

Retiring, Jenison teachers combine love of teaching, travel" in new careers

BY CATHY RUNYON

Some things are the same all over the world, according to Doug Grossa and his wife, Sally Shumway.

"Grandmothers all love their children no matter where you go," said Sally, but after you get past the basics, the world is marvelously diverse.

The two Jenison school teachers are retiring at the end of this semester and hope to observe and experience the world's diversity first-hand. They will start by finding teaching positions in an international school, a goal that will allow them to continue teaching, provide finances, and best of all, see some more of the World

Grossa is a psychologist at Jenison High School. Shumway is a speech pathologist. The couple secured employment with the International School Bangkok in Thailand in 1983. It was a far cry from the more culturally comfortable position they had sought in Europe, but "it turned out to be the best

thing that ever happened to us," Shumway said. They signed on for a third year.

"Even then our wanderlust was significant because we decided to apply for 'green card' permits to

work in Jenison. Their 17-year stay has been the longest in one place in their lives.

They haven't exactly let grass grow under their feet while in Michigan, where

In January; they will move to Florida to live in a house they recently inherited, and begin attending job fairs to look for another overseas position. While they will avoid "hot spots,"



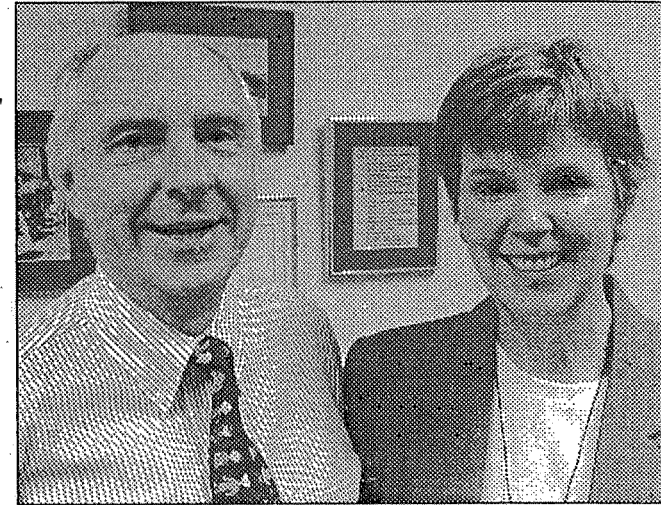
Traveling in southern Italy, Sally Shumway and Doug Grossa stop in the town of Quercia Grossa, the home of Doug's family. The family name was once Quercia Grossa, he said, but his father shortened it to Grossa. To placate the grandfather, Doug was given the middle initial of Q.

work in Australia," Grossa said. "We spent nearly a year at there before returning to Michigan" in 1987, when the couple started

they both grew up. They have made trips to Germany, Romania, Turkey, and to Italy, the ancestral home of Grossa's family.

countries on the U.S. State Department's traveler's advisory list, they have many options.

Grossa would like to teach in Vietnam or southern Italy. "We both think Europe would be ideal," he said, but they are open to options. Neither Grossa nor



ADVANCE' photo by CATHY RUNYON

Doug Grossa and Sally Shumway are anxious to once again be teaching in an international setting. The only hard part, they said, is saying good-bye to Jenison and their families.

Grossa said there are about 700 international schools around the world where children of diplomats or international businessmen attend classes, sometimes alongside bilingual national students. The schools are a center for the international community, hosting many cultural activities. That's where the teachers become students, learning customs, traditions, holiday observances, and possibly, a bit of the language.

"It's not that we're bored knowing where cultures, more languages, more foods to be experi-

For Grossa, the adventure of travel, "experiencing things we've never experienced before," is an emotional high. It is also tempered with a little sadness because travel means saying good-bye to friends in Jenison, and aging family members. However, living in another country offers the couple the opportunity to host guests from America in style, acting as the best kind of tour guides.

The similarities they have seen in people around the world, Shumway said, makes me realize there's a whole lot more to life than just the surface.