

Episode 5

The Belk House



Probably the oldest residence on Lake Wylie is often called the "Belk House". For many years the Belk Department Store family did own the home on Commodore Point in the River Hills neighborhood.

The proper name to associate with that home would be Johnston.

In 1938 the publisher of the Charlotte Observer, Curtis B. Johnston, acquired a large tract of waterfront property from the Duke Power Company just over the Buster Boyd Bridge in South Carolina. Much of that land eventually became the Fresh Air Camp, today called Camp Thunderbird. Mr. Johnson set his sights on the prettiest, south-facing home site on this tract and began construction on what he called a "lodge". Warren Mobley, a notable local architect, was secured to design it and construction was completed by 1940.

The structure was board and batton sided and the roofing was tile. Johnson sold the home to the Belks in the 50's.

The house is easy to find by water. Just south of the Bridge, look to the right, just past the Camp. That small "marina" with the thick concrete walls sits off to the left of the house.

Now, the rest of the story:

Those concrete "walls" surrounding the little marina were once the foundation of a "year round duck pond" built originally with walls and a roof where ducks were kept by the Belks. It wasn't meant to be a mooring for boats at all!

Courtesy of Don Stephens
www.LakeWylieWaterfront.com