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AT HOME WITH NANCY WELCH

If Senator Verne Smith was the Patriarch of Greer, and he was, then his wife, Jean Smith, was the Matriarch of Greer, and she was! In November and December of 2007, Greer lost both of its parents. Since then, the Smith furnishings have been distributed among relatives who are honored to have something to remind them of their fine family heritage. One of the family members to receive some of the Smith heirlooms is their son, Jeff Smith, who, along with his wife, Sallie, is delighted to have "new" things in their home. Jean's picture now hangs in their hall, where she lovingly looks over some of her beautiful things displayed in the next generation home.

The Jeff Smith home, built over 30 years ago, has recently been transformed! The once farm house nestled on several acres with horse barns and plenty of room for people, has been overcome by new additions as in rooms and furnishings. Sallie had wanted to do some things to the house, and with the pieces from the Verne Smith home looking for a place to live, this was the perfect opportunity to make some changes.

With the help of Tom Dillard, builder and relative, and

Dillard Jones Builders, the project began to take shape. What once was the garage and kitchen became a new entrance and a fabulous new kitchen. The dining room, which "is one of the loveliest in Greer," Sallie has been told, took on a new life with the Senator and his wife's dining room chairs around Tom Smith's table and Jeff's grandmother's sideboard. The room was painted an historic Williamsburg green matching the green of the dining room chairs. The color is also found in the portrait of Jeff hanging in the dining room. Jeff's uncle, Tom Smith, had also left the couple several pieces of art and furniture that also needed to find a home. One such piece of art found its rightful place in the dining room, too. Again, the green of the walls was a perfect choice for the background of the picture. "I didn't realize the green was in the portraits until the walls were painted and the green just popped out," admitted Sallie.

"Just about everything in here belonged to Mama and Daddy," said Jeff, as he motioned to the living room. The oversized portrait over the sofa is of the Senator, his brother, Tom, and Jeff, all on horseback. "The sofa was Mama's, the secretary was



Mama's, the chairs were Mama's and so was that tiered table in the corner, the chest by the door, and the rugs. Actually, almost everything except the TV belonged to Mama and Daddy," he recalls.

But the real transformation took place on the kitchen side of the house. There you will find the most fabulous kitchen with distressed black and white cabinets. The black storage cabinet at the end of the kitchen at first blush looks like a piece of furniture as it fits from wall to wall. Glass fronted doors expose carefully selected glassware and objects of art. A plate rack reaches across the width of the cabinet storing Smith coat of arms and monogrammed china dinner plates.

The rest of the kitchen displays state of the art appliances and granite counter tops along with white cabinets on the top and black base cabinets. The back splash behind the stovetop is a black and white harlequin designed of ceramic tiles that is a focal point of the kitchen.

From the kitchen, you look into the new den complete with fireplace and the furniture that did live in the living room! Beautiful silk, oriental pillows and framed oriental pillow

tops grace the sofa and the walls leading down the hall to the elaborate mudroom complex! Cowboy boots never had it so good. There is truly a place for everything and everything in its place! This new addition connects the den with the three-car garage and boasts the laundry room, an extra bathroom, cubbies for all of the shoes, and coat racks for all of the jackets and coats used on a farm. Even the garage doors look like they could be part of the barn.

To say that the Matriarch of Greer would love the new surrounding for her things is an understatement. Jean Smith loved beautiful things, like roses, antique furniture, silver, and her family. She would be pleased to see where some of her favorite things are now residing. She would be as pleased as Jeff and Sallie are to be living with them. Some things never go out of style like passing on family things to the next generation, wonderful memories of fine people we loved and miss, and comfort food that is perfect for Mother's Day as we remember our friends and our own mothers. For that reason, I have selected several favorite comfort food recipes.



