

The Move to Centertown

We started business in a converted home on Dunklin Street in Jefferson City. But our initial agreement between all of us was that as soon as the “spec home” on the edge of Derry’s property was completed, we’d move our operation there. That made sense, since it was Derry who had to get up early each day. We moved in April, 1973 on a Sunday—the only day there weren’t broadcasts.

The actual move was the easy part. United Telephone Company, which then served both Jefferson City and Centertown, didn’t have dedicated private service to our new office location. First they protested they couldn’t provide service. A friendly Missouri Public Service Commissioner convinced them otherwise. Candidly, I don’t think they thought we (1) were serious and (2) would be a going concern. They had little choice, of course, with the PSC breathing down their neck. And after several years, they kind of enjoyed having us as a client. Not only did we require private long-line service, we requested private telephone service and private wire (teletype) service. Eventually they had to put in a whole trunk to our physical address on New Hope Road at Marion, Missouri.

The house was perfect! It was brand new. It had three bedrooms; one was Derry’s office, one was my office, one was a studio. The living room was Verni’s office—and later Clarice Brown was there also. The editing and work was done in the dining room adjacent to the kitchen—where we had lunch each day. There was to be a garage on one end of the house, but instead of making it a garage, Derry wisely made it into a Boardroom; it had beautiful hardwood flooring, paneling and an awesome fireplace with a mantle—which can be seen in the background of the picture of the initial six of us.



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