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Greg Davis - One of Seldovia's Active Newcomers

Narrative by Tamara

Blodgett



The sweetest fruit is in Seldovia...

Californian Greg Davis has found something sweet here in Seldovia and intends to savor it. Davis was born and raised in Torrence, California, a part of Los Angeles County, from which he also graduated high school. As a youth, Davis had energy to spare and the entrepreneurial spirit to go with it. At the tender age of sixteen, he was establishing a work ethic that would later propel him in life which began by roofing houses. He would attend school, go to work (sports were squished in there somewhere), and supervise his crew of workers. His teenage business was a success and a confidence-builder for

In 1986, when Davis received his real estate brokers license and became a certified appraiser, he used this knowledge to secure and sensitively develop the holdings he would eventually procure. With his Utah and California holdings flourishing and settled, Davis was ripe for a change of pace and perspective.

Visiting a long-time friend in Seattle with a last minute ticket whetted Davis' appetite for domestic travel. He made his way north to visit another friend in Anchorage. This eventually led him to the conclusion that he *must* own a piece of Alaska, however small. The intrinsic beauty of the area captured his interest and he began an active search of different areas that

Davis.

After graduation, he attended Brigham Young University where he obtained a degree in Accounting with a focus in Auditing (banks). In a hiatus from Brigham, Davis took a missions trip to the Netherlands where he learned to speak Dutch. Upon his return, he finished his degree and subsequently married. During his accounting career he worked with Pricewaterhouse (now PricewaterhouseCoopers). Davis has three grown children: Jessica, now twenty-four and married, also with a degree in Accounting (specialization in Tax), Tim, who is studying to be a Civil Engineer and coaches wrestling on the side, and Rebecca, twenty, who is also a student pursuing a degree in Business. Like his dad before him, Tim has also been on a missions trip to Texas where *he* learned to speak Spanish fluently (must run in the family!). Davis' former wife, Denise, continues their unique and amicable partnership by managing the accounting while they are mutually involved in their children's lives.

Davis describes himself as a highly-disciplined, methodical and enthusiastic individual who loves nature and has been very involved with it during his career. This proves out nicely with the latter part of his life's work engaged in raising grapes ("table" grapes account for only 10% of the total grapes grown, the other 90% is for wine and raisins), oranges, Kiwi, and apples. During his stint in growing and direct-marketing his produce, Davis traveled the world and was the elected international representation for Kiwi growers. Eventually, with competition as fierce as it has become, Davis thought it smart to transition into production only and leave the marketing up to the large suppliers. This allows him quality control of the product without the headache of mass marketing.

In the interim between accounting and vineyards, Davis found time to get a degree in Gemology. He passionately pursued that endeavor but found after a decade he had exhausted his interest in the gem arena. Gravitating more to a nature-inspired pursuit with his love of the outdoors, Davis combined his interests and bought substantial tracts of land that he sensitively developed for commercialization when there was need (while running his vineyards). Having the control over the "how" of the development process was crucial to Davis, who likes to see his projects benefit the environment in both aesthetics and practicality. Davis seems to thrive on the challenge of creating just the right architectural look for the surrounding area. Something that, when completed, compliments rather than detracts from its surroundings.

would offer the amount of acreage he was interested in owning. When a beautiful one hundred and forty acre parcel became available he snatched it up. A faraway look came upon Davis' face as he thought back on the moment, describing the boat ride that took him to look at the piece from the water. He said that "...a 'little voice' told me to buy it. So I did." And with that, the rest is history.

Davis has wasted no time rolling up his sleeves and becoming immersed in local politics and organizations. Passionate about the Arts as well as nature, Davis is now on the Arts Council and Parks and Rec. He has a vision of facilitating in the completion of the small parks that dot Main Street, thereby making them useful and pleasing to the eye once again. Like many before him, Davis had that feeling of "coming home" when first holding Seldovia within his sights. I know just what he means.

A quote that resonates with Davis was said by former (26th) President Teddy Roosevelt:

"It is not the critic that counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man that is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly, who errs and comes up short again and again. Because there is no effort without error and shortcomings, he who knows the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows that in the end the high achievement of triumph and who at worst, if he fails while daring greatly, knows his place will never be with those timid and cold souls who know neither victory or defeat."



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