

# Sunset Beach Man Has Inventive Mind

(Continued From Page 24)  
So he did and flew it from Atlanta to Laurinburg in 1952 for another career switch.

After remodeling and operating a hotel there, he invented the business form and turned his attention to manufacturing.

Since then he's received 25 patents, has one pending, and one in the works. A lab in his basement is the scene of his furtive activities. "I don't let anyone visit my lab," he said.

Everything about the process of inventing is a personal challenge to this

quick-witted man. "For 25 patents I had 25 lawyers, so now I've developed a way of making my own patent application," he said. Already he has conducted his own patent searches, saving \$300 to \$1,000 that lawyers charge for this service.

"When you get an idea for a product, you have to search at the patent office in Washington to find out if it's really new," he explained.

His wife Minnie, a Sunset Beach town council member, helps with the search, which could take two or more days. "There are five million patents on file in a search room that's bigger

than Shallotte," Hunt said.

Only once has he found an idea of his already patented. "Fifteen years ago my son thought of putting cake decorating material in a toothpaste tube. We found patents for that going back as far as 1897," he said.

After marketing a product, Hunt said, one must apply for a patent within a year. The inventor receives royalties on an invention for 17 years, after which anyone can market the product. "But the useful life of any product is about 7-8 years; then something better usually comes along," he noted.

Hunt's vigorous mind has filled their house with time- and energy-saving devices. There's the design of doors and windows so as to promote a flow of air through the house, high-hanging plants on pulleys for easy watering, and an outside dumbwaiter that delivers wood to the window beside their second-story fireplace.

There's even a television set you can turn on by whistling at it, lights that go on in kitchen cabinets when they're opened, and a sea captain's portrait with eyes that follow you around the room.

There is humour, practicality and considerable originality in the touches inventor Hunt has added to his home. These qualities were also apparent in products that have been sold around the world.

Asked "Is it profitable to be an inventor?" he replied with a twinkle in his eye, "You can eat."

## Sunset Beach

This island was purchased in 1955 by Mannon Gore, whose family still owns considerable property in Sunset Beach. In 1961, he constructed the pontoon bridge that still serves the community, the only one of its kind on the eastern seaboard. A water system was installed in 1980. The town has a population of 191 and 1,076 housing units.

### Sunset Beach Information

Town Hall.....	579-6297
Town Administrator.....	Linda Fluegel
Mayor, Jim Gordon.....	579-6625
Building Inspector.....	Larry Crim
Council Members:	
Gore Gore Sr., Mayor pro tem	
Minnie Hunt	
Mary Griffith	
Donald Safrit	
Police Chief, William Hill.....	579-2151
Fire Chief, Carson Todd.....	843-9449
Nearest Volunteer Rescue Squads:	
Calabash Squad.....	579-7474
Shallotte Squad.....	754-6666

### Sunset Beach Regulations

- The town of Sunset Beach prohibits, within the city limits:
- Fireworks;
  - Discharge of firearms;
  - Public drunkenness;
  - Charcoal fires in rental units without written permission of the owners;
  - Excessive noise;
  - While visiting Sunset Beach, please DO: Obey posted speed limits, 30 miles per hour;
  - Keep dogs on a leash or fenced;
  - Clean up litter you have dropped on beach or streets.

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