



57 Forest Hills Drive

The history of this home is very straightforward, with only four families owning it since it was built in 1928 or 1929.

Hilda Allen Bumgardner (1893-1965), wife of J[ohn] William Bumgardner (1890-1960), purchased the property from the Forest Hills Land Company in late October, 1928. Hilda (1893-1965) appears to have been a typical housewife at the time, raising two children while her husband was general manager and later president of Warwood Tool.

Following the deaths of his parents, William Allen Bumgardner (1921-2012) and his wife Ruth inherited the property. According to his obituary, “Bummy” Bumgardner was an engineer and metallurgist, served in the army during World War II, and was very active in Boy Scouts of America. “He was an entrepreneur from an early age, he owned and served as CEO for Bumgardner & Company in Wheeling, West Virginia from 1946 – 1977.” He was living in Gallatin, Tennessee at the time of his death.

Ronald B. and Madeline D. Johnson purchased the property in mid 1978. Ron Johnson (1943-2021) was also a veteran, having served in the Marine Corps, in part in Viet Nam. His later career was spent as a lawyer with Wheeling’s McDermott & Bonenberger Law Firm. His wife (nee Smik), nicknamed “Pooch,” was a daughter of the famed country music stars whose stage names were Doc and Chickie Williams.

George Martin Rine and his wife and Eleanor (nee Kessler) were the next owners, purchasing the property in the spring of 2004. “Marty” Rine (1941-2022) was a machinist with Blaw Knox, then Valley Camp Coal, and finally Wheeling Pittsburgh Steel. Eleanor (1943-2022) was an active member of Fourth Street Methodist Church and was an avid sports fan.

The fourth and current owners are Logan and Shannon Herrick. They purchased the property in the fall of 2024.

Prepared by Jeanne Finstein, Friends of Wheeling
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Sources:

- Ohio County Deed Records
- Online Obituaries
- WV Vital Records