

Carolina Children

The Piedmont



CYNTHIA MITCHELL STROUD

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Photographs by
CINDY HOSEA

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and Mrs. Barbara Sicko, for her submission of photography from BJU.

South Carolina Social Studies Standards

Standard 3.1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of places and regions and the role of human systems in South Carolina.

For students

Can you find the author in one of the pictures?

Answer at the end of the glossary.

My name is Penny Monte and I live in South Carolina.



I know that I live in the best place in the world because there are so many things to see and do here. There are all kinds of people to meet and many places to visit. I live in the northwest part of my state and I can see the mountains from the upstairs of my house. I can get to the coast in an afternoon's drive. I can see all kinds of smiling people as well as beautiful habitats and incredible natural **environments**.

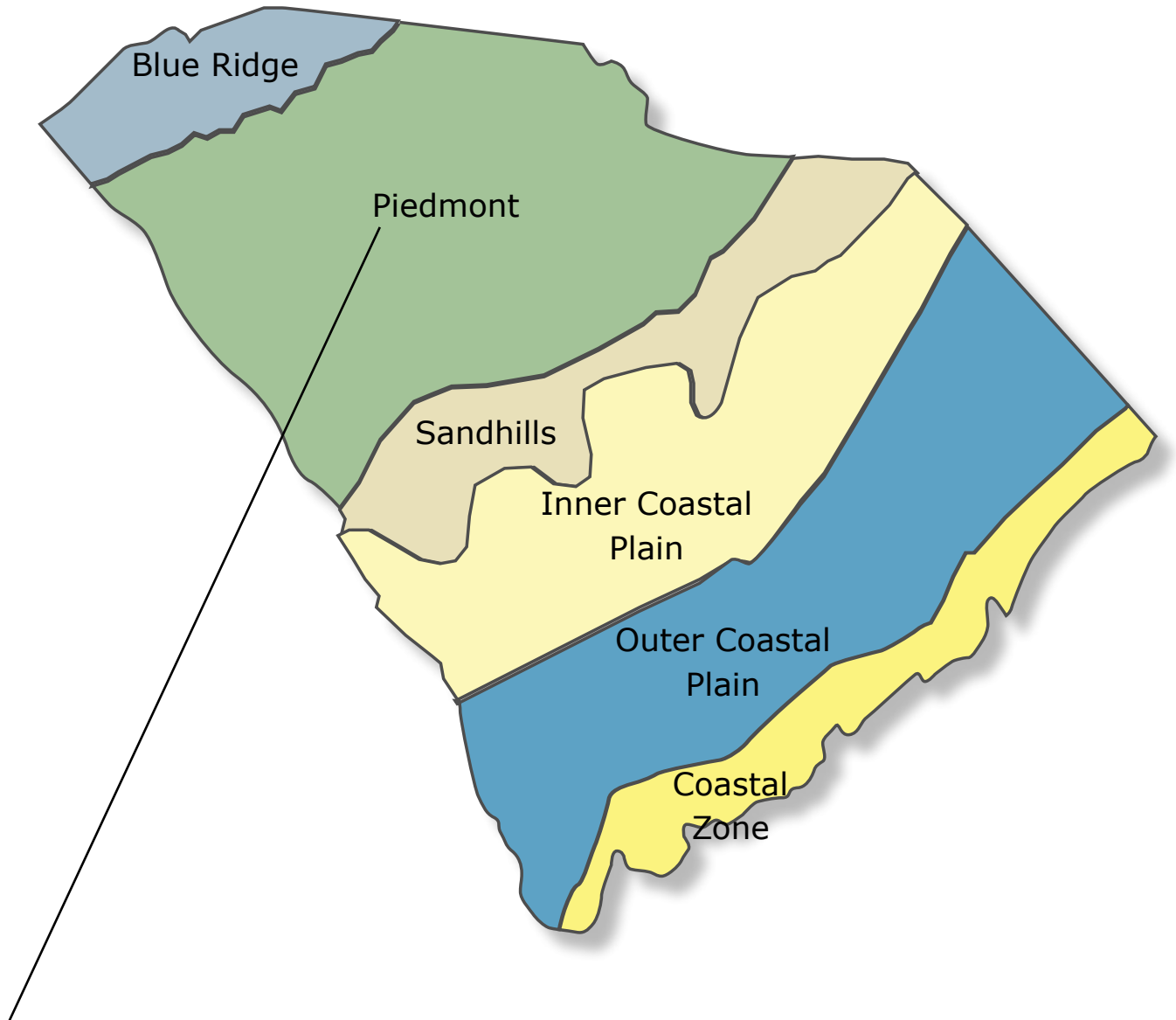
The **diversity** in South Carolina is amazing!

