

Say Goodnight, Gracie!

Alexanders' Home Grew Unexpectedly As It Was Being Built

Reg and Deco Alexander named their beautiful new home, "Gracie."

"Remember how George Burns' wife Gracie would start stories that would fumble on and on? We thought of that by the way the house grew unexpectedly while it was being built," Reg said.

For one thing, he explained there was a misprint in the written proportions of the floor plan that led to a larger area than had been planned. "It was a surprise but we had to keep on going. We couldn't unbuild anything," he said. An unplanned basement was also required due to the slope of the land.

What was their second reason for naming the house? "We had been through a lot of financial and vocational struggles during recent years," Reg explained. "Frankly, naming the house reminds us of the Grace of God that bountifully protects us at all times," he said.

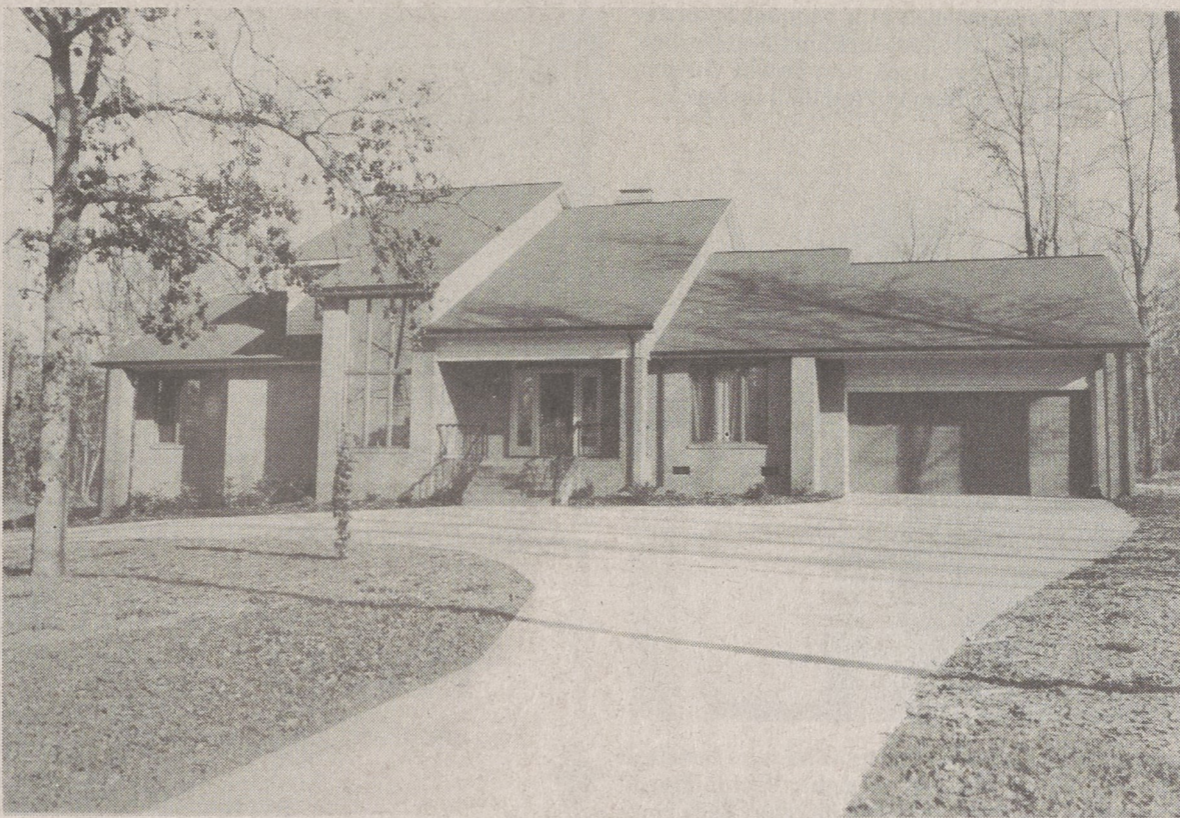
Reg and Deco had their first experience in building in 1973. Through a progression of houses, they had acquired an amount of equity that was to become quite valuable in another way. In 1985, they sold a house in Gastonia, moved into an apartment in Kings Mountain and placed most of the equity as a short term loan to their youth ministry organization, Regal Ventures, which needed capital to begin a conference series.

