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Joe & Carla Fleckenstein, the self-reliant Alaskans!

by Mary Glover



Residing on Shoreline Drive is a very interesting and fun couple who enjoy the friendship of many Seldovians. Carla and Joe have a long Alaskan history. Joe was born in Wasilla (his family were homesteaders) and Carla was born in Petersburg. Joe is retired from the Alaska State Highway Dept. where, among other jobs, he took care of plowing snow in Wasilla during the winter months and thereby kept the roads safe for the citizens. This translates into getting up at 4:00 AM to get the roads plowed before everyone wakes up! Carla's last job was with Dr. Lund. She retired two years after Joe retired. Where was Joe when Carla was still working her job? He was in their boat, *M/V Carla Found Out*, moored in the Seldovia harbor. Carla would come down from Wasilla on the weekends and join him in Seldovia's paradise. I remember well the day she retired. What a great day of celebration!

After Carla's retirement, Joe and Carla could be found on their boat with the Miniature Schnauzers (Ginger and Pickles – named after the Beatrice Potter characters). Ginger was the older of the two dogs and they lost her this year. Now they have a new black Schnauzer, Bianca, who keeps Pickles, Carla and Joe

surrounding Seldovia with an inflatable skiff. After the logs dry out a little, Joe then cuts the lumber for his building projects with his own saw mill located in front of his new shop. He has built their primary house (a two level home). Then he built a small shop beside the main house, which was too small. Now he is completing a larger shop on the other side of the main house. (The small shop is going to be Carla's studio.) Just this past week, the roof was completed before all the rain came. Step by step and board by board, Joe builds a great home for them.

Carla is an immaculate housekeeper and terrific cook. She is known for her clam recipe, which is "to die for." Joe also does woodworking craft and makes beautiful benches, chests and bookcases. Joe, a very humble man, is one of the most knowledgeable men on Alaskan history that I know. Carla has been attending the women's swim group. She also started taking the yoga class offered by Kate Springer and Betsy Scott-Felberg. Their home reflects Carla's decorating talents as it is unique and tastefully Alaskan.

running!

Joe and Carla brought a plot of land on the Seldovia Slough. Now, what is so amazing about this couple is that they are definitely self-sufficient Alaskans. Joe harvests his logs off the beaches

Joe and Carla each have one married daughter (and respective spouses) who all live in the Lower 48. They have three grandchildren.

Joe and Carla, "Our hats are off to you!"



Joe standing on the deck overlooking the slough.



If you look carefully, you can see both Joe and Carla.



Joe and Carla with Ginger and Pickles.



Joe and Carla on the new shop deck earlier this summer.



Pickles (pink collar) and Ginger (green collar) last year.



Joe with Bianca in the basket while Pickles stands at attention!



Joe as he starts to build the frame for a wall on the new shop.



The shop with walls, just before the roof is put on. Joe also built his own trusses.

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