his attractive handiwork.

Doug has been a Seldovian for 27 years. A native Alaskan, he was born in Palmer and raised in Wasilla. Doug's family holds deep roots in the homesteading ground floor of this state. His grandparents, Fred and Edith Hurd homesteaded parts of Wasilla and his mother and stepfather homesteaded Kasistna Bay for 10 years in the 1950's. Doug spent his childhood between Alaska and Oregon where his father lived. But in his late teens and early 20's he homesteaded with his mother, Shirley Ekren, in Kasistna Bay. According to Doug, their homesteading life was different but

Doug continues with his landscaping today. He resides at Lakeside Terrace and works for the Seldovia Village Tribe as their landscaper. Any work that he does for the city grounds are volunteer. Doug has an obvious love for gardening saying it "comes natural". He believes he inherited his green thumb from his grandmother – "She could plant a stick and it would grow," he said of her talents. Other than that, Doug keeps himself busy walking his little black dog and collecting fine china in his spare time. He buys everything off of eBay.com and has about 60 or so pieces in his collection. Most of it is of the French style Limoges or Trissamnn and Vott. This year, he donated a beautiful cream and sugar bowl to the Booster Club for their annual auction.

not too difficult. They had batteries for lights and a small generator. All communication was through a CB radio. In the days before the road, trips were made to Homer by skiff for supplies. In 1968, the Jakolof Bay road was built in order to harvest and mill lumber. The mill was home to almost 300 people – whole families included. The school bus came out every day to pick up children for school. At this time, Doug’s connection with Seldovia began.

Doug spent some time living in Anchorage before he tired of city life and relocated to Seldovia. He worked for several years as a custodian for the city. In 1980 he was part of Seldovia’s beautification project under Mayor Darlene Crawford. At that time in Seldovia’s history the town still looked much as it had after Urban Renewal during the aftermath of the 1964 earthquake. Seldovia was in desperate need of a face-lift. Doug played a large part in putting in the gardens surrounding the Harbormaster, the Medical Clinic, and the trees that line the harbor today.



Even though he isn’t much a boat person (he gets seasick), Doug says he is a coastal person. He loves the mountains and water. Since Seldovia has an abundance of both, it suits Doug perfectly. Fortunately for us, our little town can enjoy Doug’s wonderful skills all summer long! A big THANK YOU to Doug for all of his hard work and time spent in making Seldovia a beautiful place to live and visit.



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