

Also for music lovers -- the County Library in Beaufort lends records. It is not a large collection yet, but we have enjoyed the classical records we have brought home.

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Serious shell collectors and happy gift selectors should head for the SEASHELL WONDERS AND FINE GIFTS shop on the Salter Path Road on the north side about a quarter of a mile east of the Holiday Inn. Bill and Ruth Cochran, whose shop this is, are both scientists whose specialty is malacology (the science of mollusks, to us laymen). Theirs is an interesting background. At one time, Bill Cochran operated a one-man airline from Buxton-on-Cape Hatteras to Ocracoke. He flew a three seater and operated off the highway. Back during the war, he flew a B-29 in the Pacific area and later was commander of an airbase in England during the Berlin airlift. He is a Lt. Colonel, Retired, in the Airforce. From Buxton the Cochrans gravitated to Ocracoke, and he still flew, sometimes using his plane to fly people from Ocracoke to the hospital in Sealevel. All these years he and his wife collected, studied, and sold shells. Back then they used to go shelling by air on Hatteras -- fly low looking for concentrations of shells and then land on deserted beaches. Many times they flew home with the plane full of shells and so much driftwood that it stuck out the windows. Both of them dive for shells, but not using a tank. They find that free diving using a snorkel works better when you are hunting for shells. In Florida, they dive for shells near Snaiabel Island. Although they sell North Carolina shells and will show you their record size Scotch Bonnet and Olive Shell (*oliva literata syana*), they import about 90% of their shells, most of them from the Philippines. In their storage area are crate after crate full of shells which have to be cleaned, frequently with a wire brush powered by a small motor, and buffed before they are ready to sell. There are all sorts of fascinating shells in the shop -- colorful Candy Shells from little tree snails in Haiti, the Jewel Box Shell which opens like a tiny jewel case, the Lion's Paw, Melon Shells which are lovely for their color, the Ravanelli Scallop which has one flat shell. The more shells you see, the more interested you become, but most interesting of all is talking with authorities like Bill and Ruth Cochran.

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New neighbors - ELWOOD (EL) and ANN RATLIFFE have moved into their lovely new home on Pecan Court. Their former home was Park Ridge, Illinois. El was in advertising for twenty-five years and then owner of Baldwin music and teaching business for five years ... and now on to better things in PKS! They have a son in Denver, Colorado, and a daughter in Wheaton, Illinois, and two grand-children. El had many interests; Ann loves nature, plants, and wild life. We welcome them to our shores.

P.S. And our reporter, A.H., says this home has real personality.

SWANSBORO ADVENTURE: Try the SEAFARER RESTAURANT some day when you are poking around that quaint little harbor town just over the arched bridge from us. The Seafarer is on the right as you approach Swansboro, before the two small bridges. They have a fine, especially well-seasoned Manhattan (that's the tomato) clam chowder, and really good, made-upon-order shrimp and oyster burgers, as well as many other goodies. It's a friendly and informal and busy little place, with sensible prices. And, whether you go by boat or car, you'll love Swansboro itself, with its several specialty shops, including gifts, antiques, and fine sportswear. There are also some neat old houses.

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Spring, and we are working on our yards and gardens. Our building inspector, Ray Scoggins, has asked us to remind you that when you are planting shrubs, you should not plant anything on the right of way. Shrubs must be ten feet back from the road, and fences should be back on the property line. The right of way has to be kept clear for ease in mowing.

If you are learning to knit or crochet or do drowel embroidery or needlepoint, ELIZABETH AMES would be glad to help you with your pro-