I live in Greenville. It is an **urban** area nestled at the foot of the mountains.

Can you see them in the distance?



The old blends with the new in the Greenville **skyline**.



There are six geographic regions of South Carolina. Georgia borders South Carolina to the southwest; North Carolina is on the northeast side of the state. The Atlantic Ocean meets our coastline to the southeastern side of the state.

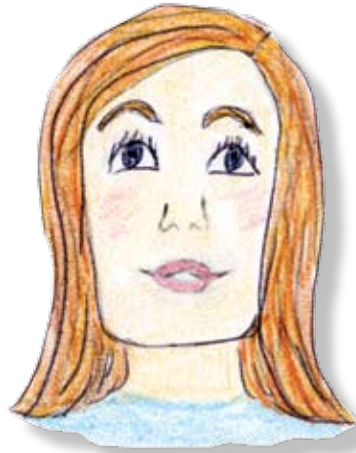


South Carolina Piedmont Region



We are at higher **elevations** in the Piedmont than most other parts of South Carolina. The **landscape** consists of rolling hills; they are lower in the east but get higher in the west and northwest. In Greenville we are at the foothills of the mountains of the Blue Ridge. The word piedmont comes from the Italian words, *piede* "foot" and *monte* "mountain." The border between the Piedmont region and the Sandhills is called the Fall Line. It marks the line where the upland rivers "fall" to the lower regions. The Piedmont of South Carolina is **characterized** by rolling hills, lots of **tributaries**, and red clay soil. This red dirt once had a lot of rich **topsoil** on top of it. Most of this soil is gone because, in the past, people did not know how to farm to use the soil in the best way. Row crops such as corn, soybeans, and cotton were commonly planted. Today farmers use methods of soil **conservation** like **contour plowing** and **terracing**.

Let me tell you about my home and my life as a South Carolinian.



I am in the third grade at Bell's Crossing Elementary. It is named for John Henry Bell who once owned much land in this area.

Bell's Crossing Elementary is only a few years old: it is a beautiful building and we plan to keep it that way. We have the most incredible teachers and staff and learning is always fun at our school.

We are a Baldrige school so we get a "Total Quality" education. Our Hands on Science program is offered in only three schools in the state. We have won honors like the Exemplary Writing Award and we have done some really great plays like *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Even more impressive is the way our parents work together in a PTA with 100% membership. I know that there are excellent schools in the Piedmont region, and in South Carolina, but Bell's Crossing Elementary would be hard to beat!



I am a proud Bell's Crossing Eagle!



I live with my parents and my brother. My dad works at Michelin; it is a company that makes tires. He is French and grew up in France.



Michelin



BMW

My mom works at BMW; that's a company that makes cars. I bet you aren't surprised to find out that our car is a BMW with Michelin tires on it!

We live in a house in a subdivision with lots of houses and we have lots of friends nearby. We can always find someone to play with.



My brother and I play on soccer teams during spring and summer. I also take piano lessons. My brother wants to take guitar lessons, but our parents told him that he has to wait until he is twelve. He is impatiently waiting to be older!

