

Couple plans business retirement

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Bill and Mary Twaddle open the W.T. Dwire House bed and breakfast.

By Nancy Kinnally

Bill and Mary Twaddle have several years before their retirement, but they know exactly how they'll be spending it.

The Twaddles opened the W.T. Dwire House bed and breakfast at 1621 Vermont earlier this year.

They plan to make running the B&B their full-time vocation when they leave their long-time careers — his in the engineering department of the Illinois Veterans Home and hers at First Federal Bank.

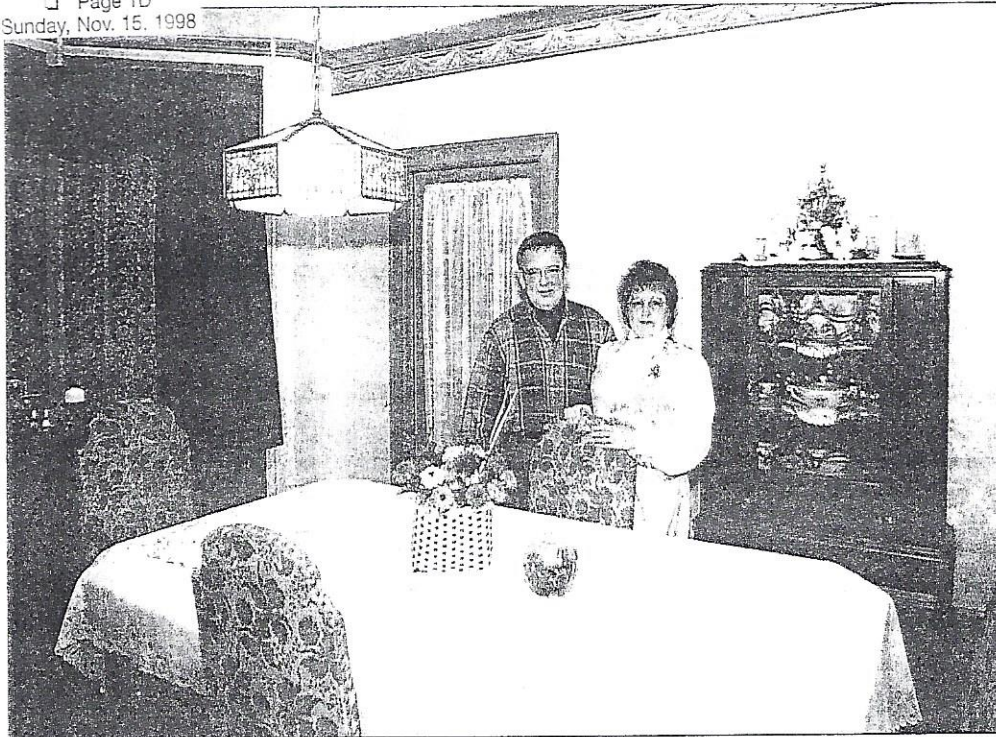
"Most people retire to retire," Mrs. Twaddle said with a smile. Indeed, the Twaddles are not like "most people."

Not only are they planning a business-oriented retirement, but many of their vacations from here on out will involve serving as cooks and hosts for travelers and special events.

"I can take an hour or two off in the mornings if I want to on vacation time, and we have done that in the past because we've had several couples stay with us weekdays," Twaddle said. "We arranged our time so we'd be here in the early part of the morning for breakfast, and then we'd leave and they'd have a key to the house and the room."

While running the bed and breakfast certainly will keep the Twaddles busy, perhaps the hardest part of pursuing their retirement dreams was renovating the 100-year-old house.

Previous owners Jorja and Rod Frazier had done some restoration to the house, including reconstruction of the main staircase with salvaged remnants from seven different sites and some custom work. But much work remained for the



II-W Photo/Jeanne Long

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Twaddles.

"We did a lot of (the renovations) in-house, meaning my wife and I did a lot of the work," Twaddle said.

The Twaddles got help from their son and daughter on some projects, such as covering the ceilings with a heavy, embossed paper.

They also hired Michael Entrup Drywall and Painting to do some of the wallpapering, along with some

specialized "ostrich-feather" painting.

The renovations took a full year and followed a three-year search for the right house — one that would meet ordinance requirements and safety codes and was also historic.

Named for its original owner, the Queen Anne-style W.T. Dwire house was built by a tobacco industrialist with the Wellman and Dwire tobacco company, which at the turn of the century occupied a seven-story plant on Payson Avenue between 4th and 5th.

Tobacco was once a large industry in Quincy, but by 1898 Wellman and Dwire was the last large tobacco company in the city.

Some years later it moved to St. Louis and was taken over by Liggett & Myers Corp., marking the end of an era.

While the Twaddles' painstaking renovations would be sure to please the Mr. Dwire, the couple has put much of their own personalities and

family history into the house.

Each of the three guest rooms has its own theme, with a name to match.

There is Teddy's Room, which is home to some of Mrs. Twaddle's teddy bear collection; the Victorian Suite, which has its own private bath complete with an antique bathtub and fixtures; and Grandfather's Room, which features fire-fighting memorabilia from the Quincy Fire Department.

Mrs. Twaddle's great-grandfather served as the department's first mechanic, while Bill Twaddle's father was assistant fire chief. Before going to work at the Veterans Home, Twaddle served in the department himself, retiring as a lieutenant.

His old woolen uniform hangs on the back of the door to the vanity area of Grandfather's Room.

The Twaddles, who are members of Quincy Preserves and the Quincy Museum, grew up in Quincy and knew they wanted to live here in

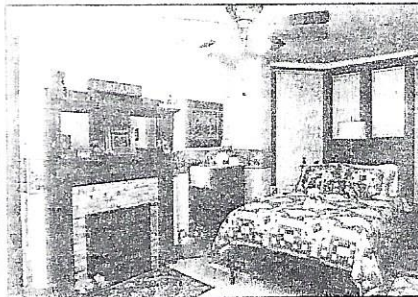
their retirement. Their idea for the bed and breakfast came out of a desire to stay in contact with lots of people.

"We like to keep active and we enjoy meeting people from all professions, and that probably was one of the things that really attracted us to this," Twaddle said.

Other local bed and breakfast owners in town have given them pointers, particularly Emery and Bettie Kaufmann, whose Kaufmann House Bed and Breakfast is a block away at 1641 Hampshire.

"They've been very helpful in giving us advice and are very good about trading back and forth customers," Mr. Twaddle said. "In fact, all the bed and breakfasts in town do that."

The Twaddles' plans for the W.T. Dwire House appear to be paying off, at least for the guests. As one guest wrote in the log book: "All of your hard work, special touches and gracious hospitality combine to make your home a home for us all."



A look at one of the bedrooms in the W.T. Dwire bed and breakfast at 1621 Vermont.