

4-2000

Under the Dome - April 2000

McKissick Museum--University of South Carolina

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/dome>



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of South Carolina, "McKissick Museum - Under the Dome, April 2000".
<http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/dome/21/>

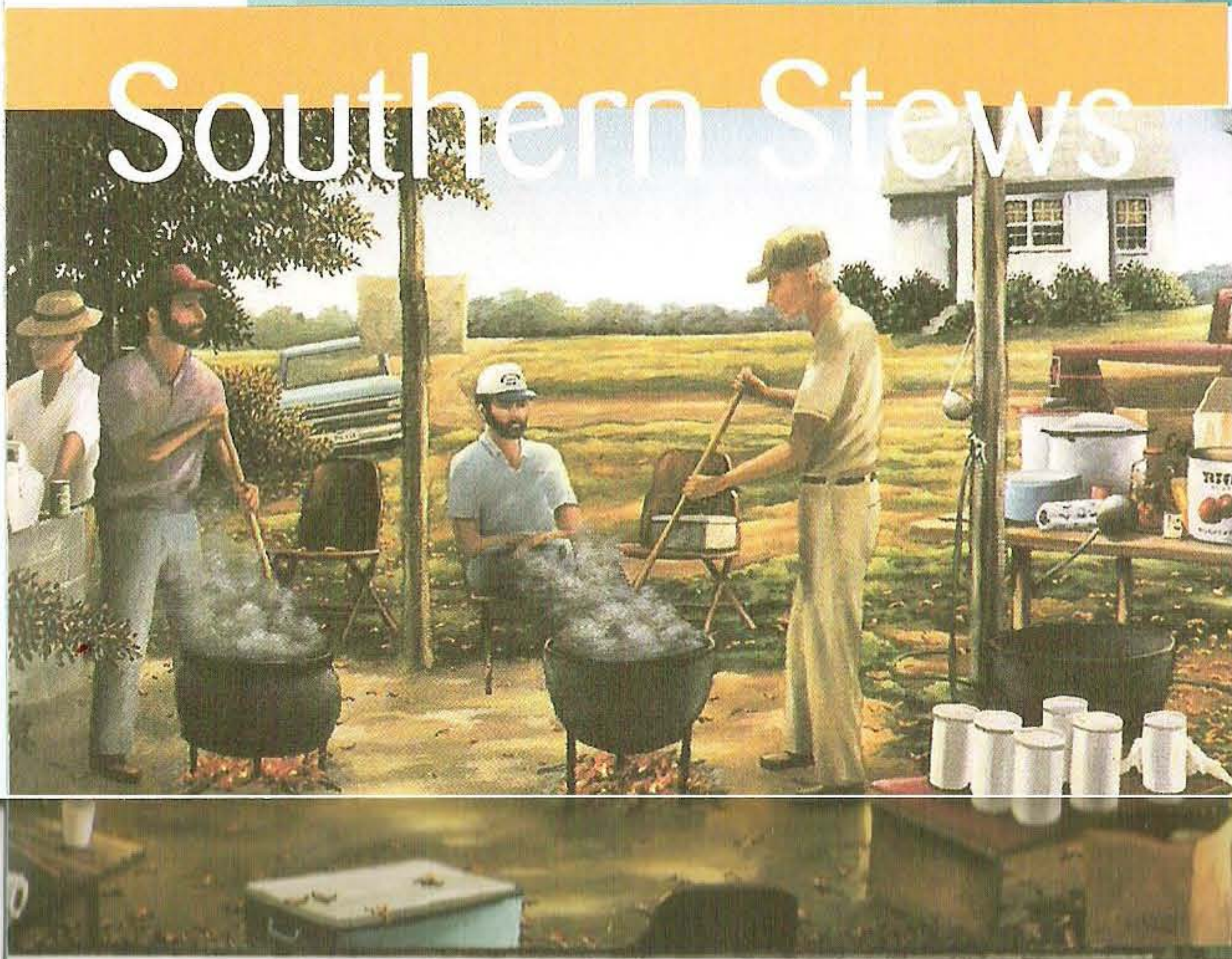
This Newsletter is brought to you by the McKissick Museum at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Under the Dome, McKissick Museum Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact digres@mailbox.sc.edu.

