

ages, four legs, two legs, having a unified vision of nature and of peaceful coexistence. We see it. The fear we all have of each other dissipates. We see the beauty of people being together easily."

Liz had worked 18 years as a US West sales rep. But she was not happy. So she went to school and started selling real estate at the age of 40.

"I was successful at that, too," she says, but "I burned out after two years. Too much negativity."

Now 47, she says she still does real estate. "I match people to cabins. I call myself the real estate yenta."

Celia, 42, had been an administrative assistant for five years when she was offered an important sales position. "I sold oil spill absorbent materials," she laughs, "in a totally man's world."

She also was doing spiritual studies at a New Thought church. "I was not happy with what I was doing. I was looking for something to do that had meaning."

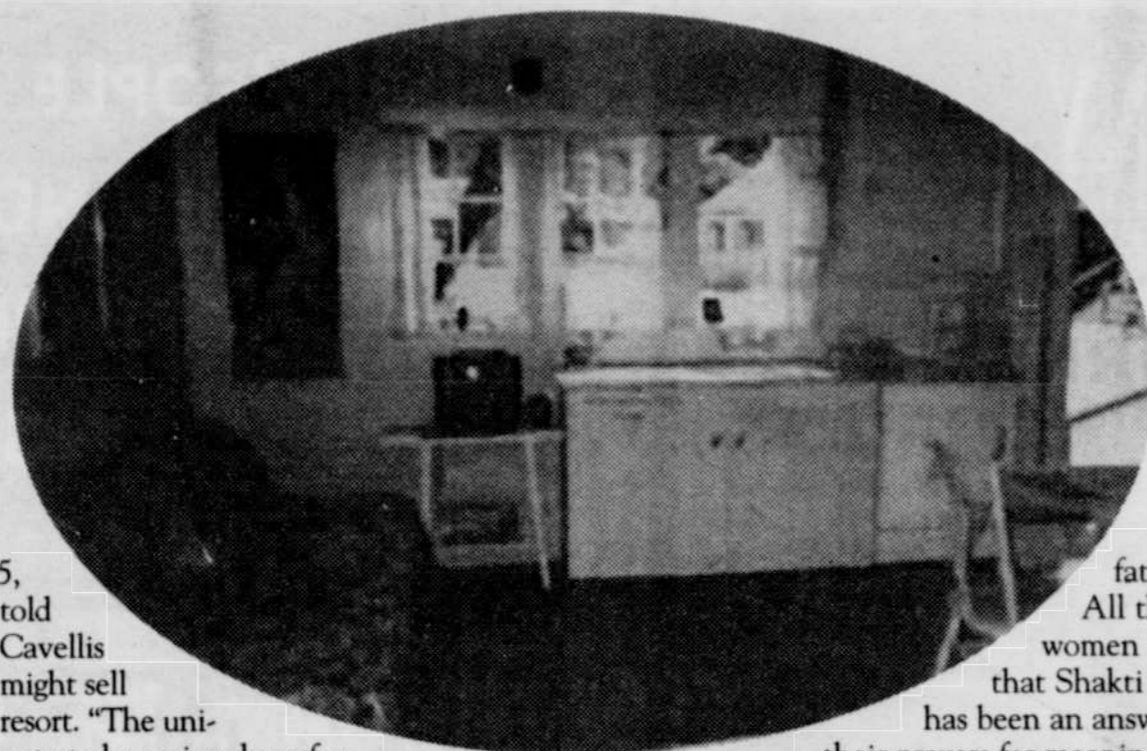
Then the couple took a little vacation at Shakti Cove and became friends with the owner. That was in December 1994.

The cabins at Shakti Cove were built in 1939 and were on the main road, Highway 101. They were jacked up and moved to their present location in the '70s.

They had been mistreated in those years and were badly in need of repair. Penny Miller had bought them in 1989 and started fixing them up.

"That's when they were first used as a lesbian resort," Celia recalls. "Penny cherished the cabins. They were sacred to her."

When Miller lost her partner to cancer in



1995, she told the Cavellis she might sell the resort. "The universe started opening doors for us," Celia recalls, "when we started figuring out a way we could afford to buy the place."

They formed a partnership with Celia's mother, and the three of them bought the land. "Penny decided she wanted the three of us to be the new owners," Celia shares. "She knew we would continue her mission." The couple sold their house in Seattle to pay for remodeling and began new lives as "covekeepers."

Shakti Cove is more than a business to the Cavellis. "I am convinced there is a spiritual vortex on this land," Celia says. "From old stories, there has been an amazing amount of healing here. Certainly we have experienced healing in our lives, finding our own personal paths. And there has been a healing, too, around the relationship between Liz and her

"Out this window we see gays, straights, all colors, all ages, four legs, two legs, having a unified vision of nature and of peaceful coexistence."

—Celia Cavali

father." All three women agree that Shakti Cove has been an answer to their prayers for meaningful existence. "It's a lot of work," Celia assures me, "but it's a privilege."

They have played host to lesbians from throughout the world. People find them on the Internet by using keywords like "lesbian resorts."

"Lesbians have come from London and Germany. And Provincetown," Celia laughs. She adds: "75 percent to 80 percent of our guests are lesbians, but there are more straights in the summer. Still, we are usually the majority."

No doubt this is because they advertise Shakti Cove in gay and lesbian papers. "The straights are not narrow," she promises, showing me their advertising reading, "Homophobes are better served elsewhere."

When I ask about safety in the small town

outside the cove, Celia reassures me, "Yes, there are a lot of rednecks, but since this area depends on tourists for its existence, they find it in their best interest to live and let live."

Back at our cabin, Wednesday evening is cool, and a light rain begins to tap on the roof. Sherry and Ashleigh are making hot chocolate.

APRIL 19, 1996: Got here Friday evening in the rain—that's OK, we're from Seattle. We can handle the rain. Saturday morning dawned gray and rainy—still OK, I can walk my dog in the rain. So Saturday passed, soggy and serene. Sunday morning it rained. OK, I can deal, I still have one pair of dry pants and socks somewhere.... Monday, rainy and windy. Going now, nothing dry left.

Thursday morning, perfect weather. We pack up our clothes, shaking sand from every item.

Our vacation—too short, as all vacations are—is coming to an end. Still, we had a great time and already are making plans to return.

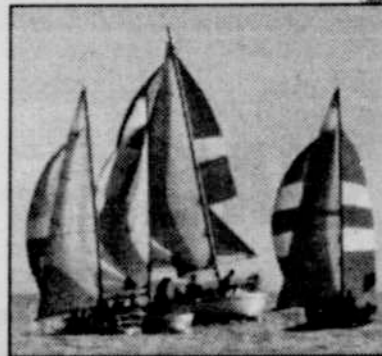
MARCH 22, 1999: Years ago when Penny and Ina first bought Shakti Cove, my ex and I were their first customers. They shared their dream of a small community, open to us all, without the pressures and prejudices of the "real world." Thanks, Liz and Celia, for keeping the vision alive. ■

To contact SHAKTI COVE COTTAGES call 360-665-4000, e-mail shakti@shakticove.com or visit the Internet site www.shakticove.com.

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