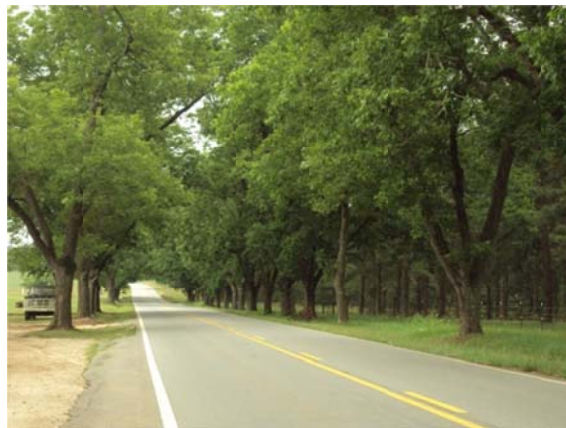


## On the Trail Again June, August 2010 – Highway 431



I was not sure I wanted to leave home this morning. Our hydrangeas are drooping with huge violet, blue, and pink mop heads as well as delicate white/green new blooms. The gardenias are abundant and fragrant. It seemed like a good morning to sit in the garden and read.

We are leaving Auburn via Gold Hill. As we cross the railroad tracks, there is a weathered clapboard building that looks as if it was the most important building in Gold Hill at one time. I must find out what it was in its days of glory! If you know the history of Gold Hill, email me the info, and I'll share it here. ([Marcia@AlabamaAntiqueTrail.com](mailto:Marcia@AlabamaAntiqueTrail.com)). There are huge pecan trees framing wonderfully traditional American homes, old and new, along the way to Gold Hill.



As we enter Highway 431, we quickly enter a tunnel of trees! I'm thinking we should have driven the convertible. Nostalgia is often my companion on many of these Antique trail journeys. When I see so many of these huge pecan trees, I remember the pecan tree in our back yard when I was less than six years old. That was *my* tree because it held *my* rope swing.

We just went through Lafayette. We LOVE all the beautiful historic homes there; we had rather have one of those homes than the home we have now. But when we were looking for a place to buy, none of the antebellum homes were for sale. Today one looks empty. I can see me in that house with decades of history surrounding my antiques and collectibles.

This highway should be designated a “scenic” highway. The rural views are so pleasant. We just passed a clapboard building labeled the potato house, we’ve passed a bright red wooden sign shaped like a tomato with “tomatoes for sale”, another sign has “hay for sale”, another sign “pet grooming by Stacy”, Oh, I’m easily impressed, we just passed a “**Happy Trails**” restaurant...it is our message for today.

I have a new computer that allows me to write and Ray drive; I am afraid that the journals have just become much more detailed and frequent! (I also realize that my tenses are confusing with my writing in present and past tense!)

We just stopped because we saw an antique sign! We met the owner of Grand View Antiques & Auction. He has the most beautiful rose with gold pattern Limoge set of China I have ever seen. It has more pieces that I have ever seen also. It looks like a set for 20 or more with every place setting piece imaginable. It even has the two handled soup cups or French coffee cups. There were three Belter chairs with original needlepoint. There were many other objects that will be for sale in his next auction. Unfortunately, he does not have a regular shop; he has quarterly auctions in Roanoke.



There are many interesting places along the trail, but [Parker House Antiques](#) (pictured above) in Wedowee is an essential stop. It is in the middle of Wedowee, which is a very pleasant town near Lake Wedowee. The Parker House is one of the owner’s “home place” which is a term that means her family lived there years and years ago! It was intriguing to trace the history of the home by looking at the bare walls and noting the “add on porch”, then the “add on bedroom”, etc. The little sun porch is one of my favorite rooms. There are vintage pieces for sale in every room but one: that room has Vera Bradley products in it – that’s a favorite too!

Across the street from Parker House, you will find A Brand New Look: <http://abrandnewlook.net>.



A "Brand New Look" is across the street. It has a great mixture of collectibles and lake furniture. The Alabama fans will LOVE the chair pictured above! I had coffee and wonderful cake at a coffee shop near the Parker House. There is also a fresh seafood store down the street!

Near White Plains, I met Sheila Harper who lives with her family in her husband's family home which was built in 1870. She has a replica of the Alabama capital in her backyard which was used as a float in the parade for John F. Kennedy's inauguration. The home is brick and overlooks a beautiful lake.





In August, we took another trip north on 431 but took a little side trip on Highway 48 to Lineville. My objective was to find a store from which I bought a barley twist marble top “dry sink” several years ago. At the time, we had an old RV that we were driving to and from Auburn for the football games. We stopped in a town called Lineville and bought this great European piece for a fantastic price.

Yesterday, I was showing a guest our home and was commenting on my using antique pieces for some of the sink bases. Some people, like my husband, think it is a sin to waste a beautiful piece of furniture for a sink cabinet. I, on the other hand, think it is a “green way to recycle” interesting pieces, especially those with marble tops. We found the shop! It is worth the side trip. Visit [linevilleemporium.com](http://linevilleemporium.com)



I loved these “On the Trail” pictures of sunflowers! Alabama is beautiful!



**Happy Trails** – Alabama Antique Trail – that is

*Marcia*