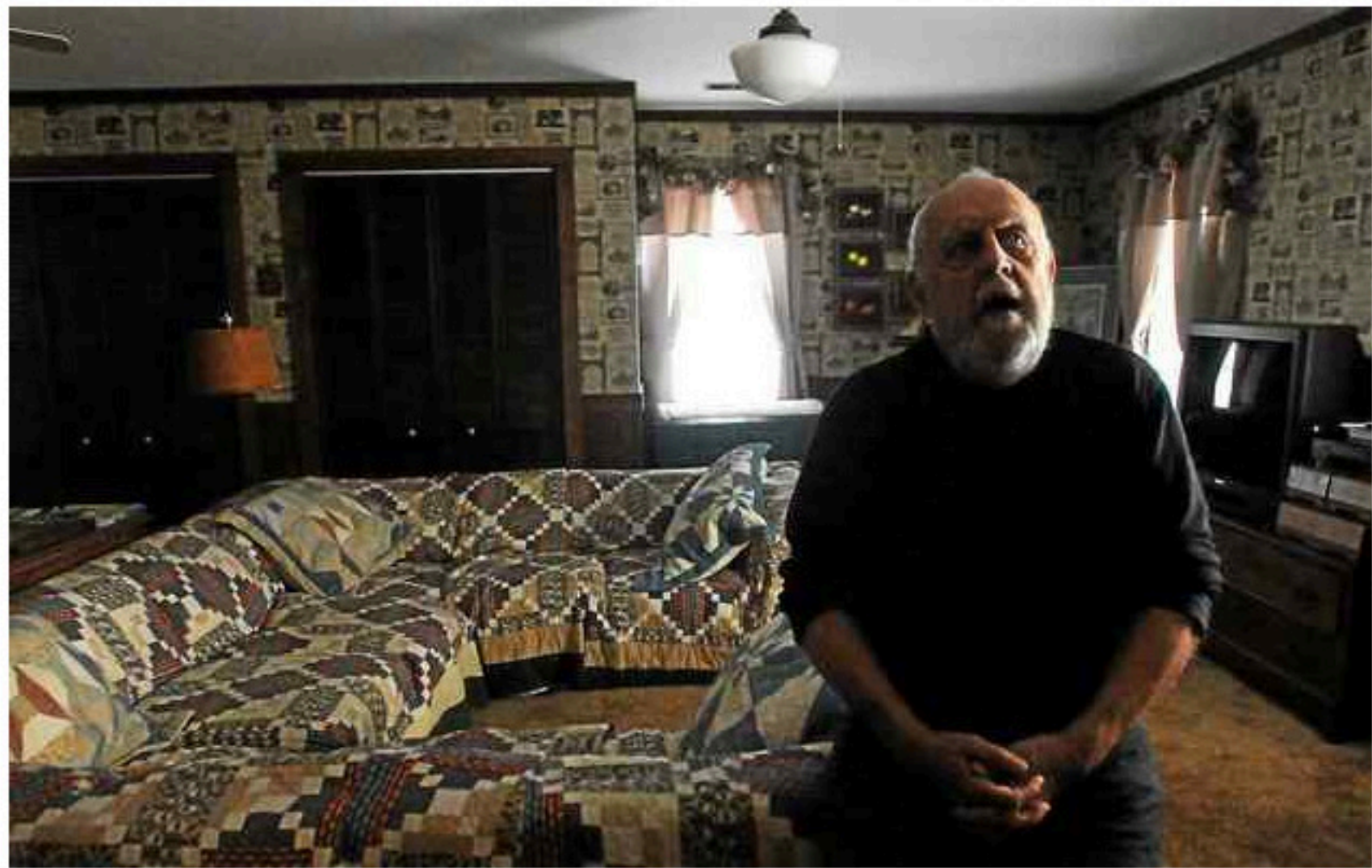




# Roycroft Inn Bed and Breakfast for sale



Jim Foster tells stories of past guests at the Roycroft Inn on Friday, Nov. 8, 2013. Foster has co-owned the Roycroft Inn Bed and Breakfast on Broomfield Road for the past 40-plus years with his wife Annette.(sun photo by LISA YANICK-JONAITIS/@lisaj\_msun)

By **Randi Shaffer**, *The Morning Sun*

POSTED: 11/11/13, 7:04 PM EST | UPDATED: ON 11/11/2013 0 COMMENTS

Jim and Annette Foster are getting tired.

