

a small, two-bedroom home on Isle of Palms before Joe was born, and the family would retreat to the beach as soon as school was out, returning to the Charleston peninsula when it was time to go back to learning about reading, writing and arithmetic.

In the early 1950s, the Rileys accommodated their growing family by building a larger home on the island, a four-bedroom house at Carolina Boulevard and Eighth Avenue.

Joe and his wife, Charlotte, carried on the family tradition, buying a lot on Palm Boulevard in 1966 and building a home, which they still own, six years later.

"Lots were inexpensive then. We paid \$7,500, and the value of the lot appreciated from 1966 to 1972, so we were able to get a 100-percent loan to build the house," Riley explained.

The Rileys never lived in the house on the Isle of Palms year-round. As they have done for more than four decades, they rented the home on a weekly basis in the summer and for nine months in the off season. They have always occupied the home from the end of July until Labor Day.

Though they resided on the island for little more than a month out of the year, Riley considered it to be their home.

"We planted flowers in the flower bed and kept up the yard. We furnished it as our home, not as a rental property



because it wasn't a rental home. It was a home we rented," the longtime Charleston mayor explained.

Riley has fond memories of his time on Isle of Palms, especially when his sons, Joe and Bratton, were young. He remembered that it cost a quarter to launch a boat at the IOP Marina but that there was no one there to collect the



25 cents – just an honor box.

"It was an idyllic time," Riley said. "We would get up early, buy three Honey Buns and take the boat out. We knew every creek on IOP, Goat Island, Dewees Island, Capers Island and Bulls Bay."

He added that they would go shrimping as a family, inviting Charlotte to join them as well.

Riley's excursions with his sons were not limited to weekends and holidays.

"Every day when I came home from work, I'd change clothes at a record-breaking pace, and the boys and I would swim in the ocean. We had the best time," he said.

Isle of Palms has seen enormous growth and immense change, much of it brought on by Hurricane Hugo, in the past 70 years. Riley said his parents knew every family on post-World War II IOP.

"The beach is still beautiful, and the creeks are as well," he said. "There's more people now, and you have to deal with that. It's selfish to expect things to remain as they were. It's not realistic."

As mayor of Charleston, Riley played a role in the