

Northern Insights

continued from page 5

But Keith's personal life is a living hell. His willingness to make this story public takes plenty of courage—something he's needed in abundance to survive the last decade or so of his life.

Keith met the woman who is now his ex-wife, Lisa Promo, while getting his Bachelor's degree at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. They courted for a year, lived together another year, then got married in September of 1981, just as Keith was starting the last year of his Bachelor's program.

"Growing up in Schreiber," Keith says, "I didn't know the

ways of the world evidently. The first year of our marriage was hell, to the extent that the mother-in-law recommended that I divorce her daughter." Keith carried on the marriage, however, "as good husbands are supposed to do."

The exact details of how the marriage turned sour, leading to Lisa's departure in the middle of the night with the two children, are not important to anyone except the immediate family. Suffice it to say that Keith eventually filed for divorce, thinking he had a good case to win custody of his two children. He was wrong.

After a six-day court hearing in Thunder Bay, the judge reluctantly awarded custody of the children to Lisa. Post-trial legal skirmishes continued, but an agreement was eventually inked giving Keith

the right to telephone the children every Sunday night, to have them live with him two months every summer in Red Rock, and to allow him to visit the children one weekend a month in Michigan.

The unfairness in this story developed because, for reasons known only to Lisa, she did not live up to her end of the agreement. The phone was regularly let off the hook Sundays, denying Keith his telephone visit. Lisa secretly moved and remarried, forcing Keith into complicated detective work to find his children. The daughter Heather developed behavior problems, the most outrageous of which was assuming "the turtle position," curled up in a defensive ball under a chair, when a

teacher asked her name. Keith had to find out about Heather's problems and a less serious medical problem of his son Ben through second hand sources, even though the terms of their agreement requires Lisa to keep Keith up

to date on the "medical, psychological, and educational health" of the children.

Frustrated by the denial of his rights and unable to afford any further court actions, Keith's only recourse was to

continued on page 12

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