

The “Leisurely” Life of a Retired Couple

“What we seem to be doing now is going to funerals,” joked Steve Libemschek, trying to get a word in before his wife, Tommye Libemschek, started talking again. The Libemscheks, both in their 80s, will celebrate 60 years of marriage this year. Mr. Libemschek spent 50 years in law enforcement and retired in 2004, having also served four years in the Marine Corps. As the retired couple explained their idea of leisure, it was easy to see that rocking chairs, knitting, and naps are not in the forefront of their minds.

“We’ve had a lot of good vacations,” reminisced Mrs. Libemschek, who says that the days of spontaneous travels are over. Instead of travelling in retirement, the Libemscheks stay close to their home in Raymond, Miss, because most of their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren live within 30 miles of the Libemschek’s house.

Although Mr. Libemschek is retired from law enforcement, he and his wife spend much of their time keeping up with other retired officials. This Friday, the Libemscheks will sponsor a luncheon for retired lawmen at Barry’s Seafood & Catfish House located at 2942 US 49 in Florence, Miss. They expect between 60 and 70 retired policemen on Friday, as well as one fireman, whom Mrs. Libemschek invited yesterday.

The luncheon’s purpose is to “keep in touch with our retired officers...and to see if there’s any way you can help them,” informed Mrs. Libemschek. She pointed out that retired officers no longer have representatives, so “times are hard in law enforcement and we’re doing this to keep recognition of what they’ve done.”

Along with keeping up with retired officers, “grandkids are one of our main things,” explained Mrs. Libemschek. With five adult grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, the couple told stories of each with smiles on their faces. On the rare occasion the couple takes a trip, the travels or the destination usually involve family.

At the end of the day, the heavily-involved retirees relax by sitting down and watching television. The Libemscheks enjoy watching *The Young and the Restless*. They are so familiar with the show that before every show, Mr. and Mrs. Libemschek will sit down and discuss what they *know* will happen in the upcoming episode. The couple also enjoys *Cops* but avoid fictional police shows such as *CSI*, *NCIS*, and *Blue Bloods*. It is hard for Mrs. Libemschek to enjoy TV shows that her retired law enforcement officer husband gripes about due to inaccuracies.

After encountering a couple like the Libemscheks, the words “leisurely” and “retirement” are given brand new meanings.