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STATE DOCUMENTS



news

from the south carolina museum commission

VOLUME TWO, NUMBER 2

SUMMER 1976

MUSEUM COMMISSION REPORTS PROGRESS

Your State Museum Commission can now report the completion of Phase I, or the plan for the basic design of the State Museum building. The new structure will total some 62,150 square feet on two main floors and an intermediate level. The basement consists of 25,800 square feet.

There are special provisions for students. The young people and their teachers will off-load from the buses at the east or Pickens Street side of the building, check their hats and coats and go directly into the 277 seat planetarium in the physical science, geography and natural history area on the lower or student level. Current plans call for continuous planetarium shows throughout the day to the end that our young people may enjoy a special learning experience long available to students in other states.

On this same lower or student level there are three classrooms and an amphitheatre, all designed to give our young people a unique understanding of the history of our state. The students will be shown many things, from the men and women who risked everything to assure our freedom to the variety and beauty that characterizes our state. They will see, on the upper level, how our ancestors attempted to cut a rail tunnel through Smokehouse Mountain and failed, but not from the want of effort. They will see our 306 years of development through contemporary narrative museum techniques.

Every care has been taken in the architectural planning to make the best possible use of the existing Columbia Art Museum, originally known as the Taylor House and offered free of any charge to the state, together with the city block upon which the Museum is located. As the plans show, the new State Museum is connected with the existing Columbia Museum and the visitor can freely pass between the old structure and the new at the intermediate level. It is intended to continue the existing exhibit areas in operation, thus preserving the excellent additions made to the Taylor House in recent years under the direction of Dr. John R. Craft. The new planetarium will supplant the small planetarium now located in the science wing of the Columbia Museum.

An interesting feature of the floor plan is the intersection of entrances that promise convenience to the visitor and economy in security personnel. A visitor entering from the north or parking lot side goes directly onto the center of the intermediate level as does the visitor entering from the south or Senate

Street side. Visitors walking into the new structure from the present Art Museum also enter onto the intermediate level. A major feature of the intermediate level is called the Orientation Center and is an exhibit of particular use in defining the state as a whole. Occupying over one-thousand square feet, the Orientation Center intends to tell at a glance the main geographical/physical features and social/cultural development of South Carolina. Imagine if you will the value of this exhibit in giving your visiting friends a quick but fairly detailed overview of the state. Equally, state officials working in the area of controlled industrial development see this Orientation Center as an important asset in their work.

The exhibits will also include a variety of scientific devices to demonstrate to the young and not-so-young, certain fundamentals of science. The visitors may see how the heated air ascends the balloon; how the laser beam works; how the computer plays its games; how tension and friction work. Youngsters can pedal a bicycle generator and see how electricity is generated. We believe that an effective State Museum must have entertaining and educating values, and this means that some parts of a museum can be just fun and other parts deadly serious. As Brad Washburn, Director of the Boston Science Museum, put it, "The great majority of our visitors probably will never be scientists, but they will be better lawyers, businessmen, clergymen, scoutmasters, parents, citizens — because of this fascinating glimpse of the wonders which lie constantly hidden on all sides of everyone of us."

The reader may be amazed to know that all but some 6 or 8 states out of the 50 have a state museum. The new South Carolina Museum will remedy this deficiency, and in partnership with existing regional and municipal museums, bring a major new learning resource to the people of the state, preserving and reflecting the story of 300 years of development in such a way that our children and their children may appreciate the work, the crafts, the sacrifices of generations unafraid of labor and charity for the endowment of those yet unborn.

The Calhoun Portrait . . . this valuable and early portrait by Charles B. King, retrieved from a private party in Oklahoma by SCMC is a little over one-half paid for, partly by public donations of our readers. **Won't you pitch-in and help us pay-off this debt.** The Calhoun portrait soon will be traveling to exhibit areas across the state. (Make your check payable to SCMC. A tax deductible gift).

MAY FOUNDATION GIFT

The John Amasa May Foundation recently announced a gift to the State Museum Commission of the artifacts and memorabilia owned by the late Colonel John A. May.

These assets, located at Mayfields near Aiken, range from War Between the States machinery to Indian artifacts found in the Aiken area. After the catalogue of the articles is completed, the Museum Commission will loan wanted articles to county and municipal museums, historic houses and libraries for local exhibits.

One of the gifts from the Foundation is the full scale, working model of the submarine Hunley, the first submarine to sink an enemy warship. It is planned to exhibit the Hunley at Patriot's Point in Charleston in the near future.

