

THE 48-HOUR SHE-SHED MAKEOVER!

Country Living

JUNE 2018



IN WITH THE OLD *Church Pew*

Karol Ann found the entryway bench, a convenient spot to stash blankets or change shoes, at Stoney Lonesome Antiques in Spring Hill (931-466-7535). The American flag that hangs above it is from Props Antiques (828-319-9614) in Leiper's Fork.

While empty nesters Karol Ann and Chris DeLong always planned to retire in the country, it's safe to say they never thought they would live in a barn. "We both grew up in small towns, so we had a desire to get out of Nashville and move into a small community where we could get involved," says Chris. "We started taking Sunday drives, trying to find just the right spot." One Sunday, the couple discovered tiny Santa Fe, Tennessee (population: 300), and a few days later, they found themselves in a bidding war at an auction for an 83-acre property, complete with an old farmhouse, a smokehouse, a chicken coop, and a rickety barn. "There were probably 100 people there, but we got it," he says. "And then we shook a lot of hands and assured the locals that we had good intentions for the place."

Karol Ann immediately called in her designer, Nashville-based Kendall Simmons (kendallsimmons.com), and they got to work on plans for a top-to-bottom farmhouse renovation. Sadly, it was not to be. "We figured out pretty early on that it was just going to be a money pit," says Karol Ann. But Chris accidentally

Vintage bingo cards lend old-fashioned charm to game nights on the porch.

