

Nyes Chose Sunset Beach For Their Retirement Spot

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Color is everywhere. Bright green carpeting is offset by other warm hues of rust, orange, yellow, even a touch of scarlet. Family antiques complement the Texas stones: a well-preserved pie safe, a delightful old pedal Singer sewing machine, chairs and tables that speak of past generations.

It is obvious that this couple cherishes family. Nancy traces the background of each inherited piece of furniture. She happily points out a wall of photographs depicting their two sons and daughter, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She's proud, too, of the farm home near Lumberton where they spend about half their time, the rest being devoted to their Brunswick County domain. "It's been in my family a long time," she said. "It belonged to my great, great grandfather."

"We have both farming and construction background," Nye explained. I have a two-acre garden back home. Here I just grow a few tomatoes." Noticeable, however, is the vivid touch of scarlet geraniums across the front of the house and healthy green plants filling the glassed-in back porch with color.

The Nyes are native North Carolinians who have never wanted to live anywhere else. They did buy property in North Myrtle Beach many years ago, but when the crowds descended on that area, Nye said, "We wanted to get out." They saw Sunset Beach, bought their waterway lot in 1967 and built the house in 1975. "Back then, ours was the last house on the block," Nye recalled, "and across the road there was nothing but open fields."

After a long construction career that included building a dormitory for the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, the New Hanover

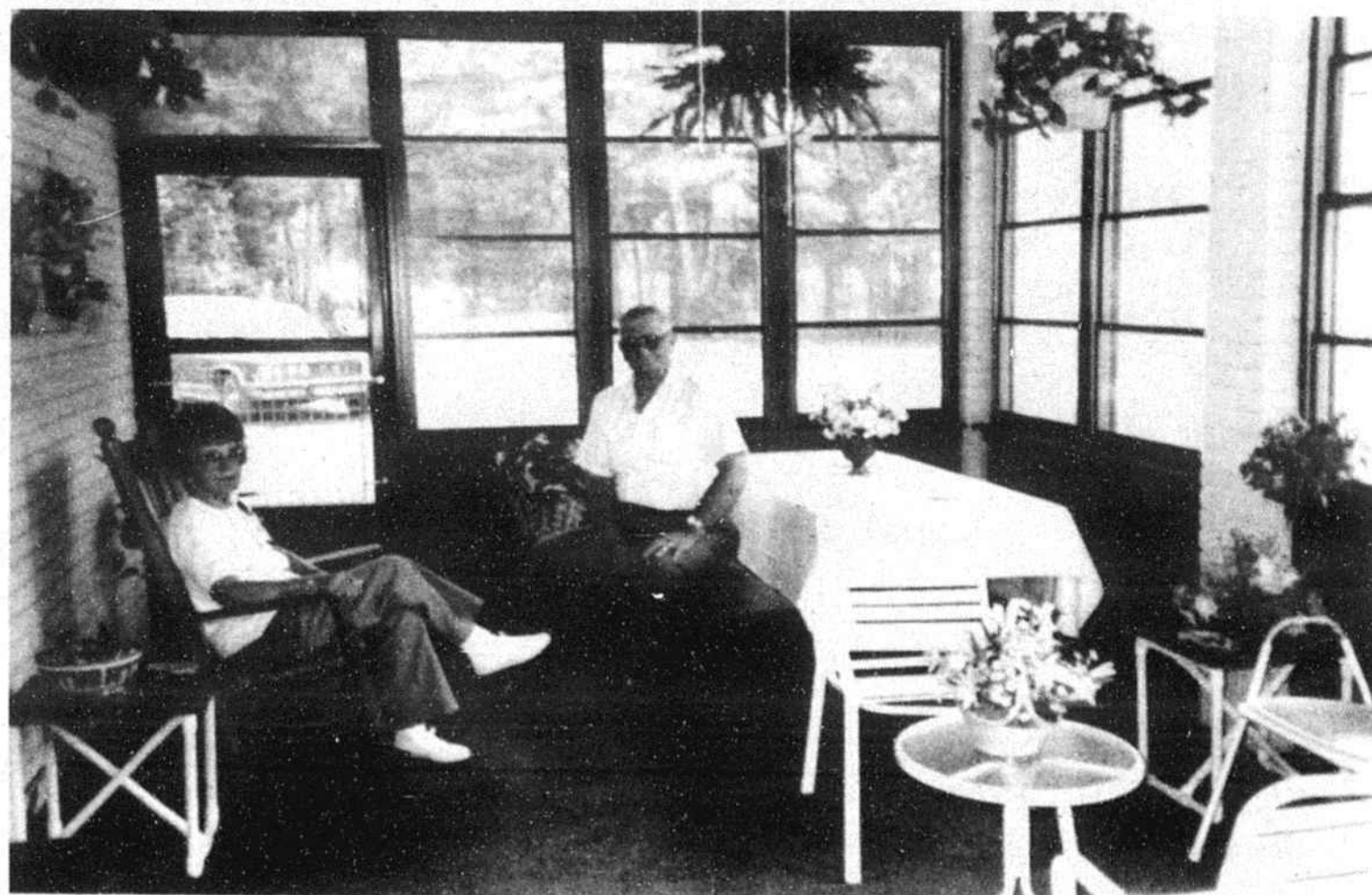
County Library, the Lumberton courthouse and a great many churches, Nye retired in 1981. Five years later Nancy followed suit, returning to the role of housewife after a series of such jobs as book-keeping, hospital volunteering, and department store clerking.