Colonel May died on March 9, 1976. He was a popular and well-known figure who gave much of his time to public affairs including service as Chairman of the Confederate War Centennial Commission. During his lifetime, Mayfields and the collection was open to the public without charge. The State Museum Commission is honored to receive this gift and the ensuing responsibility of sharing these resources with communities across the State.

"SCHROEDER COLLECTION"

The Schroeder photographs again stimulated interest. (See Volume 1, No. 4). The photo on the left was of a common morel, one of the edible mushrooms. A land snail was beneath it, on an oak leaf. The picture on the right was of a young yellow-shafted flicker. The center photo caused the most discussion. The plant shown was a tomato. A tomato hornworm was attached to that, and attached to it were pupal cases of a parasitic braconid wasp. Nature is filled with interesting and complex relationships, and this photo illustrates that fact so well.

EMMITT A. SMITH

Emmitt A. Smith is well known to rock and mineral collectors of South Carolina. He has lived in Union County all but one of his 63 years. A self-taught collector, Mr. Smith has been interested in rocks for 21 years and has operated a rock shop for 9 years. His family's ties to minerals go back to his grandmother, who moved from West Virginia to South Carolina to work in the West Springs Gold Mine on the border of Spartanburg and Union Counties. When the California Gold Rush closed the mine in 1849, the family remained in South Carolina.



An outdoorsman, Mr. Smith lives on a 6-acre farm. Amethyst, smoky quartz, and corundum are common in this part of the state. Mr. Smith knows the area well, and is eager to share his knowledge with interested people of all ages.

MUSEUM BULLETIN NO. 1

SOUTH CAROLINA MUSEUM COMMISSION

VASCULAR PLANTS OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Museum bulletin number 1, is available now at \$2.00 per copy. This fine listing of common plants of the piedmont has a good number of state records included. Only a small number of copies are left, so get your order in soon.



This fine specimen (pictured) of doubly-terminated amethyst (our state mineral) has been acquired from Mr. Smith for the SCMC. Amateur collectors throughout South Carolina have a great deal to offer in the State Museum effort, and we are interested in working with them in every way possible.

A SOUTH CAROLINIAN HELPS PRESERVE MOUNT VERNON

In this Bicentennial year filled with the promise of many good deeds, one might recall the efforts of that remarkable South Carolina woman, Ann Pamela Cunningham, born at Rosemont Plantation near Waterloo in Laurens County.

Mount Vernon was destined to go on the auctioneer's block in 1858; the federal government and the state of Virginia having turned a deaf ear to the offer of the property by John Augustine Washington, the General's great grand nephew. When Miss Cunningham learned of this situation, she successfully appealed to the women of America to save the first President's home. As a result, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association was formed. Through public contributions, Ann Cunningham saved this great historic property for her generation and for generations to come.

Miss Cunningham's association was one of the first women's patriotic organizations in the United States. She is revered by the Daughters of the American Revolution, and by numerous other Americans as a far-sighted woman who helped build this State and preserve the landmarks of our culture.

She is buried at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S. C.

SUPPORT YOUR MUSEUM

South Carolina Association of Naturalists (SCAN)

On March 27th a meeting was held at Furman University in Greenville, and officers were elected. Members voted to require dues of \$5.00 per year. The meeting then moved outdoors and into the mountains of Greenville County. Wildflowers were out in great variety and Dr. Leland Rodgers of Furman University went along as the resource botanist.

The meetings of April 24-25th proved to be interesting ones. On Saturday, April 24th, we toured the S. C. Marine Resources Laboratory on Fort Johnson overlooking Charleston Harbor. Billy Boothe, a fellow SCAN member, led the tour of the facility. We also did some seining off of the Isle of Palms. On Sunday, April 25th, we moved to the beach at Edisto. Some fossil material was found along with a number of interesting shells and some indian pottery. We also seined an inlet there and collected some interesting fish.

The meeting on May 15th at Forty-Acre Rock in Lancaster County was a wet one. The plant life in depressions on the rock and along the edges were very interesting. We saw a mixture of coastal plain and piedmont species, along with a few varieties only found on outcrops of granite such as these.

The most recent meeting took us into Abbeville County to visit a beaver pond. This animal is now becoming much more common in our state.

On all of these trips, animals and plants that catch our eye are recorded. These lists are available to interested persons just by contacting the SCMC.

