

SPECIAL EDITION

July, 1989

the

GROUNDHOG

Volume 7 — Number 3

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association



**SUMMER CAMP —
TOMORROW
MARCHING BY**

On Top of Lookout Mountain
On the Banks of the Little River,
Mentone, Alabama

MAPA Elects New Officers

On July 4, the Mentone Area Preservation Association gathered at the Mentone Town Hall for the monthly meeting. Officers were elected who will serve for the coming year, and the decision was unanimous. Outgoing officers are Jack Jones, Director, Ray Froehler, Associate Director, Frances Rosario, Secretary, and Bill Pilson, Treasurer.



Outgoing Officers Frances Rosario, Jack Jones, Ray Froehler, Bill Pilson

MAPA's goal has always been to serve the community in such a way as to make life better for all who live or visit here, and to protect the environment and natural beauty of the area for those who will follow. Many things have been accomplished during the last seven years since MAPA was organized on Feb. 2, 1982 at Cragmere Manor. In an original newsletter to the community, Sandra Padgett, one of the founders of MAPA, told of the beginnings of the organization: "On Groundhog Day . . . a group of residents and business persons met to discuss the growth and future of the Mentone area. Thirty-seven people attended. It was a lively and productive evening. Topics of concern varied, but everyone agreed that 'preserving the uniqueness of Mentone' should be our primary goal."

At the next meeting, Sandra again spoke of the priorities of the fledgling association: "It is to preserve and protect the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of the Mentone area, and to actively involve area residents and visitors in the improvement of the quality of life in the Mentone area. It is very important that every citizen share his or her ideas and concerns."

Those ideals have been upheld throughout the years MAPA has been in existence, and the improvements to the community speak for themselves. The caution light at the top of the mountain, the new walking path, the street signs, the donations to local civic organizations, the festivals to raise money for the group's projects, the cooperative efforts with other local organizations that have resulted in such improvements as the remodeling of the Town Hall, have served to make Mentone a safer and better place in which to live. Each set of officers over the years has added something special to the group, and has taken MAPA into new areas of community service.

On March 2, 1982 the group met for the third meeting which was to "include the selection of a chairman for the organization, the formation of committees to serve, and the naming of the organization."

On July 4, 1989, with the election of this year's officers, MAPA reaffirmed its dedication to the community and its ability to uphold those original goals established by the founders of the organization.

The new director is Lynn LeRoy Bathurst. Lynn is 64 years of age, and has chosen Mentone as his retirement home. He and his wife, Ruth, are members of the United Methodist Church. They live in a newly-constructed house on the road to Taylor's Ford.



Lynn Bathurst, Director

Lynn has a Mechanical Engineering Degree from the General Motors Institute. His profession, before retirement in 1987, was in Mechanical Engineering in the area of industrial power. He is a Registered Professional Engineer.

Lynn has always been active in community service, and served as president of three organizations and as an adult Sunday school teacher in South Carolina.

Lynn also served in World War II. In his own words, Lynn describes his choice of Mentone as his home: "I first saw Mentone in 1935 when my Dad, James, and Mother, Ora Belle Bathurst, drove us here from our home in Birmingham, Ala. We stayed for a short time in or near the Berry Patch. We came up for two or three weeks in the summertime until 1941. My father was a college professor and they did not work in the summer during the depression."

"In 1941 Dad and I started a log cabin near Taylor's Ford. The foundation pieces are still there. In 1955 Dad retired and lived in Mentone until 1962. My wife and children and I came up here often during those days."

"After 1962, we came up to keep the house in shape and to enjoy the mountain. Later, we sold the home but kept the river property and built our retirement home there so we could live on the mountain for the rest of our lives."

Harry Weaver, the Associate Director, is also a transplant to the mountain. He and his wife Judy came here to escape the madding crowd and to slow their fast-paced lives down to give them more time to enjoy the simpler joys of country living. Harry and Judy own *The Elephant's Tail*, a craft and antique business located in the basement of the White Elephant Galleries. "Ours is a cooperative effort," Harry told *The Groundhog*. "It takes both of us to be successful." Harry handcrafts the furniture and Judy uses her talents as an artist to decorate the pieces. The demand is great for their work.



Harry Weaver, Associate Director, and wife Judy

Harry owned a big construction company for several years and was involved in such projects as the renovation of the Fox theatre in Atlanta before selling the company.

The secretary, Bernise Cooper Crow, is a long-time resident of the mountain. She was born in Rising Fawn, Georgia, but moved to Mentone when she was 11.

Bernise finished the ninth grade at Moon Lake School (the school included a junior high then), and graduated from Valley Head High School in 1945. She attended Wesleyan College in Central, S. C., for one year before marrying Homer Crow in 1946.

The couple moved to Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1955 after selling their home to Gertrude and Leland Cox. In 1979, Homer and Bernise moved back to the mountain to care for their parents.

While living in Chattanooga, Bernise was active in garden club work and in other charitable organizations. She served as president of the garden club for two terms, and was President of the Chattanooga Council of Garden Clubs for two years. She is a life member of the Tennessee Federation of Garden Clubs, as well as a life member of the National Association of Garden Clubs.

Bernise is a member of the Chattanooga Audubon Society and the local Rhododendron Garden Club where she has served as recording secretary for the past two years. She is a member of the Lookout Mountain Parkway Association and is the current recording secretary of that organization.

Bernise and Homer are active members of the Episcopal church here in Mentone. She and her sister, Jean Matthews, own the Hitching Post on the square in Mentone, and operate the *Crow's Nest* in the same building.

Bernise is a mother and a grandmother and enjoys seeing her family as often as possible.



Bernise Crow, Secretary

Harrell Jenkins, the Treasurer, is not new to the position. He has served with distinction under other administrations. His judicious use of MAPA funds has played an important part in the financial stability of the organization.

Harrell was born in Birmingham, Ala., in 1914. For most of his career he sold business systems to the printing industry. He has two children, Harrell Lee and Jennifer Cartee. His grandchildren are Amber, Mitchell, Allegra, Kala, David, John, Donna and Lynette. He also has three great-grandchildren.

