

## Brought to Light

I agreed to visit with Barbara that weekend to hear her idea's and try to work things out - .Only one of my friends got into an accident with my newly purchased car and broke the windshield - I was proud of that car, a 1972 Ford Ranchero - that was owned by the ATF, and drove well - I didn't have the funds to replace the windshield and now I had to rely on my friends to drive me to see Barbara and I had to explain what happened to the car - I think losing the Ranchero was the worse thing that could have happened since it took away my newly found independence ...

.Barbara surprised me with her ideas on how she felt her and I could move forward - first she wanted to sell all the contents of the duplex and place it on the market as we begin exploring our alternatives of starting over - strangely I was happy with how my life was progressing with my new job, but the loss of the car was a set back I hadn't planned on - I was already shopping for another car - had a place to stay with transportation to and from work - I was comfortable where I was at - so I asked her to give the rest of the weekend to decide - my friends were telling I would be crazy not to agree to her offer - plus they liked .Barbara a lot better than they did Mary ! I think they were overwhelmed and impressed by richness of their surroundings and really didn't understand the richness of their surroundings was just a facade that could be ripped out from under Barbara at her husbands will !

What I decided didn't come easy - being with Barbara reminded me how much I loved and cared for her as I listened to her ideas - she was making a lot of sense and I could tell she had given things a lot of thought - I think being haunted by the loss of the car played a deciding role in staying with her - as I thanked and waved good bye to my friends to begin a new adventure with Barbara ...

What I did know was that even though, I seemed a lot closer to my goal of getting my children back - it was going to take time as things were shaky as far as having the necessary security to assume legal custody and responsibility for my children - there were a lot of liabilities to overcome as I worked toward achieving my own independence - Even though my divorce with Mary gave me joint custody of Mike and Rosie - I knew Mary wasn't going to give them up easily - especially since she knew she had a substantial cash settlement coming to her !

I had to deal with things not being ideal as I worked to remove as many of the obstacles in the way as possible and it seemed as if I were moving in slow motion - there was a lot going on behind the scenes - with members of my family and Barbara's - the sale of the contents of the duplex didn't go as well as planned - Barbara and I, both expect more financially and since

things didn't turn out to our expectations, dealing with the lack of interest in the purchase of the duplex was taunting too ! Even so we moved forward with our plans to leave Florida - I found a 1950 Chevy school bus semi converted into a motorhome and decided we could finish its restoration on the funds we had and it would be reliable transportation, plus give us a comfortable place to live in as we searched for our new location as I learned about the purchase and use of a word processor ...

I know it seemed like we were moving in slow motion, but in reality we were moving along fairly fast - with the only thing hindering our speed being the lack of interest in the duplex - a I reflex back now I understand why the duplex didn't sell like we hoped it would - I had it up for sale by owner instead of going through an established realtor - I knew there was a mortgage and when considering the realtors commission there wasn't going to be the profit we hoped for -: In hindsight - I now see my mistake in judgement - as we decided to rent the duplex out and give our neighbor a compensation for looking out for the duplex while we hit the rode ...

I had been investigating the best price and avenue to take on the purchase of a word processor or of a personal computer instead - I wanted in on the high tech fad and to best use of it to achieve my goal to become a renowned writer - Barbara had been a secretary - so it seemed with the new technology and Barbara's knowledge of grammar - now all I had to do was find and get everything in order - since we had already decide having the freedom of movement the bus gave us was how we would live - once we made improvements after the sale of the duplex - just gaining custody of my children would follow ! I forgot to mention Butch traveled with us for awhile - just like now, he was more of an after thought - that was just there - since he wasn't part of our plans ...

We drove the bus to California - stopping along the way to enjoy the scenery and our freedom of being together - since the sale of the duplex still wasn't happening like we hoped - I was only able to window shop for what I now wanted in a personal computer - Since things weren't going as planned - we decided to sell the bus and hitch hike back to Florida to push the sale of the duplex - all in all Barbara and I had one wild adventure and found we could function well together being on the road - sadly when we returned to Florida - things started to fall apart ... First we found the duplex in horrible condition - with a good amount of water damage to the ceiling in one of the bedrooms on the top floor due to a bullet hole in the roof, put there by the then tenet - by the time I got them off the property the damage had progressed leaving both Barbara and I, in a bit of despair ...