Sometimes our grandparents, grand-père and grand-mère, come to visit us from France, but next summer we may get to visit them.

My dad has taught us some French so it will be really cool to go there and use it. But in the meantime, we are happy to show our part of South Carolina to them. They visit us often because they love us and they love to be here.



grand-mère



grand-père

When they come to visit we pick them up at the airport. The Greenville-Spartanburg Airport is an **international** airport where many planes carry passengers to and from the upstate as well as supplies and equipment for the **industry** of the area. It sure effects the **human geography** of the Piedmont.





The I-85 **corridor** provides the land **access** for industry and **technology** in the upstate of South Carolina. The airport provides the access by air. They make the Greenville-Spartanburg area a good location for businesses like the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research. It is said that CU-ICAR will be the **premier** automotive and motor sports research and educational **facility** in the world. The greater Greenville area is home to more international manufacturing investment **per capita** than any other region in the U.S. That means...jobs!

We love to go to downtown.
There are so many things to see.



Dad says he can almost imagine that he is in Paris when he goes to this sidewalk café. The Tuxedo Truffle Mousse there is *exquis!*



Sometimes we walk the beautiful tree lined streets and sometimes we take the trolley.



Day or night, lots of people are found in downtown Greenville.

Some people live downtown in **condos** or **lofts**.



That would make it easy to walk to many of the different **events** that occur in the area. It sure would be hard to park your car though; the signs say that you can park only for two hours. Um, sounds like a problem if you have a car.

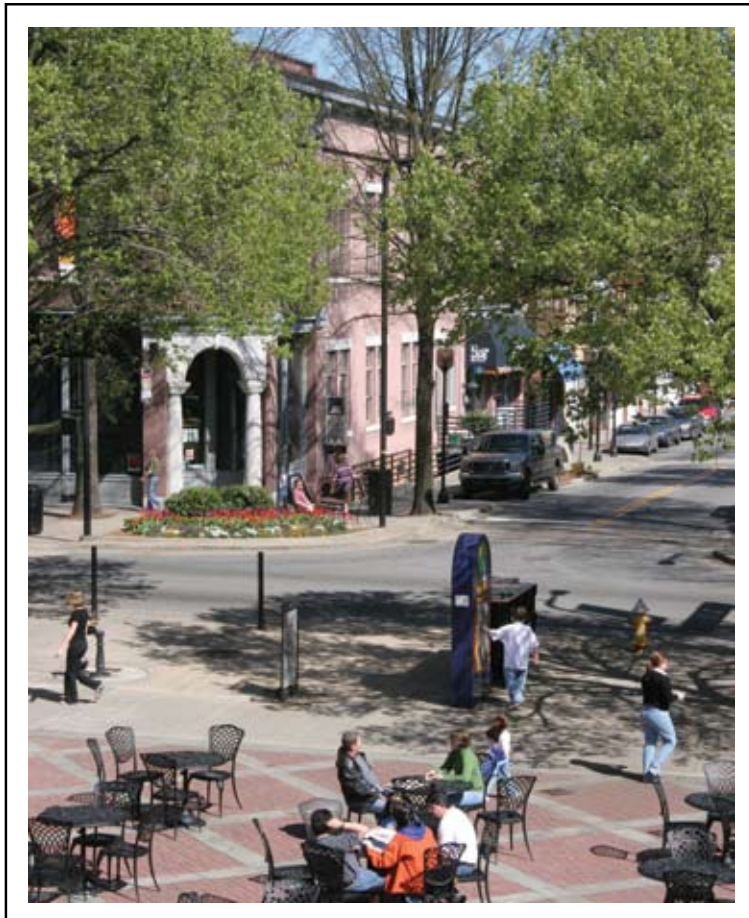


These steps lead you down to the Carolina First Amphitheater.

Let me show you some places within walking distance if you live downtown.



Upstate Shakespeare Festival is just one of the events held there.



