

October 2014

Dear Clients and Friends:

Even though home prices are rising, as a nation we're still 13% below the peak in 2006. If you're thinking about selling your home and moving to Missouri or Arkansas, you can find some amazing deals.

My wife and I used to spend hours looking through catalogs of ranch and farm real estate for sale, all over the country. Not because we ever planned to leave San Diego, but just for the fun of it. We found pictures of houses that looked charming, on large acreage including barns, trees, ponds or creeks, selling for half the price of our own home.

Without the acreage, barn or creek, a three bedroom home can easily be bought today for \$60,000. Of course, you have to give something up. Many inexpensive properties are located in the tornado alley, where in addition to an occasional twister you also have to deal with cold winters, hot summers and humidity. Chiggers are no fun, plus you may be three hours from a major airport.

We all have friends who've moved from Southern California to find something -- lower cost of living, fewer people, better air quality, four seasons. After a few years, half of them are happy in their new location, while the other half dream about coming back.

T.S. Eliot wrote "Home is where one starts from." Life allows for staying put, or wandering afar, as your heart desires. To be on the safe side, check with your financial planner before making any big decisions.

Regards,



Charles M. Shackelford