

Cape Cod-tage

Rhyne's imagination turns out building into a showplace

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

When Marilyn Rhyne needed a storage shed for her yard, she paid homage to her Massachusetts heritage with what she calls a Cape Cod-tage.

The building, with its inviting porch and window boxes, makes one turn and look for the sea shore.

"We would summer at Cape Cod. I need to have a flair of where I grew up," she said. "And I hate ugly out-buildings."

Rhyne plans to add lattice work around the foundation. She will also decorate with pebbles, fishnet and drift wood.

"I want to make it real beachy looking," she said.

North Carolina's coast is also part of the building. Local artist Doyle Ellison painted a scene of the Cape Hatteras lighthouse on the north side. Birds, sea grass and shells complete the mural. A tiny golf green is painted to one side, a nod to her husband's love of golf.

A hammock sits nearby. Rhyne plans to relax and think of the beach.

"Because I don't get to go enough," she jokes.

The cod-tage is just one creative spot in Rhyne's yard. She has salvaged interesting wire and wooden chairs. A metal "junk yard cat" is nailed to a tree. A similar dog stands on the ground in pursuit of the cat.

Carpet roses surround a bench with a sleeping angel and church made from pebble and bark. Deep pink hummingbird vine climbs up lattice work.

In a heart shaped bed bloom impatiens, marigolds, geraniums and petunias. Along with dusty miller, the plants surround a birdbath.

Near the street is another island. This one is patriotic with a "God Bless America" sign and yellow ribbon. A young mimosa tree, lantana, hibiscus, petunias and fern grow there.

Instead of storing unused flagstone in the corner of the garage, Rhyne arranged the stones along an incline. They keep down erosion and create a waterfall effect.

Flower containers are nailed to a wooden chair. On a sign is written the clever play on words, "life is just a chair of bowlies."

When a beloved plum tree died, Rhyne hung multiple birdhouses from its dead limbs.

"I didn't have the heart to cut it down," she said.

Rhyne's three grandchildren's names, birthdates and handprints are part of her stepping stones. She used pizza boxes to pour the quick set cement into, then let the boys make their prints.

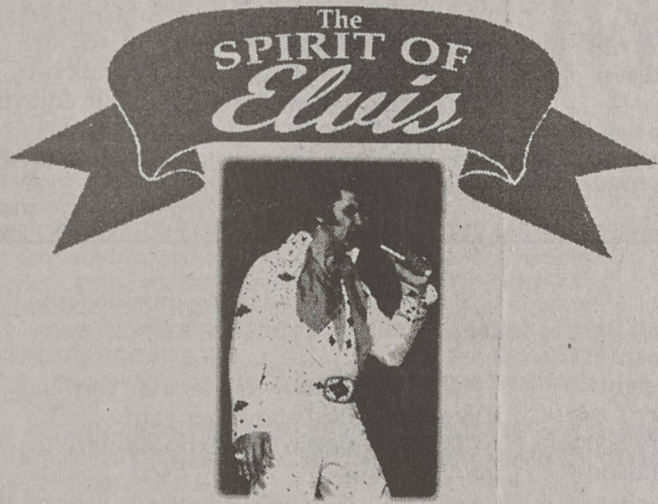
See Rhyne, 2B



Marilyn Rhyne of Kings Mountain has turned her out-building into a model of a Cape Cod cottage. ANDIE BRYMER / HERALD



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(excerpt)
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