



Joe Sawyer and his wife, Norma, stand in front of the home they remodeled in Pell City. Dr. Sawyer runs the Eden Dental Clinic, and is a member of the city council.

## Joe Sawyer Does Things His Way

By MARNIE OWENS

PELL CITY — Though he could hardly be compared to Mark Twain's legendary Tom Sawyer, a near namesake in Pell City also has a penchant for doing things his way.

Joe Sawyer, Pell City dentist and man-of-many-hats, is simply a doer.

What he does is co-own perhaps one of the busiest dental clinics in the South. But that is only the beginning.

In the time he isn't working at the clinic, Sawyer is a Pell City councilman, horticulturist, hunter, woodworker, scuba diver, water skier and part-time handyman.

Sawyer ran for the City Council two years ago "to see what I could do for the people of Pell City," he says. According to his wife, Norma, "Joe helps everybody in town. If somebody has a problem, they know they can count on him, and he does what he thinks is right whether other people like it or not."

For example, many citizens of Pell City recently asked Sawyer to have speedbreakers installed in certain areas of the city. Many people warned him that this would be an unpopular move and may hurt his re-election chances.

Sawyer shrugs and says, "I don't really care if I'm re-elected. I know of two children who would be alive today if speedbreakers had been in the neighborhoods where they were killed. If this action can save other lives, it will be worthwhile."

His many hobbies keep Sawyer busy. He speaks proudly of the days when he

and his home displays the heads of the game he has hunted.

Woodworking is one of Sawyer's favorite hobbies. He built the cases which house his guns, several tables and two old picture frames hanging in his bedroom. The frames were made out of wood from an old barn that was torn down, Sawyer says, and he guesses that it is over 100 years old.

Sawyer admits that he is something of a handyman. While his wife designed and remodeled their home, he does all the plumbing and repair work.

He also enjoys scuba diving, and this hobby is not just for fun. He used to combine his mechanical skills and his

scuba diving to repair the piers at Riverside and Pine Harbor marinas.

Where does Joe Sawyer find the time to enjoy his hobbies, work on the City Council, and run a thriving dental practice? According to his wife, "Joe is motivated by a real concern for all people. He likes to keep busy and needs to feel useful."

Sawyer and his wife moved to Pell City soon after his graduation from dental school in Birmingham. They said they never thought they would get used to living in a small city but have grown to love it. They plan to retire in what they consider one of the friendliest cities in the South, Pell City.