UNDER the DOME

MCKISSICK MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2000

Southern Stews



the artifacts of stew making – pots, cooking tools and accoutrements – will examine the changing traditions of stew making that through time have come to reinforce and define community values and cohesiveness as markers of a traditional ways of life. Foodways are among the most conservative cultural components documented by anthropologists and social historians. *Southern Stews* explores the relationships between the stuff of stews – their ingredients, recipes and artifacts used in their production – and the social dynamics of stew making and consumption.

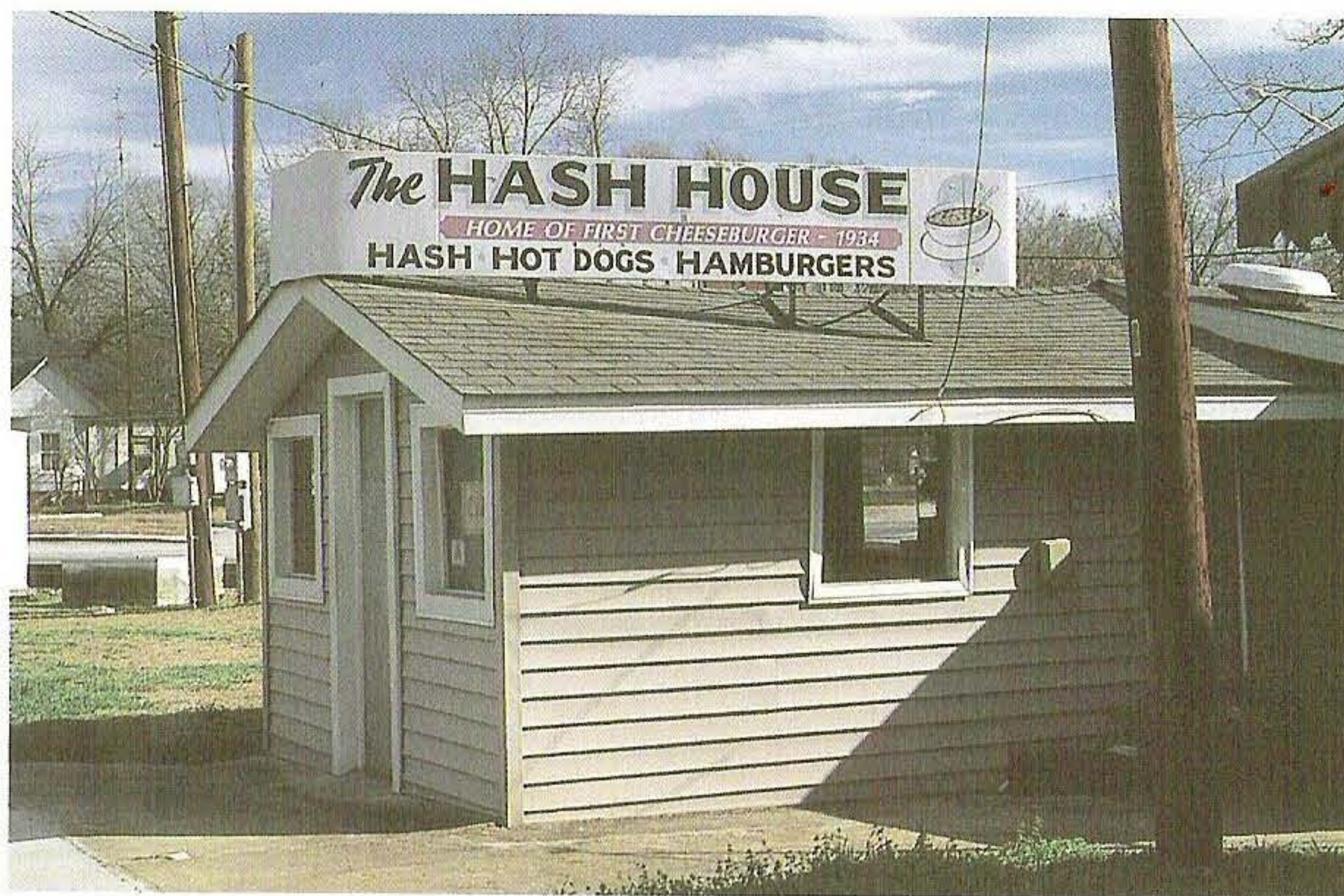
As emblems of an idealized Southern identity (both esoteric and exoteric), stews have been appropriated by a wide array of groups to maintain cultural boundaries and protect what stew makers and their consumers perceive as traditional ways of life, threatened by rural deindustrialization and the decline of local agricultural economies.

