

It's Cool Up On 'Windmill Hill'

Story by Elizabeth Stewart

Photos by Tom McIntyre

John Queen's colorful red and white windmills, their propellers whirring in the breeze, dot the landscape of the comfortable home he and his wife, Daisy Barrett Queen, share on Shelby Rd.

Mr. Queen's windmills number 500-600 of varying sizes, are result of a hobby he began when he retired three years ago.

His youthful appearance belies his 77 years.

"The Lord's been good to me," said the silver-haired grandfather of eight last week as he showed us over his home, a sprawling double-wide mobile home which features porches on front and back the length of the house. a master bedroom large

enough for a kingsize bed, plus cabinets and storage room, a second bedroom, two baths, large living-dining room, kitchen and cozy den. Mr. Queen has built a shop and flower house in back, which incidentally is home of his beautiful black Sambo, a cat with white feet and shiny black mane.

John started whittling 60 years ago as a boy in the mountains in Burke County and learned the trade well from his father. He didn't really decide to get into the business until after he retired. "I have to have something to do," he said.

He hand carves the beautiful windmills using a hawk bill knife which belonged to his wife's late

husband, Arthur (Skeet) Barrett, and which has been in her family for a number of years. Some of the tools he uses are antique hammers and wrenches, all meticulously clean and organized in his workshop in back of the house. Most of the propeller blades for his mills he cuts 14 inches wide and balanced perfectly. He prefers white pine for his handwork because it is easy to whittle, runs well because it's lightweight, and won't rot out. He uses the best outdoor red and white paint available and has constructed windmills on almost every pole on his property encircling the fence, interspersing them here and there with beautifully-constructed birdhouses in red

and white and centering the whole showplace yard with a waterwheel he obtained in the mountains complete with a motor, a gift from his wife and placed in a sunken bathtub which is filled up with water. In the summer time the water runs out of the bathtub and over the wheel. A feature of the wheel is hand, carved horses and a wagon which give the appearance that the water wheel is being pulled. Bird feeders, gourds, old-timey plows and other farm equipment painted in red also enhance the setting. The windmills are constructed well, perched on iron posts, with their propellers turning with the wind.

Mr. Queen was born in a log house in the mountains but has called Kings Mountain home for most of his life except for a brief time he spent in Gastonia as a service station operator.

His first bride was only 17 when they married and he recalled he and Mrs. Queen spoke their wedding vows, after eloping, in the "middle of the road in Burke County" after he got the preacher to meet them there.

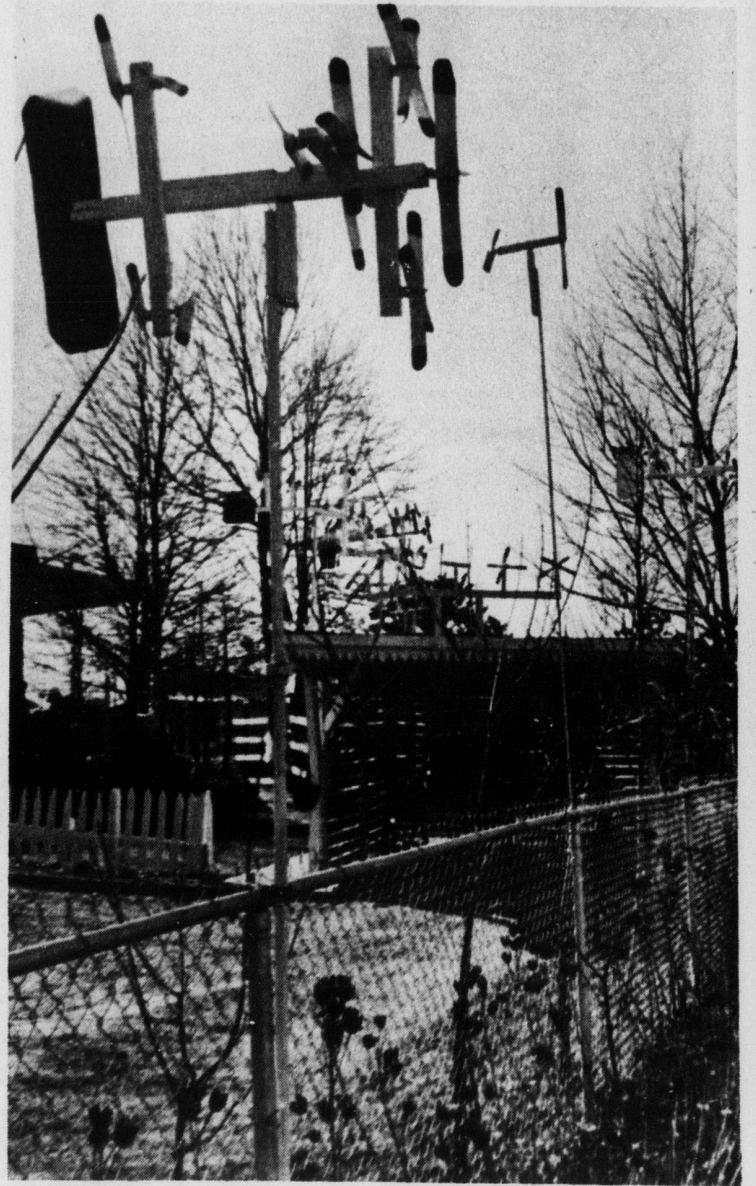
Mr. Queen missed service in World War I although he passed the examinations. Peace was declared about the time he was to report for duty, he said.

