

HOME > CROPS > PEANUTS

'Mr. Peanut' Frank McGill at 91 still has it



Peanuts and good storytelling must be, at least in part, keys to a long, fruitful life. If you doubt this, take a look at Frank McGill.

bhaire | Sep 20, 2016

SUGGESTED EVENT

Serving: **United States**[Crops](#)[Livestock](#)[Markets & Quotes](#)[Farm Business](#)[Max Armstrong](#)[Regior](#)**AROUND FARM PROGRESS PODCAST:** Launching an autonomy brand

Peanuts and good storytelling must be, at least in part, keys to a long, fruitful life. If you doubt this, take a look at Frank McGill.

"Sherman said, 'I'm going to sprinkle this guy and let him go to hell,'" said McGill, landing the punchline for the story he told in his unpretentious manner at the 2016 Georgia Peanut Tour Hot Topics session in Tifton, Ga., Sept. 13.

**SPONSORED CONTENT****Before You Spray: 3 Tips for Successful Application**

As summer days are approaching, ensure you're prepared to successfully tackle weeds with a timely and on-target postemergence herbicide application.

McGill's story, one of many that evening, recounted the crusade of his childhood friend Sherman who set out to baptize various animals that were willingly and unwillingly caught up in his fervent ministry one summer eight decades ago in Chula, Ga. Sherman's mission was going OK until he ran across a billy goat in need of redemption that refused to have both its ends submerged at the same time in the creek behind McGill's home. The story was a respectful nod to a man's religion with a tongue-in-check quip on the denominational quirks and comical exploits that run through us all, and the story was dang entertaining from start to finish.

McGill, nearing 91, is known as Mr. Peanut because he was Georgia's Extension peanut agronomist from 1954-1982, and spearheaded and championed the "package approach" for peanut production in Georgia, a multi-discipline way of solving peanut problems for farmers that still works today through county Extension agents and specialists. During his tenure, Georgia's peanut yield increased from 955 pounds per acre in 1955 to 3,220 pounds per acre by 1974. He traveled the world learning about and teaching the peanut.

Ramrod straight behind the lectern, McGill's animated delivery that evening in Tifton had everyone's undivided attention, but not because audience felt it owed a seasoned man a courtesy but because the gravity of his natural skill as a storyteller pulled them momentarily into the world he wanted to share, which is one of the hardest tricks in communications to pull off.

I've had the pleasure of respectfully knowing some of the Georgia Extension peanut agronomists and scientists who followed in McGill's footsteps; some retired now like McGill. They all, then and now, did fine to fill big shoes; shoes still holding the feet of a man with plenty left to teach and say.

Serving: **United States**

Crops

Livestock

Markets & Quotes

Farm Business

Max Armstrong

Region

AROUND FARM PROGRESS PODCAST: Launching an autonomy brand

RELATED

SPONSORED CONTENT

Logo

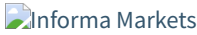
Advertise

Subscribe

Newsletters

Sitemap

Follow us:

Informa Markets

Copyright © 2021. All rights reserved. Informa Markets, a trading division of Informa PLC.

Leadership

Marketing Solutions

The Farm Progress Network

Content Licensing and Reprints

Accessibility | Privacy Policy | Cookie Policy | Terms of Use | Visitor Terms and Conditions

https://www.farmprogress.com/blog/mr-peanut-frank-mcgill-91-still-has-it

3/3