

## MY HISTORY WITH VIC

1973

VIC'S NAME WAS FIRST MENTIONED TO ME AS THE MUSIC TEACHER THAT WAS WORKING WITH MY BROTHER, PHIL. MY PARENTS WERE VERY PLEASED & IMPRESSED WITH HOW MUCH HE WAS HELPING PHIL AND NOT JUST WITH MUSIC, BUT WITH CONFIDENCE AND SELF WORTH, TOO.

1979

I STARTED TAKING GUITAR LESSONS FROM VIC (AT PHIL'S INSISTENCE!). GUITARS WERE MUCH MORE PORTABLE THAN THE PIANO PHIL HAD MOVED FOR ME A FEW TIMES!

MY LESSONS WERE AT LLOYD'S LANDING IN ANDERSON.

VIC HAD RECENTLY PURCHASED PROPERTY & WAS BUILDING A LOG CABIN IN THE WOODS. HE HAD A SCALE MODEL OF THE TOPOGRAPHY AND HIS HOME THERE AT HIS STUDIO AND CARRIED A CASIO CALCULATOR THAT PLAYED MUSIC WHEN IT TOTALLED HIS MATHEMATICAL FORMULAS. HE WAS VERY ANIMATED ABOUT THIS PROJECT AND TALKED ABOUT TAKING DAYS TO MOVE ONE LOG DOWN HIS ROAD AND CALCULATING HOW MANY BOARD FEET HE COULD GET FROM A TREE.

VIC WAS EXCITED ABOUT PROVIDING HIS FAMILY A SELF SUFFICIENT LIFESTYLE THAT WOULD ALLOW THEM TO PURSUE THEIR OWN PERSONAL DREAMS. HIS WIFE HAD A DESIRE TO WRITE & VIC WAS SO PROUD TO HAVE BUILT A LOFT WITH A WRITING TABLE TO GIVE HER A PLACE TO DO THAT.

WHEN VIC TALKED ABOUT HIS PROJECT, HIS ENTHUSIASM WAS INSPIRING EVEN THOUGH I COULD NOT IMAGINE WHY HE WAS MAKING SUCH A 'BIG DEAL' ABOUT A LOG CABIN IN THE WOODS! IT WAS A FEW YEARS LATER WHEN I SAW HIS HOME FOR THE FIRST TIME & WAS SO BLOWN AWAY THAT I WROTE HIM A POEM EXPRESSING HOW IMPRESSED & DEEPLY TOUCHED I WAS BY HIS ACCOMPLISHMENT.

MY MUSIC LESSONS ONLY LASTED A FEW MONTHS DUE TO MY HAVING A MINOR SURGERY DONE ON MY LEFT FOREARM THAT PREVENTED ME FROM BEING ABLE TO USE THE FRET BOARD ON THE GUITAR.

1987

VIC AND I CROSSED PATHS SEVERAL TIMES AFTER MY LESSONS ENDED SINCE HE WAS STILL WORKING WITH MY BROTHER AND WHEN I WAS GOING THROUGH A DIVORCE IN 1987, I LEARNED THAT HE HAD STARTED GIVING TOURS OF HIS HOME AND WAS WORKING WITH A GIRL I KNEW FROM SCHOOL. I ENTHUSIASTICALLY VOLUNTEERED TO HELP WITH THAT PROJECT.

VIC HAD ALSO GONE THROUGH A DIVORCE & ABOUT TWO MONTHS AFTER I STARTED HELPING WITH TOURS, WE DECIDED TO PURSUE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP. AFTER ABOUT 18 MOS., WE REALIZED THAT A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WAS BETTER SUITED TO OUR LIKES & DISLIKES.

WE HAD DISCUSSED ME FORMING A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION TO SPONSOR HIS WORK, HANDLE TOURS, FUND FUTURE PROJECTS, ETC.

1989

I FORMED EARTHSHIP CORP TO SPONSOR VIC'S WORK & RECEIVED OUR NOT-FOR-PROFIT STATUS IN 1991.

PLEASE NOTE HERE, VIC & I CONTINUED A VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP & WE 'HUNG OUT' A LOT WHILE WE WORKED TOGETHER ON THIS PROJECT. WE WERE BEST FRIENDS & BUSINESS ASSOCIATES, BUT ON A PERSONAL LEVEL HAD AGREED TO PURSUE OTHER RELATIONSHIPS.

1994

SEVERAL EVENTS COMBINED THAT PROMPTED ME TO MOVE INTO THE 'GIANT';

WE HAD RECEIVED SPONSORSHIP FUNDS FROM GENERAL MOTORS FOR 2 YRS, IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN THAT RELATIONSHIP;

I HAD LEFT MY OPTICAL JOB & RECEIVED NOTICE THAT MY RENT WAS BEING INCREASED BY \$60.00/MO., I WAS GOING TO HAVE TO MOVE;

THE TOWN HAD FILED A LAWSUIT TO STOP US FROM GIVING TOURS, WE WOULD HAVE TO DEFEND OUR WORK IN COURT.

ANOTHER FACTOR THAT PROMPTED ME TO LIVE THERE WAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FIRSTHAND HOW VIC'S SYSTEMS WORKED SO THAT WHEN I FOUND MY OWN PROPERTY, I WOULD ALREADY HAVE SOME EXPERIENCE WITH THAT LIFESTYLE. I HAD MY OWN 'LITTLE APARTMENT' IN THE FRONT OF THE HOUSE. VIC DIDN'T CHARGE ME RENT WHILE I LIVED THERE SO I HELPED WITH BILLS, THE LEGAL DOCUMENTS & KEPT UP WITH THE TOURS.

SIDE NOTE HERE-I FOUND MY PROPERTY IN 2006 & HAVE BEEN LIVING IN MY OWN 'OFF THE GRID' CABIN IN THE WOODS SINCE APRIL 2009.

1996

I MOVED OUT WHEN I HAD TO GO BACK TO WORKING IN AN OPTICAL OFFICE.

2011

THERE ARE TOO MANY DETAILS TO INCLUDE HERE OF THE 23 YEARS THAT WE SHARED A PASSION FOR FIXING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMANS AND THIS PLANET WE CALL HOME.

I WILL CONTINUE TO SHARE YOUR EXAMPLE. SUE BLAKELY