As a means of income, they also began a graphic design company, Regal Graphics, and Deco further developed a tax and accounting service. As a Christian humorist and speaker, Reg also speaks to church and civic groups throughout the Southeast.

Deco refers to the style of their home as "practical contemporary" with ambling, usable open space.

Entering into the front door, one walks not only into a spacious foyer but also into the personality of the owners. At this holiday season the door bell plays "Joy To The World."

The large Great room with conversational L-shaped



GRACIE - The beautiful new home of Reg and Deco Alexander in Gold Run is appropriately named "Gracie" by the owners, well known for their Christian youth ministry. The home was built by the Grace of God, through love and hard work.

couch, television and piano presents a casual atmosphere. There are even a couple of four foot pillows on the floor in front of the fireplace.

Double doors from the Great room lead into a sunporch area decorated with an assortment of Mickey Mouse paraphernalia, including a large wall hanging of Mickey. "What Walt Disney did with a simple idea has always been an inspiration to me," says Reg, explaining that his first attempts at art were in drawing the mouse.

From the sunporch, one can exit by way of a long wooden deck that sweeps around the back of the house, or continue toward the master bedroom, entering through a spacious bath area.

The master bedroom has a private deck overlooking the backyard.

There is a lot of glass on the front and back, bathing the house with natural light.

The landing half-way up the steps provides a beautiful view through large glass windows.

The loft area serves as Reg's at-home office space where, from his desk he can look into the Great room below. Deco's office, above the sunroom, has window openings with shutters that allow her to also look into the room below or across to the loft.

There are also two bedrooms and a full bathroom upstairs.

There is a touch of whimsy everywhere you look in this house - a Mickey Mouse telephone, wood puzzles on the coffee table, a gumball machine, filled with M&M's in the kitchen, elements that reflect the joyful personality of the owners.

"We enjoy having friends over," smiles Deco as she puts away a few items from a choir party. "Would you believe we had 19 young people from a church in Florida sleep over on their way north for a mission trip? There were sleeping bags all over the house," she laughs.

Child Would Make Home Complete

Deco Alexander's Christmas wish is for a child to become a part of her happy family.

The beautiful new home of Reg and Deco Alexander in Gold Run Acres is a perfect place for family living and entertaining. A nursery on the second floor is ready but the Alexanders, approved as adoptive parents six years ago, are still waiting. "We know that if it is the Lord's will we will be able to adopt," said Deco who has created a warm environment for family and visiting friends as well as young people they have grown to love through their Christian ministry.

Diane Copeland and Reg Alexander met at Gardner-Webb College in 1969. She was an accounting student and he was studying for the ministry. They were married in August 1971.

The couple's versatility is featured in the decor of their beautiful new home in Gold Run Acres, a 3600 square foot solar house and a first of its kind to be built by Reg's parents, Ruby and Charles Alexander, who have developed the beautiful area of Gold Run of 30 residences.

The angled roofline highlights this many-windowed contemporary design. The sun space, accessible from breakfast area and master bath, stores the heat from the sun in the tiled floor and hot tub. The kitchen has an angled work counter and is Deco's favorite room because she likes to cook. The openness and brightness of the home are also its attractive features.

The blue and mauve decor of the house is enhanced with holiday decorations. The loft area is draped with garland, twinkling lights and red bows. Over the fireplace is a wreath decorated with brass instruments, butterflies, and music-related items and tied with a big red bow. The mantel is garlanded and arranged with red candles and brass angels. Garlands of greenery, lights and red bows trim the rail at the front of the house and greenery, bells and a red velvet bow trim the front door. A Christmas tree in the Great room is festive with decorations and underneath the tree is a big Mickey Mouse and other stuffed animals just in case Santa should bring a baby for the Alexanders.

