

# King Don and Maid Marian: *Living Larger Than Life*

## Getting to Know You

A monthly feature about the people in your  
On Top of the World community

by John Koning

To say that Don and Marian Leamy like to dress up is like calling a Maserati a nice car.

This enchanting On Top of the World couple are possibly the king and queen of overstatement when it comes to evening wear.

They once brought three tuxedos and three matching gowns to a single New Year's bash and wore them all during a single evening.

These transplanted Philadelphians like to make a statement. I call it living large.

Their combined wardrobe extravagance started rather innocently 23 years ago when Don was smitten by the beautiful Marian at a singles dance in Media, Pa., but his larger than life persona was conceived much earlier when he was a top-selling furniture salesman.

Just how do you get to be a consistent top seller like Don Leamy?

Well, if you have an evening to spare, Don will happily give you an exhaustive and informative tutorial. He will lay out every trick of the sales trade, from the famous refundable \$5 dollar deposit, to the fabricated (although earned) sales awards.

Marian, on the other hand, has a different theory. She says simply, "He really knows how to b.s."

Don learned very early on that to be successful in commission sales, he

needed to be memorable. That's when he named himself King Don, and the extravagance was born.

He would stop at nothing to keep potential clients from walking away empty handed and was equally clever at ensuring that they asked for him personally if they returned.

Don was legendary for pompous celebrations of his sales victories. On one occasion he hired a limo, rented a red carpet, and arrived for a self-orchestrated celebration wearing his many gold accessories, a new white tuxedo and a flowing mink overcoat.

Oh, if only we could have read the thoughts of the runners-up, all of whom received personalized invitations to King Don's quasi coronation!

When it came to sales, Don had no match in his area, and he flaunted his success with the single ladies. He truly appeared to be larger than life and tasted the lifestyle of the rich and famous for a few years while living with a very wealthy woman.

However, opulence could not compare to what he found with Marian. They had so much in common, especially their shared enjoyment of Doo-wop. She was a two-time dancer on American Bandstand, rubbing shoulders with none other than Dick Clark. Her appreciation for the tunes introduced to them by Philadelphia's



**Don and Marian Leamy display a small sampling of their extensive collection of formal wear.**

iconic Jerry Blavat put an end to King Don's single days.

Marian deserves full credit for their move to OTOW. She, too, was smitten, although not so much by Don, as with the southern lifestyle when she lived for a short while in Pascagoula, Miss.

One day while they were renting in the OTOW area, she pretended to be in the market for a condo while Don was out golfing. As fate would have it, fantasy turned to reality when she found a condo here that met all her cri-

teria at a "too good to be true" price. She was determined to buy it with or without Don's blessing. Fortunately for both of them, he jumped on board the OTOW train.

Getting back to that New Years evening of three dress changes, Marian has drawn the line at only two outfit changes from now on. Unfortunately for Don, who matches her changes color for color, that means only two tux changes for him, too. Even living large has its limits.

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