

AUGUST 2006

Country Home

LET'S GO ANTIQUING!



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the antiquing highway

TRY TO KEEP UP WITH THE JUNKMARKET GALS, SUE WHITNEY AND KI NASSAUER, ON A THREE-DAY, MOTHER-DAUGHTER JOURNEY ALONG THE SOUTHERN MAINE COAST TO FIND THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF ANTIQUES AND GOOD, OLD-FASHIONED JUNK. FOLLOW ALONG WITH SUE'S JOURNALS FROM THE ROAD, PLUS CHECK OUT THE JUNK-FABULOUS PROJECTS THEY MADE AFTER RETURNING HOME.



FREEPORT AND BRUNSWICK

Ki, Elizabeth (my 13-year-old daughter), and I leave from Minneapolis, while Ki's daughter Taylor, 23, leaves from Los Angeles. We meet up in Portland, then drive only 20 minutes to the **Harraseeket Inn** in Freeport. We can't tout this place enough; it's an accredited "green hotel," meaning they're committed to conserving Maine's natural resources and beauty. There are so many guided activities to choose from: fishing, sailing, kayaking, canoeing, rock hunting, and even shopping. Naturally, we choose shopping, and the inn's owner, Chip Gray, shares his wealth of local knowledge, sending us on our way to whet our shopping whistle.

We start off with **Vintage Goods Trading Company** in Yarmouth (between Portland and Freeport). They have

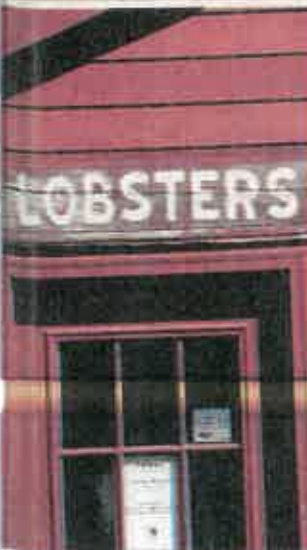
an eclectic collection of maritime and other antiques. We find chippy-white oars, perfect for a seaside or lakeside cottage.

Driving back to Freeport, we see a wacky sign that says "Guns and Ammo" outside **The Red Wheel Antiques** and have to stop in. We couldn't believe our luck! This barn-turned-shop mixes artillery with junk and is a paradise for junkers like us. The merchandise is stacked to the rafters. We stock up on dozens of green Mason jars that come in handy for many projects.

Our next stop, **Cabot Mill Antiques** in Brunswick, is a 15,000-square-foot antiques mall that shares a converted textile mill with a flea market. Hundreds of dealers have nearly every antique imaginable. We love the sports memorabilia, signage, and old toys.

All that shopping (and traveling) works up junker's hunger, so late afternoon we go to **Jameson Tavern** in

PRODUCED BY SUE WHITNEY AND KI NASSAUER PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOHN BESSLER ILLUSTRATIONS BY KEN ORVIDAS



CLOCKWISE (from top left) The water right off the Five Islands Lobster Company is picture-perfect. A collection of vintage license plates at Ed's Stuff. The shelves at The Marston House in Wiscasset are loaded with vintage homespun textiles and linens. Junk oars from Vintage Goods Trading Company. A fun vignette of sports memorabilia at Cabot Mill Antiques. We highly recommend The Harraseeket Inn—they definitely spoiled us during our stay. Colorful juice glasses and Bakelite flatware from Avalon Antiques Market. Love fresh lobster? Maine is truly a lobster-lover's mecca. Pretty old mirrors and accessories at The Marston House. The four of us (Ki, Taylor, Elizabeth, and me) strolling tree-lined sidewalks in Bath.

are still snoozing away—so Ki and I grab their ankles and yank 'em out of bed.

We eat at the flea market's café, **Dah Itchie Dawg**, an outdoor snack shack that serves a stick-to-your-ribs breakfast: eggs, meat, hash browns, and, of course, black coffee. It's our addiction.

Now that we're fueled up and caffeinated, it's time to shop. Montsweag Flea Market is small (about four acres with 125 tables) but fabulous. There is something for everyone: Ki makes a beeline to some industrial finds, Elizabeth fishes through vintage jewelry, Taylor finds some contemporary junk, and I meander down the aisles. Our best find of the day is a load of spindles

