

Go antique shopping

By Cathy Wood Myers

Photography by Jim Hannon

Hidden treasures ... historical gems ... fun and funky gotta-haves ... no telling what you'll find in Shoals antiques stores.

At Hodgepodge Antique Mall, 1144 N. Wood Ave., Florence – a district of almost-century-old storefronts that locals call Seven Points – owner Vicki Dean oversees several dealer booths. She enthusiastically guides shoppers to whatever they're looking for.

"The name says it all," she says, with her characteristic smile. "We offer a little bit of everything here – a true hodgepodge."

Recent finds include a framed Victorian oil painting on tin, \$125; an appliqued child-sized souvenir apron from Mexico, \$5; and a five-piece parlor set with carved lions' heads, \$5,000. There are books, jewelry, sheet music and vintage clothes, such as an aqua and silver cocktail sheath for \$50.

In fact, locally based movie company Cypress Moon Productions rented several costumes there for "When I Find the Ocean."

Hodgepodge itself is an antique, too. Dating from the 1920s, the building features original wooden floors and tin ceilings.

It's open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1-5 p.m. Sunday.