

the

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GROUNDHOG

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Rhododendron Festival 1989 *Welcome To The Mountain*



The third weekend in May has come to mean a festival of flowers, fun and food to the many guests of the Mentone Area Preservation Association who come to the area to celebrate this annual rite of spring.

The whole community plays host for the two-day event which includes boat rides on the river, Appalachian art and handmade crafts, a local parade and beauty pageant and talented entertainment. Most of the food this year will be provided by local churches and organizations, further benefiting the community.

MAPA began the festival as a vehicle for bringing the community together so that all who cared could work for the common good of the area. It was meant to be not only a fund-raiser, but also an opportunity for good friends to get together and share the beauty of the mountain and the fellowship of shared interests.

Maggie Cordell has made another work-of-art quilt which will be awarded to the lucky winner of the winning ticket. The tickets are on sale now.

Harrell Jenkins will once again be in charge of selling rhododendron. Bruce Bon Fleur and Jack Jones are putting together an exciting parade and Bernice Crow is taking care of business concerning the Beauty Pageant.

Roy Matthews is chairman of the festival and under his leadership it should prove to be the best one ever. MAPA and friends come together to achieve something special for Mentone, working for months in order for each festival to surpass the last. To celebrate with them the natural beauty and hospitality of this place is a treasure indeed.

Linda Frith Wins Top Award



Linda Frith, agent for Alfa Insurance Company, was recently honored by Alfa Insurance as the company's Top Agent for 1988. The award was presented by Goodwin Myrick, Company President, at the annual awards program held in Montgomery on Feb. 28. Linda was also one of six agents who received the company's prestigious Gold Award based on high production in life insurance.

A native of Rainsville and the wife of Jacksonville University professor Greg Frith, Linda has been with Alfa

for almost 28 years. She currently holds records in life insurance sales.

Linda and her husband Greg are owners of the Hanging Cottage, one of Mentone's most beautiful and historic structures. They restored the old house and turned a crumbling building into a showplace. The Friths spend as much time in Mentone as busy schedules allow, and have recently purchased another home on the brow.

ALABAMA'S

JUNE JAM '89—

The Best Ever

The seventh annual June Jam promises to be the best one ever with the Alabama Symphony highlighting the event as part of the Alabama Reunion.

The June Jam is a musical tribute to the group Alabama and to the community, fans and musicians who give unselfishly so that worthy organizations and individuals may benefit.

The spectacular event began seven years ago on the back of a flat bed truck in a ball field. Since that time, it has grown to be one of the most famous get-togethers in country music history.

Artists already signed up include: Coca Cola Six Pack Sky Diving Team, Benny Wilson, Jimmy Hall, Canyon, Les Taylor, The Shooters, Moe Bandy, Jo-el Sonnier, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Shotgun Red, Eddy Raven, Mel Tillis, Skip Ewing, The Byrds, Eddie Rabbit, Forester Sisters, Southern Pacific, Bellamy Brothers, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, Charlie Pride, Neal McCoy, Ricky Van Shelton, Charlie Daniels, Vern Gosdin, Alabama and the Alabama Symphony.

Charlie Douglass and Rhubarb Jones will serve as host emcees. The Alabama Symphony, under the direction of Paul Polvick, has created a unique arrangement of "My Home's in Alabama" that will close the final curtain in the extravaganza for 1989.

(Editor's Note: MAPA will once again man a food booth at the Jam and seeks volunteers. 50 percent of the proceeds are donated to the Jam charities).

PARKING VIOLATIONS

**Autos Parked In
No Parking Spaces
Will Be Ticketed.**

—Chief Willingham

Model Of Mentone Springs Hotel To Be On Display

The weekend after Valentine's Day four years ago, Julia Garrison Smith and her husband Don honeymooned in cabin number 6 at DeSoto State Park near Mentone. During their stay they explored the area and fell in love with the mountain. "We walked in the woods, saw the falls with 20' icicles hanging all around, drove the scenic drive around the canyon, stopping at every overlook," Julia Smith spoke of her introduction to the area. "From that time until a year ago, we came to the mountain to spend the weekend about every six weeks. The mountain is a nurturing and giving place. It gives us peace and strength and a renewed faith in God and our fellow man."

Last year, after building a model of the honeymoon cabin, Julia began a scale model of the Mentone Springs Hotel. It is now complete and will be on display at the hotel during the Rhododendron Festival. The effort began as an addition to husband Don's model train layout, but it soon became evident that this project should stand alone.

Sandra Padgett, owner of the hotel, graciously allowed Julia to take measurements and photographs. She also provided an old postcard and an aerial picture of the hotel. Sandra is delighted that Julia has created this work of art as a tribute to Mentone and its most famous structure.

Julia is a native of Birmingham, Ala., with ancestral roots in Ashville, Ala. She had a great-aunt who taught school at Flat Rock on Sand Mountain during the '20s and an ancestor who is said to be the first white person to be buried in an Indian burial ground in DeKalb County, near Collinsville. During the early 1800s, ancestors of Julia's settled in Cherokee County also.

