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Robin, left, and Chris Kaler with flags from some of the countries they have visited in the backyard of their home on stately Champaign Avenue in Rantoul.

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Karen Devine offers up ways to combat the February grays with interior design. First tip: Let some light in.

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Our new series takes a look at famous streets in area towns. First up: Rantoul's Champaign Avenue, which features a host of beautiful homes, including that of the Kalers.

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Three ways to warm up as we hit the heart of winter: A good drink (the presentation helps with this Flaming Irish Coffee), a good book (spotlighting Black authors for Black History Month) and some comfort food (Gayle Starks' sweet potato pie is a good place to start).

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Becky Burgoyne had envied the former Bookwalter home from afar for years. Now, she and her husband are putting their own personal touches on this Danville beauty.



On our cover

The library room at the former Bookwalter home in Danville the Burgoynes are renovating.
Photo by Robin Scholz.

Find more photos and feature content at [news-gazette.com](https://www.news-gazette.com)

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LETTERS

Your input is encouraged. Contact jrossow@news-gazette.com or mail letters to 2101 Fox Dr., Champaign, IL 61820.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

All roads lead to ...



Back in the day, I always looked forward to taking my sons to travel baseball practice in Rantoul.

It gave this Champaign resident the chance to drive down Champaign Avenue and gawk at the amazing houses along the way.

That stately stretch kicks off a new series that will play out in this year's issues of At Home: Glory Roads.

It seems every town in our area has one, from Champaign (University Avenue) to Urbana (Pennsylvania) to Danville (Vermilion) to Monticello (State) to Paxton (West Center).

We'll take a spin on each of them and introduce some of the homeowners who are fortunate to call them home. Batting leadoff: Rantoul's cooperative Robin and Chris Kaler.

Speaking of old-school beauties with historical significance, the former Bookwalter house on Logan Street in Danville serves as our cover story. At Home's Carolyn Maille-Petersen and Photo Editor Robin Scholz enjoyed their visit — and history lesson — courtesy Becky and Rick Burgoyne.

As winter drags on, we turned to community movers-and-shakers for ways to pass the time, from book recommendations to happy hour ideas to recipes to die for (who can say no to sweet potato pie? Gayle Starks' 6-year-old grandson Kalijah Britt sure can't!).

Finally, we jumped at the chance to go inside the easy-on-the-eyes she-sheds belonging to Lea Ackerman and Shelley Heneghan. Tiny but mighty.

Until next time — and next town.



- Kerry Rossow



BARN YARN

Have a barn to brag about? To take part in our Barn Yarn series, reach out to N-G Vice President/News Jim Rossow at jrossow@news-gazette.com.

SHE-SHEDDING

some light on this popular trend

Story **Carolyn Maille-Petersen** ☞ Photos **Robin Scholz**

She-sheds seem to be having a moment right now — do a Google search and you'll find hundreds of hits: everything from DIY building kits to Pinterest posts with decorating inspiration.

And for every inspirational post, there is a woman who has found her bliss. That is no less true here in Champaign, where two women, Lea Ackerman and Shelley Chaney, each built a she-shed with its own unique vibe and reason for being.

Lea and her partner, Mick Harshbarger, built hers in 2020 when the world was in lockdown mode.

"We painted and stained every board," says Lea.

Mick, who owns Pickle Construction, did everything from the ground up. As you can imagine, this is no ordinary she-shed.

The 8-foot by 12-foot



The she-sheds Shelley Chaney (left) and Lea Ackerman (above) built.





Both she-sheds have a place to lounge — Lea Ackerman's, above, has a bed; while a bench acts as a sort of couch (right) in Shelley Heneghan's.

retreat, built behind their garage in Champaign's Rolling Acres subdivision, has electricity, air conditioning, heat, carpeting, a 52-inch television, full-size bed and mini-fridge. Photos and paintings adorn the walls, twinkle lights add a merry glow, and gauzy white layered ruffle curtains add a soft touch while also letting in the morning light.

