



FRIDAY FOLLIES

JANUARY 2012

Hey!

January 2012

Happy New Year! I hope your Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations were filled with food, family, friends, and fun! Mine certainly were!

Christmas morning was the usual organized chaos with everything from Oliver begging for Christmas breakfast, to Ricky checking out my new computer, to everyone opening and enjoying each other's gifts. It was just a very special time.

Like I said last month, the minute everyone

walked out the door, I started taking down decorations... including removing the wreath on the door as they left!



That night and the following Monday I took everything down, wrapped it, and put it away - organizing the garage. Then Tuesday, I packed, had the car checked out, ran my errands, and was on the road to Mississippi by 6 the next morning. Thirteen and a half hours later, I was in my hometown! It is a long trip, but always so worth it.

My visit was kinda planned between Christmas and New Year's so it would not be so busy for everyone. That worked out great. I had a lovely visit with my sister and family, helped her put away her tree and decorations, and had plenty



of time to EAT good food and visit!



There are so many good little cafes and restaurants in my hometown now and the whole town has been renovated. All of the stores in the downtown area have nice apartments above them. Every-



thing is so clean and revitalized. Really good to see.



My sister's home is LOVELY! It sits on a big hill and they have woods all behind them. I don't ever remember being there that time of

year, though I am sure I have been. With all the trees without their leaves, you could see the most incredible sunsets each day. Just breathtaking. And one morning while sipping my coffee on the back porch, I spotted five deer coming over the horizon. I watched for a minute, and lo and behold, there come three more! Just beautiful! They ate and frolicked a bit, and then scampered over the ridge. It was really amazing!

Betty and I also hit a couple of antique places while I was home. Our treasures? Betty got this beautiful handmade quilt for \$20!!! HELLOOO!! They are three or four hundred up here! I found an adorable bottle tree (small enough to use inside or out). The lady saw me admiring a spoon chime and she threw that in for free! Just amazing. When I got home, I went to the ABC store and bought a bunch of booze (I will never drink) simply because I liked the color of the bottles! Ha! I will transfer the booze to something else and put the bottles on my tree. Hmm. On second thought, maybe I will have a party! Ha!

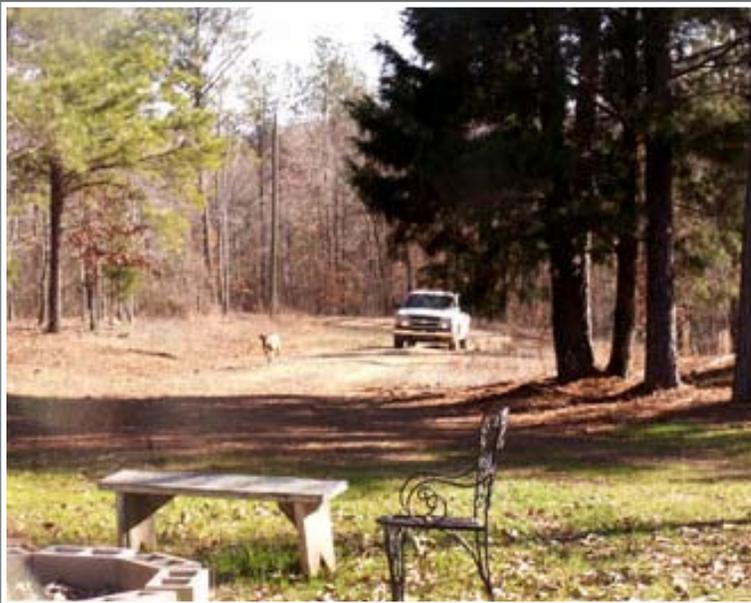
I was so worried about my little bird while I was gone. Jeremy took care of the house and dog, but the bird likes NO ONE but me! I got a chuckle when Jeremy sent me this photo on my computer after about two days! HAHAHA!