Julia's husband Don hails from Stockton, Ill. After retirement from the Army, he moved to Birmingham to teach J.R.O.T.C. at Ramsey Alternative High School where he has been for the last 15 years.

Julia Garrison Smith is a lady of many talents. A fulltime draftsman/structural steel detailer, and an artist well-known for her works done in charcoal, pastels, watercolor and collage, she once served as Assistant Art Director for a Birmingham television station. She makes many different kinds of crafts in addition to the scale models created painstakingly and slowly from photographs, memory and experienced eye.

Julia Smith: "There is a magic about Mentone; a sense of timelessness and security. The beautiful, natural surroundings, the clean air, the good, honest, down-to-earth people and the lack of commercialism — all come together to delight the eye and inspire the soul."

Rhododendron Garden Club Adopts A Mile—



Mentone's Zora Strayhorn Visits Africa To Teach



Agnes Kanogoiwa and students at Gwinyai School in Zimbabwe, Africa (Zora inset).

On Wednesday, March 20, Zora Strayhorn, local author and Mentone historian left for Zimbabwe, Africa in the company of friends Homer and Bernice Crow.

Visiting Africa has been a dream of Zora's for many years: "I feel a kinship for Africa, a sense of going home to a place where I belong. This trip is a realization of the hopes and wishes of a lifetime, and I intend to make the most of it by doing all I can to make a difference." Zora will teach at the Gwinyai school in Harare, Zimbabwe for three months. She has donated materials to the school for over 20 years, and corresponded with the staff there

regularly since she began sending the materials.

Agnes Kanogoiwa, a teacher at the school, will provide lodging for the Mentone traveler. Zora plans to see as much of the African countryside as possible and is especially looking forward to visiting Victoria Falls.

Homer and Bernice Crow are planning to stay for three weeks, then return to Mentone to tell GROUNDHOG readers of their exciting trip and update readers on Zora's activities.

Zora will send letters home which will be printed as THE GROUNDHOG receives them.

From The Editor

By Mickey Strickland

Charles and Jean McGehee have resigned from their positions with **THE GROUNDHOG** in order to pursue exciting things happening in their lives at this time. Charles has a new weekly column in the **TIMES-JOURNAL** in Fort Payne, Ala., and Jean is deep into the creation of a book in pursuit of her Doctorate from the University of Mississippi.

THE GROUNDHOG will sorely miss these supportive friends, and it is with deep regret that we must bid them farewell from the staff and readers of the paper which would not exist without the McGehee's loyal devotion and hard work.

The Mountain Watch column will be continued by the editor and staff of **THE GROUNDHOG**, and on occasion, guest editorials will be featured.

There are new faces in Mentone, and **THE GROUNDHOG** wants to be the first to welcome them to our town. James and Gail Gaylord bought the big yellow house next to the Post Office. They will be in residence for the next six months and during that time will completely remodel the old structure. It will eventually be an antique shop.

The guest house belonging to the property is now a home for Police Chief Willingham.

Bob and Barbara Nancarrow came to the mountain last October from Saginaw, Mich., to spend a couple of months. They ended up buying the former Paul White house on 117.

Bob was with Kingsberry Homes for many years and they lived in Fort Payne. After the move to Michigan, they remembered their many friends in Alabama and a special place called Mentone. Now they are here to stay.

Welcome to these newcomers — MAPA extends to you an open invitation to become members of our organization.

With the coming of Spring to the mountain each of us has a chance to bring to life hopes and dreams that are born of shared love and concern for the beautiful and special place we are fortunate enough to call home. In the spirit of fellowship, with the desire to make this community the cleanest, friendliest, most caring place that it can be, let us put aside differences of opinion and concentrate upon those issues which affect us all and the natural world in which we live.

Each person who makes this area his home should be ready and willing to support the clean-up programs, the community groups such as the garden clubs and churches, the fire department, the Town Council, the Mentone Center for the Arts, the Friends of Little River, the schools, the officers of the law, the businesses, and the efforts of the Mentone Area Preservation Association whose only priority is the preservation and betterment of the quality of life of our town.

It is well and good to glance backward, for we need both roots and wings, but we must not dwell on the past nor see it through rose-colored glasses.

Let's take the best of what we have been and do all we can now in order to ensure that Mentone and the area at large will be all that it can be. In that common effort and unity of spirit we will make this the best year ever in the best place on earth.

MAPA Minutes

The March meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association was presided over by Ray Froehler, Co-Director.

Roy Matthews reported that the bridge section of the bike path has been installed. Money for the completion of the path was voted upon.

Discussion of the upcoming Rhododendron Festival was held and committees for each project selected.