But what makes Lea's hideaway even more unique are the interior walls: Three of the four have a scorched wood surface. To get the scorched effect, Mick set up the wood in the driveway and used a blowtorch, says Lea. Then he cut the boards to length and installed them horizontally. The fourth wall, also pine, is painted in complementary shades of blue. The effect is cozy and rustic – the perfect refuge on a cold winter day.

Outside, Mick built a small wooden deck that is home to a charming blue wicker table and chairs where Lea can sit and visit with friends and enjoy a glass of wine or a good book (or both!) under the shade of a magnolia tree. When Mick and Lea first finished it, they were so enamored of it that she estimates they spent at least five nights a week sleeping in it. Now, though, it is definitely Lea's place to escape after a hard day at work as an occupational therapy assistant.

Whereas Lea uses her she-shed for reading and catching up on the latest chick-flicks, Shelley Chaney uses hers for crafting,





Shelley Heneghan finds inspiration for craft projects in her she-shed.

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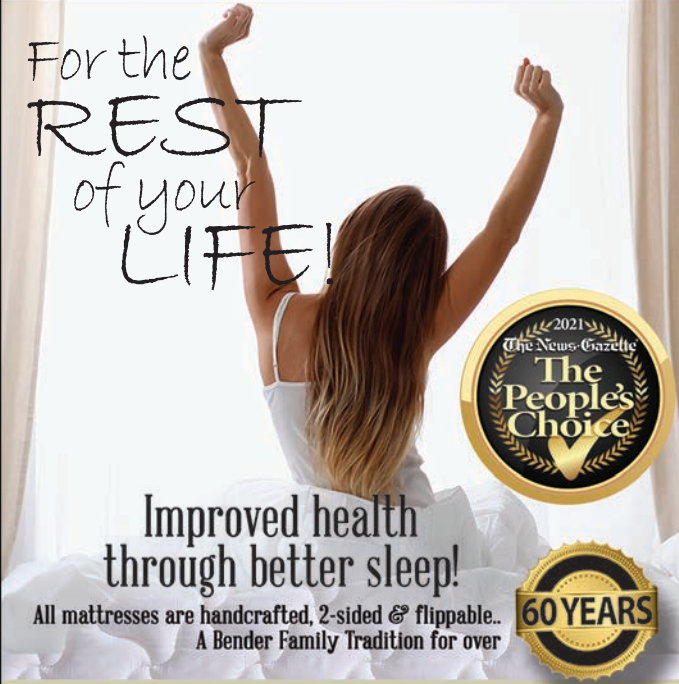


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reading and communing with nature. Her miniature cottage measures 5-feet by 5-feet and is located in the corner of her garden, nestled behind a miniature weathered white picket fence and guarded by a little green gnome under the window box.

Shelley, an office manager, and her husband, Rick, designed and built her shed one winter four years ago. Using knowledge gained from watching home shows, they built the walls in their garage and then assembled it in the garden behind their home on Crescent Drive. The siding is whitewashed cedar, which they chose for its durability. "I wanted it to last; I didn't want to worry about it," says Shelley. It's so sturdy, she and her husband joke that they'll go to her shed if they ever need to take shelter during a storm. "We were surprised by what we could accomplish," she adds.

Inside, Shelley painted the floor in a black and white checkerboard pattern using acrylic paint that she then coated with three layers of polyurethane. There's a battery-operated light that she can turn on and off with a switch. Her workbench, located under the west window, is constructed from spare wood, as is the seating area on the opposite wall. Shelley sewed the cushion for the seating, which she uses when she wants to read.

The shed isn't heated, and thus gets the most use in the warmer months. Their dog, Lucy, is definitely a fan, says Shelley. "Lucy loves it when I go in my shed because she knows I will be outside for a long time, and she can play in her yard."

Shelley's retreat is surrounded by a sea of flowers. There are bulbs and lilacs in the spring, and zinnias, cosmos, marigolds and butterfly bushes in the summer.