Mentone was part of the area worked by Harrell for years. He used his years of traveling to look for a place in which to retire. He considered the Shenandoah Valley and also the Bluegrass area of Kentucky before Mentone won out as the place to be.

He and his wife purchased the home on the DeSoto Parkway where he lives now from a family named Poe from Miami, Fla. They moved from Birmingham to the mountain and Harrell worked 10 years before retiring. He has lived here for 10 more years after retirement, and during that time became a widower.

Harrell is active in local organizations such as MAPA and friends of Little River. He attends St. Joseph's Church. He was one of the original members of MAPA and attended the first meeting.



Harrell Jenkins, Treasurer

One of Harrell's favorite pastimes is gardening, and fishing runs a close second. He puts up food he grows himself — canning, freezing and drying as much as possible. He is an excellent cook, and an avid reader.

The new director spoke of his upcoming leadership: "I want to continue the successes of the past, and find new avenues to pursue to help MAPA remain a viable and important part of the community. I am not sure yet just what direction I will take, but it will be a cooperative effort on the part of all the officers and members of MAPA. Our focus must be on preservation, and I think we can all agree on that."

In that first newsletter in 1982, Sandra Padgett wrote: "March is indeed the milepost of spring — when the earth begins to warm and we sense a change is near. Let us all join in the beginning of an association."

In keeping with those noble words, let each of us as members of the Mentone family join in the continuation of one of our best organizations.

**MAPA Meeting — Town Hall — First Tuesday
Of Each Month — 7:00 p.m. — All Welcome!**

From The Editor

By Mickey Strickland

(The opinions expressed in this column are those of the editor, and do not necessarily reflect those of MAPA, the community, the county of DeKalb, the state of Alabama, the United States, the world, or the universe at large).

Thomas H. Cook is back home again in Alabama. Even though it is only for a short stay while he does research for his latest book, it is good to have him here again. He and his wife and daughter live in New York.

I awaited his arrival with some anticipation for I had not seen him face to face since a class reunion 10 years ago, although we have conversed via the telephone on occasion. I am one of those people who attends each reunion religiously. My motivation stems from a fear that if I don't go, there might be someone present I might never see again. Several of our class of '65 have died, and at each gathering we remember them fondly, but with sadness.

Many years ago, while we were still in school, Tom and I were students in the same Speech and Creative Writing Class. He was very talented and perceptive even then, and his intellect was such that he would not allow any superfluous verbiage or irrelevant arguments to cloud our debates. Once when we were on the same debating team, of which he was the captain as usual, he told me that in topics concerning our American citizenship never to argue religion, only the law — that was my only obligation and my only right. I have never forgotten that, and I try to use those words of wisdom whenever I write about such issues as capital punishment, abortion and others that define our culture and freedoms.

One of Tom's latest published novels, *Flesh and Blood*, tells of the garment industry, both during the bloody labor unrest of the early days and in the fiercely competitive, high-tech atmosphere of today. One of the principle characters is a famous designer of women's fashions. Her name is Imalio Cavallo, and her clothes glow with such a warmth and sheen that each person who wears one of her garments takes on a special beauty, a reflected softness, that is like no other. It is called "The Imalio Cavallo Look."

But there is a sinister side to this beauty; it is achieved at the cost of the suffering and the lives of many people. For "The Look," to be available to a select few, many are sacrificed. Now, whenever I see someone who has a beautiful life bought at the expense of the suffering of others, I think to myself, "They've got The Look. That says it all for me. People who think nothing of acquiring wealth on the backs of poorly paid workers, who accumulate power based upon lies and deception, and corporations and governments who show a cavalier disregard for the environment and its creatures, glow with The Look. It is forever a part of my vocabulary."

When I picked up Tom in Atlanta to take him to Fort Payne to his parent's home, I was ready for whatever philosophical statement he might have for me now. After the usual greetings and catching up, I told him of feelings of fragmentation in today's world, of life's seeming roller-coaster ride and times of self-doubt, in both myself and the future. Sometimes, I told him, I felt I could not continue as a writer if I could not do better, achieve more, think more clearly, feel less deeply.

Tom thought about all of this for what seemed a long time, then he said slowly, "No matter what the situation may be, one must always be able to maintain dignity. The loss of it is the loss of self. Don't ever give anyone or anything the power to take it away. Dignity is really all you can call your own. Never let anyone take it, and do not give it away. The rest will take care of itself."

Of course he was right. As usual, he sensed what was important and what was not.

Tom Cook is like that.

In Memoriam

By Eloise M. Brown

JACK ERWIN COOPER

We have lost another of our fine young men. It was always a pleasure to see Jack Cooper, and we were used to seeing him in his appliance store in Valley Head for years. He was always so friendly and accommodating. He was dedicated to serving his church and community and he was a devoted husband and father. Only 61 years old, he had recently started a new sock business. We share the sorrow of his widow, Sarah Lee (Sadie) Hawkins Cooper and her sons, Van, Jimmy and Chris and three grandsons. Jack's death has left a big empty spot in our valley.

The Lookout

"Atop Lookout Mountain"

CLOUDLAND, GEORGIA

(404) 862-2515



The Groundhog

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Treasurer Harrell Jenkins
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Letters To The Editor

FROM JACK JONES:

It has been a real pleasure serving you as Director in 1988 and 1989 term.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members, Telephone Committee, Ladies for refreshments each meeting and the hard working Committees for their time and efforts to help us make this a good year for M.A.P.A.

The October Color Fest and Rhododendron Festival were both a great success this past year. We see new signs all over Mentone on our streets.

The June Jam Booth Committee again made a successful contribution to our treasury.

My fellow officers have served you well. Our newspaper, "THE GROUNDHOG," has successfully been printed each month thanks to our Editor Mickey Strickland and her staff and has been a contributing factor to many new members.

