Joe Suminski has a story to tell. Born and raised in Saginaw, Michigan, as a young man Joe found work at General Motors, thinking this was his life employment. Unfortunately, hard times resulted in a layoff for Joe, and the prospect of a major career change. Not one to take things lying down, Joe teamed up with the regional Rainbow Vacuum Cleaner company, soon learned the trade and became a rising star in the company. But when he hoped to own his own franchise, he found the way blocked. Undeterred, Joe followed the famous advice of Horace Greeley, “Go West”. And he did. Contacting the Rainbow representative in Portland, Oregon, Joe convinced the company to give him a shot, and not long afterward found himself with 5 offices in Oregon and Washington. After 8 years with Rainbow he switched to the Filter Queen Vacuum cleaner company to develop a larger territory and moved to Pleasant Hill, OR. Eventually the business grew to cover Oregon, SW Washington, Northern California, Western Idaho and Nevada. A pilot since 19 years old, he was able to commute with his Cherokee Piper Arrow to the long distance offices. When his two children graduated High School it was time to make a career change again.

One day as Joe was driving through Pleasant Hill on Highway 58; he focused on the empty Texaco gas station, and saw a business opportunity. Although it was abandoned and dilapidated with mushrooms growing from the ceiling, Joe saw opportunity. Leasing the property from the buildings owner, Joe and wife Linda set about building a new business, his third, for Joe was an entrepreneur. Bringing the building back from the dead, they set about the business of selling fuel. Station 58, Inc. was born. After one year with unbranded fuel and ten years of Texaco branded fuel, they once again decided to go unbranded to offer a better deal for the customer’s. Station 58, Inc. sells quality unbranded fuels to his neighbors, friends, and travelers.

The first year was hard, as in any business, but now Joe can supervise a vibrant young staff and a thriving business from his comfortable office, and enjoy time to reflect on his years of coaching football at Pleasant Hill High school, and his time in the soccer league in Eugene.

One day Joe plans to retire to his cabin in Oakridge for many years of fishing and hunting. Even then, this busy man will not be idle, but will continue to operate his custom lumber milling business, creating boards on the spot for happy customers.

Until then, Joe and his wife Linda will enjoy their home and business in Pleasant Hill, and watch the careers of their children, daughter Kelly, a Diagnostic Medical Sonographer at Adventist Medical Center in Portland, and son Brian, Air Force Master sergeant in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Congratulations, Joe and Linda.