

# WHAT'S HAPPENING @ THE Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center

FALL 2004

## Museum To Be Barn Again!® This Year

Your museum is about to be Barn Again!®. The coming year promises many exciting and educational experiences as we present a year-long emphasis on our agricultural heritage in Calhoun County! The Smithsonian, our national museum in Washington, DC, chose the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center as a showcase for Barn Again!® Celebrating an American Icon.

This Smithsonian exhibit celebrates the role of the barn from architectural and cultural perspectives. Arriving at the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center on September 25, the exhibit will remain on display through November 16. The official Opening Day is Sunday, October 3, from 2:00-5:00 pm (more info on Page 3). But that's only the beginning! Through the summer of 2005 the museum will continue to offer a variety of tours, lectures, presentations, and special activities that recall and preserve the story of our rural heritage.

It's all part of Museum on Main Street, a partnership between the Smithsonian Institution, the Federation of State Humanities Councils and individual state humanities councils that serve small-town museums and residents of rural America. The South Carolina Humanities Council is sponsoring Raising the Loft: The South Carolina Barn Story in conjunction with the national exhibit. "We're pleased to sponsor this Smithsonian exhibit in South Carolina's smaller communities who play a very important role in preserving the state's history and culture," says Randy Akers, executive director of the South Carolina Humanities Council.

Keep on reading, as throughout this newsletter you'll discover how to be a part of this unprecedented and informative year-long emphasis!

The Smithsonian travelling exhibit Barn Again!® Celebrating an American Icon and related programming is funded in part by the South Carolina Humanities Council, a state program of the National Endowment of the Humanities, the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives funding from the National Endowment of the Arts, and the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center.

The Humanities Council<sup>SC</sup>

*inspiring, engaging, enriching.*

## BECOME A MEMBER!

Show your support by becoming a Friend of the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center! All current memberships expire in September. Members receive a 10% discount and free gift wrap in the Museum Gift Shop as well as special notices about upcoming events. All donations are tax deductible. See the back page for details!

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Debbie Roland

The Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center has gone through many changes over the past year! Our addition and remodeling project is now over (which was the easy part) and we have been busy updating our collection and appraisals. We have been overwhelmed by the positive public response we have had over this past year. I would like to thank all of you for your understanding and support. Without your financial and physical support, we could not make it.

We lost a very valuable partner this year. Our county librarian Miriam Cason died in August. Miriam and I had major plans for future programs to be held as joint efforts between our facilities. She was my cheerleader, confidant, and friend, and I will miss her energy, vision, and leadership that she gave to our community.

Henry Livingston and Nancy Spigner Mitchell are two others that will be also missed. Mr. Henry was who I went to for advice and one whose vast knowledge of the history of Calhoun County cannot be replaced. I swear if you needed information, all you had to do was call Mr. Henry, who could off the top of his head steer you in the right direction. Never once did he give me wrong information, nor was he ever too busy to help me.

We are daily reminded of the death of Nancy Spigner Mitchell, our local mail lady and friend. The loss of her smiling face, the extra hours that she gave to the museum helping us with our mailing list, and her endless support leaves us with another void.

Our hearts and prayers go out to all of these family members. Each was a strong community leader who gave so much of themselves to others and never asked for anything in return. They exemplified what we all should strive to become and what makes Calhoun County such a special place to live.

As you will see within this newsletter, we have a very busy year coming up! We are so excited about being able to offer these programs to the public. We are still looking for other historical resources in the community. We cannot display what has not been donated. So if you do not step forward please do not complain. We need your help and support. If you would like to volunteer to help us with any of the programs we have planned please feel free to contact us. Volunteers are needed and we would like to have each interested person to come and be a part of what we are doing. If you are not on our volunteer or director's cabinet already and would like to help, please call us. Send us your resume so we will be able to find the best way to use your talents. Volunteers, like all county employees, are subject to random drug testing and must be willing to have a background check.

Make sure to mark your calendars for all of our events and others yet to come. Please remember it is time to join THE FRIENDS. Here's to another great year in the life of your local museum!

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE... VOLUNTEER!**

Call 874-3964

## Opening Day Is October 3!

The year-long celebration of Barn Again!® kicks off on Sunday, October 3, with a special Sunday afternoon opening of the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center. From 2:00 until 5:00 the museum will be open, free of charge as always. In addition to the regular displays, the special Smithsonian Barn Again!\* exhibit will be open to the public. Other showings and presentations will combine to make for a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon while learning more about our agricultural past and present.

