

Polk Foundation Steps Up High

Polk County Community Foundation's recent project on North Trade Street is good for your heart and your waistline.

What is it?

The Tryon Stairs!

Three women employed on Pacolet Street climbed the stairs the other day after lunch below on Trade Street.

"They're not too steep, and they're good exercise", one said. "Stair climbing is good for your heart, I'm told. And it works off calories. I go up and down an extra time after lunch."

Polk County Community Foundation, founded four years ago, has one aim — to improve the quality of life in Polk County and in its communities. So, if folks discover an unexpected health benefit in Tryon Stairway, so much the better.

The Foundation is headed by men and women who think big about Polk County, but who realize that thinking big doesn't mean instituting huge projects feasible only in a metropolis.

Polk's three main communities are blessed with lively "downtowns". The Stairs in Tryon is an example of the Foundation's use of common sense and money to integrate areas of the Town of Tryon and to "revitalize" the business section before it has a chance to "de-vitalize" — the fate of so many communities this size.

A plan for downtown Tryon commissioned from R. M. Leary & Associates of Raleigh included a series of stairs from North Trade, with its shops and services, up to Depot Plaza, with its shops and services, and on to Pacolet, with its shops and services.

The Polk County Foundation proposed the project of the stairs to the Town of Tryon. The town liked it. So, the Foundation gave the Town \$6,000.00 to go ahead with it.

So! The Tryon Stairs and a unified downtown.

The Stairs have a second purpose besides serving as an intergrating passageway.

This is to please the eye — to offer something architecturally interesting, blending with the slope, the vegetation, and the up-and-down character of the town.

Viewers from below may consider the Stairs a bit bald

right now, but landscaping is imminent. The gray stone, imported from Tennessee, will weather, and benches probably will appear on the landings in the natural course of events.

The new wave of residents here will not recall what occupied the site of the Stairs earlier. It also was of stone — the old Rock Grill.

Alas, time and a thousand rumbling trains cracked apart the Grill. The Southern Railway finally demolished it, it had served its purpose, its time had come.

The Stairs were engineered to withstand the thousands of trains that will be coming in years ahead — probably more and more frequently as King Coal increasingly travels the land. Steel reinforced pilings strengthen the construction, and the stone is sealed to prevent damage from freezing.

The Stairs now, emerge at the top right onto a spur of railroad track. A crosswalk will soon eliminate this problem to the walker. There is a center railing all the way up.

Duke Power Co. contributed a light over the stairs. Boyd Dunbar contributed himself as director of the whole project. Ralph Sherer, architect, and Charles Lankford, Tryon Commissioner, contributed their talents.

"Dub" Melton was the contractor. Thompson and Daughter are to landscape.

As a passageway connector, and as an aesthetic contribution, the Polk County Community Foundation planned the Stairs. — Reporter

Reception For Multiplicity

On Sunday, Nov. 9 from 2 to 5 p.m. THE UPSTAIRS in Tryon will have an opening reception for MULTIPLICITY: An Exhibition of Black and White and Color Xerox Artworks.

Artwork created on copier machines has gained much popularity over the last few years due to its accessibility, its relative low cost and its propensity for spontaneity. Xerox has been used as a means of printing magazines, as a method of duplicating collages or paintings in large numbers, and exploited for its own special qualities. All of these types of xeroxworks are represented in

this exhibit.

This medium is not limited in its popularity to the United States. The Upstairs exhibit includes work from Europe, South America, Canada as well as from all across the U. S. The public is invited to the opening reception on Sunday, or to view the show during regular operating hours: Tuesday and Thursday from 10 to 4.

Check Before Buying Stove

Consult with your insurance agent if you have installed or are thinking about installing a wood stove.

This is the advice of H. L. McPherson Jr., executive secretary of the Independent Insurance Agents of North Carolina.

McPherson suggests talking with your insurance agent to avoid being penalized in the settlement of a claim should a loss occur.

Generally, a homeowner does not have to worry about a penalty if the home is insured under a homeowners policy or if the home is located in an area which provides municipal fire protection. A 25 percent penalty in the settlement of a claim is possible if the home has no municipal fire protection and if the home is insured under a standard fire policy or farmowners policy.

McPherson said "wood burning to conserve energy and reduce heating costs is an outstanding way to do one's part in attempting to solve the world's energy problem."

"But", he cautioned, "if not done carefully, wood burning can inflict irreparable damage to life and property."

McPherson cited a report from the Insurance Information Institute which stated that the dollar damage caused by wood fires is reaching into the millions.

One study shows that more than \$2.4 million was paid out in 1978 in New England as a result of 479 fires which spread from woodstoves.

McPherson adds that the danger of such fires is country wide in scope. The danger, he said, is the result of faulty woodstove installation and/or misuse by the owner. — Tom Byrd, NCSU

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Rotary Speaker



Mrs. Lisa Drake

The Tryon Rotary Club will meet Friday at 12:30 p.m. at the Pacolet River Plantation. The guest speaker will be Mrs. Lisa Drake of Liberty Life Insurance Co. of Greenville, S. C. Mrs. Drake will speak on "Stress".

Meeting For Homemakers

Area meetings for Extension Homemakers will be held on Tuesday, November 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Agricultural Building; on Thursday, November 13 at 10 a.m. in First Baptist Church, Tryon, and at 2 p.m. at the Hickory Grove Community Building.

Topics for the meeting include a film "Better Odds for a Longer Life" presented by Lou Wrenshall of the Polk County Heart Association.

Christmas Food and Gift Ideas will be presented by Jackie Henson, Home Economics Extension Agent.

Christmas Decorations made by Loretta Kilpatrick, Duke Power will also be available to those attending.

All club members are urged to attend and the public is cordially invited.

N-S Bridge

Results of the North-South Duplicate Bridge Monday night were as follows: 1st (tie) Howard Olson and Boyd Dunbar with Lionel Davis and Walter Culin; 3rd. Al Daniel and Grenville Sewall. The next game will be at the home of Walter Culin.