Hershel Pruitt was the guest speaker. He is head of the Volunteer Fire Department in Mentone. He told us about the fire truck acquired from TVA, the financing of the truck and the need for more money. A donation of \$1,000 was given to the Fire Department by MAPA.

Mr. Pruitt also discussed a fire fighting course to be held soon. He is also trying to set up a communication system for the fire department and the people of Mentone. He is in contact with the telephone company regarding such a system.

— Taken from the minutes of Frances Rosaria, Secretary



The Groundhog

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Our Town With Linda Brown

Mentone looks so good! All of the picking up and cleaning has really paid off. Let's keep it that way for the summer. Only one street could still use some attention. The one directly in front of Moon Lake School could sure use some cleaning. This would be a good project for a youth group as the terrain is very rough.

The "summer people" are starting to return. This, along with the return of the Robins, is a sure sign of spring. I look forward to the return of both. These people bring new ideas and interests to the mountain.

We are having the first meeting of the 1989 Mentone Craft Festival on April 17, at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the Mentone United Methodist Church. If you are interested in helping with the festival in July please attend the meeting. We would like to have ideas to improve any part of the festival. We have been selected as a top 10 attraction by the Northeastern Tourists Association for the fourth year in a row. This gives us a lot of publicity that we couldn't get otherwise. The applications for this year's show have been mailed and the response is very good.

The members of the DeSoto Rescue Squad are presently participating in a First Responder Course. When these classes are completed the members will be qualified to handle emergency situations at the site of an accident as well as emergencies that may occur in the home or workplace. We will be able to administer care and support of the patient until the arrival of an ambulance. Sue Pullen of Valley Head is teaching the course.

Do you know someone who seems to bloom where they are planted? They seem to be happy and content with where they are and what they do. Leroy Snider is one such person. He cares for the Mentone Water Works. You will see Leroy reading your water meter each month. He may be up all hours of the night if a pipe has broken or the telemeter isn't performing correctly. He is out in all kinds of weather making sure that the water level in the tank is correct. When water use is cut back in the summer, he is the one who hears the complaints. Leroy has a job to do, he does it without a lot of fuss and we should appreciate his efforts every time we turn on a faucet.

The scare that has occurred because of the poison found in grapes and apples has caused many people to consider growing their own food. This can be a very rewarding experience. Much time, effort and some expense is required from seeds to plate. Someone recently told me that it seemed that I had led an interesting life. I have even played the part of a mule. One summer my brother and I pulled a plow, guided by our mother, to make a garden in the hard clay soil in Valley Head. The garden produced very well but it sure is easier to open a can. Plow a plot of earth, plant some seeds and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

The Lookout

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MOUNTAIN WATCH

On a clear, starlit night in March, my grandson, Trevor, and I made a pilgrimage to Sand Mountain. We had high hopes of catching the Unidentified Flying Object at Fyffe on film.

We had heard all the news reports and seen the features on television. Photos were supposed to be available which settled the existence of these visitors once and for all, and we wanted to see them up close and personal. We had heard about the Skylink from a Birmingham television station being on the scene, and figured that we could watch them if nothing else presented itself.

My good friend Susan Hooks of Camp Skline loaned us her video camera, and a quick stop at Ruby's Variety armed us with enough 35mm film to fill a pictorial table top volume of Fyffe's Phantoms. Disregarding the loud guffaws of Chief Willingham who vowed loudly that "one could set down on my squad car and I wouldn't bat an eye," we headed to what we were sure was a date with destiny.

As we neared the vicinity of the reported sightings, sure enough we were greeted by the sights and sounds of strange creatures, aliens. But only alien to Fyffe — people had come from near and far with the same goal in mind. The streets were full of honking autos and the sidewalks teemed with visitors looking in all directions, and walking the same way.

I sought out Police Chief Junior Garmany, and he and his staff were patient with every one of our repetitious inquiries about the UFO incidents. He gave us use of his office and telephone, and even had his photo taken with us in front of a collection of T-shirts commemorating the event. Chief Garmany is not just a good old boy — he's sincere and dedicated to telling the truth no matter how it makes him look. And in this case, it makes him look funny.

Some television folks were running around looking important and sincere and slightly bored, trying to find the lady from the **Weekly Post** who had taken the photographs. Also, there were other photos and we all wanted to see them. They scurried off to locate the missing reporter and her pictures while Trevor and I decided to make our way to the most isolated spot possible to wait for the return of the UFO. We drove silently, eyes scanning the skies. We met a car with its lights off and pickup trucks filled with teenagers, but nothing unusual.

We turned onto side roads until we spotted a great place down a long lane near a church which seemed to be the perfect spot. As we topped a little rise to find a place to turn around, we realized we were in a cemetery. "I'm not getting out of this car," Trevor made it clear. "I don't like graveyards." After much coaxing, he climbed reluctantly from the cozy auto and squashed himself against the door, ready to make a break for it at the first sign of anything suspicious.