My challenge to you for the coming year would be to: Complete the Bike Trail to the Post Office, Complete the paper work to insure our Non-Profit Status, Find a permanent place for the Assets of MAPA, and work toward acquiring land or building that could house museum, a library or center for Mentone Area Preservation.

Thanks again for a good year,
Jack E. Jones

To: The Groundhog
From: Sis Martin, Fort Payne Centennial Commission Coordinator
Re: Centennial Celebration

Plans are underway for a memorable centennial celebration for the city of Fort Payne with monthly special activities. Individuals, families, churches, schools, civic clubs, organizations, and businesses will be involved with something for everyone to enjoy and to remember.

Through the efforts of Earth Grains Bakery and community volunteers an attempt will be made to break the Guinness record for the world's largest cake. This will highlight a week of centennial celebration activity.

The Centennial Commission is meeting each Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. in the second floor City Council meeting room of the Fort Payne City Hall.

We invite your representative to attend these meetings to learn first hand about the interesting opportunities being developed for this year to be one long remembered.

LOOK FOR THE BIG
BICENTENNIAL ISSUE
OF THE GROUNDHOG—
COMING SOON!

UGF Campaign Announces Leadership

By Barbara Turner

Campaign General Chairman Freda Lucy is pleased to announce the outstanding leadership already in place for this year's fundraising campaign.

Each of the five divisions in the campaign will be headed up by a Division Chairman, and those chairmen are: Industrial, Jim Campbell; Commercial, Candy Shaffer; Professional and Special Gifts, Herb Martin; Public Service, Judge Paul Thomas; and Town & Country, Ralph Lucy.

Those in charge of the clubs which recognize early contributions and subscriptions of \$200 or more from individual contributors will be Frank Hoguet, The Cornerstone Club (\$500 or more qualifying contribution), Scott Bateman, President's Club (\$300 or more); Terry Gillis, Two Hundred Plus Fort Payne; and Gerald Lacey, Two Hundred Plus Town & Country.

Involved in the early planning and preparation for campaign publicity are the Awareness Co-Chairmen. Doris Hobbs with WZOB and Elton Roberts with The Times Journal have provided valuable advice and guidance on the use of radio spots, newspaper coverage, brochures, flyers and other means of keeping the public informed on the progress of the campaign.

Sis Martin will again be serving as Employee Participation Chairman. Mrs. Martin retired as UGF Executive Director in 1987 but has been a dedicated volunteer in each campaign since. Serving as Campaign Treasurer will be Jerry Pendergrass.

After careful study of each member agency's request for funding and the two new programs approved for 1990 funding, a goal of \$245,000 was approved by the UGF Board of Directors in early June.

These leaders who are already in place and who will recruit additional volunteers over the next several weeks realize the challenge of this goal but are optimistic that DeKalb County will again display the generosity, the caring and sharing that is so typical of its citizens. Commenting on this year's Campaign and the chosen theme, Mrs. Lucy says, "Do Unto Others" expresses our duty to become just as involved in this campaign as we would desire others to do if we were the person in need. The "golden rule" theme certainly challenges both action and involvement."

The following is an article submitted to UGF by the CED (Cherokee, Etowah, DeKalb) Fellowship House. A UGF member agency, the Fellowship House for men and the Serenity Home for women serve as live-in facilities for persons desiring help in overcoming drinking problems. Located in Gadsden, the facilities also receives funding through the United Way of Etowah County as well as federal and state funding.

The following is one of their "success" stories.

C.E.D. FELLOWSHIP HOUSE

REFLECTIONS FROM A FORMER RESIDENT

I am so thankful for the C.E.D. Fellowship House. When I first got there, I had lost all confidence in myself and everyone else. Alcoholism had ruined my life, and I didn't know how I was going to make it. I was totally confused.

The program helped me to understand about the disease of alcoholism. I started taking responsibility for my own actions. I met people in Alcoholics Anonymous that had stayed sober for many years. Slowly I started to learn who I was and to accept myself and my alcoholism. I started to grow emotionally and spiritually.

The rules were strict, but they were needed. There were 15 different personalities to adjust to, but everyone was there for the same reason. I didn't earn much money, but I had what I needed to get by. The journey was tough, but at least I was going somewhere.

Then there were the ones that left the house to get drunk. They ended up getting in more trouble than they were already in. Some of them even died. Not one who decided to leave and get drunk lived happily ever after. It was really hitting me in the face. An alcoholic can't drink without it destroying him. And I am an alcoholic.

The Fellowship House had a class where I learned about the disease of alcoholism. That helped me so much. I began to understand what I was up against and what it was going to take to change my life around.

It's now 2½ years later since I walked through that front door of the Fellowship House. I had just gotten out of jail after serving three months. And I was lucky — it could have been three years. My life is much better now. I haven't had a drink since. The relationship with my family is excellent. I have a good job. I feel good about who I am and the direction I'm headed. I'm capable of caring about other people without expecting anything in return. I'm not ashamed of my life anymore. I feel great!

The Fellowship House was instrumental in helping me to get my life back in order. To all the people out there who support them through contributions to the United Way, I want to say thank you for caring!

Desks Given To County

The DeKalb County Board of Education has been the recipient of a most generous donation — that of 12 trailer loads of student desks. Additional deliveries are anticipated. Included are approximately 3,000 student desks, both 17" and 15" of stamped steel, several tables and chairs. These desks are in excellent condition and were donated by the Arlington, Texas School System through the assistance of the Feed the Children organization, a branch of the Larry Jones International Ministries, Inc., with office in Oklahoma.

Principals have been taking delivery of the desks and are excited and appreciative of this windfall. Teachers and students will return to better furnished classrooms as a result.