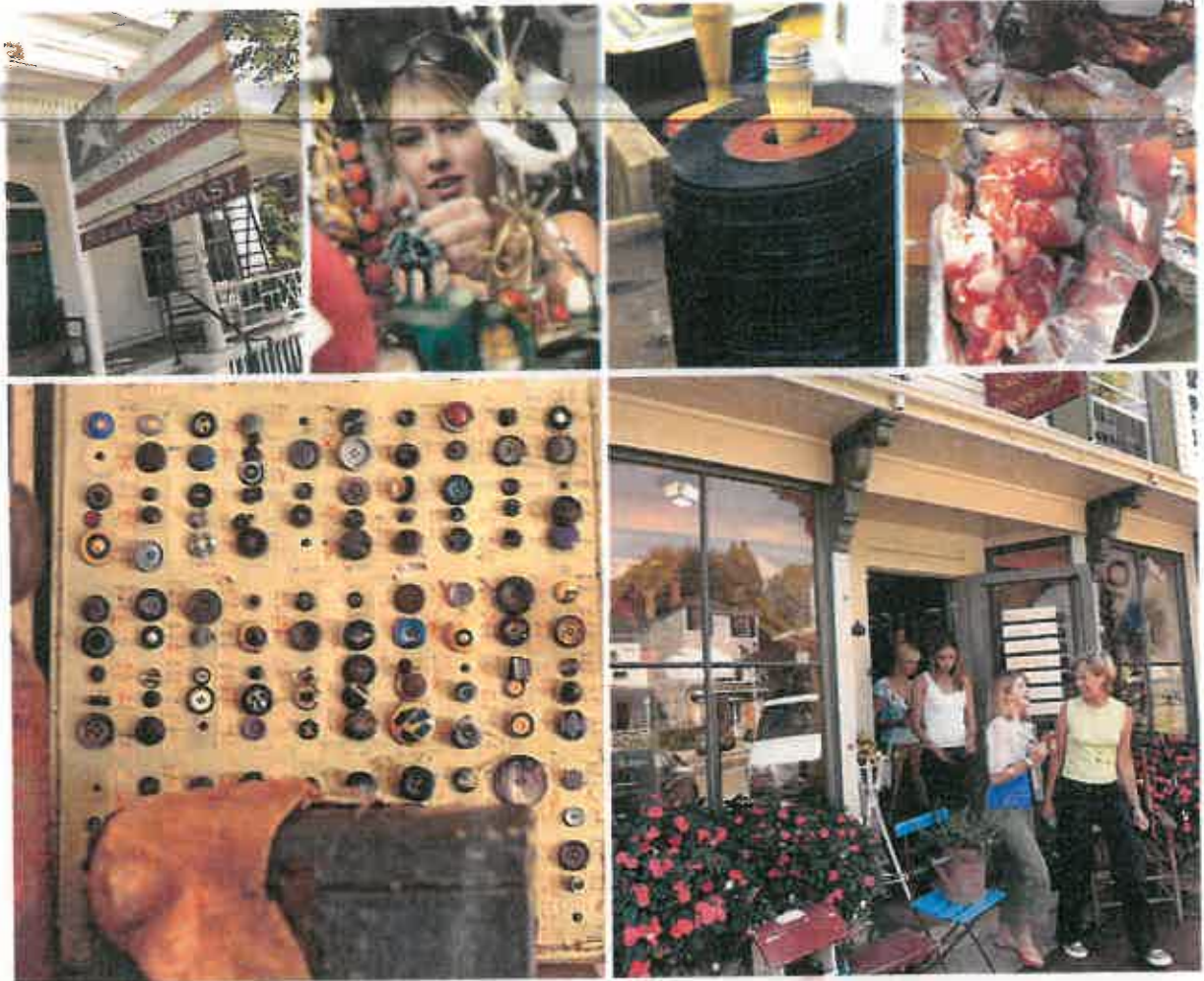
(so many possibilities! See page 56 for what we made), and our favorite buy is a heavy, light-reflecting glass vase we'll turn into a lamp (see page 56).

We spend the morning at the flea market, and afterward jump back on U.S. Highway 1. Destination: Bath. On the way, we make an unplanned pit stop at **Ed's Stuff** in Woolwich, a true-blue junk store. What a find! We browse through Ed's recycled hardware, books, and furniture—which he gets from old, local houses—and buy a bright turquoise boat-lift wheel that Ki imagines as a café table (see page 56).

By the time we get to Bath around noon, we're absolutely famished. We grab lunch at

CLOCKWISE (from top left) Elizabeth, Taylor, and I dig through piles of junk—our favorite pastime—at the Montsweag Flea Market. Ki's and my fresh catches, right off the boat at Five Islands Lobster Company in Georgetown. There's no indoor seating at Five Islands—order at the shack, then eat outside and soak up the atmosphere. We felt so at home at Ed's Stuff; for us, it was junk heaven. Ki holding our favorite buy: a glass vase we found at the Montsweag Flea Market in Woolwich. We went to Montsweag on Wednesday when only antiques and collectibles are allowed. On Saturdays and Sundays there are other miscellaneous booths and more food.