As groups as small as families and as large as regions and occupational organizations (such as volunteer fire companies), make and consume stews, the product itself, as well as the knowledge – recipes, feast organizations, etc. – used to make each stew become commodities within new contexts of understanding and cultural production. Woodward met and interviewed stewmasters who go to great lengths to make a case for the uniqueness of each local recipe and cooking technique. The people who make and eat

This spring, McKissick Museum explores Southern foodways with an exhibition that focuses on *Southern Stews*. From the hills of Virginia to the South Carolina Low Country, open pot cooking has been a vibrant component of regional culinary traditions embraced by Native Americans, Europeans and African Americans. The exhibition is built around video documentary work by Stan Woodward, whose 1980 video, *It's Grits* cracked smiles and brought grits out of the Southern cultural closet and onto the plates of mainstream America. Woodward began documenting Brunswick Stew in 1994 and four years later his video, *Brunswick Stew*, premiered in its namesake Virginia county. For the exhibition, Woodward expanded beyond the battling Brunswicks (Virginia and Georgia) and their world-renowned stews, and ventured to Georgia's wiregrass and hills and South Carolina's Sea Islands. He took his camera and his appetite to South Carolina's Backcountry and to Kentucky to find cooks transforming relatively mundane ingredients into culinary folk arts.

For the stew makers Woodward documented, the stewpot is their canvas and the blended meats, vegetables and spices are the paints with which edible arts are created by families and communities across the South.