Franklin Kelleff, Superintendent

Our Town With Linda Brown

Everything was ready for the 13th Annual Mentone Crafts Festival to open. The volunteers had put up the directional signs, cleaned the park and numbered the sites. Grace Howard had done a great job of advertising. Even the port-toilets were in place. Now we were waiting for the exhibitors to arrive. Saturday, July 8, dawned bright and beautiful and there were the 85 exhibitors waiting to set up their wares. Again the volunteers were ready. Barbara Blalock gave everyone a number designating their assigned space. Ovie Blalock and Bobby Brown were everywhere at once, showing them where the spaces were, how big they were and helping in any way possible. By 9 o'clock everything was ready and the crowds came. Volunteers again helped the show run smoothly. A large number of them, organized by Fern Fitzgerald, sat at the gates to take up the admission. Others were serving food, ice cream and cold drinks. Some were helping the visitors park their cars. Others were just milling with the crowd to be sure there were no problems. Around mid-morning the entertainment began. Ovie Blalock had lined up cloggers and square dancers for each hour. They performed for 20 minutes and then let the people disperse to stroll among the booths and purchase some of the many craft items on display. The items displayed were beyond description. Many different wooden items, stained and leaded glass, pottery items, wooden tools, many items made of fabric, paintings, iron items and other examples of the talents of the exhibitors were there to view. The show closed on Saturday with no major problems.

Sunday morning ran even smoother. The exhibitors knew where their sites were now. They also knew that their cars were to be moved before the show opened. Again the volunteers were there, parking the cars, watching the gates, selling food and entertaining the many who came that day. A special treat on Sunday morning was a karate exhibit performed by a group of experts from Fort Payne. Again no problems — until — about 3 p.m. a strange wind started to blow and someone noticed a large black cloud to the north. Then it happened, the torrential rains came and wet everything, the plastic coverings over the food and craft exhibits were blown away by the wind and the parking lot turned into a sea of mud! Again the volunteers were there. They ignored the weather and pushed, pulled, towed and tugged until every vehicle was free and everyone was on their way home. Another job well done through the cooperative efforts of the people of Mentone.

I cannot begin to name everyone who helped. The fire department, the Church of God, the De-So-Toe Squares, the Valley Promanaders, several clogging groups, the United Methodist Women, the local American Legion, the parents of the little league ball players of Valley Head and Mentone, the Rhododendron Garden Club, and the town of Mentone all contributed in some way to the success of the show.

A big thanks to everyone.
I love and care about all of you.

Bridal Shower For Shala Barron



Miss Shala Barron, daughter of Sharon Barron Burke and Sen. Lowell Barron, was honored with a bridal shower on July 7 at the home of Homer and Bernise Crow in Mentone. Bernise Crow and Eloise Smith served as hostesses.

The Crow home, Raven's Haven, was decorated in a pink motif with fresh flowers the predominant decoration. Party foods such as pink glazed petits fours, cheese balls and homemade ice cream delighted the guests.

After the usual shower games, Shala opened the many gifts from family and friends. All the gifts were lovely, and such thoughtful ones as a 100-year-old cut glass serving dish from a family friend from Fayette, Burma McCrary, a handmade and crafted cross-stitching bedspread with pillow cases from the groom's mother, Betty Harris, and a splendid bedspread, sheet and towel ensemble from Eloise Smith made the evening more special. Other guests were Shala's mother, Sharon Barron Burke, Sandra Padgett and daughter Julie, Susan Barron, wife of Sen. Lowell Barron, who is Shala's father, Mickey Strickland, Cindy Strickland, Zora Strayhorn, Lisa and Jennifer Crow, Dr. Jewell McCracken, Deanna Jenkins and Linda Frith.

The highlight of the evening came when the groom's mother, Betty Harris, gave Shala a large box to open. Concealed inside was a framed picture of Coy Murray, Shala's husband to be, when he was but four months old.

After the wedding on July 15, Shala returned to the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Coy is employed at the water sanitation facility in Albertville.

Introducing The Helderms



Frank and Jennie Helderms, Greg and Linda Frith

On July 16, a get-together was held at the Mentone home of Greg and Linda Frith to introduce Frank and Jennie Helderms to the community. The Helderms have purchased a home on the brow, north of Tutwiler Gap.

Frank Helderms is the publisher of the **Gadsden Times** newspaper. Jennie is the editor of a college sorority publication that has a circulation of over 110,000.

Frank and Jennie Helderms have no children left at home, so it seemed a good time to make the mountain their part-time home. They average several days a week at their lovely home, and are busily remodeling it.

The **Gadsden Times** is one of the state's most popular newspapers, and presents such a broad cross-section of views and honest reporting that the paper cannot be labeled with either the "C" word or the "L" word.

The party gave many members of the community the opportunity to meet the couple and to get to know them better. As usual, Greg and Linda were gracious hosts.

On behalf of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, the **Groundhog** welcomes these newcomers to Mentone.

Party Time At Greg And Linda Frith's

The cheese and beverage party given annually by Greg and Linda Frith took place this year with many guests coming to the Hanging Cottage on the brow of the mountain in Mentone to help them celebrate.

The Hanging Cottage is one of the area's loveliest homes due to the efforts of Greg and Linda who took an aging, crumbling structure and made it into a showplace. They added wooden decks and walkways that give spectacular views of the valley below and the mountain beyond. Linda's decorating touches have captured the feeling of the era in which the Hanging Cottage was built, and it is

evident that a lot of love and care went into the selection of each item and accent.

Tony Goggans, Mentone's most well-known and loved musical talent, graced the affair with his unique style. Couples twirled slowly to his romantic ballads as the candlelight flickered on the keyboard that became something special at Tony's touch.

Greg and Linda Frith are one of the area's most hospitable couples and their reputation as gracious hosts was enhanced by one of Mentone's best social events of the season.



Tony Goggans



Zora Strayhorn, Becky Rish and Amelia Brooks



Party Guest Enjoy Food



Dr. J. M. Brewer

★★★★★★ Local Residents Visit Family In Germany ★★★★★★

Joyce Strickland Blankenship and her husband John recently returned from a three-week stay in Germany. The couple's two daughters, Lori Epik and Traci Webb are living there with their husbands and families.