All the flowers have a purpose or meaning: cosmos because they are her adult daughter's favorite and thus remind Shelley of her, zinnias because they are her own personal favorite, marigolds to deter the rabbits, and butterfly bushes to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

"I love to go in there and work on crafts and enjoy looking at the flowers in our flower garden and birds in the bird bath. I also press flowers and do journal entries," says Shelley.

Though Lea and Shelley's she-sheds are decidedly different in style and use, one thing they have in common: both are enjoying their space and the opportunity it affords them to unwind and enjoy some alone time in a world that is often quite hectic.



Among the upgrades in Lea Ackerman's she-shed (above): carpet, a mini-fridge and electricity. Shelley Heneghan has plenty of design flair despite being only a 5-foot by 5-foot space.



PHOTO **Kerry Rossow**

Karen Devine, owner of Devine Designs and a member of Central Illinois Business magazine's Class of 2011. Forty Under 40, answers reader questions each issue. Submit them at karendevine@yahoo.com.

Q: What are some ways to combat the February grays with interior design?

A: There are many ways to help fight the winter doldrums through interior design.

First of all, let the light in! Open up your blinds and drapery — do not block any natural light out. Add table lamps and floor lamps. Do not rely on overhead lighting. Overhead lighting creates a glare whereas floor and table lamps add soft ambience. A light, bright room can help really liven up your space and create a sense of well-being.

Add pillows and throws to cozy up your space. Make it as comfortable as possible. Move your chair next to the fireplace. Add a nice side table and a lamp. Light a scented candle that calms and soothes you.

Speaking of fireplaces, if you have one, use it! Enjoy the ambience that you can only enjoy during cold winter months. If you don't have one, then candles can help create that ambience.

Finally, add indoor plants and florals to your interior. Whether a fern, fiddle leaf tree or beautiful orchid, greenery helps warm up interior spaces. Adding fresh flowers such as hyacinths and tulips can help remind you of the spring to come. Flowers on a dining table, nightstand or side table can really help cheer you up!

I suggest that you embrace the cozy factor you can only enjoy in the winter by sitting by a warm fire with a comfy chair, pillow and a cozy weighted blanket. Open up your blinds and add a table with flowers and a floor lamp to brighten your day. There is no better time to add layers to your home decor than during the winter! And remember, spring is right around the corner ...



Angel sleeps on
a chair in
the Kalers'
living room in
Rantoul.



ROADS TO GLORY

Kicking off our series of famous routes in area towns. Where should we travel next? Email N-G Vice President/News Jim Rossow at jrossow@news-gazette.com.

A toast to Champaign Ave.

Rantoul road has changed over the years — and so has the Kalers' home

Story **Dave Hinton**
Photos **Robin Scholz**

RANTOUL — It's difficult to imagine the western portion of Rantoul's Champaign Avenue (U.S. 136) in the middle part of the last century.

It would only be a slight exaggeration to call it little more than a cow path. People who traveled the stretch could scarcely envision it becoming likely the most-traveled road in the Champaign County community.

The opening of Interstate 57 likely had the biggest effect on its development. Before that, U.S. 45 was the primary north-south thoroughfare. On football Saturdays at the University of Illinois, 45 would be a solid line of traffic stretching from Chicago.

One of the most preeminent aspects of the west Champaign Avenue stretch is the houses. There's not a clunker in the bunch.

Probably the most recognizable is one with prominent pillars. Ironically, the house is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, house on the street. Built by Glen Fultz, it can be seen in 1940s-era photographs of that region.



A coffee table and a painting in the living room both have special meaning for the Kalers.



Stained glass windows from a nearby church are reflected in the glass on top of an antique desk.

Chris and Robin Kaler live in one of the stately homes along the route — and while not old enough to have seen the “cow path” days, they have seen it evolve. Their house is just west of the Fultz house, which was built in the early 1940s.

“It’s a Sears catalog house,” Chris Kaler said. “They delivered it by rail. Shortly after the Fultzes built their house, (Champaign Avenue) became a two-lane road.”

