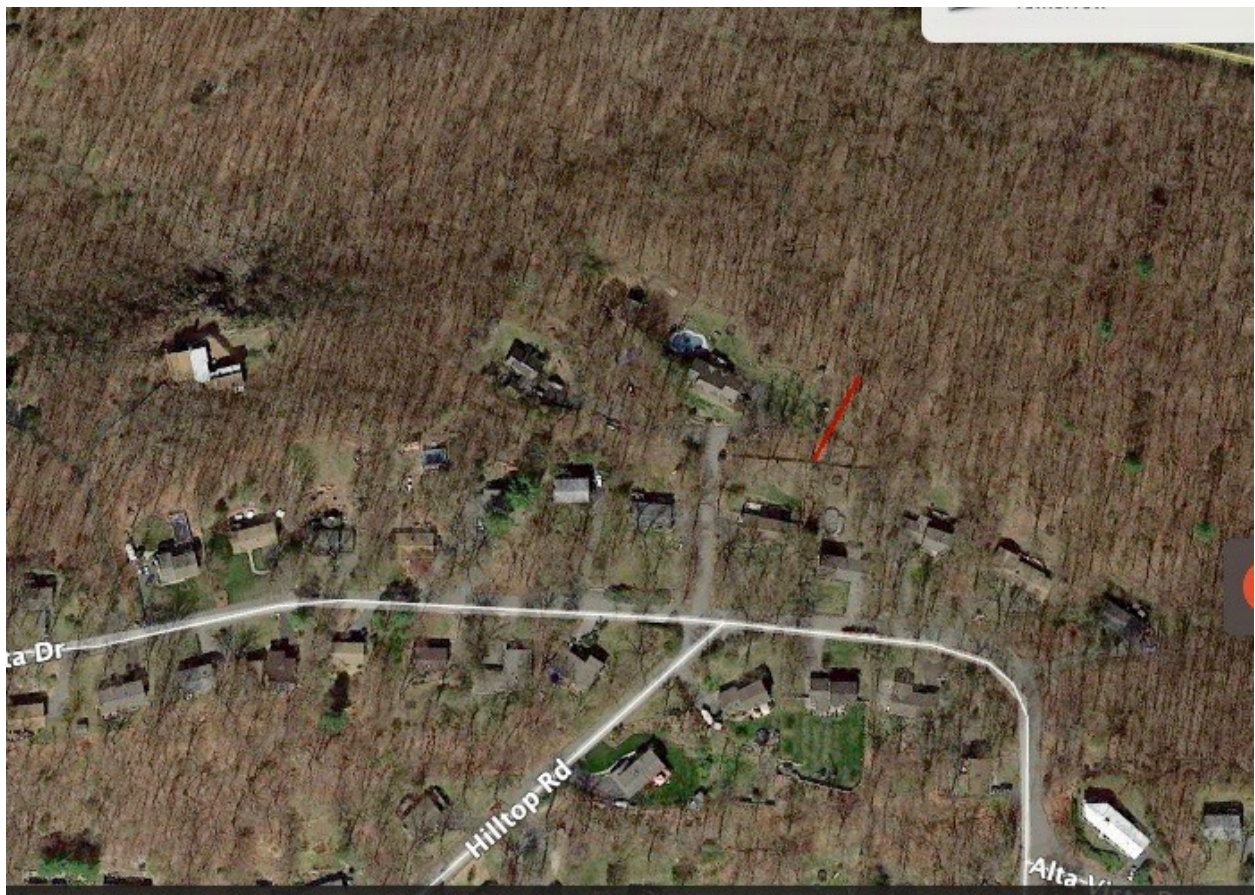


Chapter 10

Ringwood, New Jersey

Our Ringwood house was in the middle of a small town with little yards and nice suburban streets. I put a picture of the house in the previous chapter. In this aerial view I show the location in a semi-rural development with large lots, nice homes, and lots of open woodland. The red arrow points to our house.





Buena Vista Drive, which fronted our new house, ended in a cul-de-sac a mile or so up the hill. There was very little traffic and several houses also had young kids. Our kids ranged in age from 5 to 12 when we moved in. They played baseball in the streets in the same way that I used to do in Ithaca, Michigan. There was that little traffic. The woods behind the house went on for a considerable distance. Opposite our house, Hilltop Road went down the hill to Skyline Lake, which was a small swim club, at which we were members. This was a different life than we had in Hopewell.

The kids had to find new sets of friends, which was made a little bit easier by the number of kids that lived on our street. Our kids no longer walked to school, but took the school bus, which had a stop almost in front of our house. They were all in elementary school or middle school when we moved in.

FORM 113 - NJARB
 STANDARD FORM OF REAL ESTATE SALES CONTRACT ADOPTED BY THE NEW JERSEY
 ASSOCIATION OF REALTOR BOARDS FOR USE BY NEW JERSEY REALTORS.
 This is a legally binding contract. If not understood, seek competent advice.

Dated **May 10,** 1971

Robert Pressley and Anne Pressley Purchaser,
 hereby agrees to purchase from
Gary S. Bell and Judith R. Bell Seller,
 through the Realtor named herein at price and terms as stated below, the premises as follows:
 Commonly known as: **173 Buena Vista Dr.**
Ringwood, N.J.
Lot 34, Block 735
 Approximate size of lot: **100' x 200'** Purchase Price **\$53,900.00**

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:

Cash herewith, for which this is a receipt	\$ 500.00
Additional cash within 10 days of date hereof to be paid upon this agreement becoming a first deposit	\$ 5,000.00

NONE OF THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS A, B OR C IS APPLICABLE UNLESS FILLED IN.