We often go, in warm weather, to "Downtown Alive". Any time of year, however, you will find people enjoying the area. There is music, and sometimes presentations like plays, at Piazza Bergamo. Other events occur all over the downtown area and sometimes there are several things happening all at the same time. When that happens, it can be hard to choose where to go and what to see. My mom likes the Saturday Market on Saturday mornings during the summer, but my dad always looks forward to Fall for Greenville. I myself like it all!

Piazza Bergamo is named to honor our sister city of Bergamo, Italy. It is in the Lombardy region of Italy and is located near the city of Milan. Do you see Milan on the map? It is not far from the home of my grandparents in France!





We love to look for the downtown mice **sculptures**. There are nine bronze mice hidden around downtown; the idea came from the popular children's book, *Goodnight Moon*. I can give you a hint for finding one of them: start at this fountain.

If you pay attention to the background of this picture and go to the fountain there, you can find one of the mice. My brother and I found six of them, but this is the only hint I'm giving!



Look for this somewhere around the fountain.



There are many statues in downtown Greenville and most of them celebrate Greenville's past. One of the **historical** figures **rendered** in bronze is Joel Poinsett, the man who brought the poinsettia to the United States from Mexico. He sits on the Court Square next to the Westin Poinsett Hotel.

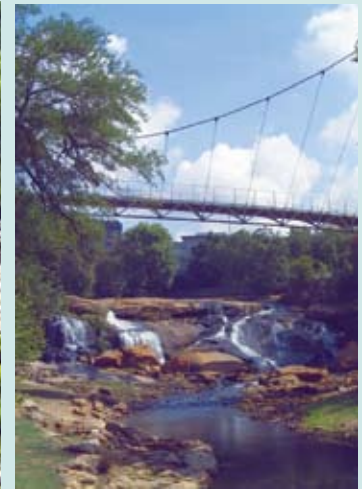


The Liberty Bridge on the west end of downtown spans the Reedy River and is the focal point of Falls Park. It is really something to see since there is no other bridge like it in the entire United States. Miguel Rosales, an architect in Boston, created the **unique** design and it makes you feel like you are simply floating over the river and the park. It is 355 feet long and twelve feet wide. It actually curves and leans down; it is a perfect place to see the gardens and river below it.



McPherson Park, the oldest city park, was opened in 1884. The city's park system also includes Linky Stone Park; it is centered on a children's garden. The nearby Cleveland Park contains tennis courts, jogging trails, exercise equipment and the city's largest playground. There is no shortage of great places to sit, relax, or just have a good time.

The Reedy River is an important part of the landscape.



Greenville was originally founded on the banks of the Reedy in 1760's. It was in the heart of Cherokee hunting grounds; evidence of their villages has been found along the riverbank in the downtown area.

The Reedy River contributed to the development of Greenville in a huge way. The supply of waterpower helped the **textile** industry grow. As industry continued to expand around the river, the river was used to wash away waste from the mills. There was no treatment or concern about



its condition and the water became **polluted**. Some people say that in the 1980's it was a different color every day because of the **dyeing** operations of the textile plants in the area. A group formed in order to preserve and restore the natural **environment** of the river. The Friends of the Reedy River want to help people understand how to work and play in a **watershed**. It is fortunate for all of us that these concerned citizens banded together in order to improve our environment.



If you travel further into the West End, you will find even more interesting sights and sounds.

The West End Field is a new stadium modeled after Fenway Park in Boston. It opened in 2006 and is home to the Greenville Drive baseball team.

Shoeless Joe Jackson was a Greenville **native**. He played baseball on the Brandon Mill team at the age of thirteen; his skills on the major league field became **legendary**. He played in the World Series in 1919. You can find a statue of Joe on Main Street.

Want to know more?
Visit www.blackbetsy.com
and read all about him!





There are many other attractions; the Peace Center is a popular one. Many events are held there such as Broadway shows and concerts performed by internationally known artists. Educational programs make for valuable, but fun, field trips for students.

