

Joye Shuler, Will Albrecht, Ben Albrecht, Jr., & Thad Shuler

Owners/Operators of Southern Lumber & Millwork Corp.



From left: Thad Shuler, Ben Albrecht, Jr., Joye Shuler, and Will Albrecht, in Southern Lumber & Millwork Corp.'s showroom

IN THE BEGINNING: In 1940, Herman Albrecht, Jr. started a small millwork business in the backyard of his home—Southern Lumber & Millwork Corporation. With the help of partner Raymond Rike, Herman grew the business quickly and eventually moved it to a larger location on a seven acre lot off King Street. In 1961 Mr. Albrecht bought out Mr. Rike, and the company was incorporated in 1964.

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK: Various building products and millwork from Southern Lumber have been used all over the city, including a walkway bridge for Magnolia Gardens and the Citadel's ring, as well as staircases, columns, entrance frames, custom doors, windows, ornate mouldings, and mantels found in several homes downtown and in surrounding areas.

OFF-THE-CLOCK: Helping to mold the young minds of a future generation of craftsmen, Southern Lumber supports local schools and provides learning opportunities for students with an interest in millwork and carpentry.

FACTORS OF INFLUENCE: Southern Lumber is redefining the "family business." In addition to being managed by original founder Herman Albrecht's daughter Joye Shuler and his three grandsons Will Albrecht, Ben Albrecht, Jr., and Thad Shuler, many sons and daughters of some of the company's earliest employees now work at Southern Lumber. The family-centric company also enjoys many civic affiliations. Joye, Will, Ben, and Thad have all served on the board of the Southern Building Material Dealers Association, which Southern Lumber is a member of and from which they received the prestigious Dealer of the Year award in 1998. The company is also a member of the Charleston Trident Home Builders Association, and has won first place honors in the Home Show several times.

Where They Shop