



EVERETT PRESSON'S

REAL ESTATE NEWS

THE PRUDENTIAL PRESSON AND STROMAN, REALTORS

786-A Johnnie Dodds Blvd. • Mount Pleasant, SC • 29464

• Home Phone • (803) 883-3967

• Business Phone • (803) 884-1622

Congratulations to Kathleen Cantwell on her election as Mayor, and council members David DeAntonio, Debra Hazen-Martin and Marshall Stith. I thought everyone ran a good race, and we avoided the mudslinging that has become so typical of other small town elections. We now have another seat to fill on council. It will be interesting to see who runs for that seat.

Good News! After a slow spring, business is picking up on the Island. The war and general nervousness about the economy had many people waiting instead of buying. However in the last sixty days, there have been seven sales on Sullivan's Island. Of those seven, I sold five of them and someone else in my office sold one. The good news for me is that what is selling, we are selling it.

In the past twelve months there have been 15 sales of single family homes ranging in price from \$155,000 to \$440,000. In addition, there have been five more houses put under contract but not closed, with prices ranging from \$265,000 to \$850,000. Four lots have sold, 3 of which were my sales. There are currently 36 houses on the market priced from \$169,500 to \$985,000.

I have seen a general increase in activity with more calls and more people wanting to look. I remain very optimistic about real estate on Sullivan's Island. The Island offers a life style that is unavailable anywhere else in the western world. If any of your guests complain about the gnats, just tell them that God put them here to remind us that we aren't in heaven yet, but summertime on Sullivan's is about as close as we are going to get to it right now...

Toby Van Buren is catching shrimp again. He stops by my dock to sort his catch and usually gives me some shrimp for letting him use my dock. Fresh shrimp is hard to beat. Toby sells his shrimp for \$2.00 a pound with heads, out of his truck by Snee Farm. I am sure if you want some you could call him in Mount Pleasant and make a special order. Toby also delivers a great sermon. A former Unitarian minister, Toby fills in sometimes at the Circular Church. Eliza and I heard him preach on Father's Day.

Congratulations to Andy Ward on opening his new produce business on Middle Street. This is a welcome addition. He sells those great snow balls with shaved ice too. It is great to pick up fresh vegetables on the Island.

My old wooden boat will be finished and ready to go back in the water this weekend. John Martin, Debra Hazen-Martin's husband has done a wonderful job painting and varnishing. He has made it look so pretty, I am afraid that he is not going to let me use it. The boat is a 1957 Lyman of lapstrait design. Look out Mac McFadden. I hear my Lyman will give that old Simmons of his a run for his money.

A Bit of History

Melvin Anderegg sent some interesting information from an article entitled "Summer Migrations of South Carolina Planters."

Sullivan's Island was a summer resort of long standing. It was settled largely by Charlestinians, taking advantage of its proximity and salubrity, and of a legislative resolution of 1791 that permitted any citizen of South Carolina who thought it "beneficial to health" to spend the summer on the Island, and to build on an assigned lot, for which he might be required to pay a quitrent of a penny a year. By 1800 streets had been laid out, the pest house which was a holding place for incoming slaves, had been removed and Sunday gambling forbidden. In 1817 the settlement on the tip of the Island nearest Charleston was incorporated as Moultrieville. In 1826 the settlement was described as having a handsome appearance, particularly on entering the harbor; the greater part of the houses on front beach. This beach at low water is very firm and wide; affords a delightful walk or ride, where the delighted visitant may inhale the pure and bracing sea breeze, which wafts health and vigor to the system.

Moultrieville then had some two hundred houses, "occupied sometimes to excess" during the summer, two churches, a market place and several excellent hotels. The houses were built on wooden piles so that the high winter tides could flow under them. In summer the population was a thousand or more, depending on the state of health in Charleston, an hour's sail away.

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