

Iredell CITIZEN

Fashions
Page 16

Art On The Green
Page 22

Volume 3, Number 21 • 32 Pages

AUGUST 31, 2000

citizenedit@usiway.net

Statesville, NC 28677 • 50¢

Published Weekly in the Crossroads of the Carolinas

Help Keeping Water Clean At...

Your Front Door

Bob Plyler
IREDELL CITIZEN

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE, but there's not a drop to drink. This old saying could turn out to be truer than you think.

Iredell County has many branches, creeks and rivers but, according to Cindy Pitt, with Keep Iredell Clean, all of our local streams are showing signs of pollution. "Hunting Creek," she said, "at the present time, is the cleanest stream we have."

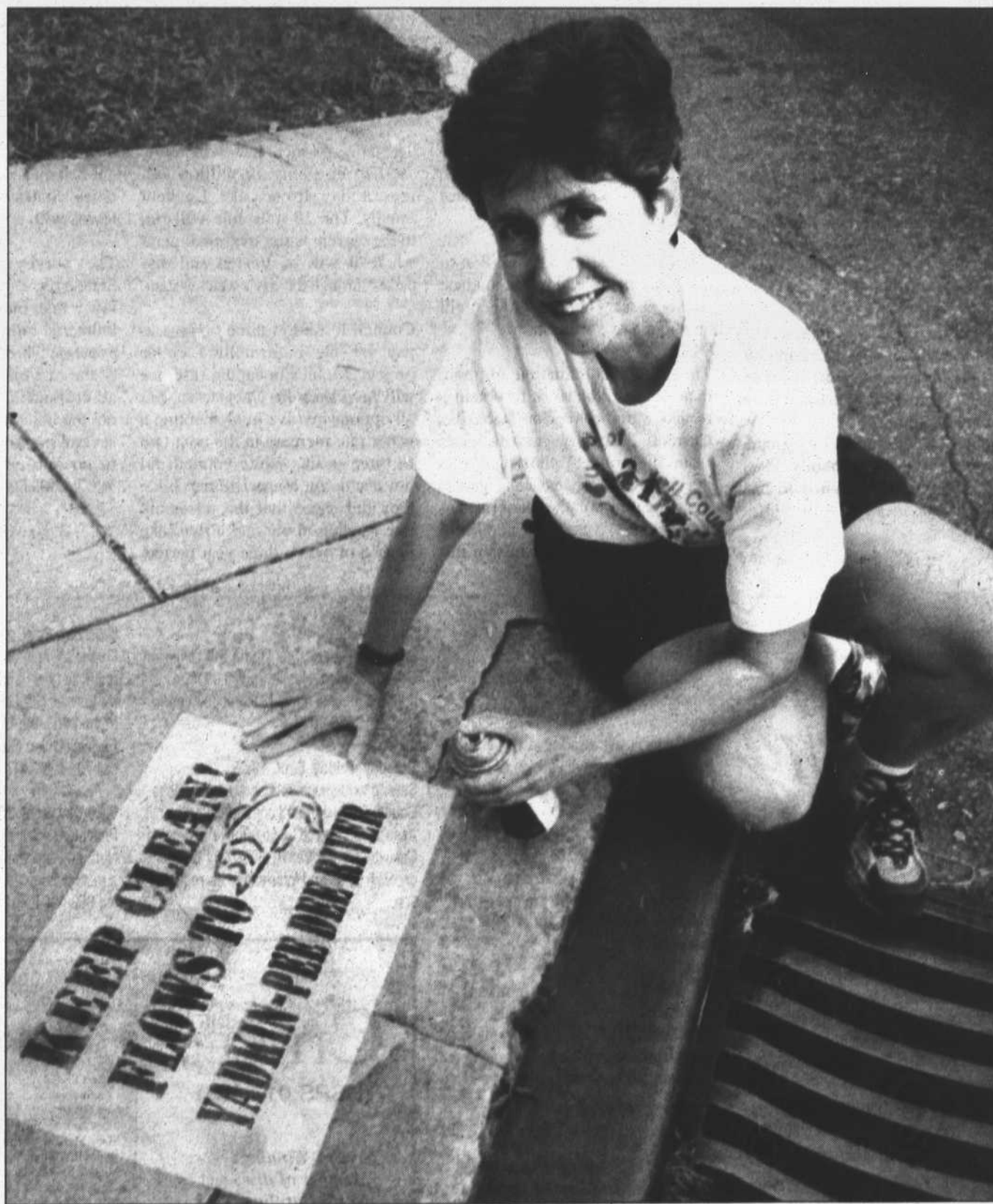
If you want to see part of the problem, look out your front door. There, the storm drain in front of your house channels rainwater coming off the street. Many people assume this water flows to the local filtration plant for treatment. Not so.

From your door, the street runoff goes into the drain where it's piped to the nearest branch and gushes into our creeks. Then it flows into our lakes and rivers, carrying fertilizer from your lawn, the motor oil you dumped, when you last serviced the family car, along with chemicals leached from the paving, leaking underground storage and septic tanks and industrial waste from nearby industries

So, who is responsible for polluting our drinking water? We all are! When we point the polluting finger, it's pointing at everyone.

Keep Iredell Clean is a member of Groundwater Guardian, a nationwide movement connecting communities all over the country, encouraging them to take steps to protect ground water sources.

What's so important about protecting ground water? Ms. Pitt said, "This water accounts for 50 percent of all our drinking water, 90 percent of rural drinking water, 25 percent of all water used in industrial and mining operations and 40 percent of the average annual stream flow.



Bob Plyler/CITIZEN

CINDY PITT OF KEEP IREDELL CLEAN is helping the organization stencil messages on city storm drains to make everyone aware of pollutants, which could be carried into our drinking water supply.

Story continued on page 10