The Peace Outreach Program has served 70,000 students from South Carolina as well as parts of Georgia and western North Carolina.



History Museum



Art Museum



Little Theater



Library



Heritage Green is an important part of the downtown community too. There you will find the Greenville County Library, the Upcountry History Museum, the Children's Museum, the Greenville Little Theatre, and the Greenville County Art Museum.



Bob Jones University also has a **renowned** art collection. It includes Italian, English, Spanish, French, Flemish, German, and Dutch art which **spans** six **centuries**. I like to go on the children's tours, especially the **scavenger** hunts and the postcard tours. My brother's favorite is the **Archeologist's** Adventure. He has learned a lot about **ancient civilizations** from his "digging". My parents and my grandparents go often on Sunday afternoons when the admission is free. Grand-meré appreciates the **docents** and the tours they give, but you can also use the earphones to take an **audio** tour. There are books, CDs, and DVDs with teaching guides that are available for purchase. The Bob Jones University Museum & Gallery is an enormous asset to the Piedmont in any way that you choose to use it.



We have been to the Bi-Lo Center to see many different things. It is a great place for all kinds of sports and entertainment. There are seats for 15,000 people; we have seen things there like *Walking with Dinosaurs: The Live Experience*. Wow! It was just like they were real.



The Bi-Lo Center has been recognized as one of the top fifty **venues** in the world. That's the reason so many people attend the many great events that are available there.

Even though we are at the foot of the mountains, we have our own little mountain right here in Greenville. It is Roper Mountain and it is home to the Roper Mountain Science Center.

The Charles E. Daniel **Observatory** features a very historic 23" **refractor** telescope, the eighth largest of its kind in the nation.

Along with the T.C. Hooper **Planetarium**, the observatory provides a great opportunity to learn lots about space science.

Roper Mountain Science Center is a facility of the School District of Greenville County and the primary program participants are the county's school children. All of the science programs go with the science curriculum of the district. A private support group, the Roper Mountain Science Center Association, actively supports and promotes the center through memberships and **corporate** sponsorships.



Right now Friday nights are "Starry Nights" at RMSC. Visitors are treated to three different Hooper Planetarium presentations for a small admission charge.



In addition to space science, you can experience nature in a number of ways. The butterfly garden, nature trails, the lily pond, and the **Arboretum** are just a few of the learning environments.



During the summer children can participate in four-day "Science for Fun" mini-courses at the RMSC. Groups work with a wide variety of topics such as Lego Logo, rocketry, kitchen chemistry, unusual pets, seashore critters, and many others. Second Saturdays are public days and the Living History Farm is open. Visitors can sometimes see planting, cultivation, harvest, and preparation of foods that were grown during the early days of our country. It's a great place for learning!



Want a fun family activity on Memorial Day?

Try Freedom Weekend Aloft!

It started many years ago when a movie company wanted a backdrop for a movie. That movie never made it to the theaters, but a unique tradition was born with FWA. It includes 100 hot-air balloons from all over the country competing for prizes. Recording artists present concerts each night of the event while visitors can enjoy food, dancing, amusement rides, arts and crafts, and much more.



Plans for future FWA festivals include a 12,000 seat grass amphitheater, a midway, soccer and baseball fields, tree lined paved walkways, permanent restrooms, picnic shelters, and a **replica** miniature steam engine.

It will make an impact on the 90 acre environment of Heritage Park in nearby Simpsonville. Doesn't it make you want to be there?

Did I mention movies? The Piedmont area has been the location of several movies. I am sure the mild **climate** and the **physical geography** have a lot to do with that, but it also may be that movie companies find many friendly people here. They often hire local people to work in the movie. When they bring their equipment in, it would be easy for people to complain about the inconvenience. Not here! People love it!



