

# Editor's P.S. architectural salvage

Whenever I travel to a new town, one of my favorite diversions is scouring architectural salvage shops. My wife and I recently purchased a 1927 Tudor cottage, and we've spent the past six months poking around the South looking for doorknobs, newels, and brass hinges.

The benchmark store to which I compare all others is located in, oddly enough, Cullman, Alabama. Just 45 minutes north of our offices in Birmingham, the town is primarily known for throwing what is perhaps the world's only dry Oktoberfest. This village, however, is also home to a rare find you're not likely to spot anywhere else in the country. The shop is named Southern Accents (though it bears no relation to our sister publication of the same name), and it is a marvelous treasure trove for those who like anything related to old houses.

I enjoy showing off Southern Accents to folks from out of state. It is loaded with gorgeous doors and door hardware, windows, lamps, hinges, bathtubs, and mailboxes. The staff welcomes visitors and has the patience to rummage through hundreds of bathtub faucet handles with you, looking for just the right match. On various trips to Cullman, we've found glass doorknobs (\$15), had Southern Accents strip and sand all of our interior doors (\$125 per door), and polish and rewire eight iron sconces (\$37 apiece). The store's master woodworker, Michael Tomlin, even managed to reproduce our round-topped front door (which had rotted) from 3-inch solid-mahogany planks. For information call toll free 1-877-737-0554.

We're considering a bigger story on the South's great architectural salvage houses, and I'd like to hear about your favorite. Until then, good luck out there. —MORGAN MURPHY



Southern Accents in Cullman, Alabama, has a great selection of antique finds.

PHOTOGRAPH BY LACY ROBINSON

### Savvy Travel Tip

If you motored through the South this summer, great swarms of squashed bugs no doubt found their final resting place on the front of your car. Those tiny splats made at 70 m.p.h. can be the very devil to remove. Worse, leaving them on there will ruin your car's finish. A simple car wash often does more harm than good, and using a little elbow grease to remove whatever's left of Jiminy Cricket can scratch your paint.

The best product I've found to take off bugs, tar, wax, and anything else summer's steamy blacktop has tossed on my car is 3M's General Purpose Adhesive Cleaner. The stuff works great and doesn't harm your paint. Griot's Garage, 1-800-345-5789, sells a 32-ounce can for about \$15.



### Pigs by the Numbers

- Approximate number of plates of ribs sold each year at the famous Memphis restaurant Charles Vergos Rendezvous: **364,000.**
- Number of barbecue festivals and cookoffs held across the South this month: **20.** (Twelve of these, fittingly, are in Texas.) Log on to our Web site,

southernliving.com (AOL Keyword: Southern Living) for a listing of dates and locations.

- The length of the holler that Bob Wood, 1999 World Champion Hog Caller, bellowed by telephone when asked by one of our interns to demonstrate his winning pig-come-hither call: **5 seconds.**

### Have a Postscript?

The crustacean pictured here did not, as it appears, devour Joanne Fry's two lovely daughters.

Joanne, from Glasgow, Kentucky, sent us this snapshot that she took while on vacation near Islamorada in the Florida Keys.

For your own picture with this 35-foot steel-and-fiberglass Florida lobster (or crayfish, for the purists), head down U.S. 1, and stop at mile marker 86.7 oceanside. If you run across another Southern oddity or have a travel tip you'd like to share with us, send your items to Postscript, *Southern Living*, P.O. Box 523, Birmingham, AL 35209. Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. For every tip or letter published, we'll send you \$25.