He said the Fultzes later built the next door house where the Kalers live for the Fultzes’ daughter and her husband, who are now deceased.

Rantoul Historical Society President Jim Cheek said Glen Fultz’s family had a large horse ranch in that area.

“It was immense,” Cheek said. “My older brother remembers going over there and seeing all the horses. That used to flood quite often, and they’d go back there and play in the flood waters.”

The area is now developed as Glenwood subdivision with a lake and a nearby church. Chris Kaler suspects the Glenwood name is in honor of Glen Fultz.

Cheek said he believes Champaign Avenue likely acquired its name because of its proximity to the little-known Urbana Street on the east side of town. It was possibly created and named in the 1920s or 1930s.



A playhouse the Kalers’ daughters, Zoe and Emily, used to play in remains in the backyard.



Robin Kaler
in her kitchen.

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"We have some phone books in the '30s that mention Champaign Avenue," Cheek said. "Urbana Street is south of Champaign Avenue. It bordered the northern boundary of the base. It's only about two blocks long."

The Kalers bought the house — they moved in on the Fourth of July 1994 — because they needed more room and they got a good deal.

"The house had no air-conditioning at the time," Robin Kaler said. "It's a beautiful home, but it was very dated of course. We moved ourselves and our daughter Zoe into one bedroom while we tried to fix up some other areas."

Conditions weren't ideal in the beginning. The house was sweltering in the mid-summer heat, so they kept the windows open. Sleeping was difficult due to loud music from cars and tires rolling along the Champaign Avenue median rumble strip.

"We said, 'We made a horrible mistake'" buying the house, she said with a laugh. "But it's funny how you get used to that."

The young couple couldn't afford furniture for a few years.

Among their first pieces was a 70-year-old piano they bought from their former neighbors, Glenn and Peg Hansen. Peg Hansen wrote the Kalers a letter as if the piano, which she named Apollo, were the author. As part of its message: "I hold within me many pleasant moments of lively and loving tunes. My wish for you is to find the magic to press the right keys to release them."

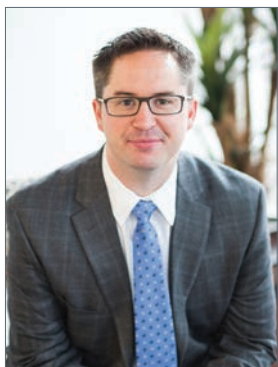
Robin Kaler said the colonial-style house, which spans 3,200



Decorations abound in the Kalers' home.

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The master closet has plenty of room for shoes.



A shelf in the dining room holds assorted treasures.

square feet, has been “a really, really lovely house to raise a family in.”

Redecorating happened one project at a time. The entire interior was painted. New cabinets were added, and the kitchen was reconfigured. Three of the four bathrooms were renovated. And Chris Kaler has done extensive landscaping work. The basement has been remade into an exercise room.

There are many memories there, such as the Kalers’ friend, Sheila Williams, teaching 2-year-old Zoe how to slide down the stairs on her rear end. The family later welcomed another daughter, Emily.

Many still remember the Kaler house as the place to be around Easter when the family hosted an Easter egg hunt that would draw scores of children from miles around. They named it “Zoe and Emily’s Eggtravaganza.”

“We ended up with about 100 children and bought 2,000 plastic eggs,” Robin said. “We went to Dallas and Co. and bought a used bunny suit” that was

used each year. “It became the social event of the year for little people.”

Later, Robin’s mother, Zelma Neal, invented Junk Food Day, held annually right before the return to school in the fall with only two rules: Children could eat and drink whatever they wanted, and parents could come but couldn’t restrict what the children ate. By then the Kalers had built an outdoor swimming pool, and Junk Food Day was held around the pool.

“Part of the thinking was we wanted it to be the house where our children wanted to be and we would know who their friends were,” Robin said.

To that end, Robin’s father, Bradley Neal, and Chris built a playhouse in the backyard complete with electricity. The girls named it “36 Kitten Lane,” and a sign was attached to the playhouse’s front gable.