The Blankenships flew from Atlanta on June 17 and into Frankfurt, Germany. "I stood in the Frankfurt airport directly under the balcony which held one of the terrorists in the attack there last year. It gave me an eerie feeling, knowing that sort of thing could happen in everyday life," John recounted.

The highlight and main purpose of the trip was to reunite with their daughters and granddaughter Emily and to meet new grandson, Jed, for the first time. "Seeing the kids was the best thing about the trip," John laughed, "but the food was next!"

Traci, together with husband Webb and Emily and Jed, lives in a suburb of Heidelberg. Webb is stationed with the army in the 359th MP Company at the Patton Barracks. Traci is a "hausfrau." Lori and Jim Epik live in a small town near Pirmasens. Jim is in the Army also, and like Webb, is in the MPs. Lori is pursuing her Doctorate in Psychology while holding a position as a civilian counselor in the Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Unit of the Army.

Special moments of the trip included the castles. ("The place is running over with castles," Joyce informed **The Groundhog**), the towns of Munich and Oberammergau, which dates from the 1300's, and the eating establishments. "Johnny loved the bratwurst and would have gotten it every time," Joyce recounted, "but he was persuaded to try such local favorites as escargot."

One castle, the Burg Rhinestein, is now owned by an opera singer who is painstakingly restoring it. It overlooks the Rhine river.

The family took a cruise on the Rhine river which was "one of the best parts of the whole trip." Germany has green rolling hills that run to the Alps. "It is very beautiful country, and very clean. But I did not notice much wildlife. Certainly not as much as is here at home," John recalled. "The houses are usually multi-family dwellings with tile roofs and wonderful shutters on the windows that can completely block out all light. The houses are half-timbered and very neat. I never saw a pickup truck all the time I was there, and if I saw a cap, there was an American under it!"

Joyce loved the cobblestone streets, sidewalks and shops while John searched for the little stands that sold bratwurst much as the hot dog stands do in the U. S. There

is nothing more lovely than the vineyards growing near the Rhine, and the quaint old towns, but the Autobahn is life-threatening." John talked of his most impressionable moments. "They drive like there is no such thing as a speed limit, and you take your life in your hands when you pull into that traffic! We rented a van, and my life flashed before my eyes every time we cranked up."

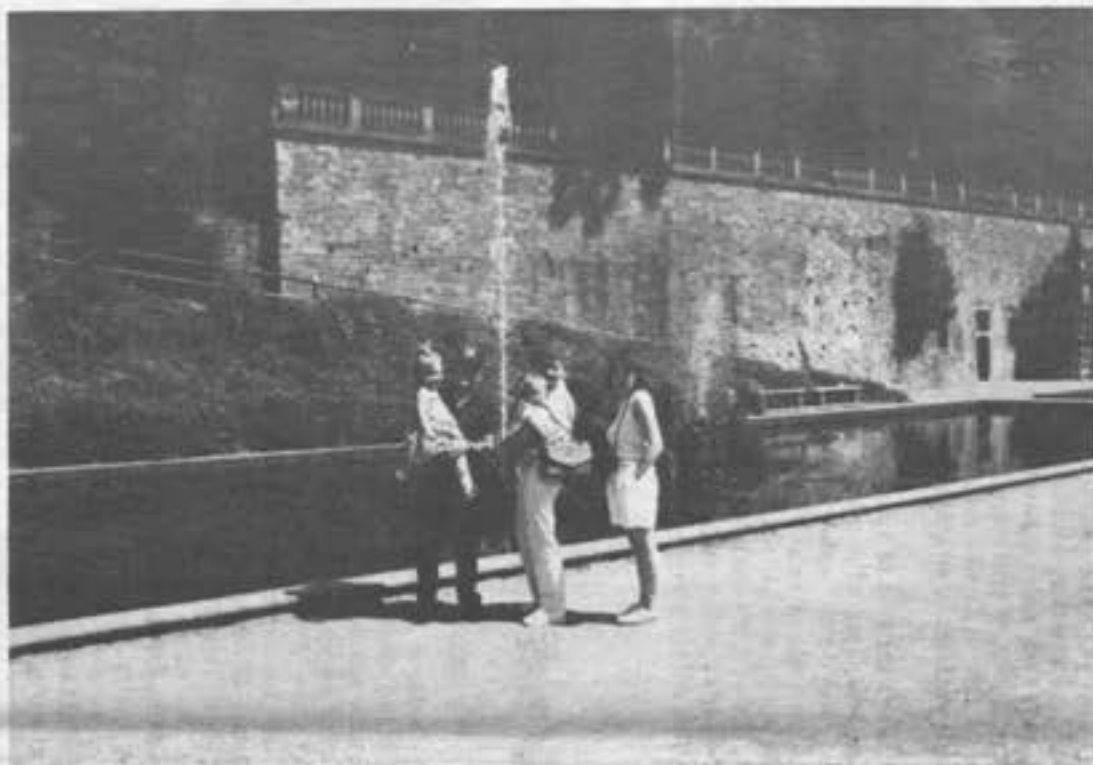
The trip to Dachau, a concentration camp built primarily for the extermination of the Gypsies, Blacks, some Polish and Russian political prisoners and prisoners of war, was a chilling reminder of a dark part of Germany's history. "The place has a terrible feeling, one can sense the darkness there," Joyce remarked sadly. The ovens and barracks stand as silent witnesses to one of the worst chapters in the history of the world. Ironically, over the gate to the camp these words are inscribed: "Work Will Set You Free."

The Blankenships are eagerly looking forward to having the Webb family back in the States this Fall, but Lori and Jim will remain in Germany for several more years. They love it there, and plan to sign up for another tour of duty.

Joyce and John plan to visit Germany again in a year or two, and are already looking forward to seeing more of the country, and sampling more bratwurst.



