



1960



1953



Ray & Shirley Seibel retired in 2006 in the newly renovated and expanded seashore house.



418 E. 11th Ave. as it is today.

This Old House

by Meg Corcoran

Poet T.S. Eliot believed "Home is where one starts from." When Gunther and Annie Koehn purchased their home at 418 E 11th Ave. in North Wildwood in 1952, they were starting a homespun tradition that happily lives on four generations later. Their daughter Jeanette, son-in-law James Connerton, and daughters Shirley and Jeanie would spend blissful moments by the sea every March until October. With no television or phone, they relied on the simplest forms of home entertainment; reading, playing cards, and conversation. As a proud family of beach lovers, they didn't need much else, building memories as easily as castles in the sand. Naturally, they knew no summer was complete without Wildwood's famous beach leaving its indelible, sandy impression!

Shirley fondly recalls coming home to her grandmother's ice tea after a hot day at the beach and the fresh scent of summer clinging to just-washed sheets, simple pleasures that would stand the test of time.

The family grew and ultimately Shirley and her husband Ray made plans to retire to their once-summer home. Along with builder Ed Roach, Shirley began preparing for some major home renovations in 2004, expanding the house's first floor while adding a second floor (complete with a view only Wildwood could inspire). The renovations took place in 2005, with the original three bedrooms and living room sentimentally remaining intact. The home that once had only one bathroom (that often required a number to enter) now has four, the ultimate luxury.

In March 2006, Ray and Shirley became year-round residents, never taking for granted the rich blessing of owning a home at the shore. They get to experience with their family, including their children and grandchildren, how uniquely special Wildwood is, all the while knowing the real joy that comes from truly being home.



1957

Sitting on the porch is one pastime that never loses its power to relax...especially when it's in a house by the sea.



JUL 69



Shirley's parents, Jeanette & James Connerton made some changes to the house by enclosing the porch in 1987.



Shirley's parents, Jeanette & James Connerton in the back of the house in 1997.