



Some houses have owners. **1923 Sykes Creek Drive has characters.**

Its story begins with a former New York City Rockette and her larger-than-life boyfriend, whom neighborhood lore remembers as having mob connections. He was known to stand in the driveway smoking a fat cigar, sometimes with bodyguards nearby. Old photographs show etched-glass front doors featuring the New York skyline and Ginger Rogers. We are told the primary bath was once almost entirely mirrored.

Then came the house's wild years. After the Rockette was widowed, she reportedly evacuated to Ocala ahead of a hurricane and never returned. For nearly two years, the property sat in limbo. Merritt Island natives of a certain age still tell stories about slipping through a side door and socializing in the loft.

The next owner rescued it. A county executive bought the home out of foreclosure, stripped away the damage, replaced the drywall and brought the house back to life. What might have been a quick flip became a decade-long stay.

Then came the current owners, who had been living in a 1,400-square-foot home before the dot-com boom. He, an Internet entrepreneur. She, an orchid grower. Both, rocket photographers. They were captivated by the private launch-viewing deck. She discovered that the screened pool enclosure filtered the Florida sun by just the right amount for orchids. Before long, hundreds of rare orchids were thriving there.

For them, the magic was the combination: more than 4,000 square feet, remarkable architecture, dolphins and manatees in the backyard, protected wetlands across the water, and rockets rising over the Space Coast.

And now the house is ready for its next chapter.

Maybe the next owner comes for the fishing. Maybe the wildlife. Maybe the privacy. Maybe the launch views. Maybe they simply walk in and realize they have found a home unlike anything they expected.

For more than 30 years, 1923 Sykes Creek Drive has attracted unlikely owners with interesting stories. Who will be next?