Come inside the museum to experience the travelling Barn Again!® displays. Persons of all ages will delight in the photos, illustrations, and exhibits the Smithsonian is bringing to us.

Open your ears as you enter the Archives Room. There, Horace Harmon, director of the Lexington County Museum, will talk about the German-Swiss who helped settle Calhoun, Lexington, and Orangeburg counties in the 18th century when this area was considered the "back country." Early farming practices, barns, and quilt-making will be discussed. Randy Lucas will be in the Archives Room at another time that day to pick his banjo. Randy is a native Calhoun County resident from Sandy Run who is considered to be among the best banjo-players anywhere.

Watch for The House That Johnny and Laura Built, a documentary of the late Johnny Ray of Cameron and his work collecting wood from old barns. Johnny used the wood to construct his own home. Dana Ray produced this video, which will be shown for the first time on Opening Day.

Renowned area painter Jim Harrison will have works on display in the museum beginning on Opening Day and continuing through November 16. Harrison is known for his paintings that capture and preserve the feel of the country with its old barns and country stores.

Venture outside to the museum yard to see the antique tractors of the Sunny Plain Antique Power Association. Members of the association will be on hand to explain the workings and usage of the equipment. Healing Hearts Farm will be outside as well, with Summer Edwards introducing some of the farm animals to visitors.

Spread the word to your friends and neighbors! Come join us for Opening Day of Barn Again!®. It'll be an afternoon you won't soon forget.

## Summer Camp Is Big Success

If you notice young people in our community now having extra considerate manners, it could be due to the special summer programs sponsored by the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center during the month of July. As part of the year-long celebration of Barn Again!® the museum offered "South Carolina Traditions and Manners" along with "History and Introduction of South Carolina Dance" for Ages 7-15. The manners program was designed to inspire an awareness and understanding of fundamental social graces traditionally present in Southern culture. Dance classes introduced the children to the shag, the Charleston, African dance, and the good ole two-step. Local dance instructor Jean Reid, listed on the state's approved artist roster, served as our leader. The summer camp was supported in part by the Darrell Cooper Memorial Fund.



## Museum to Recognize

### Musical Artist Horace Ott

If you've sung along to "Y.M.C.A.," if you've enjoyed the sound of "Tonight's the Night," then you know a little bit about what St. Matthews native Horace Ott has accomplished. Those songs, along with many others, were arranged by Horace Ott, a renowned musician, conductor, arranger, and musical consultant.

On October 19 the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center, as part of the year-long celebration of Barn Again!\*, will officially begin documenting the life and work of this native son. Ott is being recognized at the Koger Center in Columbia as one of the state's outstanding black artists. A permanent exhibit on Horace Ott is planned for the museum.

Aretha Franklin and Joe Williams are two of the better-known artists with whom Ott has worked during his lengthy career. He has composed jingles for Coca-Cola, Burger King, McDonald's, and American Airlines. Additional credits include the songs "Mr. Soul," "In the Navy," and "You Don't Have To Be a Star."

## What In the World Is It?

### Appraiser Frank Sarnowski Can Help You Find Out!

Frank Sarnowski will make a special benefit appearance at the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center on Sunday, October 17, from 2:00-6:00 pm. South Carolina's leading appraiser of historical items will be on hand to help identify and estimate values for items brought in by the public on that day. There will be a requested donation of \$10 per item to help support the work of the museum.

Sarnowski is a panelist on the periodic South Carolina ETV show What In the World Is It? On October 17 the public is invited to bring items of interest, excluding Bibles, books and musical instruments, and meet Frank. The museum will be open free of charge to the public, and the Barn Again!® exhibit will be open.

The museum is extremely grateful to Frank Sarnowski for donating his time and talent for this event.

### Jim Harrison Art Show October 3-November 16

Denmark, South Carolina, artist Jim Harrison will show a selection of his paintings at the museum from October 3 through November 16. Harrison and his work are no strangers to the Calhoun County Museum & Cultural Center. Harrison has presented a number of shows here over the years. This Harrison show is part of the year-long Barn Again!® emphasis on our rural and agricultural background.

Harrison is famous for his renderings of rural scenes, including barns. Admission to the art show is free.

### Help Us Document African-American Cemeteries

The museum is coordinating a new initiative to record the location and data of African-American cemeteries in Calhoun County. The work officially begins with a workshop in February. Volunteers will learn how to gather information for preservation in the archives. Also, cemeteries will be recorded on tax maps to help protect them. Stories from African-Americans will be preserved as part of this project.

## THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The museum has received donations in memory or in honor of the following people. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

In memory of: Mrs. Betty Jane Fairey, Darrell Cooper, Fredric Ulmer, Nancy Spigner, Nancy Pearlstine, John E. Emmett McLaughlin Sr., Carole Prickett, Mrs. Janelle Crook, Marion Riley, & Linda Whetstone.  
In Honor of: Mrs. John C. Roland, Buyck Family



*This Picture is of her children in the old museum in early 1960's.*

From the time of the Museum's conception the late Betty Jane Fairey was one of our biggest fans. She faithfully brought her children to the old museum twice a month. Her enthusiasm kept the former director, Mrs. Herbert Ulmer Jr., on her toes. Weekly Mrs. Ulmer would change several exhibits or add something new just to see their reactions. Mrs. Fairey was a loyal supporter throughout the years and every time I saw her she always told me how proud she was of the museum. She was one of the first to join our Friends program. Mrs. Fairey's contributions to our community are too long to list. Did you know that she wrote the words for the St. Matthews High School alma mater?

The Calhoun County Museum has received the following grants and special donations:

\*\*Barn Again grant from the South Carolina Humanities & The Smithsonian,  
Art Grant from the South Carolina Arts Commission who receives funding from the NEA  
In Honor of the director Calpine Corporation  
In Honor of Debbie Roland, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wannamaker  
Museum Programs and Gala, Vordian (Eastman Foundation)  
Books, Ruggs, and Special Exhibit Mr. and Mrs. Walter Edgar  
Programs and Gala South Carolina Federal Credit Union  
Sculpture Fund, Dietrich Foundation  
In Memory of Darrell Cooper, The Late Mrs. Nancy Pearlstine

### Family Research Winners

Our congratulations are sent to Mrs. Sarah Wienges who has been recognized by the State N. A. D. A. R. for her outstanding achievements. Mrs. Wienges is a wonderful role model and her requirement of a yearlong study of student's family research and placement in history has helped us with our mission. We are delighted to be one of Mrs. Wienges partners. The museum helps many of her students with their projects by on site museum research or by helping them find other resources such as courthouse records or archives throughout S. C. and other states. The Museum sponsors awards for the most outstanding projects. These projects are judged by professionals throughout South Carolina and are on display at the museum during the month of May. This years winners include: Academic Section Blake Swofford (Junior Achievement Award of Excellence), Mary Elmore Winner, Jason York 1st place, Christine Redmond (Cover Winner), Gretchen Rochester (Creative), General Section Daniel Smith Winner, Tristan Ott 1st place, and Amanda Beach Cover Award.

Each year the research material used gets better and better. This outstanding project really helps children to identify their place in history and learn how to use public libraries, museums and other public resources which prepares them for college. Keep up the good work Sarah! We are proud of all of your students!

# BARN AGAIN!® SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Photographs taken of Area Barns--Dean Livingston--Beginning August 1, 2004-October 30, 2005

Barn Again® Exhibit Opens--September 25, 2004

Volunteer Training--September 27-29, 2004

Orangeburg Senior Citizens Tour Exhibit--September 29, 2004

Children's Photography & Process of Discovery Program--October 1, 2004-April 2, 2005--Project to photograph as many barns--new and old--as possible in Calhoun County. Disposable cameras will be provided.

Finding Old Photographs: The Evidence of Our Past--October 1, 2004-April 2, 2005--Youngsters of all ages will seek out archival photographs from any sources they can find. The museum will commit the photos to a digital file for conservation and return them to their owners. The museum is also interested in receiving old family movies on film (Super 8) or VHS. Collections will be digitized and stored in our media center, and original materials returned.

Opening Day Celebration--Sunday, October 3, 2004, 2:00-5:00 pm (more info on Page 3):

- ◆ The House That Johnny and Laura Built--This documentary by Dana Ray will be released for the first time. The late Johnny Ray spent many months tearing down old barns, collecting the wood for construction of his home, shared with his wife Laura, near Cameron.
- ◆ Lecture on Swiss-Germans--Horace Harmon--October 3, 2004 (Archives Room)
- ◆ Banjo Picking--Randy Lucas--October 3, 2004 (Archives Room)
- ◆ Healing Hearts Farm Friends--Summer Edwards--October 3, 2004 (Museum Grounds)
- ◆ Sunny Plain Power Association Antique Tractors--October 3, 2004 (Museum Grounds)
- ◆ Jim Harrison Art Show--October 3-November 16, 2004 (More info on Page 4.)