Schlos Neuschwansten



Emily, John, Jed, Joyce and Tracy



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Mentone: The Richest Little Poorhouse In Texas



Mentone, Main Street

Candy Shaffer, who owned a craft shop and book store in the Hitching Post until recently, informed the **Grounder** that there was a town in Texas that bears the name Mentone. She was a visitor there, and brought back pictures of the town and some of its citizens.

To give you an idea of the size of the town, let me state that it is even smaller than our Mentone. Mentone, Texas

has 30 citizens, and the surrounding county of Loving which covers 664 square miles, has only 91 people.

The county is billed as the wealthiest in the country, but that figure has to do with the fact that there is only one person for every six square miles!

It is a place of oil rigs and ranches, and every adult in Loving County is employed. But most are not wealthy. Each time the United States Bureau of the Census puts

Loving County on the top of the list as far as per-capita income, the residents laugh heartily. "They don't go at measuring that right," said Sheriff Elgin Jones. "Do we look like we're all rich?"

Mentone, Texas' landmarks include the gas station, run by Mattie Thorpe. Miss Thorpe stocks canned beans, chewing gum and chocolate bars and is the only place

in town to buy food. To the west of this establishment is a hut with two signs: One says "Groceries" and the other "Closed."

There is a county courthouse in Mentone, Texas, which was built in 1935. Sheriff Jones serves as the Loving County tax collector and works closely with the tax assessor, Mary Belle Jones, who also serves as his wife.

Drinking water was recently piped to Mentone, Texas, and is held in a communal tank. The underground water is so full of salt and calcium that it is unusable, and there are no dishwashers in the county. The 500 gallon holding tank supplies all the residents who bring their water jugs to be filled to supply their homes.

This may be the nation's richest town, but the water now available is worth more than money. "It's like being in heaven," Mrs. Jones said. "It has changed our lives."

The children of Mentone are bussed 30 miles to the nearest school which is in Wink County. The county has a post office, but no doctor, hospital, or Chamber of Commerce. The Rondo Mills 4-H Club and the Loving County Historical Committee are the only civic organizations.

The first permanent settlers in Loving County were three ranch hands living in one house. Then in 1883, six men came into the area and founded the Loving Canal and Irrigation Company. A town was founded on a site 14 miles upriver from the present site and was named Mentone by a homesick surveyor from Menton, France. The irrigation project later failed.

Oil was discovered about one mile east of Mentone in the mid-1920's and by 1931, the "oil boom" was in full swing, bringing in more people. The present courthouse and school building were constructed in 1935.

A Special Wedding



The bride was radiant, her auburn hair complimented by her dress of dove gray. The groom, also resplendent in gray, waited at the altar of St. Joseph's On The Mountain Church for the moment the beautiful lady coming down the aisle would be his forever. But the story began many years before this happy day, and is as much as part of the romantic story of their union as the service itself.

In 1946 young Roy Matthews bade farewell to the love of his life, and knew as he kissed the tearful young girl goodbye that he might never see her again. "If God wills it, you will be mine someday," he told Jean. They stood before an old well in Mentone, and if there was a wish-made that day, it was for his safe return and for fate to find a way for them to reunite.

The years passed. Jean showed extraordinary strength of character when left on her own with children after her divorce. She cleaned houses to support her family, all the while continuing her education until at last she became one of the professional people for whom she formerly did housework. She and her sister, Bernise Crow, purchased the Hitching Post, one of Mentone's oldest structures, and established a thriving antique business there.

Roy served in a global war, established his own construction company and served in a variety of high level managerial positions in different parts of the country. He also had a child and divorced.

Then, after a failed relationship, Roy knew the time had come to go home again.

Roy was glad to be back on the mountain, and he was becoming one of the area's most successful building contractors. Jean led a busy life between her job, helping at the Hitching Post, and traveling and enjoying her children and grandchildren. But there was a dimension of their lives that was to come full circle in the Fall of 1987.

It was at the annual Colorfest held at Mentone that Roy happened to look across the street. There, coming from the Hitching Post, was the girl he had left so many years ago. She saw him at almost the same moment, and as if in slow motion, they met and embraced.

Two years later, Roy Matthews took his bride to his heart and knew that life was good.

The reception was held upstairs at the old Hitching Post. Friends and family from far and near came to help them celebrate. The famous pianist, Hixon Bell, played tunes from yesterday while guests congratulated the happy couple. Roy and Jean posed for wedding pictures taken by a dear friend, Angelo Rosario, and everyone present knew that this moment was meant to be.

Major Surgery

By John Baty

Back before mid-century, the residents around Mentone were largely farmers and back then, as now, there were many times when veterinary medicine was needed. There were few Vets, and few phones or cars, so most people handled livestock problems themselves using whatever medicines and instruments were available.

My Uncle had a young sow who had farrowed a single pig and he decided she would not make a suitable brood sow and elected to spay her and fatten her up for Fall bacon. He sent to Valley Head to the drug store for ether, honed up his straight razor, borrowed a sewing needle and thread from my Aunt and proceeded to prep the sow for an operation. Uncle's cousin was visiting and he was elected to administer the anesthetic.

When the sow was "under," Uncle made the incision, reached in and pulled out an organ. "Well," says he, "That looks like it." So he cut off a section of something, sutured the bleeders, closed the incision and smeared the raw edges with turpentine and lard. The sow healed rapidly and was soon as good as ever.

Some months later, Uncle's cousin was visiting again. Looking out the kitchen window, he spotted a fine sow suckling nine pigs. Turning to my Aunt, he remarked that the sow looked very much like the one he had anesthetized. "That's the one," she replied. The cousin chuckled and remarked: "If we spayed her again, she might have fifteen!"

That is the way it happened at Mentone.

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Summer Camp— Tomorrow Marching By . . .

Someone once wrote:
I saw tomorrow marching by
On little children's feet;
within their forms and faces read
Her prophecy complete.
I saw tomorrow look at me
From little children's eyes,
And thought how carefully we'd teach
If we were really wise."