It’s a house full of memories for the Kalers, where their children grew up, with a talented piano that knows how to write. ¶

A close-up portrait of a woman with vibrant red hair, smiling gently at the camera. She is wearing large, circular hoop earrings encrusted with clear crystals. The background is dark, featuring a bright, vertical flame that transitions from orange at the base to a lighter yellow at the top. The word "WAR" is printed in a large, orange, serif font in the upper right corner.

WAR

WARM UP

Well, the weather outside is frightful and there's nothing to be merry about these days. Here are three ways to get cozy as we await the arrival of spring.



1. GRAB A DRINK

Story **Carolyn Maille-Petersen**

Photos **Robin Scholz**

Are you looking for something new and different to impress your honey this Valentine's Day? Look no further than this fabulous flaming cocktail from Lincolnshire Fields Country Club's Stephanie Cannon.

Stephanie, a captain and bartender at LFCC, was happy to share her recipe. "I really can't take credit for coming up with the drink," says Stephanie. "It was a house cocktail at an Irish bar I worked at for years. I held onto a version of it in my head because it's delicious and one of my favorite drinks to make and enjoy with friends and family. It's often requested at holidays and other gatherings."

What makes it really unique, though, is the presentation.

"People love that we set it on fire," she says. "It looks beautiful in the glass and tastes even better."

If you want to try your hand at this fiery creation, here's what you'll need. Be sure to prep the ingredients in advance so you are ready to wow your sweetheart.

FLAMING IRISH COFFEE

- A long-stemmed **lighter**
- ½ ounce **The Knot** (a 100-proof Irish liqueur)
- ½ teaspoon **brown sugar**
- 1 ounce **Irish Whiskey**
- 1 ounce **coffee liqueur**
- 4-8 ounces **fresh, hot coffee** (amount will depend on glass size and how strong you like your drink)
- 1-2 ounces **fresh whipped cream** ("Fresh really makes the drink," according to Stephanie.)
- A drizzle of **chocolate syrup**
- A sprinkle of **cinnamon**

In a small to medium wine glass, pour The Knot and the brown sugar. Now, prepare to wow your audience: Tilt the glass so you can light the fluid with a lighter. Once it catches on fire, swirl the liqueur and sugar mixture around on the glass — about 30 seconds or so — to warm the glass and help dissolve the sugar. Add the whiskey and coffee liqueur, then the coffee, leaving about an inch of space at the top. Top with whipped cream, chocolate and cinnamon. Serve with a flourish.

Homemade whipped cream:

Add powdered sugar to taste to one cup of heavy cream. Use an electric mixer set to medium-high and blend just long enough to thicken it, while also leaving enough liquidity so you can "port it" on top of your coffee. If you get it a bit too thick, stir in a bit more heavy cream until it's the right consistency.

2. COZY UP WITH A GOOD BOOK

In honor of **Black History Month**, we asked a host of community members to name their favorite books by Black authors.

Local power couple **Charles and Javaite Burton**, both of whom are making a difference in the community through their work at well-respected nonprofit organizations, lead us off with their selections:



Charles Burton

CEO & executive director, Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club

The selection: "A Hand to Guide Me," by Denzel Washington

"This book ... outlines the life-changing power of mentorship. As a product of the Boys & Girls Club, I understand the power of mentorship first hand. This book describes life-changing stories about how caring adults impacted others lives. I try to emulate these experiences every day in my work."

Javaite Burton

Director of community impact, United Way of Champaign County

The selection: "Find Your Fire," by Terri Broussard Williams

"There are so many issues in our communities today that are so complex it is hard to see how as an individual you can make a difference or be a 'change agent.' This book has inspired me to understand what realistic steps I can take to drive positive change and that I am more than capable to take on the challenge."

