

Friday • March 15, 2013

KNOW YOUR COUNTY

Dial "4" on your rotary phone

Looking through a copy of *The Franklin Press*, dated Sept. 5, 1957, was a shock to me. I remember 1957, so it shouldn't look so much like "history," should it?

Forty years ago, you could reach City Dry Cleaners by phoning "4" on your rotary dial. At that time, Franklin had been enjoying dial service for seven years.



Barbara McRae
 Columnist

Bill's tear open for business on Main Street. The A&P advertised two pounds of grapes for 29 cents.

There were three locally owned pharmacies — A&S's Drug Store, Perry's Drug Store and Carolina Pharmacy.

Franklin boasted the only "Indoor-Outdoor Theatre" in the Carolinas. (Its name was "Franklin Indoor-Outdoor Theatre") featured that September were *Swains of Alaska* and *The Man Who Loved to Snow*. The town also had the Macon Theatre, which was strictly indoor. That week, it was playing *Rock Could Be the Night* and *Rock Peety Baby*.

The Dixie Grill, located "beside the Little Tennessee River at the bridge" offered curb service and "the best food at the most reasonable price possible."

The Plymouth-Dodge-Chrysler dealer was Macon Motor Company. Bob Gaines Motors offered auto repair and body work.

Camp Studio and Camera Shop provided "24-hour developing service on black and white."

The Bank of Franklin was urging people to open a checking account. "When you pay by check you have the most convenient and cheapest form of receipt there is."

Several familiar names were in operation: WFBC Radio, Jamison Jewelers and The Normands an eat with us. Those and the Twins' Shop, Nantahala Lumber Company, Macon's Food Market ("Phone 9 — We Deliver") and People's Dept. Store had ads in this issue of the paper. People's gave Owen Stamps, back then. "You may be old timer if you remember them."

Jack Ragan and the Civil Air Patrol was planning to start a rescue squad here.

Macon County had a new school superintendent, H. Busch, who came here from Murphy. The schools also had two new principals that

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At left, Nick Palotta demonstrates the art of live staking as Mark Matheis, assistant professor of broadcasting at WCU, tapes the technique for a video. Live stakes are woody shrub cuttings that root quickly once planted in moist or wet soils along the banks of streams and lakes. Live stakes make a good source of plant materials for stabilizing banks and restoring shoreline vegetation. Below, during an earlier workshop, volunteers cleaned the Morrison House and removed some of the modern additions to reveal the original log structure. The house, which dates to the 1830s or earlier, is considered the oldest house in this part of Macon County.

Photos by Barbara McRae

'Live staking' means better health for streams

By Barbara McRae
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growth, but stronger growth, Palotta said.

To further encourage the staker to prosper, paper (a nonpetroleum-based product) is laid down to control competing plants, especially ferns, blackberry and honeysuckle, then mulch is applied to help retain moisture.

Palotta said he has learned from experience that early March is the best time to do live staking. The end of March marks the closing of the window for success with this technique.

By the time the workshop ended, volunteers had installed approximately 320 live stakes. The goal for the Lakey Creek property is to eventually plant 1,500 live stakes and 100 trees and shrubs along the stream.

Shade Your Stream

Jason Meador, aquatic program manager for LITL, described the benefits of shading a stream.

"When you think of shade, you think 'cool,'" but shading provides much more in terms of benefit to the stream, Meador said.

"Shading is the main problem with stream in our area," he said. Root help hold the soil on banks and the area around streams (riparian area). Grass is helpful, but its roots are small. Shrubs produce more root mass, and large trees even more, to hold the soil during flood events such as those this county has experienced recently.

"If you're a landowner, paying taxes on your land, you might as well

keep it," he said.

As well as providing shade and holding the soil, shrubs and trees along a stream provide food for fish in the form of insects. Meador said studies have found that half the insects in the diet of fish come from terrestrial sources — insects that fall into the creek from overhanging branches. Other species, including bark and waterbugs, find food and shelter in the riparian habitat provided by streamside plants.

Birds like streams, Meador said, but they prefer to sit up in the trees alongside the water, not on a bare bank.

Another significant benefit is a riparian buffer, which shrubs and trees provide. It is the impact on water quality. Runoff washes pollutants into the stream, including herbicides which deplete oxygen levels in the water. Stream buffers reduce runoff and improve water quality downstream. Thus, improving the riparian buffer along Lakey Creek benefits the Little Tennessee River, into which the stream flows.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program provided funding for the workshop and restoration project in part because of the downstream benefit.

"Restoration on tributaries provides habitat on-site and protects the river downstream," Meador said. That benefits the rare and endangered aquatic species that are found in the Little Tennessee River.

Visit www.lit.org/hot-trends and click on the "Shade your stream" link under the "Water" heading to learn more and download the "Shade Your Stream" brochure.

Learning opportunities

The Lakey Creek workshop had several purposes beyond getting the trees in the ground. Among the participants were landowners who welcomed the opportunity to master some of the theory and technique of stream restoration.

Connie Rehling, one of the landowners who participated was talking notes and asking lots of questions. She said the workshop was everything she could ask for the proper way to care for the stream on her land.

The workshop was videotaped by Mark Matheis, assistant professor of broadcasting in the communication department of Western Carolina University. The video he produces will be available for people to view on the "Shade Your Stream" website, and thus spread the word about an important tool in water conservation.

Some of the volunteers on hand Saturday were students with Western Carolina University's Natural Resource Conservation and Management Program, under Pete Eyster. Logan Medlam, a senior, said they were excited about the chance to put their academic training in soil and water conservation to work on the ground. The other students were Valery Foxworth, Randy Reinde and Marci Summers.



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