

USC AT 200

Following the generations through the school's history



Mildred Neil of Columbia has collected diplomas, photos and books of eight generations of her family that have attended USC.

Family tree grows on the Horseshoe

Loyal USC family traces its roots to the first members to enroll in the university

By CHRISTINE SCHWEICKERT
Staff Writer

Mildred Neil's family has loved USC since it was a baby. Brothers Sam and Hugh Barkley were the first to enroll. The two attended then-South Carolina College during the early 1800s, starting approximately 1806, rising early with their colleagues for morning devotions, drawing their water from wells on the Horseshoe and mastering Virgil in its original Latin.

Then, their sister married Osmond R. Thompson, another USC student, establishing the first link of a family chain to attend USC. Last fall, that chain added Charles John Neil Jr., freshman engineering student, would-be physician and Mildred Neil's grandson.

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USC Bicentennial
■ USC at 200, a special section kicking off the celebration of the university's 200th birthday.

"We've had two lawyers and a doctor, and just a lot of ordinary people" attend USC, says Mildred Neil, whose Shandon home is the repository for the family history.

Neil's prizes include four of Sam and Hugh's first battered notebooks — math, English grammar, a Greek dictionary and the copy of Virgil — and an assortment of diplomas and portraits made sepia-colored by time.

The history is one that Neil says she finds fascinating, but not her family, especially the younger ones. However, she hopes that all of the hoopla surrounding USC's bicentennial ceremonies, which begin Wednesday and extend throughout 2001, will spark an



Mildred Neil's Shandon home is a family museum.

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