The house "flows" from the entrance to the second floor level and is open and comfortable. When 35 people from First Baptist Church Choir gathered for their traditional party recently they found the home a perfect place for entertaining. One of the favorite spots for visitors is the sunroom which Reg calls his Mickey



Stories By
Lib Stewart



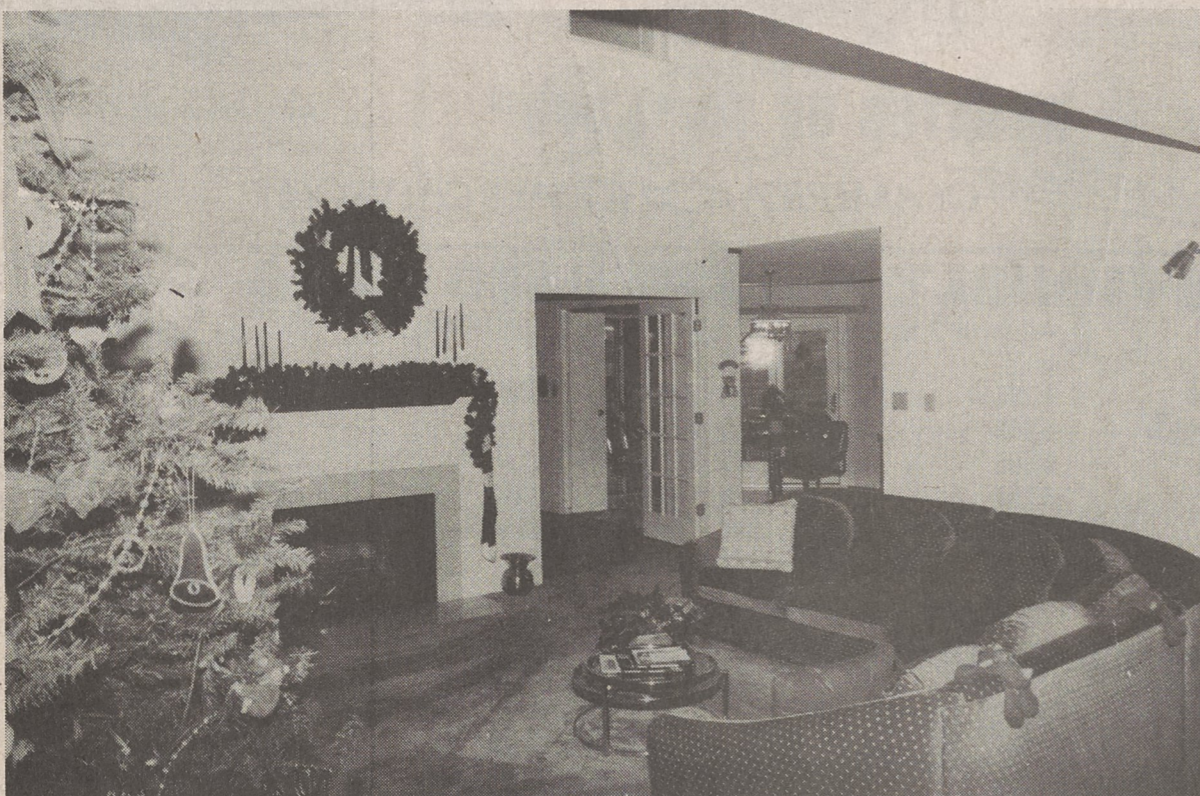
OWNERS OF "GRACIE" - Reg and Deco Alexander are pictured in the loft area of their beautiful home in Gold Run Community.

Mouse room. The house requires no intercom system because from any location you can see and talk to others who may be in a separate area of the nine room contemporary home. "It's a big house but we like to share it with our friends and the welcome mat is always out," said Mrs. Alexander.

