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Seldovia's Newest Residents: Sherry and Monty Hingley

by *Charity Winters*



When their last child left home, Sherry and Monty Hingley decided it was time for an adventure together. A year earlier a visit to Homer for a wedding inspired them to return one day. As a teacher with 25 years of experience, Sherry began applying for jobs on the Kenai Peninsula. Now, here they are in Seldovia!

The Hingley's are from Troy, Montana where Sherry taught at the K-6 school for 21 years. Monty worked as the food service manager for the district for the past 10 years. A town with about 800 people, Sherry described it as a "small town in the northwest corner." There they are facing problems similar to Seldovia – a dwindling community with a lack of industry to keep families from moving. The similarities, not forgetting the mountains and fishing of course, have allowed the Hingley's to feel comfortable already in their new home. "I can live anywhere," declared Monty, "and the fishing is a plus!" He went on to tell of his first salmon – a 18

Monty has spent most of his life in and around the Troy area. He graduated from the high school there, following in his mother's footsteps. He was in the mining business for several years as an electrician in an underground copper/silver mine. He did this for 10 years before taking on the food service job for the school district. Now he is planning on applying for the part time school cook position at SBE and hopes to possibly find something else to fill his time.

Even with what could be a very stressful position as the new 4-8th grade teacher, Sherry seemed very relaxed about the whole situation. This is Sherry's first time teaching multi-grades and she finds it challenging. But she feels that here years of meeting the needs of multi levels in a single grade along with several other factors has helped her to prepare. She says that she "likes a new challenge" and finds that this is "stretching" her. She felt great

pound silver. This is a second marriage for both – 7 years together coming up this September 4 th! Together they have 8 children – 5 are Sherry’s and 3 Monty’s. They also share 6 grandchildren. It was difficult to leave behind family but with the closest being 3 hours away, they didn’t see them as often as they would have liked. With the hopes of a daughter relocating to Anchorage or Fairbanks, it doesn’t seem too bad to be in Seldovia. And they plan on going home in the summers to see family.

Sherry grew up in Dubois, PA. An interesting fact that she enjoys sharing with her classes is that she was raised on a zoo! Her father was in the logging business when he was hurt on the job. Keeping animals as a hobby, he decided to use them for a profit and open a zoo. On their 40 acres, they eventually kept 1000 animals and traded with the Pittsburgh Zoo at times. Sherry also likes to share that she had a pet bear that she would lead in parades. This supported the family for about 6 years. Sherry went on to college in Kentucky where she earned her teaching degree. From there she moved on to Indiana looking for a teaching job. At that time in the ‘70’s teaching jobs were scarce. The Vietnam War had driven an excess of males into college – particularly elementary education. With the influx of males with teaching degrees, it was hard to find a job as a young woman. Sherry worked as a church secretary for 4 years before she ended up teaching in Montana.

about how the first week went and expressed that in order for the classroom to be successful her goal for both herself and the students will be to create independent learners. Her biggest problem at the moment was how to keep up with all the grading! But Sherry was very encouraged by the enthusiasm that was given her experience and that she was bringing it to a town that doesn’t often get such teachers.

In their spare time, the Hingley’s have a few hobbies they would like to pursue. Sherry watercolor paints and Monty ties fishing flies. In Montana they used to take long drives on the weekends. Since driving options are quite limited here, they are planning to substitute their 20-foot boat. All in all, they are planning on enjoying Seldovia and are looking forward to having a good first year here.

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