

High school kids restore 70-year-old Coke sign

By Bill Baab

LINCOLNTON, Ga. – The sign extolling the virtues of Coca-Cola had seen better days on the brick wall of the Hobby Corner at the intersection of Peachtree and School streets.

When Lincoln County High School art teacher Katrina Kelly saw its faded glory, she immediately saw its possibilities as an art class project. Why not, she asked herself, restore it to its original 1939 splendor?

Further research netted the discovery that not one, but two signs had been painted on the wall. The second had been done during the 1950s and the original 1930s sign was bleeding through.

She enlisted the help of Kevin Beggs, the county's deputy coroner and local history buff. He was able to decipher what the original sign would have looked like. His research also revealed what the original logos would have looked like in color.

Other members of the community supported the teacher and her students,

Bobby Saggus, locally known as “the paint man” at Spratlin Hardware and Building Supply, matched the precise hue of red from a can of Coca-Cola. “He also mixed the other four colors that were distinguishable from the original mural,” the teacher added.

“Likewise, Hawes Reed of Clark Hill Rentals supplied us with scaffolding at no charge, enabling the students to reach the top of the mural,” she added.

As a gift to owners of the Hobby Corner, a popular after-school hangout, the students agreed to incorporate the store's name at the top of the mural to give them additional

advertisement.

“The countless hours of research and hard labor would have been too much for any single person,” the teacher continued. “Due to teamwork, the students were able to witness first-hand the ease of working with others to complete such a large undertaking.

“The kids never grew bored with the project and offered their services every step of the way. Some of them really got into it – they seized this unique opportunity and ran with it.”

The students were Katie Remsen, Jourdan Cunningham, Jessica Tate, Raymond Lam, Tabitha Rayner, Brittany Doster, Breawana Gladmon, Roxanne Ware, Danielle Hutton, Will Strickland, Miranda Banks, Courtney Davis, Hailie McQuigg and Lee-Anne Boddie.



The Coca-Cola sign restoration crew consisted of (L-R) Kati Remsen, Jourdan Cunningham, Jessica Tate, Raymond Lam, Tabitha Rayner, Brittany Doster, Breawanna Gladmon, Roxanne Ware, Danielle Hutton, teacher Katrina Kelly, Will Strickland, Miranda Banks, Courtney Davis and Lee Anne Boddie. Not present was Hailie McQuigg. (Bea Baab photo)