“This is a lot of work,” Annette said. “Just maintaining the house.”

Jim and Annette Foster have co-owned the Roycroft Inn Bed and Breakfast on Broomfield Road for the past 40-plus years.

The restored 1877 farmhouse, filled with unique decor and Jim’s collection of knickknacks, now has a new addition: a brightly colored “For Sale” sign, slightly askew on its front lawn.

“We raised five kids here,” Jim said. “There are 20 rooms, seven bedrooms. What do you do with it?”

Following the graduations of the Foster children, Jim and Annette turned their restored 1877 farmhouse into a bed and breakfast.

They’ve met charming and interesting people, and charging some families, like the guests who come back for stay after stay, gets harder and harder every year.

But now that the kids are gone, Jim and Annette spend six months of every year out of town visiting family.

Houses don’t do well when you leave them empty, Jim said.

“We had a couple of ghosts upstairs,” Jim laughed. “I think they’re gone. I think they got tired of being alone.”

Jim said he would love to see the house go toward a community use,

The couple had been working to turn the house over to a community group looking to build a men’s restoration home, but the old-fashioned nature of the house, such as the well septic system, wasn’t exactly conducive to such a modern idea.

Annette said she hadn’t put much thought into how she’d like to see the house next used.

“I would like, I guess, for people to really enjoy the home as we have,” she said.

The Fosters, originally from Detroit, had moved further north to provide a better life for their children, who ranged in age between 12 months and 12 years. Unhappy with the school system, they pondered moving back to Detroit before deciding to give Mt. Pleasant, halfway between the two locations, a try.

The family loved the city and after looking at a few properties, selected the farmhouse because of the various outbuildings, like the grainery and the barn, that came with it.

The couple renovated the grainery and ran it as a retail consignment shop for 15 years.

Then, in the 1970’s, Jim and Annette started on the house itself.

They hired an architectural draftsman who planned out an extension to create a big comfortable house for the family and their friends to enjoy, Jim said.

They extended the existing narrow galley kitchen and added some more upstairs bedrooms.

Jim, who was raised in a “shack drug from the Oakland County dump,” had always wanted a large, spacious home for his family.

“I thought it’d be nice to have a bedroom for each child,” he said.

The Fosters revamped the furnace and air conditioning unit to make the home safe and comfortable.

Jim, who enjoys woodworking and wallpapering, took care of all the small detailing on his own.

After the kids left, Jim and Annette decided to transform their home into a bed and breakfast to make a little extra money, just to pay for their home heating bills.

They went to the library, read some magazines and bought a book on innkeeping.

“It has been just mostly really good,” Jim said.

As to where they’ll end up? The couple isn’t quite sure yet.

Jim wants to go to Santa Rosa Beach, where four of the Foster grandchildren live.

It’s beautiful there, Annette said, but she can’t leave home.

Mt. Pleasant is nice people, she and Jim both stressed.

Plus, Annette said, the couple has friends and connections in mid-Michigan.

“She’s perfectly welcome to stay,” Jim said. “I’m not going to drag her away, if she wants to stay. I’m not staying.”

The entire Foster family, all 23 members plus in-law and outlaws, Jim joked, have planned their Christmas dinner at the farmhouse, knowing it’s likely the last year they’ll have with their home.



Jim and Annette Foster raised their five children in the Roycroft Inn on Broomfield Road, a farmhouse that was converted into a bed and breakfast. (Sun photo by LISA YANICK-JONAITIS/@lisaj\_msun)

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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