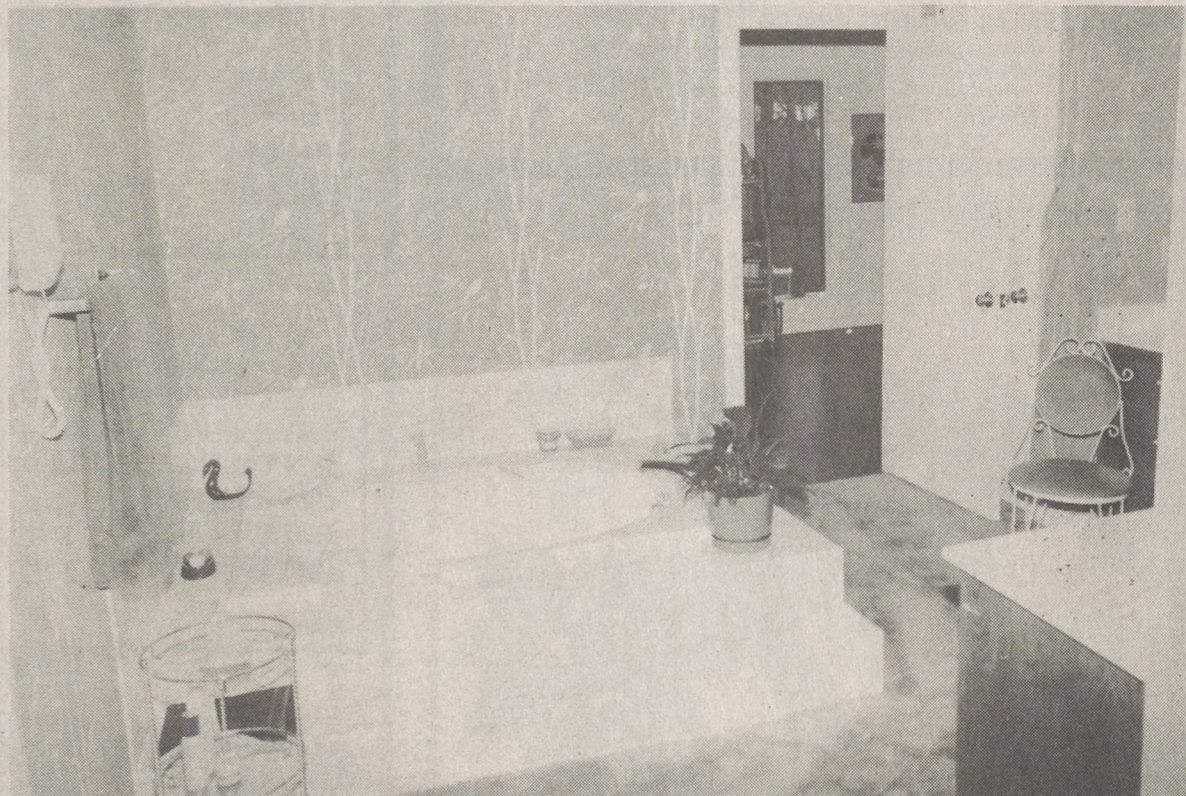
"This house was a real challenge for us to build," said contractor Ruby Alexander. She said the addition of Andersen high performance windows and ceiling fans enhance the energy-efficiency of the house. Deco said utility bills, including gas, runs a little over \$100 a month which means that the solar design is cost-saving. Vertical blinds are used in some areas of the house but in others the sun comes through the big windows for added warmth. Other features of the house include big, roomy closets, a powder room on the first floor level for visitors, a large kitchen and breakfast area, a large master bedroom and big bathroom with garden sunken tub inlaid with ceramic tile, central vac system and down draft stove and counter savers oven. Deco's office doubles also for her sewing and craft room and she designed the windows which also overlook her husband's office in the common space in the loft. The upstairs area is carpeted in a soft beige and the blue and mauve tones are carried out in decorative details throughout the house. Blue carpeting is used in the living room and dining room. Grey tile is used in the sunroom and oak floors enhance the foyer and staircase. The kitchen and breakfast area is tiled for easy care. Mauve curtains are used in the spacious dining room which is wallpapered in blue and mauve with pink iris accent. Mauve colored light fixtures are used over the glass-topped breakfast table. The nursery is called the Teddy Bear room because teddy bears are used on the bed and other stuffed animals are used throughout the room. Closets are designed for efficiency too. Commercially-built high and low hanging garment areas, baskets and shelves give more storage space in the big closet areas of the house.

Music from a portable music box can be heard all over the house during the holiday season and door chimes play various Christmas selections from "Jingle Bells" to "Joy to The World."

"This is a special Christmas for us in our new home," said Deco who says that their faith and hard work helped them to build a dream house they want to share with others.



GREAT ROOM - The home of Reg and Deco Alexander is open and comfortable. The Great Room is perfect for entertaining family and friends.



MASTER BATH - A luxurious master bath opens off the master bedroom on the second floor of the home. The mauve and blue motif is featured throughout the house.