The exhibition, highlighting sequences from Woodward's videography and



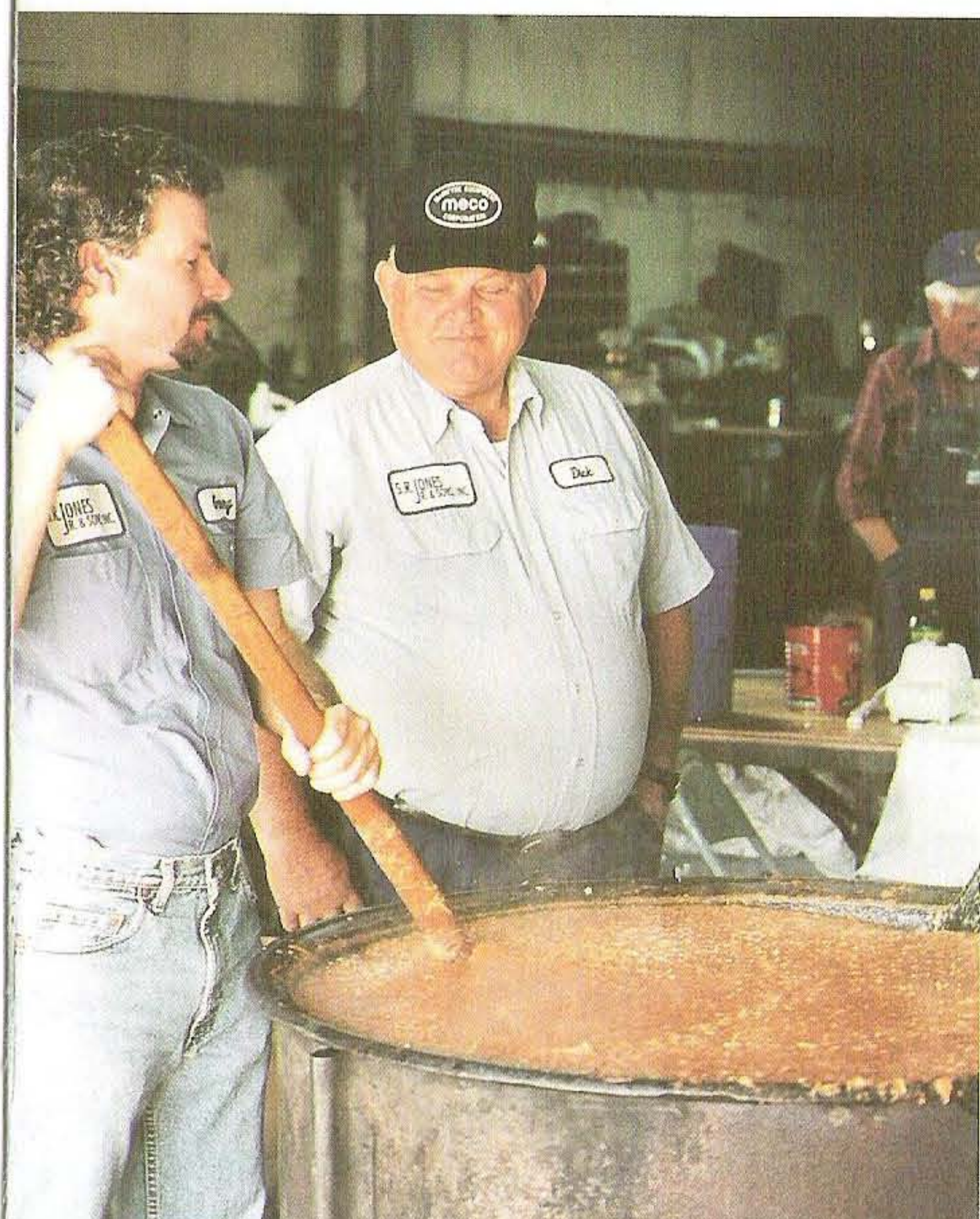
stews hold different definitions and perceptions of authenticity. One person's hash is another's Brunswick Stew. A burgoo in Owensboro, Kentucky is, by any other name, a sheep stew in Dundas, Virginia.

Southern Stews opens April 30 and runs through October 29. A high point of the exhibition will be McKissick Museum's Fall Folklife Festival, Saturday October 21, when we gather together stew makers to demonstrate cooking methods and to provide festival participants and Museum visitors with a tasty complement to the exhibition inside the gallery. For more information on *Southern Stews*, please visit our exhibitions web page at <http://www.cla.sc.edu/mcks/html/exhib.htm>.

Top: *Stew Day*, Eldridge Bagley
Oil on linen, 1998

Center: The Hash House in Greenwood, South Carolina, serves Carolina Hash to a clientele of railroaders, textile workers and others.

Bottom, left: Stewmaster Dick Jones and his crew get up at 4am to prepare a classic Brunswick Stew.



Jean Laney Harris FOLK HERITAGE AWARDS

Since 1988, more than fifty people have received the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award. The award was designed to recognize lifetime achievement in the traditional arts and to recognize individuals and groups for enduring and significant contributions that have enriched the quality of life in South Carolina. Created by a legislative act in 1987, the award first was known as the South Carolina Folk Heritage Award. In 1997, its name was changed to the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award. Harris, one of the legislators who introduced the bill, was a longtime champion of South Carolina's cultural heritage.

The award is given annually to traditional craftspeople, musicians, storytellers, and traditional religious specialists. A special category recognizes folk arts advocates, who work to preserve traditions and interpret them to wider audiences. Each year, up to four artists and one advocate may receive the award. Since its inception, bluegrass bands, praise-house singers, quilters, blacksmiths, basket-makers and woodworkers have received the award. In 1999, four artists and one advocate were honored: Nola Harris Campbell, Catawba potter; The Jackson Brothers, gospel singers; Harold Vernon Riddle, fiddler; "Colonel" Gene Wyatt, guitarist; and Gullah culture advocate Veronica Gerald.