Children learn by doing, and by watching the example of others. When a child is given the opportunity to enjoy warm summer days in the great outdoors with people who understand their needs, with their friends and with nature, something special happens — character is developed and memories are made that will be a part of that child's personality forever. Friendships are forged, independence is learned, and in the process, the future is being formed.

Some might think summer camp is not high on the list of necessities, but to quote parents who chose something precious for their child over a new bathroom: "We had to choose and we decided to give her the experience. Years later she still remembers the wonderful time she had. I doubt whether she would still be raving about a new bathtub."

This area's camps are among the best in the business, and each has unique qualities that appeal to their campers. They are all owned/or operated by devoted people, often families. This is not just a business to these people, but a way of life that is very important.

The first camp was established in 1922. Camp Alanita for girls was built on the brow below Eagle's Nest. The camp brochure expressed a feeling that serves well today: "It is the ideal spot for developing the girl with a mind that thinks, a body that acts, and a heart that loves." Camp Alanita is no longer there, but the principle lives on.



Sue Henry, Director

Camp DeSoto is perhaps the oldest camp in Mentone. It was originally a boy's camp built in the 1920's by a Mrs. Newton. At her death, Eloise Hart Temple purchased the camp and made it into a place for girls to spend the summer. In 1944, Camp DeSoto was purchased and operated by Norma Bradshaw and Bess Heron. Sue McLarin Henry became a staff member in 1947, and purchased the complex in 1975. Sue Henry was raised in the Mississippi Delta. She received her AB degree from Mississippi State College for women and did graduate work at the University of North Carolina. The summer after her freshman year in college she came to Camp DeSoto as tennis instructor and cabin counselor. Three years later, she became assistant to Mrs. Bradshaw, continued on the staff from that time on, teaching English in the winter.

Camp DeSoto's 48 buildings are placed in a natural setting. There is a large dining hall, gym with stage for theatrical productions, Hill High, a building for meetings, a stage for performances and an enclosed lodge which houses the library. There are spacious screened cabins and Little River for water activities such as swimming and canoeing.

The DeSoto staff emphasizes living with nature and the campers love it. With plenty of horses provided by Ed Jones and acres of forest, Camp DeSoto offers just what the camper ordered.

After selling Camp DeSoto, Eloise Temple built Camp Skyline Ranch. Located on the banks of Little River, Camp Skyline places emphasis upon respect and love — for the environment and for others. When Edmund and Edward Cash purchased the camp from Mrs. Temple, they kept the traditions that are so much a part of life there. With their ownership came some of the most scenic acreage in Alabama. In addition to the main camp on Highway 117 in Mentone, Camp Skyline has a 300-acre lake with cabin located on hundreds of acres. There are boats for sailing and a place for special events such as a picnic complete with fireworks on the Fourth of July. There is Granny Dollar Lake near DeSoto State Park which provides some of the best fishing around, as well as a large lake and cabin near Fort Payne known as Lick Skillet.

Susan Cash Hooks, (Edmund and Edward Cash are her uncles) manages Camp Skyline with her husband Larry. There are two little Hooks', Cassie and Kyle, and the whole family calls Skyline home. They live there year around, and Larry is an assistant principal and coach in Fort Payne in the winter while Susan prepares for each new season. Various family members chip in. Grandmother Cassie helps, as do the children of the owners, Patrick, Sally and Andy. Susan's sister, Anita, and her husband Ben and son Seth also work at the camp in the summer.

Anita and Ben are both teachers in Indiana in the wintertime, and Seth is an accomplished student, inventor, computer whiz and writer. He is also a contributing editor for *The Groundhog*.

Susan's father Max and mother Roberta help manage the company's extensive land holdings, and make sure the ducks are fed at Lizard Lope!

Susan Hooks holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Central Wesleyan College, in Central, S. C. Larry received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical Education from Central Wesleyan College and a Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision from Clemson University. Larry is very familiar with good camping experience as he has been on the staff of several All-Sports camps and basketball camps in the Carolinas.

A quote from Susan sums up her feelings about Camp Skyline: "Come see for yourself; walk the beautiful rock pathways through our camp. Swing on the rope swing if you like — smell the fresh mountain air and watch the river flow past our banks."



Susan and Larry Hooks, Cassie and Kyle

"A natural paradise awaits the laughter of young voices, the energy of young minds, the strength of their spirit, and the gentleness of their touch. You will leave knowing Skyline is truly an investment in living a lifetime of memories."



John and Anne Morrison, Directors

Lookout Mountain Christian Conference Center began as a camp for boys in 1928. Dr. Jacob Gorman and his son-in-law, Gray Morrison, opened the camp to provide boys with the opportunity to grow and learn in a natural, wild setting. In 1958, Gray Morrison died leaving the camp to his two sons, Gray D. and John.

John and Anne Morrison, together with their four children, moved to Lookout Mountain Camp full time in 1974 in order to establish a place that provided religious retreats, conferences and a summer day camp for children. The complex is open year round and offers a variety of services including a counseling ministry to individuals by letter, telephone, visits and prayer; a ministry to individuals who stay at the camp for various periods of time; weekend retreats for churches, prayer groups, elders, youth and families; church camps in the summer; youth rallies; an Israel Weekend, Intercessors for America, which is a regional prayer conference; Thanksgiving dinner for local people; a July 4 barbecue for families; a clothes cabin that is available to the needy; a gym for teenagers; an annual free day camp; Concerned Women for America; MMAP's Mobile Missionary Assistance; The Elizabeth and William Home which provides a home for girls; speaking engagements for various groups; a place for weddings and receptions complete with honeymoon cabin; a quarterly newsletter; a Christian bookstore, gift and snack shop; support of missionaries to Israel and Mexico and fellowship for women, home groups and churches.

Plans for the future include: A guest home for missionaries for rest and vacation, more special conferences and a camp for underprivileged children.

Camp Juliette Low was begun in 1921 by Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America. She wanted to establish a place for girls to learn and develop while experiencing the joys of nature. The first acreage for the camp was donated by the founders of Cloudland, Ga., and was known as a training camp for Girl Scouts at the Cloudland Park development.