He raised five children, Dan Queen, now of Charlotte, Iwilla Huffstickler of Kings Mountain, Linda Hamilton of Bessemer City, Jerry Queen of Pickens, S. C. and Jean Mayhue of Wilmington.

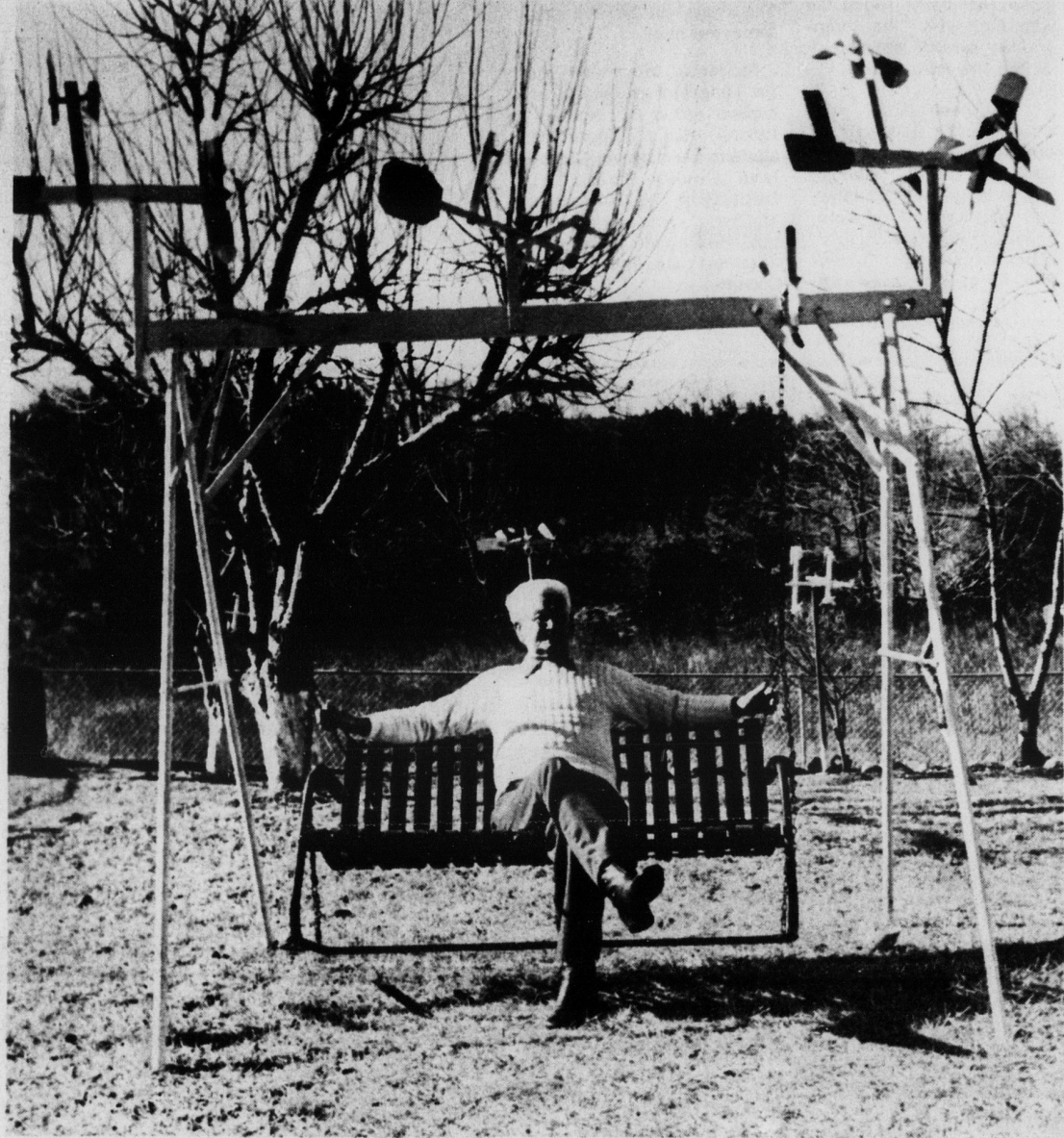
Daisy Barrett Queen had been a widow for four years when she met Mr. Queen, a widower. They have been married for seven years. Mrs. Queen is mother of Captain Jackie Barrett of Kings Mountain Police Department and there are two grandchildren.