Winners of the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award are selected by a six-member advisory committee. The committee, composed of representatives from McKissick Museum, the South Carolina Arts Commission and South Carolina House and Senate appointees, review nominations of candidates and assess them based on criteria established in the award's enabling legislation. The three criteria for the award are:

- *authenticity of tradition, the highest priority given to those crafts with a long history of practice in this state*
- *the significance of the individual folk artist or folk art group in maintaining or stimulating the craft to higher levels of artistic achievement; or, the significance of the folk arts advocate in supporting authentic South Carolina traditional craft or interpreting it to a wider audience*
- *the award must be given to folk artists living and practicing in this State.*

Each April, the winners are brought to the House chamber in a joint legislative session and are recognized on the House floor for their achievements. Each winner receives a certificate and is given an opportunity to perform for the legislators and spectators in the galleries. After the ceremony, McKissick Museum hosts a reception for the winners and their families.

USC Showcase 2000

April is the time for USC to "showcase" the many different aspects of University life to incoming and perspective students and their families. McKissick Museum is delighted to be part of this tradition. In addition to McKissick's prominent position on the horseshoe, we will have outdoor display tables set up with information about membership, summer programs, the Gala Fundraiser, and the Fall Folklife Festival.

We will also have "hands-on" art activities linked to the Gala exhibit, *A Place in Time*. Children of all ages will be able to create their own "time piece" before or after visiting the Museum. Folks can preview the artwork and buy tickets to the fundraiser. Two other great exhibits, the *Annual USC Student Art Exhibition* and *The Middle Passage: Drawings by Tom Feelings*, will also be on view. The Museum will open at 10:00 a.m. especially for Showcase.

We hope that you will come by and say hello to McKissick staff and volunteers!

**USC
Showcase**

Saturday,
April 1, 2000
10am-3pm

USC Horseshoe

South Carolina Federation of Museums 2000 Conference

This March McKissick Museum will be one of the hosts to welcome the South Carolina Federation of Museums to Columbia for their annual

meeting. The three-day conference, entitled *A Web of Ideas: Meeting in the Middle*, will draw museum professionals from all over the state to hone their professional skills by attending workshops and training sessions and also to exchange ideas with their colleagues in the field. Conference participants will have the chance to visit local museums and historic properties as they attend events hosted by the State Museum, Columbia Museum of Art, Riverbanks Zoo and Botanical Gardens, McKissick Museum, Historic Columbia Foundation and the Confederate Relic Room and Museum. Additional tours to the Congaree Swamp National Monument and the South Carolina State House will also be offered.

Kicking off the events on Wednesday, March 15, is a pre-conference workshop on exploring the role of museums in developing cultural tourism

within their community. This additional workshop, supported by a grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services, is offered free of charge to all Federation members. The main sessions scheduled for Thursday and Friday range from workshops on building exhibit cases and fabricating storage for collections to town meeting discussions on the current definition of a museum, and the pros and cons of staging living history events. Concluding the conference on Friday afternoon will be a keynote address by conservator Shelley Reisman Paine and a special luncheon in the Riverbanks Zoo aquarium/reptile complex.

While much of the emphasis of the conference is on professional development, it will not be all work. BBQ and Blues are also on the agenda. Participants will be treated to a BBQ lunch on Thursday catered by a well-known Midlands BBQ restaurant. Scheduled for that evening is a progressive reception beginning with light refreshments at the Confederate Relic Room and Museum, then on to McKissick Museum for a bit heavier fare and a Blues concert by Columbia Blues-master Drink Small, and ending at the Columbia Museum of Art for dessert and coffee.



A valuable South Carolina portrait has been donated to the Jewish Heritage Project. Through the generosity of Thomas W. Crockett of Jackson, Mississippi, the only known image of Chapman Levy, a notable nineteenth-century Columbia attorney, has come home to South Carolina. Mr. Crockett, a direct descendent of Levy, and also an attorney, made the presentation of the portrait miniature in honor of his mother Loraine T. Crockett.