Hoping to alleviate his fears, I turned on the radio and filled the lonely hill with the strains of "The Closer You Get," by Alabama. After a few minutes of this, Trevor could stand it no longer. "I'm getting in the car now," he declared loudly enough to wake the dead. The decision was made to ride the roadways in order to have a more complete view of the sky.

"Look up there, there's one. It's the UFO," Trevor yelled. Sure enough, there was a red light moving erratically around the heavens. "No airplane could move like that," I told Trevor excitedly, "and it's not a weather balloon. Hot Dog! It's a UFO." It sure was; anyway, as far as we were concerned it was unidentified. We raced down the dark highway in the backwoods of Fyffe for some time before we realized the darn thing was a helicopter.

Undaunted, we parked on the side of a lane in the company of several other UFO seekers. We assumed because people were parked there and were outside their cars watching the sky, that something had been spotted. Everybody who stopped assumed the same thing. I found out the fellow who had parked there first had planned to take advantage of the lonely road to heed the call of nature.

A couple from Fort Payne stood shivering in the cold. "I bet they'd have to wear something special to be able to get out of that spaceship," the wife remarked. "I sure would like to see that." "Yeah, so would we," my eager grandson agreed.

Finally, we decided to go watch the television people some more, as they were proving to be the most interesting things on Sand Mountain that night. As we neared the police station, we began to ask a few questions of a fireman who was suited up and ready for action. He was eager to assist, and took us to the rear of the building where a crowd was taking turns with a pair of binoculars. "There it is, right up there," he told us. He handed the binoculars to me, and helped me to find the light in the sky. Through the binoculars, "it" sparkled with green points of light, not a thousand, but a few. "It moves as the helicopter comes near it," the fireman explained. The group talked in reverent tones about the UFO, except for one lady who talked about her friend's problems with her job, home and family.

I left Trevor watching the object in the sky and sought out Chief Garmany. "Is that the UFO up there in the sky?" I inquired. "Naw, I don't know what that is, but that ain't it. It looks just like what's on this T-shirt," he pointed to the one tacked to the wall behind us. "I am only telling what I saw."

I began to realize that we might not be able to immortalize Fyffe that night, and as Trevor was getting tired, I collected him from the fire department where T-shirts were being air-brushed for customers waiting in line to get a souvenir of the Great UFO Incident. We waited in the Police Department while the television people interviewed the lady from the **Weekly Post** about the photos she had taken. "It just hovered there," she said. "The reason

(Continued on Page 4)

Valley View

With Eloise Brown

The United Methodist Women of the Valley Head Church, met Feb. 28, at the home of Vesta Hawkins with Verna Livingston as co-hostess. Velma Hammond led the program assisted by Geraldine Hawkins and Elizabeth Coleman. Others present were Mary Louise Holleman, Brownie Tuttle, Helen White, Mary Frances Tate, Laura Margaret Alison, Adelaide Biddle, and Frances Longshore.

Alba Brown has returned home from a visit with her sister, Ruby Oaks at Jemison, Ala. While there, she shared in the celebration of Ruby's 80th birthday at a tea at the Jemison Baptist Church given by her children.

Ruth Pickett is recovering from eye surgery and planning a wall-papering job assisted by her sister.

Doris and Jim Carmichael visited Steve and Elaine and little Steven Johnson in Lexington, Ky., recently.

The Prayer Group of the Valley Head Baptist Church met at the home of Louise Hammonds for their March meeting. Martha Stanley presented the program and Gladys Cobble gave the devotional. Others present were Jean Jones, Mary Ellis, Sadie Cooper, Renae Burt, Ruth Burnett and Teresa Cooper.

Gladys Cobble has returned home after a visit with her son, Mickey Cobble in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Jerry and Myrna Phillips and children — Craig, Robin and Lindsay of Butler, Ala., are guests of Jerry's parents, Robert and Evelyn Phillips.

The Sunshine Club met at the home of Gladys Stott for their February meeting. Eloise Brown gave the devotional and Addie Hall led the prayer. Gladys Cobble, the new president, presided, and Ruth Pickett, secretary, read the minutes. It was decided to have a prayer chain. Others present were Bess Bauerle, Betty Brown, Geraldine Hawkins, Evelyn Clark, Billie Harper, Willie Mae Palmer, Pat Bauerle, Jewell Palmer and Vernice Young. We made attractive kitchen plaques.

Kernie Wright of Chattanooga, Tenn., and Edna Farrer of Atlanta were recent guests of their sister, Pat Bauerle.

Jean and John Jones have a granddaughter, thanks to Roy and Bonnie Jones. Congratulations!

Welcome home to Martha Blackburn Gibson and her husband "Hoot." They have come from Houston, Texas. They have remodeled the Ernest Jones house and made a beautiful show place. They have used so much clever originality.