Mrs. Queen said they decided to sell their much larger home, a beautiful yellow house nearby their present home, and move in the mobile home, which is very comfortable and which combines Daisy's decorating good taste and furnishings from both their homes accumulated over the years.

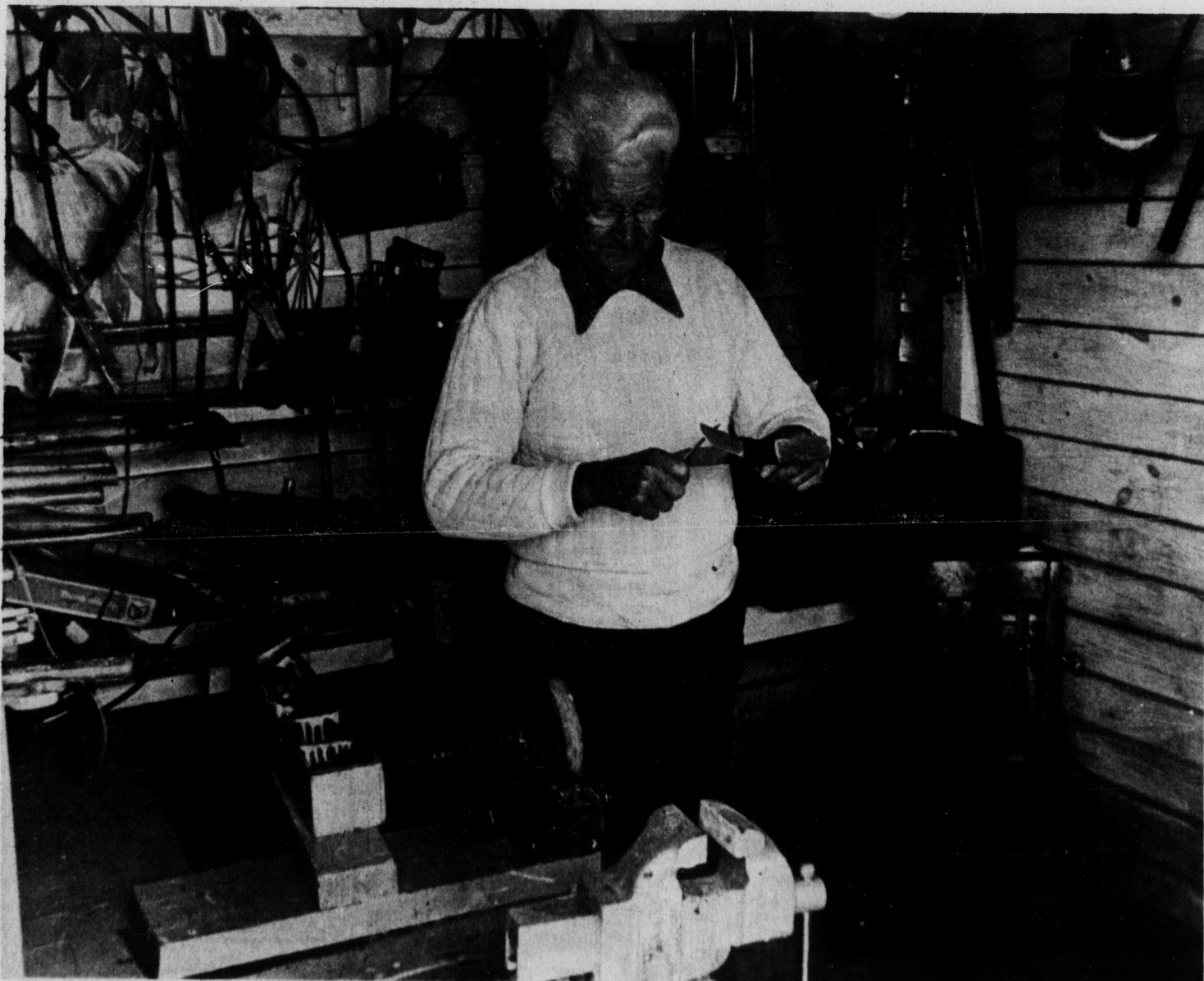
Their family's pictures are displayed prominently in the den and hall and also in the den are pictures of John Queen's horse which was his pride and joy and which ran in the pasture nearby. Mr. Queen said he



