

## A SYNCHRONIZED MOVEMENT

by Betty Lee White



The house moved slowly yet inexorably across some 400 yards to its new location. The sun was shining brightly of this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April 2014, and the temperature was a comfortable 80 degrees. There was a gusty wind of 25 m.p.h., yet this did not hamper the steady progression of a 13' x 13' structure that seemed to glide along the terrain, skimming to its destination about four inches from the ground. It was an uncanny sight, the kind of ethereal vision that makes you want to pinch your cheek to prove what you see before your eyes is real. A most astounding feature of this building movement was that there was no visible mode of transportation during any stage of the phenomenal journey. Nothing seemed to be pulling the structure and there was no visible apparatus pushing it. It just seemed to move on its own.

How did this miraculous event occur? Rev. Charles Van Vliet, FSSP, decided to move an existing animal house to a location confined within newly constructed fencing. The newly fenced area provides a safer environment for the current herd of 29 goats and sheep, protecting against marauding coyotes and unleashed dogs that were killing lambs during past months.

Father didn't wait for the Saturday crew of volunteer parishioners to help him. He started the process by backing the bulldozer into the structure interior. He spent some time reinforcing the interior of this barn with 2' x 8' planks along three sides (the fourth side being open). Then he screwed in another set of beams about four feet high from the ground. After this, upright beams were screwed to unite the two horizontal enforcements.

Next, a two-inch wide heavy chain was secured to the bottom of the internal structure on the right, slung over the bulldozer and secured to the left bottom, then pulled taut with a winch. The chain started slipping across the bulldozer roof toward the back so Father pulled it back with a black cord, which he tightened on the right with an automobile jack. Then he turned on the bulldozer and, using its hydraulic lift, raised the entire structure. One of the sides started moving inward, so Father selected more planks from a heap of discards and screwed them from either side in front, then screwed a 2' x 8' plank across the bulldozer front to further secure the structure. Now all was in readiness for the adventure, a preparation and journey accomplished in one hour, thirty minutes.