It was my privilege last week to see Christian principle in action. I took a neighbor to emergency at BMC, then to the Pharmacy to have her prescription filled. When she heard the cost, she could not pay. A woman, who overheard the conversation, said, "I will pay for it." She was a stranger and would not give her name and address for future payment. Yes, she was a stranger, who knew who her neighbor was supposed to be. I hope she reads this and can know the glow that she gave to a tiring day. We hear so much about the bad, senseless things and not enough about the good and helpful deeds. As long as we know there are people like her. We can have hope for our world.

Judge Paul Thomas Elected President Of Probate Judge Association



DeKalb County Probate Judge Paul Thomas was elected President of the Alabama Probate Judge Association at their Winter Conference at Huntsville today. Judge Thomas is currently serving his third term as Probate Judge of DeKalb County.

Judge Thomas stated, "It is a great honor to serve as President of the Probate Judge Association. The Probate Judges of this State are very dedicated public officials. We have 29 judges that are beginning their first term this year. I look forward to working with all of the Judges throughout the following year."

Alabama— Our Southern Stars

Not long ago there was a disheartening rumor going the rounds that the group Alabama was making a fundamental change in their style to more of a head-banging, up-beat sound that would allow them to appeal to a broader cross section of listeners. I felt there might be some truth to it; after all, their presentations have been different the last few times out.

For a while there, it seemed to be breathe-in-the-ear, hot and bothered sounds, like "When We Make Love," and "Fire In The Night." Then the trend seemed to reflect more wild and woolly twanging guitar as is found in "She and I," and "Falling Again." All great songs, and all hits, but just not the old "Alabama."

Then, just when die-hard fans like me were turning our thoughts to the "Bellamy Brothers" and the "Oak Ridge Boys," our own down-home country boys brought out the album *Southern Star*. I was skeptical, I admit, and rather than rush right down and purchase the first cassette to hit the shelves at *Sounds Unlimited* in "Alabama's" hometown of Fort Payne, Ala., I waited until I knew they were back in the fold and in the right groove.

First, "Song of the South" hit the airwaves, and I was impressed. Now this was more like it. Eat your hearts out, you rumor mongers, hope springs eternal. But the best was yet to come, and late one night while meditating (what I do when I am too lazy to write — it makes me look deep in thought and feel important), and listening to WHMA, Alabama 100, "If I Had You" filled the room and captured my heart. I was touched, and could feel the old pathos, the emotion behind the music, and I loved it. "If I Had You" is a reflection of the early studies in pure country soul like "Lady Down On Love," "Feels So Right," and "Old Flame." It is perfect. In fact, it is the best song they have ever done, because the early rough edges have been polished down by practice and growth. The whole album is terrific, and is a gift handed to fans on a silver platter.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus and "Alabama" fans just got their Christmas presents early. — M. S.

David G. Brouwer Receives Award For Outstanding Achievement

David Brouwer, Edward D. Jones & Co.'s Fort Payne representative, recently received the firm's prestigious Partner's Award.

John Bachmann, managing principal of the St. Louis-based firm, said, "We're proud to present David with the Partner's Award for excellence in sales and service during 1988. In any organization, there are a few who set the pace. David is one of those people. David's hard work and dedication to our clients in Fort Payne has made him an invaluable member of our investment team."

Brouwer, whose office is located at 201 Grand Ave. N., joined Edward D. Jones & Co. in 1984. He has a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics from the

University of Connecticut and is a member of the Fort Payne Rotary Club, Fort Payne Lion's Club, and First United Methodist Church.

"I'm very honored and pleased to receive this award," Brouwer said. "I've tried to build my business by offering my clients conservative investment opportunities and advocating a long-term approach to financial matters. It's nice to be recognized for doing what's right for my clients."

Edward D. Jones & Co. has been serving the needs of conservative investors since 1871. Today it is the largest financial services firm in the nation in terms of retail offices, with more than 1350 offices in 38 states.

UGF SPOTLIGHT— DeKalb Council On Alcoholism And Drug Abuse

By Barbara Turner

The DeKalb County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, a UGF member agency, offers a variety of programs and services to the community all aimed at helping those who are dealing with the problem of drug and/or alcohol abuse.

Former First Lady, Nancy Reagan, made educating the public about the effects of drugs a priority of her office. Mrs. Reagan summed up the problem facing America and the world today saying, "The use of drugs by our young people is one of the most serious problems the world faces today. Drugs are destroying the minds and bodies of our children, and unless we can change the situation, we are in danger of losing part of an entire generation."

What can we do to change the situation? One answer is to become involved. Professionals are needed who will call attention to the drug problem and offer an answer. Become involved as parents, educators, community leaders, by becoming more aware of the serious problem and offering to help find solutions.

Prevention through education is probably the best long-range answer. The more knowledge we have, the greater our chances of dealing effectively with a problem.