The Art of Growing & Harvesting Sugar Cane--October 5-November 30, 2004--This short subject documentary filmed in Calhoun County will be publicly viewed for the first time during Barn Again!®

Rose Garden Club Tour and Lecture--Christine Bickley--October 6, 2004

Documentary For Fresh Water Shrimp Farming--October 9, 2004--A film crew will be at a local fresh water shrimp farm to show how shrimp are harvested and film a shrimp cooking demonstration by Chef Bob Wagoner of Charleston Place in a cement-block barn.

School Group Tours--October 4-8, 12-15, 18-22, 25-29, 2004--Please call for an appointment for a tour as soon as possible. On some days Marre Dowdey will work with school children making candles. Students will hear stories handed down for generations about life, work, and play in early South Carolina.

Interviews With Area Farmers--Beginning October 13, 2004--This program will be held once a month, October-May. Areas of interest will include oral histories of bi-centennial farms, photographs of barn usage in the area, how farming has changed during the 20th century, and stories of oral family traditions.

Mother Goose and Healing Hearts Farm--October 13 & 27, 2004--Children will meet with Mother Goose to hear stories and rhymes. Space is limited, so please make reservations early.

Lower Savannah Council of Governments Meeting--October 14, 2004

Appraisal Day--Frank Sarnowski--October 17, 2004, 2:00-6:00 pm--The host of ETV's What In the World Is It will date and appraise for a donation of \$10 per item. No Bibles, books, or musical instruments. (More info on Page 4.)

Horace Ott Documentary Begins--October 19, 2004--Horace Ott, renowned musician and a native of St. Matthews, will be honored at the Koger Center in Columbia as one of South Carolina's outstanding black artists. The museum will begin documenting Ott's life and work on October 19th. (More info on Page 4.)  
Cameron Garden Club Tour--October 25, 2004

The Art of Growing & Harvesting Peanuts--September-October 2004 - Please call

Old Remedies and Recipes from the 1850s--September 2004-May 2005--Digital files of old remedies and recipes from the 1850s. We seek more remedies and recipes from the community.

The Magic of African Rhythm--Safari Ngoma--November 5, 2004--Sorry-all spots have been reserved.  
Sunny Plain Antique Power Association Tractor Pull--November 6 & 7, 2004--Old Belleville Road. Gates open 9.a.m. Admission \$5, Age 11 and under free. No alcohol/grills, gates close one hour after last event daily. Trackside parking \$10, camping \$20. Proceeds to scholarship fund. Info call Otis Culclasure (655-7513) or the museum.

Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce Annual Luncheon With Tour --November 10, 2004, 12:00-2:00  
Oral History Workshops--September 2004-May 2005

Barn Again® Exhibit Closes--November 17, 2004

"Store House of The Lord"--Dr. George Retzlaff--January 23, 2005--This lecture will cover biblical views of planting, harvesting, and storage of the earth's goods.

African-American Cemetery Survey - February 2005--Volunteers will collect data from the African-American cemeteries in Calhoun County. (More info on Page 4.)

Video Series Available --Ag in the Classroom: 30 videos donated by the South Carolina Farm Bureau. Agricultural topics designed for all grade levels. A complete list of topics is available through the museum.

Coming in Spring 2005: S.C. Forests and Lumber--Wayne Rast

Rowland Austin From ETV's Making It Grow

Works of Julia Peterkin & Early 20th Century Farm Life in Calhoun County--Walter Edgar

Canning & Recipe Exchange

Role of the State Park Service--Van Stickles

Agricultural Influence of the Wannamaker Family--Luther Banks Wannamaker



## SHARE SOME FRIENDSHIP!

Good friendships are meant to strengthen and grow. Help the Calhoun County Museum Cultural Center to make new friends by telling your friends about us.

*Friends of the*

## CALHOUN COUNTY MUSEUM/CULTURAL CENTER

Yes, I want to share the activities of the Calhoun County Museum/Cultural Center. Please enroll me as a friend of the Museum!

☐ \$35 Individual
 ☐ \$500 Corporate Sponsor  
☐ \$55 Family
 ☐ Benefactor  
☐ \$100 Patron
 ☐ \$1000 or more

☐ C. F. Ulmer Endowment

☐ Darrell Cooper Memorial

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Contributions are tax deductible. Please Make Checks payable to Calhoun County Museum/Cultural Center, 313 Butler Street, Saint Matthews, South Carolina 29135.