One beautiful afternoon, we rode out to the country to the camp house. I had never seen it. It is on many beautiful wooded acres and my brother-in-law has done most of the work on it for his family. It is gorgeous and has a very rustic "feel" to it! Their dog loves to get out of the truck and run the length of the long driveway.



It is filled with incredible trophies from all over the world, collected years ago by his brother-in-law. He explained to me that big game hunting is not what most people think. Hunters are only allowed to take the oldest and weakest of the herds



that have been hand-selected by the guides. They are only allow to hunt the ones that would not survive any longer on their own... the ones that have been ostracized by the herd. I thought that was really interesting... something I never knew.

Anyway, the place is just beautiful, and I really want to go back and see it in the summer months when the trees have all of their leaves. I can see why their whole family loves it so!

I also took a couple of hours and rode through town taking photos of some of the magnificent homes, schools, and churches in my home town. I don't

think there is another place on Earth that can compare with it. The one at the top of the next page is for sale!!!



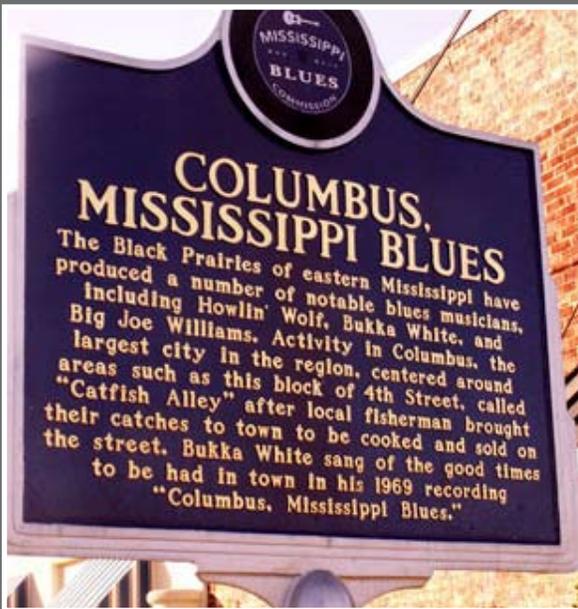


The asking price is \$1,250,000. Sounds like a lot, but if you could see this place, you would not believe it. Trust



me, even needing a bit of work, that is a bargain! I would LOVE to be able to afford it! It is called Riverview and has the same glorious facade whether you enter from the front or the back - one facing

the street and one facing the river. A friend also explained to me that it was called Riverview because the troops could go to the top and see anything moving down the river from either direction. Pretty cool, huh? My hometown is simply FILLED with historic homes, churches, schools, cemeteries, and stories. I know I have shown you many photos here before. This time I took numerous photos and posted them on my Facebook page, too. The responses was pretty amazing.



The rest of these follies show some of the amazing architecture and history. It always revitalizes me when I go home. Such a special place.



I also reconnected with an old friend from high school while I was home and went to a New Year's Eve party at the Columbus Country Club. It was nice. I got to see some people I probably never would have been able to see if I had not



gone, because generally, when you go home for a reunion, you only see members of your own class. That was a fun evening. Thanks, Ken!



After a wonderful, relaxing week at home, I got in my car to head home! It was 19 degrees and the heat in my car suddenly stopped working! Absolutely awful!!! I stopped at a McDonald's and put on two pair of leggings, two pair of socks, boots, a T-shirt, turtleneck, hoodie, covered my legs with a coat, put on a fur hat and gloves and drove that way all the way to Atlanta where is had warmed up a bit. Haha - once I get on the road - I try not to stop for anything! Needless to say, I was glad to get home, I also discovered the merits of RED BULL on this trip! LOL!



One cute thing. The day after I got home, Jessica brought Kai over to see me. He will be two at the





end of this month. When he walked in the door, he said, "You look so pretty, GiGi!" Hahaha! His daddy taught him to say that! Smart man!



Well 2012 starts off with a trip to Mississippi for me and next month I am going to Florida with a friend for a week. Jessica and Ricky are going to Hawaii for almost two weeks since Ricky is in a competition there. So, maybe with all of this getting out and about, the winter will not seem so long and dreary! I am breathlessly awaiting Spring! I have also declared that I will never go a year-and-a-half without going home again. I plan another trip this spring when the flowers are in bloom!