The DeKalb County Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse is involved in prevention programs through our schools' SADD (Students Against Driving Drunk) Programs, and other programs aimed at the younger students as well as programs designed for pre-schoolers. The Council also participates in the annual Health Fair sponsored by Harco Drug, distributing informative brochures and pamphlets. Another special project of the Council is the Safety Breaks held during holidays, especially the Fourth of July weekend, in which they distribute brochures and other materials as well as dispense coffee, juice and snacks to travelers.

Some of the services offered to the addicted person and the family include private counseling and treatment referral (either private facility or state-supported), administering the DUI Schools and the Defensive Driving Schools is another part of the Council's program. Attending the DUI school is mandatory under state law for persons found guilty of driving under the influence.

Anyone would benefit from taking the Defensive Driving Course, sponsored by the National Safety Council and taught by instructors who are certified by the Administrative Office of Courts. A person convicted of a traffic violation (other than DUI) is usually directed by the courts to take this course.

We are fortunate to have the services available through the DeKalb County Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. The office is located in the old post office building on South Gault Avenue in Fort Payne and their phone number is 845-5924.

Vivian Nappier, Director of the program, invites anyone desiring more information or needing services offered through the Council, to call or stop by her office. Acknowledging a problem is a big first step in overcoming that problem, and the problem of alcohol and/or drug abuse is one that should not be overlooked or delayed. Help and hope is available to those dealing with these problems.

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Empty Beds To Be Filled

Gov. Guy Hunt Thursday announced empty beds in rural hospitals can be offered to elderly people who cannot immediately get into a nursing home.

Under the Medicaid program, rural hospitals will be paid to provide the same level of care a patient would receive in a nursing home. The program will be available in about 90 days, after it has been approved by the Federal Health Care Financing Administration.

"There is often a lapse of time between when a person is ready to leave the hospital and when there is bed space available in a nursing home," Gov. Hunt said. "For the elderly who are in small hospitals and awaiting nursing home beds, this program will provide the level of care they need."

Services also will be provided for those who are forced to remain in the hospital because of an inability to care for themselves at home.

Because of new legal definitions in the field of health care, two new types of care, swing bed and transitional bed, have been made available.

Under the new program the swing bed can be used for everyday hospital care or for nursing home care, depending on need and available space. A "transitional bed" can only be used as a nursing bed. The swing bed plan will be for rural hospitals with 100 or fewer beds, while the transitional bed plan will be for all rural hospitals.

The exact number of patients affected by this plan is not known at this time. However there will be 460 swing beds available in 46 hospitals and 1,077 transitional beds available in 63 hospitals. Swing beds will be limited to 10 per hospital.

Coverage of the services by Medicaid is expected to cost about \$1 million the first year, including about \$275,000 in state costs which will be absorbed in the regular budget.

Gov. Hunt said: "There are many elderly people in Alabama waiting for nursing home beds to become available. I believe that this program will be part of the answer to this problem. The only hope for some elderly people is a caring family or a caring government. This government cares."

The governor emphasized there are serious problems with health care in Alabama's small towns and rural communities. "Adding new services through Medicaid will help alleviate some of the problems, but it won't solve them," Gov. Hunt said. "We've got to do more — and we will — to keep our community hospitals open and to make sure that all Alabamians have access to the health care they deserve."

Gov. Hunt has taken decisive action to bring down Alabama's infant mortality rate. He ordered the Medicaid Department to expand health care services for poor women and children, making thousands more eligible for help from Medicaid and giving Alabama's dying babies and fighting chance. In March 1989 Gov. Hunt ordered a 6 percent increase in Medicaid payments to doctors who deliver babies in Alabama, putting Alabama above the national average in financial help for poor mothers. Gov. Hunt also ordered Medicaid to allow nursing home residents to remain eligible for Medicaid benefits after their Social Security benefits increased in January 1988.

Gov. Hunt has also created a new rural health care oversight job in the Medicaid Department designed to develop initiatives to strengthen delivery of health care in rural areas.

Jesse H. Griffin, a technical and administrative training worker in hospitals for 20 years, will visit small towns and communities throughout the state during the next few months on behalf of Gov. Hunt and will assess current conditions before recommending for the governor a series of improvements.

Griffin will be assisted by the Rural Health Committee, which has already visited Greene and Bullock counties to study housing conditions, social services, public health, the environment and creative medicine.

Gov. Hunt is working closely with the Legislature to develop strategies to strengthen health care delivery in rural Alabama. Members of the governor's staff, including the Medicaid commissioner, are part of a task force created by the Legislature to address rural health care issues — particularly those related to rural hospitals and obstetrical services in rural areas.

Mountain Watch

(Continued from Page 2)

the lights in the picture are so blurred is that I could not hold the camera steady. There was just no time to put up a tripod. I had one in the car." "How long did you watch it?" I asked respectfully. "Oh, about 10 minutes," she replied.

The photos were somewhat disappointing, a string of blurred lights and an orb hanging on the darkened horizon. No conclusive proof here, but something to think about.

