

Bob Alarie

Bob: So about 41 years ago, I came to Becket to be part of KB Toys' growth from the store level. (*audience chatter*) Yeah, remember they were down in Lee and the whole thing. (*audience chatter*) And I worked with... I ended up working for the Kaufmans, and it was Kaufman Brothers back then, and that was the name of the stores until they decided, "Well, we might get really big, and we should probably change the name to KB. (*audience-yeah*) which was their initials.

But anyway, so my wife and I come up here, and we looked and looked for an appropriate home, and my requirements were a garage for my motorcycle- ... and a fireplace so we could continue heating with wood. Yep. And we saw many, many homes, quite s- some quite laughable. Even our real estate agent was laughing at some of them which took me by surprise. I thought he'd just try to sell us each house that we saw. But, but no, no, he just laughed at some of them. That's fine. And we decided to buy a five-year abandoned farmhouse in Becket. (*audience-chatter*) So that, to me, being a city boy, that was quite an adventure.

Audience: Where, where, where was that?

Bob: So I'm, I'll get to that. Ah. So, so it wa- to me, it was quite an adventure for two under 30s with two infant kids, right? So, so we, we moved up here, and I was a city guy and the whole thing. So that house had been Frank and Maude Andrews' home. It's on Andrews Road on Andrews Corner. Andrews. So I think a lot of people probably know exactly where I'm talking about. Uh, so it's quite a, quite, uh, quite interesting. You know, what's, what's most interesting was for years and years, it was never my house. I would say, "Oh, I live up on Andrews Road." Right. "Oh, you live in Frank Andrews' house."

Audience: Oh Wow

Bob: And I would just be like, "Yep, yep." So then I just started saying, "I live in Frank Andrews' house"- Yeah. for many years.

So we put a well in, as water had come from a spring on the mountainside underneath Route 20, and then we obviously needed a septic and put in a septic. But, it had been abandoned, so you get the freeze type of thing, so your, your, uh, furnace doesn't work because that had frozen 'cause you didn't pull all the water out of it. Mm. We had, uh, the toilet hadn't had the water taken out but

had a slight hairline crack, right? Oh. And we didn't realize that 'cause it was only us using it a little bit until we decided to have, like, 50 friends over for a party. Oh. And that slight hairline crack floated all of those green and yellow tiles. They were, like, a foot by a foot. And that was like, "Oh, that's next to do. We gotta do the bathrooms." Uh, so additionally when we bought it, when it rained, it leaked into the house through the cedar shingles, 'cause it had the old cedar shingles, and the motorcycle required a tarp to keep it dry in the garage.

Uh, the town was a bit different then. No GPS, no anything. And once we were having a large party and some friends went by our street and drove down to where Papa Bob's is, and asked a policeman for directions to Andrews Road. He responded by saying, "Oh, you must be looking for Bob Alarie." (Laughter) Which is quite, quite amazing, right? And then he proceeded to direct them to our house. Uh-huh.

But this all leads to myself and my wife going to her goddaughter's high school graduation in Lee. A gentleman comes around and he's offering us hors d'oeuvres. It is a very nice cracker with a really tasty cheese, and this prized homemade venison salami. I accepted it, and it was truly amazing. I used to travel for work and got to eat in some very tasty places, yet I could not convince my wife to even try it. So what do you ask someone who brings this to a party? You ask them, "Where do you hunt?" So, so we start talking about hunting and discussing hunting and the places to go and what he does and how he gets them and stuff. And then he finally gets around to going, "So do you hunt?" And I go, "No, I don't hunt." I said, "I have no problem eating it. I probably have no problem shooting it. But I'm a city kid, I think I got a big problem gutting it." (Audience laughter) Oh. Yeah. So you should know who you are, right? Yeah. So that's really important. (laughter)

Yep. Uh. So then there's a silence, and I try to bond with him. So I go, "Ah, but the gentleman that used to own my house, whenever he needed a deer, he hunted out his bedroom window."

Audience: It's called wild cow.

Bob: It's called what?

Audience: Wild Cow.

Bob: Oh wild cow, okay. Well, there was a lot of apple trees, there was a lot of apple trees around, and he might've had salt, licks up, 'cause they used to come in like by 20s, right? So what was really funny was all of a sudden he turns

around, he looks at me and he goes square in my eye, and he goes, "Hi, Bob Alarie lery nice to meet you." And I go, "How the hell did you get Bob Alery out of that story?" No kidding. He goes, "Well, Frank Angel's the only guy I ever knew who hunted out of his bedroom." "Bob Alarie bought this house. You gotta be Bob Alarie."

Laughter.