

## Sycamore Valley B and B Honored as Business of the Month by Keytesville C of C

Going into the third year the re-organized Keytesville Chamber of Commerce continues to recognize members of the group for their contribution to the business community. February's business of month that belongs to the Keytesville Chamber of Commerce (selected by random drawing) is Sycamore Valley B and B owned and operated by Matt and Tina Reichert of Brunswick, MO.

According to Tina Reichert she and her husband had an apartment in their home that they had constructed for Matt's Mother, Mrs. Inez Reichert. After her death, nothing was done with those vacant rooms until the Flood of 1993. At that time, there were numerous people needing a place to stay because of the flooding and so the Reichert's provided housing. Tina said that after that time passed, they realized that they could use those rooms for a B and B, so that is what they did. Tina revealed that Matt was the one who chose the name Sycamore Valley for their establishment. Two reasons were given for the name—the most obvious being that there are numerous sycamore trees on the property so it was fitting from that standpoint, and sycamores were referenced in the Bible, too, (although perhaps not the same species we are familiar with in the U.S.) so that fact also influenced his decision for the name.

Having been in business for about 24 years now, Tina said they average about 100 rentals a year and have had people stay at their B and B from many different states as well as numerous foreign countries. Some guests from foreign countries have been from Italy, France, Scotland, and Puerto Rico, as well as some Middle Eastern countries. Tina indicated that in all the years they have been operating their business, they have not had anyone stay with them that they did not like, and some of the clients have become personal friends and remained in contact after their stay.

When asked if guests at the B and B caused any problems when her children were growing up, Tina laughed and replied that her children seemed to enjoy having the guests because they knew if guests were at the B and B, their own breakfast would likely be better than average. In addition since the children were quite young when she and Matt opened the B and B, she also thought that the children had really never known anything else—so they were always used to having guests staying with them and regarded it as a matter of course.

In recalling the many years of operating the B and B, Tina could not really think of any unexpected calamity that had happened such as a power outage when guests were there or a debilitating snow storm, but she did remember that many times the guests they have had are from such diverse places that they were excited to see or participate in events that the rest of us, living in a rural area take for granted. To illustrate this she said one of the favorite activities of many of the guests is watching cattle being moved from one pasture to another, or going along with Matt to call the cattle and put out the feed for the cattle. Most have never done anything like that before, so they are delighted to participate in those activities.

When Tina was asked what advice she would give to anyone contemplating opening their own B and B, she indicated that the main requirement is that the person should enjoy socializing with people, and that they should also enjoy having company and entertaining. Other than that she would encourage anyone who was thinking about this line of work, to just "Go for it!"