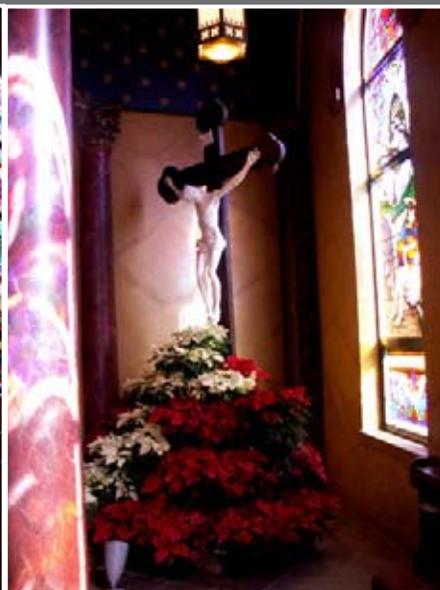
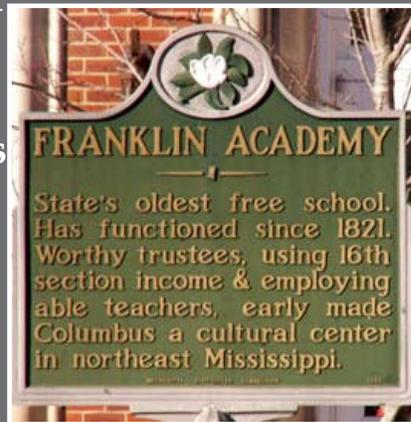
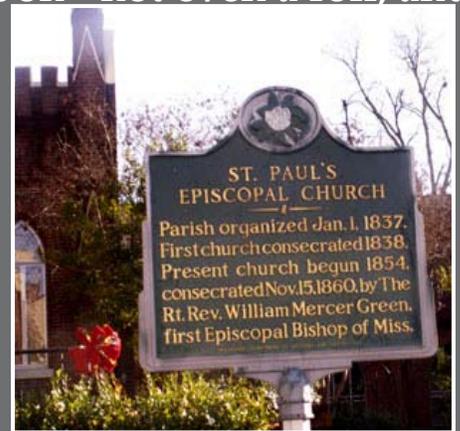
At the bottom of this page you will see scenes from the new Catholic Church in Columbus. It is not my church, but it is absolutely spectacular! I wanted to share it with you.

AND, on the last page - hilarious! I could not get over the incredible decorated mailboxes in my sister's neighborhood. I am sure they had decorators come out to the house and do them. I only posted a few of the many, but I have never seen anything like them. One day while shopping, Betty and I went into a decorator shop and I saw some of the ribbon they used. I thought, "Hey, I will buy this and do my mailbox next year!" NOT! It was only a small piece of the ribbon - not even a roll, and it was \$75!!!! Haha! Think I will stick with my Dollar Store bows!

OK. Gotta run. Kai is here and is due to wake from his nap any minute.

I just wanted to wish you all a Very Happy New Year! I hope 2012 brings you everything you hearts desire!

Love to you all!





To all of you on my Friday Follies List, whether you are in Manila, Singapore, Kuwait, Bermuda, Virginia Beach, Mississippi, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Minnesota, Indiana, Colorado, Lake Tahoe, Philadelphia, Key West, New Jersey, North Carolina, Indonesia, Louisiana, Washington D.C., Iraq, Costa Rica, Poland, Maryland, West (By-God) Virginia, Nashville, Florida, Saudi Arabia, New Hampshire, Tampa, Chattanooga, France, Phoenix, New York, Oregon, Russia, Maine, Australia, Bangkok, or Yuma, have a wonderful, wonderful week!

God bless.
Remember, life is short!
We need to make it a good one.
Grow in peace and wisdom.
Your Friday Friend,

Judi Greenhaw Godsey