Can you see the cameraman in this picture? The bright lights shine down on the actors so that the movie will be bright enough for everything in the scene to be **illuminated**. It must be hard for actors to see what they are doing with those lights shining so brightly, don't you think?

Here's an actor in "Leatherheads", a recent movie partly filmed in Greenville, Greer, Travelers Rest, and Anderson. It stars George Clooney and Rene Zellweger; both of them are very famous and both of them are Oscar winning actors.



If you head north from Greenville on US Highway 25 and take SC 414 through Travelers Rest, you can find Campbell's Covered Bridge on Campbell's Bridge Road. It was built in 1909 and is the only covered bridge left in South Carolina. It makes me wonder why they built covered bridges. What do you think was the reason?



Although the term **gristmill** can refer to any mill that grinds grain, the term historically was used to refer to a local mill where farmers brought their own grain and received the flour from it, minus the "miller's toll". The miller is the one with the skill and knowledge to do the work.

This gristmill is near Anderson. I know why the gristmills were necessary. Many years ago, they were used to grind grains to make flour, grits, and corn meal. It looks like hard work to me.





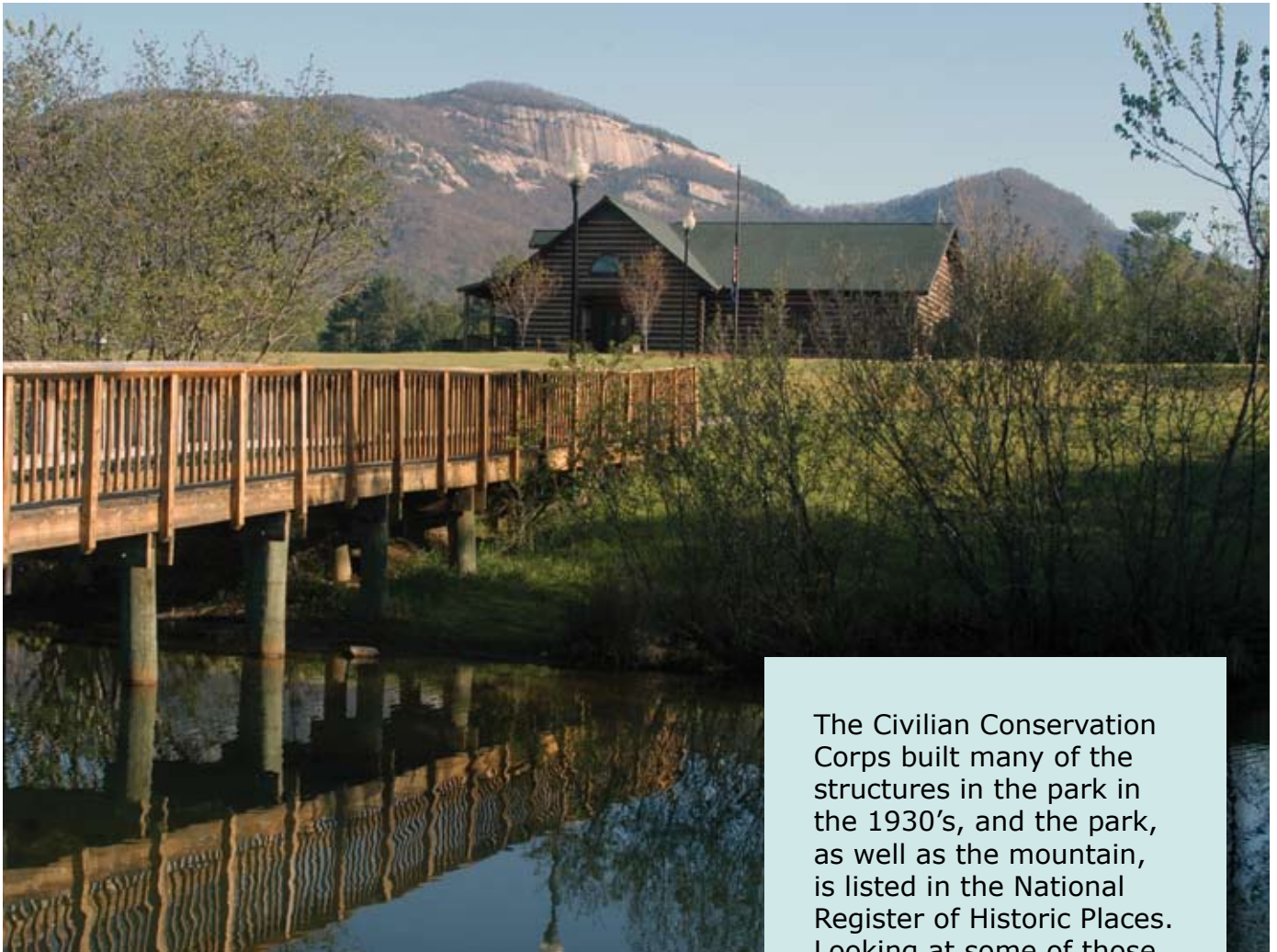
Photo Credit: US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Do you like to go to the lake? From Greenville it is just a short drive to Lake Hartwell, Lake Keowee, and Lake Greenwood.

