

Maybe not exactly back in town, but closer than Virginia, California, Florida or North Carolina, where they spent most of the last 26 years.

"We came back to Cambridge but there was no place we could afford," said Fran, who graduated from Cambridge High & Latin School) and married Paul (Rindge Tech). "I was heartbroken and we ended up in Plymouth."

Nonetheless, Fran hopes to stay in touch with the old crowd, and wants them to know that Rich, 23, is about to graduate from Radford College in Virginia with a bachelor's in history. The other two kids born since Fran and Paul left are Joe, 22, and Tiffany, 19, both living and working in the Plymouth area.

The part Fran missed most about Boston was the sports teams, she said. The Celtics, the Red Sox, all of it. But in general, she said, "no place compares with Boston."

### Pizza in the storm

The flowers may be popping out already, but it was just weeks ago that snow was wreaking havoc in Cambridge. And the good-will stories are still drifting out about that memorable weekend in March. Among the latest is a tale from Huron Avenue, where residents might have seen telephone cord running through the neighborhood for several days after the storm.

Emma, of Emma's Pizza, who almost never comes off as beleaguered and says she is busy enough without all the Boston press, found herself in a pickle last month. In fact, she depends on her phone to stay busy. So when the Storm of the Century hit last month and knocked out the phones of Emma (and husband Gregory, who has been making the pizzas 27 years), life was suddenly quiet.

Neighbor Richard Currier of Currier Associates on Lexington Avenue knows Emma. In fact, as a father of four, Currier is something of a regular. No wonder he was upset on the Saturday of the storm to hear from employee Bob Filene that Emma had come by to talk about phone problems. Currier set out to help, but not NET nor local repair shops could reconnect Emma with her customers. Hours went by with no relief in sight. Finally, a smart young NET employee suggested Currier hook Emma up to his own line and the phone company would put her on call forwarding.

Out Currier went to pick up 125 feet of cable from the local Radio Shack on Alewife Brook Parkway. By 5 pm Saturday, Emma had her phones in service, ringing through Currier's office.

Until then, Currier had thought Emma's was a small local business. Not so, he learned.

"The phone was ringing off the hook; it rang every 30 seconds," said Currier. And still, Emma screens her diners, he said. "If Emma doesn't know them, it's hard to get a pizza out of Emma. She recognizes every voice that comes in."

When Filene came back to work Saturday evening, he was a bit confused, Currier said.

Currier Associates' and the

duty." Really, he added, "It was a community effort to get Emma's Pizza running again."

### Say what?

It's been floating all around town lately: Howie Carr lives in a rent-controlled apartment. To many people, it's news that the conservative Boston Herald columnist lives in Cambridge at all. Yup, say the anti-rent control forces. He has moved to a controlled unit on Prentiss Street, they say. A former suburbanite, Carr reportedly has gone through a change in family status, leaving him on his own.

### What's the attraction?

Cambridge psychiatrist John Mack knows the governor of Massachusetts' western neighbor is looking for him, but he is not really sure why. "If you can find out why Governor Cuomo is interested in me it would be fascinating to find that out," said Mack last week, after hearing that his work was of interest in New York State.

Cuomo's curiosity has something to do with Mack's reputation as a doc doing research on people who say they've been taken into alien spaceships. But that's pretty much all Mack knows.

"They went through the Cambridge Hospital PR department and the aide, whoever called, asked that it be confidential, and I guess they didn't keep it confidential," said Mack, who founded the Cambridge Hospital psychiatry department in 1962. With sympathy for Cuomo's aide, who saw word of the "very hush-hush" contact with Cambridge Hospital appear a day later in the Boston Herald, Mack said, "I guess it is customary to call PR offices, but then you run the risk of this type of thing happening."

Mack describes his work like this: "I do research and look after people who have these experiences of being abducted by humanoid beings into strange craft and [who are] subjected to intrusive procedures." These spaceship experiences, not surprisingly, are often "traumatic and sometimes transformative."

For those whose cynicism precludes taking these stories seriously, Mack warns them not to judge too fast. "These are not people who have a psychiatric disturbance that can account for that, it didn't fit in to any psychiatric syndrome I knew," said Mack, whose interest was born in 1990 after he met Budd Hopkins, author of "Intruders," a book on the experiences of abductees.

Mack says hearing so many people tell such similar stories was "an intriguing experience."

### Dog bites postman

Cambridge Postmaster Frank Carbonneau is asking citizens to protect mail carriers and pets by making sure their dogs are properly restrained or confined. He reported, "We have already experienced one incident this year."

Dog bites last year cost the US Postal Service \$3.2 million in medical costs, according to Carbonneau reminded residents that

NOT TRUE!  
NOT NICE!