A. IF PURCHASER IS TO ASSUME EXISTING MORTGAGE. By assuming and agreeing to pay the first mortgage lien now encumbering the said premises on which there is presently due approximately \$
 Seller represents that the said mortgage shall be in good standing on the date of closing of title.

B. IF SELLER IS TO TAKE BACK A MORTGAGE. By purchase money bond or note and mortgage in the usual form to be drawn by the attorney for the Seller at the expense of the Purchaser \$
 Interest rate: % Term:
 Amortization and interest payable as follows:

C. IF PERFORMANCE BY PURCHASER IS SUBJECT TO MORTGAGE CONTINGENCY. The Purchaser agrees to make immediate application through the office of the named Realtor for a mortgage loan in the amount of \$ **26,900.00** on what is commonly known as the ~~25 year~~ (Conventional) **25** year direct reduction plan with interest at **7%** per annum. Either party hereto reserves the right to void this agreement by written notice to the other party if the mortgage loan has not been arranged or this provision waived by the Purchaser within **30** days from the date hereof. Pending the disposition of said application, all moneys paid hereunder shall be held in the trust account of the Realtor to be paid to the Seller when mortgage contingency is met or waived; or returned to the Purchaser if this agreement is voided as herein provided **\$26,900.00**

BALANCE OF PURCHASE PRICE by cash or certified check on delivery of **Warranty or Bargain and sale CVO** deed, free from all encumbrances, except as herein set forth, which deed shall contain a full description of the property, together with the usual affidavit of title, at the office of the Realtor or such other place as may be mutually agreed upon on or before **August 30, 1971** **\$21,500.00**

TOTAL **\$53,900.00**

Subject to the following tenancies which the Seller warrants are not in violation of existing Municipal, County, State or Federal rules, regulations or laws.

NAME	LOCATION	RENT	TERM
It is understood and agreed that this agreement shall be subject to Sellers obtaining a recission of agreement from Alfred J. and Angela M. Joseph on or before May 12, 1971 .			
It is agreed and understood that the names of Robert Pressley and Anne Pressley will appear on the deed			

Anne quickly became involved in scouting and was a Girl Scout leader. It was a very active Girl Scout troop and Anne introduced the slogan "We do more than sell cookies." Our girls all started to participate in gymnastics and Anne weekly drove them miles to practice at the Willowbrook shopping center, a good 40 minutes away.

Nothing commercial was really close to our house. The nearest pizza place was a mile away and the nearest restaurant was several miles away. Anne was constantly on the road with our red Volkswagen microbus.

I put up a swing for the kids in our backyard by connecting a wooden beam between two trees that were about 10 feet apart and very tall. After I had put up the swing I went to clear away the dirt below the swing. The solid dirt beneath the

swing turned out to be the top of a fairly large boulder that took a couple days to dig out and remove. It ended up being a great and highly used swing.

I mentioned earlier that in Hopewell I had to deal with septic tank problems. Here in Ringwood, we were also on our own septic field which was in the large front yard. Needless to say we had to have it dug up and enlarged. Such is life.

We had located the house in this town on the advice of Dennis Mulvaney and his wife. They were part of the California group at Holobeam. Anne was not wild about moving from Hopewell, but agreed that this house seemed like a very reasonable house to move into. As you can see from this purchase agreement, we bought a very nice house on 1/4 acre lot for \$53,900.

My commute to my job in Paramus was now by car. There was a main highway from Paramus to the town of Oakland. I then took Skyline Drive over a ridge and down the far side to Ringwood. The road reached a high enough elevation such that there was normally one section that was icy in the winter. It occasionally required considerable care while going downhill to stay on the road.

We joined a couples' bowling league and met a few more Ringwood neighbors. I have bowled all my life including being in a league while at Princeton, while Anne had very seldom bowled. Since she is a good athlete and competitive, she quickly became quite good. We came in first place our first year!

Anne completed her graduate work for her Masters degree at William Patterson State College. She had started this at Trenton State while we were living in Hopewell. This completion required evening classes, commuting, and dedication especially with five kids under 12!

Major Accomplishment by Anne.

We had an enjoyable five years in Ringwood. The kids got a couple of broken bones while bicycling or sledding up and down the hills. They enjoyed mountain biking trails behind the house. There were weekly evening bus trips to a close skiing location. They made new friends and progressed at school. We visited John and Eileen Palmer and their family a few miles further up the road and we had a very eclectic group of neighbors. They were mostly middle-class which was a step up from Hopewell. Anne was becoming more involved in Girl Scouts and continued transporting our girls to gymnastics every week. I occasionally joining them and operated the music for the gymnastics routines.

The Boy Scouts had something called a "Freezer-ee" where they stayed overnight in an unheated cabin owned by the scout troop. Anne felt that the Girl Scouts should do the same thing and so she organized one. I went along to help. Since the outdoors bathroom was some 30 yards or so from the cabin, my main activity during the night was to protect the girls getting from the cabin to the outhouse and see that they were not being attacked by any mythical bears. It was actually a very successful campout.

Life changed when I was fired from Holobeam. We did not move from Ringwood for another year or so. School life and social life continued much the same.

I did some consulting, played tennis, and took a job at Allied Chemical Corporation in Morristown (more commuting).

There was a large park in Ringwood with a great old mansion in the center, called Skyline Manor. We had occasionally visited there and enjoyed the expansive grounds to launch toy rockets. I remember they had a single tennis court with a sagging metal net.

On 4 July 1976 there was a large formal party at this mansion. There were horse and carriage rides from the gate to the mansion. It was a memorable party.

It Turned Out to be Saying Goodbye to New Jersey.

We Were Off To California