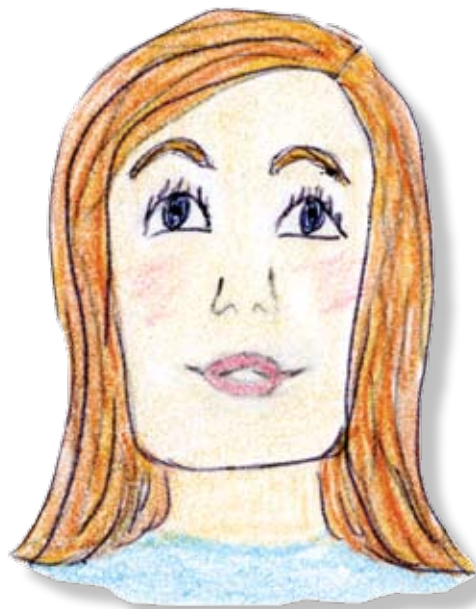
The lakes in the Piedmont are a magnet for tourists and recreational activities of area residents. They certainly are an attraction for many of the people who move into the region from different parts of the country. Boating, swimming, water skiing, sailing, diving, and fishing would sure make me want to move here. But I'm lucky...I already live here!



Table Rock, in nearby northern Pickens county, is one of several **monadnocks** in the Piedmont. Table Rock State Park is a neat place for hiking and picnicking. The trails are said to be the most challenging in the state park system, but if you don't want to hike, there are plenty of other things to do. You'll find a restaurant, cabins, and you won't have to go far to find golf, tennis, swimming, and horseback riding. We love to go there.



The Civilian Conservation Corps built many of the structures in the park in the 1930's, and the park, as well as the mountain, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Looking at some of those buildings makes you feel like you have stepped back in time. Grand-peré says that he can remember the 1930's, but I think he's kidding. He was just a tiny baby!



This is my home,
Greenville, South
Carolina. It is part of the
fertile and gently sloped
region at the foot of the
Blue Ridge Mountains
called the Piedmont. It is
a beautiful place where
business and recreation
live in the shadows of
the mountains and in the
reflections of the lakes. It
is a wonderful place for
a family. I don't think
I could ever be happy
anywhere else!

