By Ed McBride

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McBride's Radio and Sign Service

We began business here with 25 feet inside the front of the Fenton Building (most recently the location of H&R Block on Rutherford Street) in January of 1947, at a time when there were few radios (battery or electric). "Record players" were 78 rpm, some you would "wind-up," some were electric - certainly before the days of 16 rpm (designed for cars), 45 rpm, and 33 rpm albums. No television, no cable service, no computers, no ipod...you know what, there wasn't any of the "rage stuff" that is in demand today. The best "new thing" was FM radio...if you had a good signal! Noisy AM radio reception was pretty good though. Today's "electronic things" are even beyond Buck Rogers' marvels!!

But, before all this - about the building and "Jug" Robinson. Vic Fenton built this building for his tin

(metal) shop where he, Jug and, later, Herman Marsh (as a young man) came to work there. I expect there are more homes and businesses warehouses, mills, etc. - with their "raised seam" roofs on them than you could ever imagine. Not only in Anson, but surrounding areas as well.

Herman liked the "metal challenge" and went on to "learn and do" what he could - returning years later and opening his business here, H. F. Marsh and Son. He covered a very large area of service - another story!!

After Mr. Fenton's death, Jug was the "main man" - continuing the service as he had for many years. The picture above is of friend Jug Robinson taken in 1959, sometime before his death, at which point another "chapter of history" closed certainly the "raised seam, handinstalled" roofing!

## Storytellers Bring Live Entertainment to the Ansonia Friday

The fifth annual Back Porch Stories, featuring nationally-known storyteller Mitch Capel, aka Gran'daddy Junebug, will be held at the Ansonia Theater at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 15. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5.

Born and raised in Southern Pines, Capel has been delighting audiences throughout the United States since 1985. He calls his style of storytelling "sto'etry" (stories recited poetically). He has been featured at numerous festivals, including twice at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, TN and the Timpanogas Storytelling Festival in Orem, Utah, the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, SC, the 2009 Smithsonian's Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, DC and annually at both the National Black Storytelling Festival (since 1988) and the Signifyin' & Testifyin' Storytelling Festival in Minnesota (since 1994).

Also appearing at the family-friendly event are Linda Goodman and Jadie Fuson. Goodman draws on her Appalachian roots to create a magic world where fantasy and

ordinary heroes come together to entertain and inspire. She has performed nationwide and been published in the Chicken Soup and Stories for the Heart series. Her one-woman show and book Daughters of the Appalachians has also been performed as a play by theater companies in California, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Georgia and Virginia. Her CDs include Jessie and Other Stories and Bobby Pins, both winners of multiple Storytelling World Awards. Goodman has been a professional storyteller since January, 1989, and currently resides in Waxhaw, NC.

Fuson works with boys at Cameron Boys Camp where he has learned how to capture the attention of his audience. He is a lover of great stories, his first mentor being "the greatest storyteller of all time: Jesus." Listener beware, this teller may cause extreme bouts of laughter and visions of strange situations, and in severe cases, even a euphoric sense of community

Moderator is J. A. Bolton of Rockingham. Bolton writes a column for the Richmond County Daily Journal and recently won the Bold-Faced Liars' Showdown in Laurinburg. Bolton said he finds telling stories a good way to take a break from hard work on the farm.

Back Porch Stories was the inspiration of the Anson County Writers' Club (ACWC) as an addition to the Carolinas Writers Conference, to be held April 16 at the Lockhart-Taylor Center in Wadesboro. The event is sponsored by the ACWC, the Anson County Arts Council, the Anson County Tourism Development Authority and Uwharrie Bank.

For more information go to carolinaswritersconference/2016BPS.html.

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