



By Cele & Lynn Seldon

When North Carolina-based lawyer and photographer extraordinaire Mike Lassiter approached us about writing introductions to the nine chapters of his new coffee table book, *Our Vanishing Americana: A South Carolina Portrait*, we jumped at the chance—especially after seeing his best-selling *Our Vanishing Americana: A North Carolina Portrait*, along with watching the accompanying PBS show about it. Once we dug in, it gave us great insight into many of the long-standing businesses and people of our adopted state and we never looked back.

After traveling throughout North Carolina capturing in photographs the iconic family businesses which have been fading from the backroads and Main streets for the past quarter of a century, Lassiter continued his journey southward. The result is *Our Vanishing Americana: A South Carolina Portrait*, a coffee table-style book with more than 200 pages of colorful photos of general stores, hardware stores, fillin' stations, groceries, barber shops, theaters, drugstores, restaurants and other vanishing Americana across the Palmetto State. We contributed the introductory text in each chapter, featuring personal stories and anecdotes from some of the fascinating people and places Lassiter met and experienced during his travels to every county in the state.