AROUND THE STATE —

BEAUFORT MUSEUM

Beaufort, S. C.

Open Monday through Friday
10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. and
2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Saturdays 10:00 A.M. to
12:00 P.M. Closed Sundays
and Holidays

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY LEE HALL GALLERY

Clemson, S. C.

August 2 to August 27

Exhibition of student work
from College of Architecture

September 6-24

An exhibition of photographic
prints by S. C. photographers
made possible by the Columbia
Communicating Arts Society
through a grant by the S. C.
Arts Commission

September 28 — October 1

Exhibition and sale of prints
from Roten Galleries of
Baltimore, Maryland.

GIBBES ART GALLERY

Charleston, S. C.

August 25 — September 25

Grainger McCoy, Sculpture

September 7 — October 3

Sallie Knerr, One-Person Show

September 26 — October 24

Library of Congress, 24th National
Exhibition of Prints

THE MUSEUM

Greenwood, S. C.

Open daily 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.,
Monday through Friday, and from
2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. Sunday.
Located one block from the U. S.
Post Office.

The 1,100 square foot mezzanine
nears completion and will house
the Frank E. Delano Gallery of
African animal-head mounts and
related items.

THE JOHN C. CALHOUN MANSION

Clemson, S. C.

Fort Hill is open free to the
public year round. Visiting
hours extend from 10:00 A.M.
to 12:00 noon and 1:00 P.M.
to 5:30 P.M. Tuesday through
Saturday; and from 2:00 P.M. to
6:00 P.M. on Sunday. It
is closed Monday. Fort Hill
is located in the center of
Clemson University campus,
11 miles from Interstate
Highway 85 via U. S. Highway 76.

COLUMBIA MUSEUM OF ART

Columbia, S. C.

August 1

Photography by Steinhäuser-
Crawford-Bryan

August 3

8:00 P.M. Art of the Short
Film Festival: Sometimes I
Run — Correspondence — Frank Film —
The Wild Goose — Uppity Albert
McGuire — The Bolero

August 10

8:00 P.M. Art of the Short Film
Festival: Solo — An American Time
Capsule — Glass — Occurrence At Owl
Creek — Bridge — A Brand New Day —
Walking

August 17

8:00 P.M. Art of the Short Film
Festival: The Legend of John
Henry — The Licorice Train —
Omega — Anansi The Spider —
The Marble — The Mysterians —
Closed Mondays

September 13

Docent Training Begins 9:30 A.M.-
12:30 P.M.

Anyone interested in becoming a
Volunteer Tour Guide at the
Columbia Museum should contact
Candy Baker at 799-2810

The course will continue every
Monday and Wednesday from
September 13th through October 6th
September 26

The Ambassadors — 6th Naval
District

THE RICE MUSEUM

August 22 to September 30

Exhibit of the South Carolina
Photography — "Georgetown 200 —
Photographic Salon" — free of
charge