Glossary

access- a way or means of approach.

ancient civilization- the beginning of human history.

arboretum- a plot of land on which many different trees or shrubs are grown for study or display.

archeologist- a scientist who studies prehistoric people and their cultures.

asset- a useful and desirable thing or quality.

audio- of, pertaining to, or employed in the transmission, reception, or reproduction of sound.

century- a period of 100 years.

characterize- to mark or distinguish as a characteristic; be a characteristic of.

climate- commonly considered to be the weather averaged over a long period of time, typically 30 years.

condo or condominium- a individually owned unit of real estate, especially an apartment or town house, in a building or on land that is owned in common by the owners of the units.

conservation- the act of conserving; prevention of injury, decay, waste, or loss; preservation.

contour plowing- the farming practice of plowing across a slope following its contours. The rows formed have the effect of slowing water run-off during rainstorms so that the soil is not washed away and allows the water to percolate into the soil.

corporate- of, for, or belonging to a corporation or corporations.

corridor- passage connecting separate areas.

diversity- a variety of experiences and perspectives that arise from differences in race, culture, religion, physical or mental abilities, heritage, age, gender, or other characteristics.

docent- a person who is a knowledgeable guide, esp. one who conducts visitors through a museum and delivers a commentary on the exhibitions.

dye- a coloring material or matter.

elevation- the height to which something is elevated or to which it rises.

environment- all the outside factors influencing the life and activities of people, plants, and animals.

event- something that happens at a given place and time.

facility- something designed, built, installed, etc., to serve a specific function affording a convenience or service.

fertile- bearing, producing, or capable of producing vegetation, crops, etc.

gristmill- a mill for grinding grain.

Heritage Corridor- runs from the foothills of Oconee County in the northwestern corner of the state, along the Savannah River, through the Edisto River Basin, to the port city of Charleston.

historic- referring to the past in human terms.

human geography- political/cultural branch of geography concerned with the social science aspects of how the world is physically arranged.

illuminate- to supply or brighten with light; light up.

industry- grouping of businesses that share a common method of generating profits.

landscape- comprises the visible features of an area of land, including physical elements such as landforms, living elements of flowers and animals, elements such as lighting and weather conditions, and human interaction with the environment.

legendary- celebrated or described in legend.

loft- an upper story of a business building, warehouse, or factory, typically consisting of open, unpartitioned floor area.

monadnock- an isolated hill of bedrock rising conspicuously above the general level of the surrounding area.

municipality- a city, town, or other district possessing corporate existence and usually its own local government

native- originating, produced, growing, or living naturally in a place.

observatory- a place or building equipped and used for making observations of astronomical, meteorological, or other natural phenomena, esp. a place equipped with a powerful telescope for observing the planets and stars.

per capita- equally to each individual.

physical geography- the branch of geography concerned with natural features and phenomena of the earth's surface, as landforms, drainage features, climates, soils, and vegetation.

planetarium- a device that produces a representation of the heavens by the use of a number of moving projectors.

pollute- to make foul or unclean, especially with harmful chemical or waste products.

premier- first in rank; chief; leading.

refractor telescope- an optical instrument for making distant objects appear larger and therefore nearer.

render- to cause to be or become; make.

renown- widespread and high repute; fame.

replica- any close or exact copy or reproduction.

scavenger- a person who searches through and collects items.

sculpture- a three-dimensional work of art, especially by carving, modeling, or casting.

skyline- the outline of something, as the buildings of a city, against the sky.

span- to extend or reach over (space or time).

subdivision- a portion of land divided into lots for real-estate development.

technology- the branch of knowledge that deals with the creation and use of technical means and their interrelation with life, society, and the environment, drawing upon such subjects as industrial arts, engineering, applied science, and pure science.

terracing- using a raised level with a vertical or sloping front or sides faced with masonry, turf, or the like, esp. one of a series of levels rising one above another.

textile- any cloth or goods produced by weaving, knitting, or felting.

toll- grain retained by a miller in payment for grinding.

topsoil- the fertile, upper part of the soil.

tributary- a stream that flows to a larger stream or other body of water.

unique- having no like or equal; unparalleled; incomparable.

urban- relating to or belonging to a city.

watershed- the region or area drained by a river, stream, etc.

venue- the scene or locale of any action or event.

*** The author is found on page 11 at the Paris Café.

