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By JESSICA CRAWFORD • Daily Leader

After 22 years in business, Bill and Oletha Moody of Liberal Vacuum Company are shutting the doors to their business and opening the door to retirement.

Liberal Vacuum Company has been in business for around 45 years. For the last 22 years, the Moodys have owned the business. They don't think of the people that walk through their doors as customers – they are family.

Due to health reasons, the Moodys have decided to close down the business on Dec. 1. In the meantime, they are having a rather large closeout sale at their little vacuum shop on 704 S. Kansas.

“We are retiring now really for health reasons,” Oletha said. “It has really been good to us.”



“We have been trying to retire for 3 years,” she continued. “But Bill would just keep saying, ‘who is going to take care of my little ladies?’ He really worried about our customers, that is why we really haven't retired before now.”

The Moodys will celebrate their 44th anniversary next month, the same month they plan to begin their retirement.

“If we want to go some place, we can go,” she said. “We can just be free. We would really like to go out and see the country side.”

Oletha Moody has a son from a previous marriage, Jerry Becker of Topeka. The Moodys now have four grandchildren and one great- granddaughter they will be spending much more time with.

Liberal Vacuum Company specializes in Riccar sweepers on which they have the franchise. However, Bill has repaired Kirby vacuums and many other brands over the years as well.

Oletha recalls the long nights the two would have working at the store before Bill retired from Southwestern Bell in 1991.

“I would run it during the daytime and he would do repairs in the evening,” she said. “Some nights it would be around midnight before he would get done. He worked 40 years for Southwestern Bell.”

Although the Moodys feel it is time to close up shop, they will miss the customers and friends that have been such an important part of their lives.

“It’s time,” Oletha said. “We are going to miss our customers, they have been so devoted and so kind.

“We appreciate our customers so much,” she concluded. “While in business, each one became a special friend and were the best customers ever.”

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