

Camp Babcock-Hovey, located in the town of Ovid, has more than 300 acres in constant need of Wedding's attention. Above, a tractor helps him with his lawn cutting chores.

2,000-mile trip to the Solomon Islands. Two of the crewman then quit.

Wedding stayed aboard, however, for another two days to the Solomon Islands, but became greatly concerned about the craft's structural condition and elected to return home having traveled about 10,000 miles on the open seas.

Once home, Wedding began dating the former Patricia Elling of Canandaigua. They met in Pennsylvania, married and are the parents of daughters, Kristen, 7, and Ashleigh, 5.

Wedding entered the engineering field in Pennsylvania. He worked there for about 15 years. He also owned a home building and renovation business. Back in Canandaigua, Patricia's mother, Betty, heard that the Boy Scouts' Finger Lake Council was looking for a ranger at Babcock-Hovey.

"It didn't take me long to apply," Wedding said. He got the job, moved his family into a home on the grounds and holds no regrets about leaving the business world behind.

"It's true that I make a lot less money. But what I'm going to get is the opportunity to see my family grow up. That means more to me than anything else."

Wedding said his previous jobs should come in handy at the camp.

"We'll build a shower facility this fall and then with 40 other buildings on the grounds of the camp, we shouldn't lack for things to do here and there."

And the black bass lazing away the summer just off the waterfront better be on guard. Wedding spent about five years on the bass fishing circuit in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

"I think I'll squeeze in a little time every now and then to try the fishing," he said. "But I'd rather see the kids catch them. It gives me more of a thrill."

Babcock-Hovey has been operating for 51 years and does not close with the end of summer. Various groups, from handicapped children to cross-country skiers, visit there on weekends throughout the year.

Helping Wedding, left, with running the camp is Gordon MacLaren, right, the camp chaplain. MacLaren has 68 years of scouting experience.

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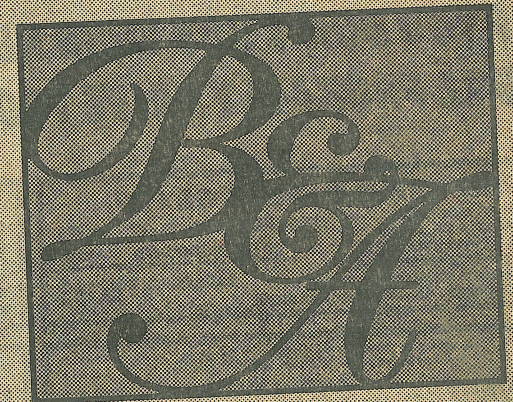
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