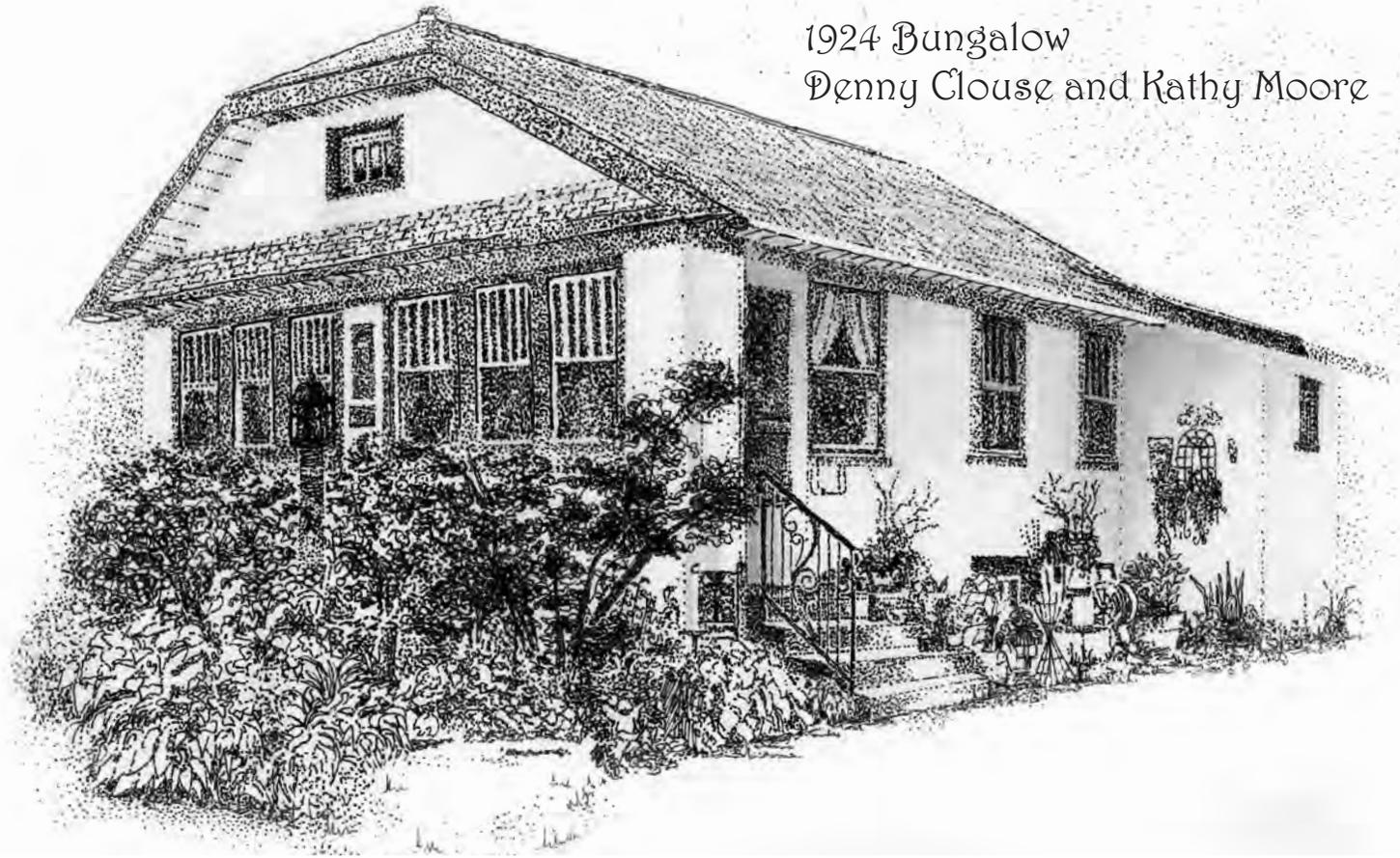




356 Jewett Street

1924 Bungalow

Denny Clouse and Kathy Moore



356 Jewett Street began life in 1924 as part of an expansion on Elgin's west side. The west side grew as a place where middle-class families could afford a well-built home with a yard.