Trevor and I walked around taking shots of whatever captured our fancy. Just so we could use the video cameras, we shot a little bit of footage of the television

crew emerging from their trailer. There were marquees and signs all over the place welcoming the aliens, both celestial and terrestrial. The restaurants and stores were doing a booming business. Fyffe was having a field day. Trevor seemed to be getting a little tired. Of course, I could have walked all night in the crowds and cold, but I had to consider his health and safety. We made our way to the car and headed for home.

"Do you think one of those lights was a UFO," Trevor asked me. "I think they all were," I replied.



Chief Garmany With GROUNDHOG Editor Mickey Strickland. (Inset Trevor Strickland).



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Adult Education Graduation

The Northeast Alabama Area Adult Education Program will hold the Ninth Annual GED Graduation for GED recipients on May 12 at 7 p.m. in the Health and Fine Arts Building (gym) at Northeast State Junior College. The graduation will honor all GED recipients from DeKalb, Jackson and Marshall Counties.

The Honorable Richard Shelby, U. S. Senator, will be the guest speaker for the graduation. Senator Shelby has served four terms as Alabama's Seventh District Congressman in the U. S. House of Representatives. Senator Shelby serves on the Armed Services Committee, the Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and the Special Committee on Aging. He has supported legislation to strengthen the farm credit system and to ease the regulatory burden on small businesses. He has fought unfair foreign trade practices. In Congress, the Alabama Democrat played an instrumental role in strengthening our national defense. Shelby has also worked to provide funding for research on cancer and heart disease and to improve our social security and medicare programs.

Senator Shelby was born in Birmingham, Ala., on May 6, 1934. He received his B. A. Degree at the University of Alabama and his LL.B. Degree at the University of Alabama School of Law. Senator Shelby and his wife, Annette, are parents of two children, Richard C. Jr., and Claude Nevin Shelby.

Any adult (including those who did not attend adult basic education classes) who has successfully completed the GED Test and has not previously attended a graduation is invited to participate in the graduation exercises. All family and friends are also invited to the graduation and to the reception which will follow the ceremony.

Those interested in participating in the GED graduation should contact the adult education program at 845-0465 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Canyon Clean-Up: A Trashy Business



Under the leadership of Talmadge Butler, Manager of DeSoto State Park, the Little River Canyon Clean-up effort proved to be the best thing that has happened to the gorge since man first began to admire it to death.

Tons of beer cans and bottles, old tires, car parts, household garbage and various other items were removed from the roadbanks and ditches and from the gorge itself. It is estimated that 150 volunteers from all over the state showed up to work. Several rescue squads were busily patrolling the area for potential hazards as dedicated souls plumbed the depths and climbed the hillsides in

search of the not-so-elusive artifacts of our throw away society. I shudder to think about those archeologists of the future who try to piece together the meaning of our culture and lifestyle from the evidence we leave in our environment today. That is, providing we have an environment that will sustain life that long.

The sad part is that before the tired workers could leave the area, fresh trash had been thrown onto the roadsides. Sort of a socially-relevant statement, I guess. Trash is trashed.

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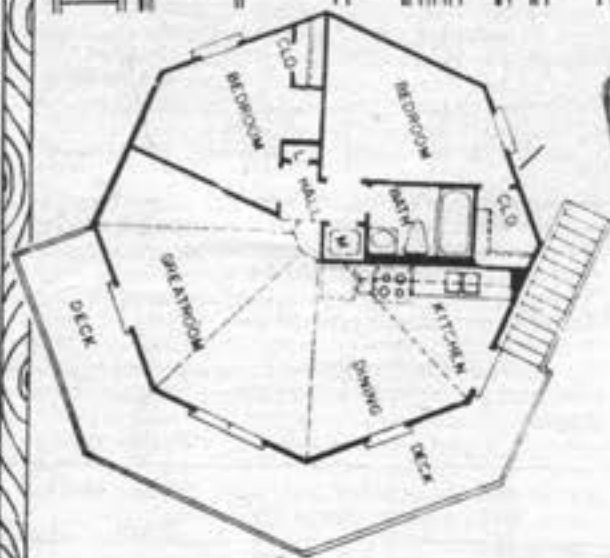
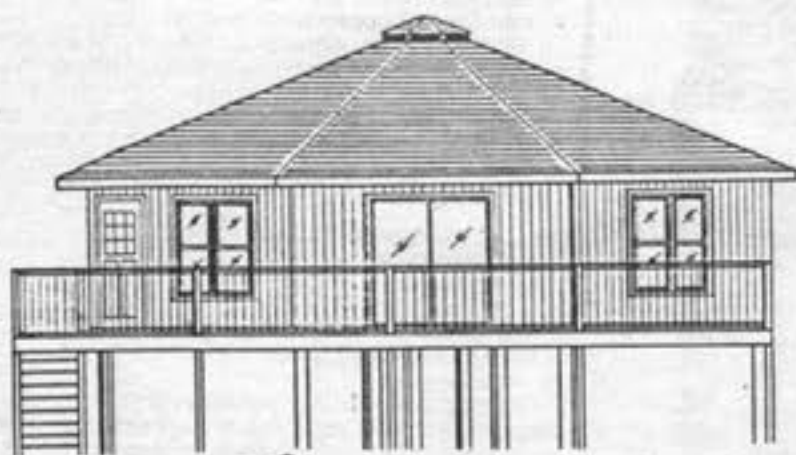
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MAYONNAISE CAKE