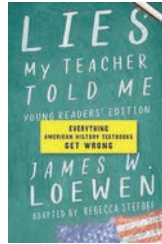


Val Peat

Teacher,
The Montessori School
of Champaign-Urbana

The selections: “Dream Big, Little One,” and “Follow Your Dreams, Little One,” by Vashti Harrison

“‘Dream Big, Little One’ includes Ella Fitzgerald, Oprah Winfrey to Katherine Johnson and Maya Angelou! Great role models for our little leaders to inspire to become one day! She has another series (‘Follow Your Dreams, Little One’) which includes male role models for the African American boys to inspire to be some day!”



Sgt. James Carter

University of Illinois police

The selection: “Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything American History Textbooks Get Wrong,” by James W. Loewen



Shandra Summerville

Cultural and linguistic competence coordinator,
Champaign County
Mental Health and
Developmental Disabilities

The selection: “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” by Maya Angelou



Howard Milton

Senior associate director,
University of Illinois Athletics

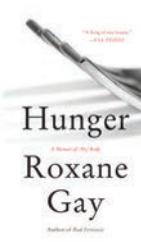
The selection: “Race Matters,” by Cornel West

“[It] helped me to really explore race in America and in the ‘90s when I first read it. The book allowed me to explore issues related to historical discrimination (and) poverty and better understand the then-popular debate related to affirmative action.”

Kerry Rossow

Editor, At Home magazine

The selection: “Their Eyes Were Watching God,” by Zora Neale Hurston



Carolyn Kodes-Atkinson

English teacher,
Champaign Central
High School

The selection: “Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body,” by Roxane Gay

Jaime Roundtree

Director of elementary
teaching and learning,
Champaign Unit 4 schools

The selection: “Between Me and the World,” by Ta-Nehisi Coates

A to Z

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3. COMFORT FOOD IS KEY



Gayle Starks shows off her famous sweet potato pie — baked using her grandma's recipe — at her Neil St. Blues restaurant in Champaign.

Story **Carolyn Maille-Petersen**

Photos **Robin Scholz**

In Gayle Starks' family, food is their love language: "All special occasions are marked with a good home-cooked meal."

Gayle, owner of Neil St. Blues, a Southern-style restaurant in downtown Champaign, has fond memories of walking into her grandmother's home as a child and being greeted by the smell of freshly baked sweet potato pie.

"My grandmother would have to bake several pies at one time," she says, "because everyone especially loved this dessert. My son, Michael, loved it so much that my grandmother would always bake a whole pie just for him!"

As her grandmother got older, it became a "rite of passage" to learn how to bake her pie, says Gayle.

"While we always try to follow the family recipe, it has become quite apparent that you sometimes have to add a pinch of 'this' or 'that' to get the flavor just right."

This month, Gayle has generously shared her family recipe with us. Here's to families and beloved grandmothers everywhere and their love language of food.



Gayle Starks' grandson, Kalijah Britt, 6, digs into a slice of her sweet potato pie.

SWEET POTATO PIE

— 4 medium-sized sweet potatoes. (“I prefer the texture and flavor of sweet potatoes over yams, so I don’t use yams,” says Gayle.)

— ½ cup **softened butter**

— 1 cup **light brown sugar**

— 2 teaspoons **pure vanilla extract**

— 2 **large eggs**

— 12-ounce can **evaporated milk**

— 1 deep-dish **unbaked pie crust**

— 1 teaspoon **cinnamon**

— ½ teaspoon **salt**

— ¼ teaspoon **nutmeg**

— Gayle’s secret ingredient – **LOVE**

Bake the sweet potatoes until soft, usually about 35-40 minutes.

Peel and discard the potato skins and put the potatoes into a mixing bowl.

Add all of the dry and wet ingredients to the bowl and mix until smooth and creamy.

Pour the mixture into the pie crust and bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes or until the pie is firm in the center.

Serve warm or cold, plain or topped with ice cream or whipped topping.



COVER STORY





Among the features of Rick and Becky Burgoyne's home — the former Bookwalter home on the northeast corner of Logan and Swisher in Danville — which has been designated a local historic landmark: hand-painted flowers on a door and wall in the master bath; refinished floors (the bannister on the stairway is a project for this winter); a refinished front door; an original flower box made of concrete; the original weathervane on the slate roof; and original brass cabinet locks that have been stripped of years of paint.