LYNCHES RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS — 1976

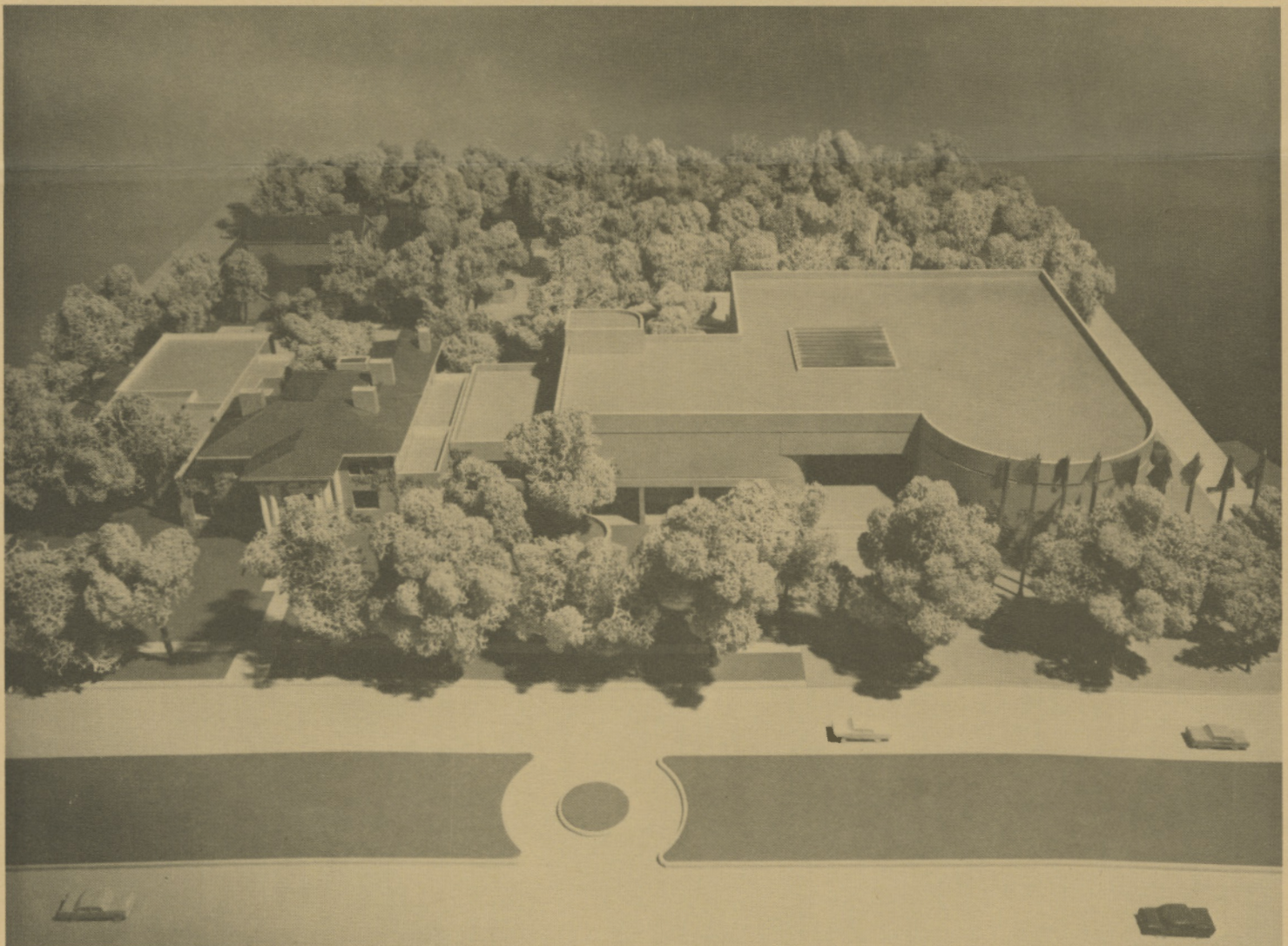
5 SEPTEMBER — Celebrating with the
Clyburn Family (Genealogical History)
Place — The Clyburn Houses
Hostess — Mrs. M. A. Clyburn
Co-Hostess — Mrs. W. E. Davis
Program — Mrs. M. A. Clyburn

Architects Models of State Museum





Student Entrance

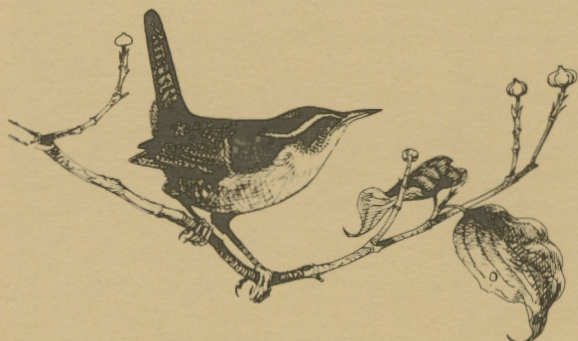


Perspective View

South Carolina Museum Commission
Box 11296
Columbia, S.C. 29211
803/758-8197

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



THE SOUTH CAROLINA MUSEUM COMMISSION NEWS is published quarterly. To receive the newsletter and other announcements, request to be placed on the mailing list.

David C. Sennema, Director
William L. Anderson, Deputy Director
Rudolph E. Mancke, Curator of Natural History
Bonnie M. Frison, Executive Secretary

IS YOUR MAILING ADDRESS CORRECT???

Please send us a post card giving us your current and correct address if our mail list is in error.

NEW READERS WANTED

Please give this coupon to a friend who may wish to receive our Newsletter and ask them to send it to SCMC:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

PLANS FOR INEXPENSIVE DISPLAY CASES

Readers having a requirement to construct small and inexpensive display cases may want a set of plans now available free of charge at SCMC.

Construction details are furnished and required materials are listed. Please send your requirement to SCMC.