

Remembering the Early Years of CW:
An Interview with Mary Ann and Jim Shepherd (5004 Chanticleer):

What did our neighborhood look like back in the early days? In 1965 CW didn't look anything like today's version. At the very beginning the landscape was barren – mostly empty vistas with a few stands of mature trees left by the builder. Each house was guaranteed one tree randomly chosen by the developer, but original owners quickly planted others. Farmers who drove their trucks through the neighborhood with trees made lots of sales!

Who was the original builder? Hyman Bernstein & Sons, a builder from Maryland, planned CW in sections:

Section 1 – by the pool off of Braddock Rd.

Section 2 – Wakefield Chapel Rd.

Section 3 & 4 -- Queen Elizabeth Blvd. and branching streets from Wakefield Chapel Rd. to the second King Richard intersection

Section 5, and 6 – later, expanding Queen Elizabeth, finally enabling the school children to walk to CWES.

[Interesting fact: originally, Bernstein had planned to build 8 sections totaling 872 homes, all the way to Olley Lane, but some financial issues stopped him at around 500.]

How many models of homes were there at first? There were 7 different models originally. Houses were referred to by their model names:

King Richard – two story colonial with “an air of great elegance and luxury”

Duke of Burgundy – “elegant and handsome” colonial with cathedral-high foyer

Prince of Wales – “sumptuous” 70 ft. long rambler

King Henry – “courtly split level” with double-door entrance

Queen Anne – “spacious” rambler with two full day-light living levels

Queen Elizabeth – “true luxury” multi-level with expansive foyer entrance and recreation-terrace room on lower level

King John – “in the English manor tradition” with a colonial façade, “baronial” reception room entry/bedroom & bath, then stairs up to living rm/kitchen.

What were the prices of the first homes?

They ranged from \$24,490 for the King Henry to \$27,990 for the King Richard. Corner lots were \$250 extra.

Who were the original owners? CW was so popular at its start that there was a long waiting list for houses. Original owners tended to be military or government families often with 4-6 children. Mothers generally stayed home with the children while fathers went off to jobs. Young girls babysat for 35 to 50 cents an hour and boys mowed lawns – there weren't the lawn services that many homes employ today!

How did the CW pool come about? In the late 60's several owners, led by Warren Peters (who lived at the corner of King Richard and Queen Elizabeth) formed a committee to start up CW Swim and Tennis Club. One hundred owners were charter members. There was also a garden club, formed with the goal of beautifying CW; this club was responsible for planting the many cherry trees that used to line our streets.

What other memories do you have about those early days? Large groups of children played outside for hours at a time – hide & seek, roller skating, jump rope, ball games, bike riding were all popular. The kids also loved to go to the creek for fishing, wading and exploring. For those who lived on or near Chanticleer Avenue, snowy winters were great fun. This street was a major sledding venue after snowstorms because many days would pass before the snowplows arrived. In fact, homeowners would band together and shovel the streets so that residents could get out of the neighborhood and go to work! Unlike today, many moms were not working outside the home, so there were the occasional coffee parties that made for a lot of neighborly visiting!

Note: Thanks to original owner George Irish (5041 King Richard Dr.) for his wonderful file containing original prices and floor plans of the various homes!

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