- 1 cup seedless raisins
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 egg yolks
- Mayonnaise
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups sifted self-rising flour
- 1 cup nuts, broken

Combine raisins, soda and boiling water; let stand until water is lukewarm. Place egg yolks in measuring cup; add mayonnaise until cup is three-fourths full. Add to raising mixture; add sugar, flour and nuts. Mix well. Pour into 9-inch pans or three smaller ones. Bake for 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Frost with Seven Minute Icing or favorite white icing. Yield: 10 servings.

CHOCOLATE FROSTING

- 1 stick butter or margarine
- 4 tablespoons cocoa
- 6 tablespoons milk
- 1 box powdered sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup pecans, chopped

Boil butter, cocoa and milk. Add sugar; beat until smooth. Add vanilla and pecans. Spread over warm loaf cake.

TRIPLE 6

- 6 tablespoons hot strong coffee
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 6 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 teaspoon rum flavoring
- 1 box sifted powdered sugar

Blend coffee, butter and cocoa; cool for 20 minutes. Add rum flavoring. Gradually add sugar, blending after each addition; beat well. Spread on cake. Yields: Two layer cake.

SOFT WHITE ICING

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 egg white
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Combine all ingredients except egg white and vanilla in a saucepan. Stir and cook just until sugar is dissolved. Beat egg white just until frothy. Add hot syrup in a fine stream. Add vanilla and continue beating at high speed 5-6 minutes or until icing loses its shiny appearance and will stand in stiff peaks.



GERMAN CHEESE CAKE

CRUST:

- 18 graham crackers
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons butter

Crush crackers; blend in remaining ingredients. Press into 9-inch pie plate, using slightly smaller plate to press mixture.

FILLING:

- 12-ounce cream cheese
- 4 eggs, separated
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice

Cream the cheese. Add egg yolks, sugar, vanilla and lemon juice. Fold in beaten egg whites. Turn into crust. Bake for 25 minutes at 375 degrees. Cool.

TOPPING:

- 1/2 pint sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 teaspoons sugar

Beat ingredients together. Spread over cool cake. Return to oven and bake five minutes longer. NOTE: Topping is optional.

BLACK WALNUT CHIFFON CAKE

- 1 cup sifted flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup cooking oil
- 3 egg yolks
- 6 tablespoons cold water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 4 egg whites
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/2 cup finely chopped black walnuts

Sift together dry ingredients. Make a well and add oil, egg yolks, water and vanilla. Beat with spoon until smooth. Beat egg whites with cream of tartar until very stiff. Pour egg yolk mixture over whites, gently folding until blended. Fold in walnuts. Pour into ungreased 9-inch tube pan or 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 50-55 minutes. Invert and cool. Yields: 6-8 servings.

DIVINE DIVINITY FROSTING

- 3 tablespoons light corn syrup
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup water
- 3 egg whites
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

Combine syrup, sugar and water; bring to a rolling boil. Beat egg whites, baking powder and salt. Add 1 tablespoon syrup to egg whites until 5 tablespoons of hot mixture have been added, beating constantly. Cook remaining syrup until it spins an 8-inch thread. Pour slowly over egg whites, beating constantly. Continue beating until frosting is stiff enough to spread. Yields: 2-3 layer cake.

BAVARIAN RUM FILLING AND FROSTING

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 package vanilla pudding mix
- 1/2-pound unsalted butter
- 1 Angel Food cake
- 2 teaspoons rum or rum flavoring
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon sugar

Mix sugar and pudding mix; cook pudding according to package directions. Cool slightly, stirring several times. Beat butter until soft and creamy; add pudding and cream well. Slice cake into three layers; sprinkle each layer slightly with rum or rum flavoring. Fill layers and frost cake. Brown pecans in butter and sugar; sprinkle on sides of cake. Yields: 1 large Angel Food cake.



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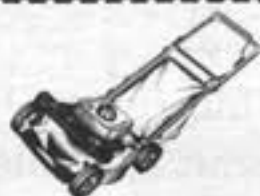
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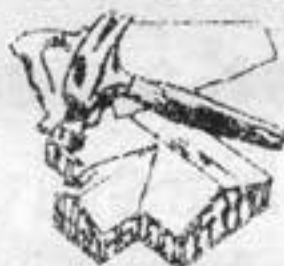
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