



Bud Gough

There are many people who are loyal to their hometown and dedicated to improving their community. But few, if any, can say this...

"The only place I've ever started my work day is in the building where I grew up."

Such is the good fortune of Bud Gough. He and his wife of 42 years, Kathleen, have the headquarters of their business, Gough Engraving & Advertising Specialties, at Bud's boyhood home at 1745 North Olden Ave. in Ewing.

Bud's current business has been at 1745 N. Olden for 30 years. But before that, the Gough family's contracting business made its home there for 35 years.

Bud has actually gone so far as to portray Charles Ewing, a Chief Justice on the NJ State Supreme Court for whom the town was named in 1834. Gough donned Ewing's 17th century attire at one of the township's Community Days Festival. He did so to spread the news that Ewing was changing its form of township government.

"Ewing is a wonderful place to do business," Bud says. "It is still a great place to raise a family. My family has had a presence here for 60 years we plan to stay here as long as I'm physically able."

Bud's contracting business, which specialized in interior finishes, included such high-profile clients as Princeton University and Occidental Petroleum in Florence. He left the business at age 59; now at age 63, the man shows no signs of slowing down.

Bud is currently President of the Trenton Rotary Club. He was given the club's highest honor—the Charlie Bain Award—and has been recognized nationally by Rotary as a Paul Harris Fellow, one of its greatest honors.

His accomplishments as a Rotarian are many, but Bud cites two as being quite important. He helped the club raise funds for the Mount Carmel Guild, the Trenton-based program that provides emergency food to about 17,000 people yearly, and for equipment placed in the handicapped children's area of Mercer County Park. At press time he was hard at work helping to organize the club's casino night fundraiser. The event's proceeds will benefit Artworks, Trenton's visual arts center.

"When I was in the contracting business it was much harder to be really involved in helping," Bud says. "But now I have many more chances to work in the community. That's something I wanted to achieve my whole life as opposed to having a goal of making my first million."

Rotary is just one of the organizations in which Bud remains involved. He is on the executive board of the Boy Scouts of America's Central New Jersey Council; a board member of the Harbourton Cemetery Association; Co-Chair of the Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce, Ewing Chapter along with Janet Flannery, and a board member, past chairman and finance committee member of the Visiting Nurses Association of Mercer County. As a founding member, he also remains involved with the North Olden Avenue Business Association.

His past service includes being a Master of Mercer Lodge 50 Free and Accepted Masons; a trustee of Trenton Elks Lodge 105; and a board member of Mercer County Junior Achievement.

When Bud is not serving the community, he and Kathleen travel extensively. The couple has taken excursions to Europe (especially Ireland and France), the Middle East, Alaska, Hawaii, South America, the Caribbean and British Isles. He speaks fondly of having taken bike rides down Cadillac Mountain in Maine's Acadia National Park and in the Haleakala (volcano) National Park in Maui, Hawaii. The couple also makes sure to bring home artwork from their travels.

"It's a good idea to get off the beaten path, to avoid going only where a tour guide wants to take you," Bud says. "It's great to go where people live so you can really enjoy their culture and food. For instance, when we were discovering Rome we explored with a couple from England, plus a mother and daughter from the Dominican Republic. So not only did we enjoy Italian culture, but we also got to meet people from different places that helped make the experience even better."

For Bud Gough, life's too short to just sit home. But when he does, he gets to enjoy his time with Kathleen, their chocolate Labrador, Buster Brown and repeat the mantra of "Carpe Diem," Seize the day. ■