

David And Penny Redwine: Sharing Their Dreams

BY SUSAN USHER

David and Penny Redwine jokingly claim to have the only "bicolored" house at Ocean Isle Beach.

Nearby property owners needn't panic, though, it's a temporary condition soon to be remedied. A recent remodeling job left the siding mismatched and in need of staining.

The work was a timely sort of symbol for a couple lately in the public eye for a great deal.

They've needed room for a growing family: Daughters Erin, 8, already a would-be page in the State House, and Mandy, a charmer at 6, were looking forward to a brother due in April. And then there's David's Copperfield, or Copper, the family's two-year-old cocker spaniel.

While the cottage had much more space than the little "box of a house" the Redwines lived in before at Gause Landing near David's family home, it wasn't enough.

Also, the dark interior walls—all wood paneling except for the papered baths and kitchen—were starting to close in on Penny.

At one point a "For Sale" sign actually went up in front of the Craven Street cottage where the Redwines have lived since 1978—the cottage with a front that Penny had never really liked to begin with, David noted.

Several factors combined to keep them in place, including Hurricane Diana and the family's love for the shore.

Instead of moving, Penny explained during a tour of their new space, "what the hurricane didn't tear down or blow away, we tore down. We decided while we were tearing down and repairing, we'd go ahead and remodel."

From a busy fall, the family moved into a still busier winter and spring. David was running—by then unopposed—for election to the 14th District seat he'd been appointed to a year earlier; Penny was expecting, and the cottage was under renovation. Temporarily relocated to a fifth-floor condominium elsewhere on the beach, the flights of stairs got longer and longer, the bags of groceries heavier as time passed. By the time



STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN USHER

FAMILY AND CAREER are blossoming for Penny and David Redwine, shown here in their Craven Street home at Ocean Isle Beach.

their refurbished house was ready, it was time for David to head for the other "House" in Raleigh and for Penny to begin readying the nursery. A busy, but happy confusion for a couple doing what some dare only fantasize about: living their dreams, sharing their goals and ambitions for each other.

Their cottage had experienced some of the same invisible or slow to develop damage as other beach homes in Diana's wake. In the living area, for instance, the ceiling beam cracked. Damp insulation soured.

In place of the standard 1960s beach cottage across-the-front porch, the Redwines and contractor Gary Poulos created a stairwell entry that

opens into a cheery sunroom fashioned from one end of the old porch.

License tags with David's seat number, "13" and "13A," on the family cars parked beneath the additions signal the responsibilities in Raleigh and across the 14th District that take him frequently away from this warm and inviting oasis.

At the other end of the house, bedrooms upstairs and downstairs were extended into the space once claimed by the front porch to provide play areas and storage for the girls' Barbie paraphernalia. A double-decker bay window gives each of the girls her own enviable panoramic view of the Atlantic Intracoastal

Waterway. Erin's room is frilly and romantic, white-on-white, while Mandy's room downstairs reflects her more tomboyish personality.

In every room the old paneling was covered with white wallboard, giving it a feeling of openness, a sense of space.

Some of Penny's watercolors hang, along with the work of other artists, along the stairs leading to the second floor. Needlework and plants add further personal touches throughout the house.

Still, David and Penny plan eventually to move away from the beach and onto the mainland into a more traditional neighborhood setting.

For now Penny and the girls will enjoy the beach. Erin and Mandy are big enough to swim in the canal, Penny said, and "they just love it."

An inlander from Monroe, Penny never dreamed of getting to live at the beach. But then she also never thought she'd be involved in politics or the wife of a state representative.

She and David met at a fraternity social at East Carolina University, where she was a junior art education major and he a senior politics and government major. In September they will have been married 13 years.

Politics and campaigning are "fun," she said, but something you have to learn. The one thing she absolutely doesn't like to do is hand out cards at fish fries and rallies—and then only because she feels people don't really want to take them.

She was reared in a family only moderately interested in politics, while David grew up immersed in the subject, tempered by his mother's high standards and knowledge of people and politics.

"I don't think I ever had any choice about liking it," he said.

Still, both are living out the lives they dreamed of as singles: Public office has been David's lifelong goal while Penny always assumed she would teach, then marry and rear a family.

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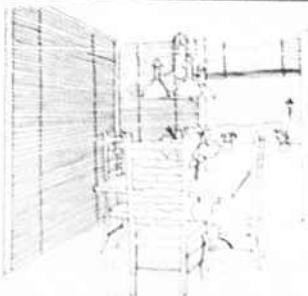
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