Now, she said, "We're busy, busy, busy." They both love fishing and chose Sunset Beach as a retirement spot because of the water.

Life has apparently been good, whether in Lumberton or Sunset Beach, for they have remained happily married for 54 years. The secret of such commitment? Nancy said, "You have to put with a lot!" and Nye remarked, "I go fishing a lot." Both agreed there must be a lot of give and take.

With a son in Florida and another son and daughter close by in Robeson County, along with two of the grandchildren, the Nyes enjoy plenty of family closeness. A particularly memorable incident occurred in early May. "Our only grandson, who's 26, came back from Saudi Arabia and we met him at Pope Air Force Base," Nancy said. "There was lots of crying!"

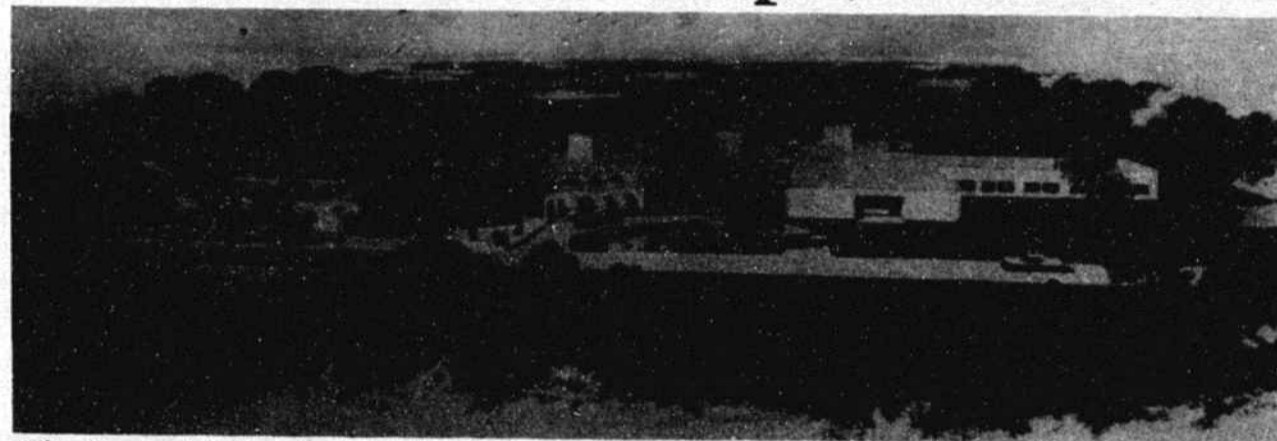
For a family with so much warmth, from Nye's perpetual smile to Nancy's eager grandmotherly anecdotes, the circular house on the beach seems appropriate. Its very openness and color and homey decor, along with the distinctive chimney, speak of a couple who enjoy their lives and the people in them. A notable feature of that chimney says much about their love, too. Asked about deer heads mounted on two sides of the chimney, Nancy laughed with some embarrassment and explained that a son-in-law had shot them. "He gave them to us," she said, "and we didn't know what to do with them, but they were a gift, so we put them there."



THE NYES enjoy their enclosed back porch, made colorful with a variety of green and blooming plants.

STAFF PHOTO BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

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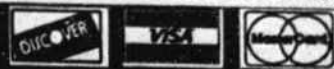
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