

Yennie Home Reflects

Special Life-Style

Ridgewood Sunday News, July 5, 1970

By ANN WARWICK

TWENTY-SEVEN years ago, when the land was rural and relatively untouched by suburban migration, a young couple with their one-year-old baby moved from an East Orange apartment to Allendale and rented the second floor of a run-down house. A vintage country home from Civil War days, it was, as they were to learn, also the home of the town's first mayor.

With little knowledge of "country ways" and with less money, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Yennie bought this house on Franklin Turnpike — beginning not only a story of unusual home redecorating, but a history of personal community service as well.

Free moments and vacations during the ensuing years were spent clearing the virtual jungle of overgrowth, replacing the low, rotted front porch with tall, graceful pillars and creating a modern kitchen with a connecting sunken slate-floor lounge from a kitchen with six doors and its adjoining wash house.

"Yes, it's a sentimental

house," said Mrs. Yennie with a smile as we walked through their rambling home which seems to defy a "period" or "style" category.

It is a home which can combine an Old English atmosphere with a Victorian feeling in a spirit of comfort and livability stirring fond memories for those who live here.

Pieces like the antique dining room chairs acquired from an Allendale family, or the antique hand-crafted four-foot oval frame for the family portraits are enhanced by stained glass windows and fun items like the brass wastebasket from the tumbler of an old-fashioned washing machine.

The living room with its fireplace faced with tiles from Stokes-on-Trent leads to the sunken dark-red-carpeted foyer hosting an unusual petticoat credenza.

Outside, the pool cabana grew from a pavilion to the present weathered cottage with Victorian lights and oak furniture. Beneath the four-bladed ceiling fan, reminiscent of the smoke-filled back rooms from old Bogert movies, are ice cream parlor chairs of yet another era.

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"THIS HOUSE has been a creative partnership for us," commented Dot Yennie. But the Yennies have not only shared their home design ideas, but their community involvement, as many local residents will tell you.

"Coach" Yennie, as he is fondly known to many young village athletes and their parents, began his teaching career in the Ridgewood school system in 1935. In 1943 he became Ridgewood High School coach in basketball, soccer and baseball and 13 years later was appointed Superintendent of Recreation.

His wife has recently completed her two-year term as president of The Valley Hospital Auxiliary and its first president to be elected to the hospital's Board of Trustees.

"Maplewood" as the Yennie home has been named, both for Dot Yennie's birthplace and the majestic maple tree which umbrellas the back yard, has, down through the years, reflected the mood of the Yennies

and their two sons, Doug and Beau. It has been the scene of activities for church, school, hospital or recreational organizations and summers even saw carnivals, complete with concessions, shows and exhibits.

It is a home which has mirrored the life-style of an unusual family bound by a commitment to one another and their community.