AN OLDIE BUT A GOODIE

Story **Carolyn Maille-Petersen**

Photos **Robin Scholz**

DANVILLE

Owning an old home means there's always something to be done.

Just ask Becky and Rick Burgoyne.

For 26 years, Becky, a retired elementary school teacher and author of the book "Perfectly Amanda,

Gunsmoke's "Miss Kitty," lived in a 1910 four-square home that she and husband Rick renovated themselves. Then, in 2019, despite an oath never to buy an old home again, they purchased the Bookwalter home, a city of Danville historic landmark.

"We've driven past this house for 20 years, and I've always dreamt about this house," says Becky. "It's one of those that you drive by and it takes your eye."

She felt like there had to be a good story. Turns out, says Becky, "The story is (that) it's a lot of work!"

The Tudor Revival home was built in 1922 by Julia Phelps Dodge, daughter of Gen. Anson Phelps Dodge. In 1928, it was purchased by Robert R. "Kish" Bookwalter, a prominent



Becky and Rick Burgoyne show
an original photo of the former
Bookwalter home they are
restoring on the northeast corner
of Logan and Swisher in Danville.



Danville attorney who helped bring minor league baseball to Danville. According to Cynthia Bookwalter, whose husband Thomas is the grandson of Kish, the home stayed in the family until Kish's second wife, Lucille Ryan Bookwalter, died in the early 1990s.

Cynthia and her husband visited the home regularly over the years, and she recalls its many distinctive attributes, from the back stairway and maids' quarters to the "little tiny bathroom" under the stairs and the sleeping porch off the upstairs master bedroom. She also remembers some unique artwork in the house by Irma Ryan, Lucille's sister-in-law. Irma was a "fabulous folk art painter," says Cynthia. "She painted the most incredible things in the house," including a medallion on the library ceiling that contained the zodiac signs.

Unfortunately, that artwork was already gone by the time the Burgoynes purchased the home.

After Lucille's death, the home was bought by the Koerner family, according to Beckey. The Koerners updated the electrical system and added air conditioning, among other improvements, and nominated it for historic landmark status, which was granted in 1994. Since then, the home has changed hands multiple times and in recent years had fallen on hard times.

"The roof needed major repairs, therefore many walls and ceilings also needed extensive repair," says Beckey.

Additionally, the in-ground pool had been abandoned and damaged, and a wall of the sleeping porch was about to crumble. That doesn't take into account all the work that needed to be done to the interior.



The screened-in porch off the master bedroom, which features wicker furniture, is waiting to have its floors sealed.

Thankfully, a preservation-minded couple bought it in 2015 and began the restoration process.

For four years, the previous owners worked to rehabilitate the roof, walls and support beams and install a new kitchen. However, they were never able to sell their previous home, so in 2019, they reached out to the Burgoynes to see if they would like to buy the historic landmark. Rick, who owns a landscaping business, had done work for them, and they knew from talking to him that Beckey loved the home. The Burgoynes decided it was an offer they couldn't refuse, and in late 2019 they bought the home, moving into it in December of that same year.

Since then, Beckey and Rick have taken on a variety of projects,

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The butler's pantry sports a wallpaper Becky has had for years and finally found somewhere to use.



The oak tree in the front yard can be dated back to Abraham Lincoln, says Becky.

doing as much of the work that they can themselves, but also relying on professionals when needed.

"We're just kind of wandering around picking out projects," she said.

Their approach to project management is to work on house renovation during the cold months and landscape renovation during the warm months.

Their first project upon moving in was to have all the hardwood floors refinished. "The floors were a hot mess," says Becky, thanks to water damage from the leaky roof.

For seven weeks, she and Rick lived in one room while the professionals worked to save the floors. They did, and now the floors have a lovely chestnut glow.