Chapman Levy lived in Columbia during the 1820s. A native of Camden, South Carolina, he fought in the War of 1812 and served in both the South Carolina House and Senate. In the 1830s he moved from Columbia to Camden and took an active role in the Nullification Crisis. Authors Richard and Belinda Gergel who researched Levy's life for their book, *In Pursuit of the Tree of Life*, established that Chapman Levy was Columbia's first Jewish lawyer.

The portrait miniature will be featured in the exhibition *A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Jewish Life in South Carolina*, opening at McKissick Museum in September 2001.



Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

The annual **Volunteer Valentine's Luncheon** on February 8th was a festive occasion, awash with camellias and ivy, celebrating the important contribution of the Museum's loyal and dedicated volunteers. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the Mildred Cahan Award to Mrs. Ann Klingenhagen and Mrs. Ruth Hampton.

The Mildred Cahan Memorial Award was established to honor Mildred Cahan, the wife of a university professor, who passed away in 1983. Mrs. Cahan had been an active volunteer at McKissick Museum and several other local organizations. Twenty-two individuals and the University women's Club have been honored with the award since 1984.

Ann, a volunteer at McKissick since 1985, spends several hours a week maintaining the library located in the dome of the Museum.

She has also been very active in the planning, organization and preparation necessary for the success of the Bearfest in December and the Fall Folklife Festival in October, 1999. The mother of five grown children, she has been a docent with Historic Columbia, a Girl Scout leader and master gardener, with particular interest in Colonial History and crafts (spinning and tatting).

Ruth, who became a volunteer at McKissick in February of 1996, has at 90 years old reached 500 hours of volunteer service, most of those spent on Fridays manning the reception desk in the first floor lobby of the Museum. Also an active RSVP volunteer who has given many hours of service at Crayton Middle School as a mentor, a tutor and Lunch Partner, Ruth was the recipient of the Richland School District One's Senior Volunteer of the Year award in May 1999.

Director Lynn Robertson, shown displaying plaque bearing the names of the Mildred Cahan Award winners, congratulates this year's recipients Ann Klingenhagen, left, and Ruth Hampton, right.



McKissick Mornings

Summer Programs for Young People

offers a variety of educational experiences, including art, archaeology, pottery, geology and earth science, for rising first through third, third through fifth, and sixth through eighth graders.



This year, Ed Emmer will teach the geology and earth science camps. Through hands-on activities, Rock Hounds will learn that rocks and fossils are more than just things on the ground. Earth Rangers will explore how geology, astronomy and meteorology affect life here on earth! Christopher Judge, an archaeologist with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, will teach campers about archaeology. This will include a trip to Peachtree Rock! Artist Richard Coatney returns to teach the art and pottery camps. Art Camp will focus on various aspects of creating books, including writing, drawing and illustration, design and layout and producing the final product!

Pottery Camp will be linked to the exhibit **Making Faces**. Support from the South Carolina Arts Commission allows McKissick Museum to bring South Carolina potters Stephen Ferrell and Rosa and Winton Eugene into the classroom. They will demonstrate how they make pottery – including face jugs! The students can stretch their own imaginations when they make their own face jugs using techniques such as coiling, slab-building and wheel-throwing.

These one-week sessions will be held from June 5 – July 28, 2000. All camps are from 8:30am until noon. The cost per session, which includes all materials, snacks and a T-shirt, is \$55 per child for Museum Members (family/household level), and \$70 for non-members. A limited number of need-based scholarships are available. Contact Jill Koverman, Curator of Educational Services, at 777-7251, for more information or to register by phone.

Spend the Summer at McKissick!

New Staff Positions

The Museum has a new face on the premises these days. Birley Wright has come to McKissick as the coordinator for the Museum Advisory Council and Museum Membership. Arriving at the Museum's busiest time of the year, she has hit the ground running, working to bring the upcoming annual fundraising gala to a reality. Birley previously worked at *Prevent Child Abuse* where she organized educational programs. A trained educator who understand the importance of the Museum's teaching role, she also has experience in working on special events projects. Birley takes over from Ethel Bunch who receives a resounding "congratulations" from the staff at the news she will be a new mom early this spring.