CLOCKWISE (from top left) *The Marston House in Wiscasset is not only an antiques shop, but also a bed-and-breakfast; it's definitely on our to-stay list when we come back to Maine. Taylor looks through some costume jewelry at Cobblestone Antiques. We loved waxing nostalgic while searching through the old records at Ed's Stuff. Here's photo documentation of "The World's Best Lobster Rolls" at Red's Eats. Yum! The four of us leave Sweet Woodruff in Wiscasset. We loved how Wiscasset, an 18th-century town, had this sweet vintage aura; it felt like a step back in time. A beautiful vintage button collection on cardboard from The Marston House.*

Solo Bistro Bistro, a sleek restaurant with contemporary digs. It's an urban oasis and a surprise to find in the midst of all the other salt-of-the-earth restaurants. The girls order vegetarian sandwiches, while Ki and I try crab and chicken salad sandwiches.

Located on the banks of the Kennebec River, Bath's historic downtown Front Street is lined with 19th-century brick storefronts. We hit **Cobblestone Antiques**, which has a mix of mid-range New England and European merchandise, like 18th- to early-20th-century furniture, artwork, china, and silver. Further down the street, we check out **Brick Store Antiques**.

Everything here is from 1850 to 1950, and along with nautical merchandise (a theme in Maine), they have furniture, accessories, and jewelry.

We stop into **Café Crème** on Front Street for iced coffee drinks. As Ki and I map our route to our dinner spot, our sleepy girls crash on a comfy couch. How is it that we have so much more energy than our young daughters?

After shaking Taylor and Elizabeth from their catnaps, we hit the road to **Five Islands Lobster Company** in Georgetown. Ki and I get gutsy and unload the most recent lobster catch! We order in a shack, then eat on the dock overlooking Sheepscot Bay. A perfect end to a perfect day.



WISCASSET AND BOOTHBAY

On our last morning, we head for Wiscasset, an adorable 18th-century antiques town dubbed “Maine’s prettiest village.” First stop: **The Marston House**. Specializing in homespun textiles, this unique shop has small architectural pieces, old mirrors, and French accessories. We cross the street for a bite at the snack shop **Treats**, then fall in love with **Sweet Woodruff**, a quaint shop with a mix of old and new products for house and garden.

For lunch, it’s lobster again. (We can’t get enough, and you certainly can’t get it this good in Minnesota!) Here’s what you have to know about Maine: Every single restaurant claims to have “The World’s Best Lobster Rolls.” You can believe it at **Red’s Eats** in Wiscasset. They take fresh lobster

meat (more than a whole lobster) and plop it on a buttery, grilled roll. So finger-lickin’ good!

We waddle out after lunch and find **Avalon Antiques Market**, a huge store with three full floors and more than 100 dealers. What a selection! We love their nautical stuff—more oars and buoys—and I buy a red crate I envision making into a carrier (*below*).

Before dinner, we drive down Maine Highway 27 to East Boothbay and check into **Five Gables Inn**, a 125-year-old restored bed-and-breakfast right on Linekin Bay. We rest our feet before heading to Boothbay Harbor for dinner at the **Lobsterman’s Co-op** for—you guessed it—more lobster. The next morning, we bid Maine adieu.

Now it’s your turn. Take this journal with you as your guide, or plan your own junking journey. We hope you have as much fun as we did!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TURN TO THE SOURCE ON PAGE 143.



CHECK OUT THESE COOL JUNK PROJECTS SUE AND KI MADE WHEN THEY GOT HOME

WE SPLURGED ON THIS HEAVY GLASS VASE (1) AT MONTSWEAG FLEA MARKET (\$80). WE BOUGHT A LAMP WIRING KIT, WHITTLED DOWN A DOWEL TO FIT, AND SLIPPED IT INSIDE.

USING THE SPINDLES (2) WE HOARDED FROM THE MONTSWEAG FLEA MARKET (\$100 FOR THE WHOLE LOT), WE CREATED A SMALL BOOKCASE. FIRST, SCREW SPINDLES INTO OLD BEADED BOARD TO MAKE THREE SHELVES. CUT SMALL

PIECES OF LEFTOVER SPINDLES FOR THE FEET AND THE TOP OF THE BOOKSHELF, ADDING NEW CLEAR FINIALS FOR SOME SPARKLE. LASTLY, PAINT, DISTRESS, OR STAIN THE WOOD.

WE BROKE DOWN A \$12 RED CRATE (3) FROM AVALON ANTIQUES MARKET AND TRANSFORMED IT INTO THIS TRUG. WE WORKED IT LIKE A PUZZLE: ONE PANEL OF THE CRATE BECOMES THE BOTTOM; ANOTHER PANEL IS CUT TO MAKE THE

TWO LONGER SIDES. THE SHORTER PANELS ARE REWORKED TO MAKE THE SHORT SIDES AND THE HANDLE.

WE BOUGHT A TURQUOISE BOAT-LIFT WHEEL (4) AT ED’S STUFF FOR AN ALMOST CRIMINAL \$10. WE IMPROVISED THE BASE WITH A PIECE OF RECLAIMED WOOD, A TURQUOISE FLAG STAND, AND A SINGLE TABLE LEG. BOLT THE WHEEL TO THE LEG WITH A SCREW AND TOP WITH A 36-INCH-ROUND PIECE OF GLASS. ☸