Once the floors were done, they commenced with other projects. Many of them involved stripping old paint or varnish. "Painting and decorating began in the dining room, butler's pantry, library and living room," she says. The library was a particularly labor-intensive project for the couple, who stripped off multiple layers of oil and latex paint from the walls and 33 shelves using two-inch razor blades. This was a six-week process, followed by a fresh layer of paint in a soft rose color.

And not just walls and floors needed to be stripped. There was also the tedious task of soaking and stripping multiples layers of paint from the original hardware throughout the house to uncover the brass beneath. That project is ongoing.

Additionally, they sanded and stripped the varnish from the weather-damaged arch-top pinewood front door, cleaned the brass and steel hardware, and sealed it with a clear satin varnish. Now, thanks to their hard work, the front door has been restored to its former glory and makes for a lovely backdrop to the seasonal flowers and greenery that have a place of pride on either side of the front step.

Back inside, the living room was repainted in soft cream with white trim, and the fireplace restored through the efforts of Becky, who stripped off the old dark varnish and refinished it to showcase the original red oak hidden underneath. They also replaced missing pieces of the baseboard but were unable to match the unique crown molding that topped the 11-foot ceiling. Rather



The swimming pool was in bad shape (inset) when the Burgoynes bought the house, but it is looking good nowadays.

than tear it out, they opted to order wide red oak crown molding that would cover the original. They stained it themselves and had it installed by professionals.

"If somebody else years down the road wants to restore (the original crown molding), it will be there," says Beckey.

A burgundy and hunter green-striped wallpaper with a white floral print was hung in the library and pale pink and white floral wallpaper hung in the butler's pantry to add "a touch of vintage cozy." This is complemented by the deep burgundy carpeting that the Burgoynes had installed in the dining room and library.

Though many of the windows in the home have been replaced — Beckey estimates that there are close to 50 throughout the house — what hasn't been touched are the dining room windows. She compares them to the small, paned windows in the home featured in the movie "Holiday Inn." "I don't care how much these windows cost in lost heat, they will never go," she says. "Those original windows are gorgeous."

Back outside, the front of the home features the original concrete window boxes, which in the summer overflow with hardy multicolor pink petunias. The boxes, which are supported by metal brackets due to their weight, are tricky to maintain, says Beckey, partly because of their hot, sunny location next to a brick wall and partly because they are difficult to access. "I hang out the window to plant them, and I hang out the window to water them."

The 4,300-square-foot home once stood alone at the end of a gravel road, surrounded by cornfields and an orchard, says Beckey. Now, though it is surrounded by homes, there is plenty of green space — 2.1 acres — to keep the Burgoynes busy in the summer months. Rick, who is in charge of mowing and brush removal, recently cleared out the scraggly shrubs on one of the hillsides and

discovered that they have a lovely view of Lake Vermilion. "That was a good day," says Beckey.

Curb appeal is Beckey's purview. Gardening is her passion, she says, and she has plenty of experience, having maintained the flowerbeds for the Fountain Trust Company in Covington, Ind., for more than 20 years. At home, she's enjoyed designing and planting the numerous flower beds throughout the property, which, like her flower boxes, burst with her favorite shades of pink, burgundy and white.

Overall, the effect of the renovations has been to lighten up the home. Cynthia has toured the home and complimented Beckey and Rick on all the improvements, particularly the refinished floors and the "fabulous fireplace," because they were able to preserve the original tile that surrounds it.

Despite all that's been done, there's much more to do, says Beckey. "It's not showroom ready yet."

So, what lies ahead? The list seems endless: sand, paint and varnish the entryway; refinish the arched French doors in the dining room; find or recreate window trim for the window in the main foyer; renovate the bathroom with updated tile and fixtures that maintain the vintage look; paint the outside trim; and, of course, paint the many other rooms in the home that have yet to be restored.

And once everything is done?

"Once we finish, it will be time to go back and freshen, I'm sure," says Beckey.

But as with anything worth doing, it's worth doing right, and with the Burgoynes on the job, the Bookwalter home will undoubtedly be a showcase for years to come.



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