A familiar face has been promoted into a new position at the Museum. Jason Shaiman, who has worked at McKissick as a curatorial assistant while he completed his graduate degree in art history, has been appointed as an associate curator in the exhibitions department. In addition to general department duties, Jason will fill the position as project manager on the NEH exhibition *A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Jewish Life in South Carolina*. Jason served as the curator of a major exhibition last fall in honor of retiring art faculty member James M. Steven.

Exhibitions and Events

Baruch Silver Collection

ongoing permanent exhibition

In 1965, through the generosity of the estate of Bernard Mannes Baruch, the University of South Carolina received an extensive collection of 18th and early 19th century British silver. This collection, numbered in excess of 450 pieces, had been assembled in the early 20th century by Baruch's wife, Annie Griffen Baruch.

USC Student Art Exhibition 2000

February 13 - April 2

The Middle Passage: Drawings by Tom Feelings

March 12 - December 17

A series of drawings from Feelings' provocative and powerful book, *The Middle Passage*, depicts African slaves' journey across the Atlantic Ocean. His monochromatic images tell numerous tales about the crossing. Feelings, also known for his children's picture books, is a retired USC art professor.

A Place in Time: Annual Gala Exhibition

March 19 - April 14

Exhibition of fine artworks, contributed by more than 100 artists for the Museum's annual fundraising auction, inspired by the theme *A Place in Time*.

Southern Stews: Traditions of One-Pot Cooking

April 30 - October 29

This tasty exhibition of stew-cooking artifacts and video footage from Stanley Woodward's new film *Brunswick Stew: A Virginia Treasure* brings to life the Southern tradition of one-pot meals and treasured community foodways. Beaufort Stew from South Carolina and Georgia Brunswick Stew are featured along with Kentucky Burgoo - a relative of low-country Chicken Bog.

> March 23 Muses Night Out: The Middle Passage

6:00 - 8:00pm

Light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Free.

> April 14 A Place in Time: Black-tie Gala and Art Auction

7:00 - 10:30pm

Cost: \$40.00 per person, \$75 per couple. Cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres.

The works of over 100 participating artists from the region will be auctioned, with proceeds benefiting McKissick Museum's endowment. Bidding is from 7:00-9:30pm.

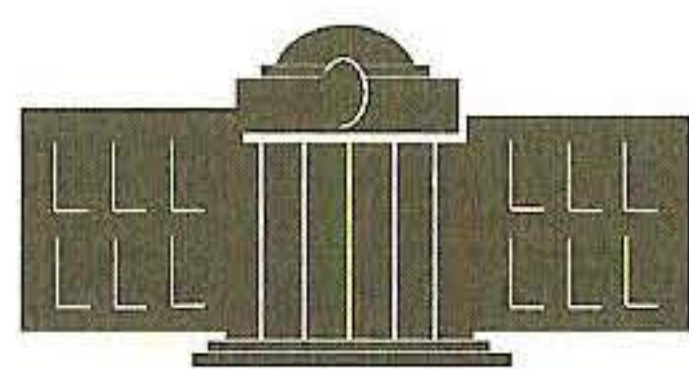
> June-July McKissick Mornings: Summer Programs for Young People

Cost: \$55 per Museum family member child, \$70 per non-member child.

This popular annual program offers a variety of educational experiences, including art, pottery-making, archaeology, geology and earth sciences for rising first through third, third through fifth, and sixth through eighth graders. Week-long sessions will be held from June 5 - July 28, 8:30am-12 noon, Monday-Friday. Cost includes all materials, a camp T-shirt and snacks.

McKissick Museum

University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208



The Museum is located at the head of the University of South Carolina's historic Horseshoe in the heart of campus. All exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Gallery hours are 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday, and weekends, 1 to 5 pm. Metered parking is available on all adjacent streets as well as in the lower level of the Pendleton Street Garage.

A number of volunteer opportunities are available at the Museum. Call 777-7251 for additional information on membership, tours, programs, and exhibits. Visit our home page on the internet at: <http://www.cla.sc.edu/mcks/index.html>

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #766
Columbia, SC

