

Homeowner has a moving experience

■ At one point along the move, the narrowness of Glen Charlie Road almost prevented school buses from squeezing past the house.

By Jim Stern
ENTERPRISE CORRESPONDENT

WAREHAM — When Mark Truran decided to move into the family homestead several years back, he never dreamed he would ship it across town.

Travelers and town officials sat waiting Tuesday as traffic was brought to a standstill while electrical, cable, telephone and building crews worked from dawn till dusk to help Truran and his family relocate their family home from Cranberry Highway to its new location on Glen Charlie Road four miles away.

"This is probably something I would like to do only once in a millennium," said Patrolman John Walcek, who was on scene throughout the move to direct traffic. "This is one of the largest house moves I have seen."

Police reported few problems at the day's end; however, a potential disaster almost sent the town in chaos midway through the day.

When town school bus drivers complete their morning rounds it is common for drivers to return to their homes with their buses un-



A UTILITY WORKER watches as a house lumbers down the road in a four-mile move from Cranberry Highway to Glen Charlie Road in Wareham.

til it is time to make afternoon rounds; however, town officials forgot that two drivers live on Glen Charlie Road, making it nearly impossible for them to return to transport students.

"Luckily we were able to push the house as far over to the side of the road as possible," said Walcek. "We were then able to find just enough of an opening to get the buses through."

Residents along Glen Charlie Road say that all students were dropped off at their homes, but they estimated delays for students of up to an hour.

The Trurans had decided to move their home, which has been in their family since 1926, after the CVS Corporation took the land for their newest branch on Cranberry Highway. With an es-

timated cost of nearly \$30,000 the house was lifted out of its foundation at 9 a.m. and settled into its new home nearly four miles away approximately nine hours later.

"I couldn't just watch our family home be torn down," said Truran. "When we were able to calculate that the cost of the land purchase will cover moving expenses we decided to go ahead."

According to Gary Sylvester, who owns Gary Sylvester's Building Movers & Excavators, the company enlisted to move the property, house moves are fairly common in this area; however, what made the Trurans' move so difficult was the narrowness of Glen Charlie Road.

"The road is very narrow so there just isn't any room to move cars around," said Walcek. "I wish that most of the branches in the way would have been cut down before we started."

"There were definitely travel delays, but people were generally very supportive of the task we had at hand."

The task certainly was daunting as Commonwealth Electric placed three utility vehicles and nine workers on scene in addition to a large number of MediaOne and Bell Atlantic vehicles.

"We constantly had to raise wires and get them back to their original height, all without delaying traffic more than it had to be," said Michael O'Malley, Commonwealth Electric line forman. "Unfortunately you can't rush the process and leave things to chance."

For Truran, who says the entire ordeal probably won't hit him until he moves all his stuff back into his home, the adventure is worthwhile but something he will never do again.

"I'm not going to move my house again," said Truran. "I don't think anyone wants to go through this all over again."