Just a few of the hundreds of small windmills situated on Queen's property west of Kings Mountain.



J.E. Queen gets comfortable in his old swing, one of the places he sits to create his windmills



"This is my workshop," Queen said as he showed the photographer where he keeps materials and tools for making windmill blades and decorations

Mirror-Herald Thursday, January 6, 1977 Living Today

Look For Flamingoes

Is the robin the real harbinger of spring? Or is it the crocus? Is it the seed catalogues arriving in the mail? Or could it be the flamingos?

It is flamingos in February this year, at least in Charlotte, that will usher in the season of rakes and tillers, parties on the patio and preparations for easy summer living.

The rosy-pink birds that live year-round at the Riverbanks Zoological Park in Columbia, S. C., will make their home from Feb. 26 through Mar. 6 in a special garden designed by the Zoological Park for the "Southern Living Show" at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart.

As it has for the past 17 years, the Southern Living Show will be bringing its visitors from across the South and as far north as New York.

Robert E. Zimmerman, president of Southern Shows, Inc., which produces the annual event, says plans are almost complete for another breathtaking show sure to inspire people weary from the South's coldest winter.

"We've been thinking spring for weeks now and have already ordered over 6,000 tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and freesia for the gardens."

"In addition to these flowers," he said, "the individual nurserymen are nurturing dogwood, azaleas, rhododendron, fuchsia and other plants into bloom for the show. Only live plants are permitted in the gardens."

Eighteen distinctive gardens are being designed and installed by professional nurserymen and landscapers and the Horticulture Club students from N. C. State University, Sandhills Community College and Forsyth Technical Institute. Exciting features will be built into each garden — the flamingos in one, several gardens you can walk



Lib Stewart

right into, an incomparably reproduced natural woodland, and containers of unusual cactus to accent a patio, to name a few.

Highlights of this year's show, Zimmerman noted, will be a house sponsored by Celanese Corp. with an entrance deck, three rooms off a hallway and a latticed patio deck and cabana.

Bryant Grier entertained his 3,000th visitor at "Grier Haven," his home at Lake Montonia, New Year's Eve.

Special guests were Hallie and Charles Blanton, celebrating their fourth wedding anniversary, and Mr. and Mrs. Al Moretz.

Thirty guests were served hors-d'oeuvres, cookies, fruitcake and punch with party pick-ups from a festive table decorated in the holiday motif. Dancing, TV viewing of Guy Lombardo's Times Square traditional party and toasting the New Year featured entertainment. Party balloons and noisemakers were distributed to guests.

HOSPITALIZED
Roy Pearson, city recreation director, entered Charlotte Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital Monday for observation and treatment.