Benjamin Wing, a carpenter, and his wife, Agnes, spent \$3,000 to build the house, according to a May 1, 1924, Elgin Daily Courier article. The couple lived there in 1925-26 along with another Wing, Clarence, a jeweler. When it was built, the house had an open front porch on its north half. This was enclosed at some point, with windows added on the front.

The Wings sold their home to a lecturer, Raleigh Daly, and his wife, Olive. Olive stayed in the house for two years after her husband died in 1931. She sold in 1933 to Earl and Doris Butler. Earl was a Standard Oil Co. attendant.

The next residents of 356 Jewett, Lester and Ruth Kawa, lived at the address a long time, from 1934 to

1956. Lester was a police officer with the Elgin Police Department. He served in the military for two years during World War II. During the war, a Bernice Kawa resided there. She worked in the office at the Elgin National Watch Co., the city's largest employer for many years. After the war, Lester resumed his career as an Elgin police officer. He became a security officer at the watch company in the mid-1950s.

John F. Jordan and his wife, Elizabeth, bought the house in 1958. They were long-term residents as well. John was a salesman for the Hoover vacuum cleaner company. Relative John J. Jordan lived there as well. He worked at Joseph Spiess Co., a longtime Elgin department store. After John F. Jordan's death, widow Elizabeth began working at Sears. She remained in her home until 1973.

Denny Clouse and Kathy Moore came to this home in December 1991. Their daughter, Erin, was turning two, and they lived in a two-flat on the east



side of Elgin. They decided it was time to look for a family home, and saw “many, many” houses all over the city, but hadn’t found one in their price range that felt right. They decided to check out 356 Jewett after learning about an open house there. They drove up, thought right away the house it looked very welcoming, and then went inside.

Denny “fell in love” with the large lot, says Kathy, because he was already “planning a vegetable garden in his head.” Kathy “wasn’t too keen on the interior,” but could see potential. They loved the front porch and the house’s original windows—all of which still work.

Kathy, a loan processor with Itasca Bank & Trust, and Denny, a therapist with One Hope United, a social service agency, are familiar with dwellings of all kinds. When Kathy was a child, her family had moved from Chicago to Roselle, to a new built suburban bi-level house. She lived in southwest Wisconsin during her first marriage in a hand-built, passive solar earth-sheltered home. Denny grew up in a farmhouse more than a century old in northeastern Indiana.

The couple removed the 1980s wall coverings and renovated the bathroom following an earlier remodeling. This couple really enjoys their yard and garden. The yard was “a disaster” at first, says Kathy, with a chain-link fence and many areas filled with white landscape rocks. It took two years to haul the rock away. The couple planted all the gardens, and Denny’s brother built the backyard shed in 2001.

“Most bungalow owners will tell you that once you live in this style of house, it is difficult for any other type of home to appeal. A bungalow is a bright, cheery abode that wraps its arms around you and becomes a part of the family. This bungalow makes us feel safe, secure and content,” says Kathy. They say it’s “impossible” to think of living anywhere else.

Some of the couple’s favorite things about the house are that its size allows them not to be overburdened with costs. They say they’ve “long been proponents of living simply” and not overusing

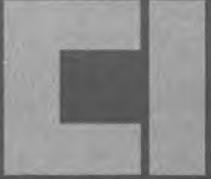
resources or space. They have learned “not to over accumulate” possessions, they believe.

Kathy says living in an older home “makes you feel part of a special tapestry of owners and dwellers. The SWAN [South West Area Neighbors] neighborhood is also VERY special. There are many families that share a close-knit relationship in the neighborhood, with lots of socializing, partying and idea-sharing.”

Denny and Kathy say they plan to be “part of this home’s history for as long as possible.”

Architectural Notes

The layout of this home is somewhat unusual for bungalows commonly found in this region. Unlike two other bungalows on the tour (626 Orange St. and 313 Perry St.), half of the house’s “porch” space was incorporated into the main living space when it was built; the rest was enclosed later. The entry stairs are on the side of the building rather than in the front. The living and dining rooms are side by side, instead one in front of the other. The bedrooms are at the back of the house, instead of along one side of the building. The basement stairway is in a bumped-out section on the side of the house rather than in the rear, or within the rectangular footprint of the building. A note about the exterior stucco: Its texture comes from tiny pieces of glass. ♦



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