Juliette Low camper learns to ride

Juliette Gordon Low was the aunt of Marion Wallace Low of Mentone. In the summer before she died, Juliette Low transferred the campsite to a non-profit organization managed by a board of trustees. The ideals set forth by Mrs. Low over 60 years ago are just relevant today — a concern for the ecology and for the part it can play in character development of the young.



Marty Griffin, Saddle Rock Director

In 1983, Marty Griffin leased the summer camp section of Cloudmont Ski Resort. The camp was then named Camp Saddle Rock for Girls. There had been a very successful boy's camp there for years built by the YMCA of Miami, Fla. It was operated, then purchased, by C. W. Able and L. B. Sommers in 1924. It was a self-sufficient camp at that time — locally hired workers raised cattle and hogs and butchered them on the premises. There were chickens for meat and eggs and large vegetable gardens. Food could be taken from the garden to the table in one day. Many of the camps relied upon this kind of system, or purchased their food supply from local farmers. Now, big trucks bring anything and everything to the kitchen door daily.

In 1947, a young man named Jack Jones bought the camp. He had begun as a camper there several years before and had gone on to become a staff member. He and his family ran the operation until 1982. During that time, a ski resort and golf course was added, which the Jones family retains today.

Marty Griffin purchased the camp in 1985 and re-established the camp as one of the most successful in the area.

Polly Cameron, Assistant Director of Camp Saddle Rock, was co-founder of the camp. Both Marty and Polly travel extensively throughout the Fall recruiting campers from all over the southeast. January and February are spent recruiting counselors on various college campuses. A new barn was added this year, complete with classroom and video.

When not in Mentone, Marty can be found in Atlanta, Ga., where she resides in the off season. Marty is Chairwoman of the Mentone Fire Department, past Treasurer of the southeastern section of the American Camping Association and treasurer of the Lookout Mountain Camping Association. Both Marty and Polly are volunteer ACA standards visitors and usually do at least two accreditation visits each summer. This is Marty's 24th year in camping.

Polly resides in Mentone on DeSoto Parkway and is responsible for managing the camp office in winter. Polly began spending her summers in Mentone at an early age when she visited her grandmother at Huckleberry Point, the family home on the brow. The senior Mrs. Cameron was born at historic Winston Place in Valley Head, Ala. Polly has a beautiful voice and sings for the campers often. She also owns the camp pet, a paralyzed Peek-A-Poo who has his own little wheelchair. This is Polly's 22nd year in camping.

Marty described Saddle Rock's secret for success: "I feel that one of the main things that has contributed to the success of our camp program is an outstanding staff. Ellen Roberts, our program director, has been with us for 24 summers, and several of our other staff members have worked with us for many years. This helps us maintain a

stable and traditional atmosphere for those campers who attend many summers in a row. Camp is a place where children come to practice growing up. We do our best to create an atmosphere that is not only physically safe but also emotionally safe. Campers then will test their social skills and hopefully leave camp with a better understanding of themselves and their relationship with others."



Dick and Alice O'Ferrall,
Toy and Carter

Alpine Camp for Boys is owned by Dick and Alice O'Ferrall. The O'Ferralls have two daughters, Toy, 13, and Carter, 11. Dick grew up spending his summers in Mentone as a camper and counselor at Lookout Mountain Camp for Boys. This summer is his 31st season as owner and director of Alpine Camp.

Alice grew up as a camper and staff member at Camp DeSoto. The O'Ferralls' daughters share their parents' love for camping. This will be Toy's sixth summer at Camp DeSoto and Carter's third summer there.

The O'Ferralls are active members of Grace Presbyterian Church in Fort Payne, Ala. They are members of Friends of Little River, The Audubon Society, and The Nature Conservancy. The O'Ferralls have a particular interest in environmental education and each spring they invite the fifth grade students from Williams Avenue School in Fort Payne to spend a couple of days at Alpine Camp for a "Lookout Mountain Adventure." The students go on a nature hike to study the plants, birds, insects and other wildlife of the mountain woods; they wade the cool waters of Little River to study the ecology of the unique mountain streams, and get their hands on primitive tools and weapons to learn how Indians lived in Alabama before DeSoto's first expedition into North America.

The O'Ferralls also work closely with the Birmingham Audubon Society. In 1978 they shared a dream of the Birmingham Audubon Society to continue the Blanche Dean concept of "Nature Camps" for adults and children. Out of this dream grew the Audubon Mountain Workshop which has been held at Camp Alpine for the past 12 years.

Richard O'Ferrall is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and served for two years as lieutenant in the United States Navy of Mississippi.



Robert Dunaway, Director

Camp Comer was built by scouts and volunteers and is available all year for programs involving Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and similar groups. Each troop assumes responsibility for care of the environment and campus.

Bob Dunaway, director of Comer Scout Reservation, was born in Ashland in Clay County. He and his wife Marilyn, an Anniston native, came to Comer in 1973. After four years they went to Anniston where they were associated with the Council office. They returned to Mentone in 1979. They have three children — Cara, Jeff and Krista.

Assistant Camp Director is Mickey Bobo, camp ranger, who with his wife Lynn and their two children, are year-round residents of Comer.

Trained first-aid personnel and lifeguards are always on duty. The Comer Scout Reservation is located on DeSoto Parkway. It is composed of some 11 counties called the Choccolocco Council. The Sequoyah District includes DeKalb and Cherokee counties. Comer contains hundreds of acres, including a 93-acre lake. It is divided

into two camps, one for tent camping and one with 12 A-frame chalets for family camping. There are 13 troop camping sites.

A major emphasis in the summer camping program at Comer is on merit badges — particularly in rowing, swimming, archery, environmental science, wilderness survival, first aid, rifle, canoeing, cooking, motorboating, forestry, pioneering, soil and water conservation, leatherwork, basketry and God and Country.



Boys love to fish!

Camp Laney was founded by Coach Malcomb Laney in 1959. The site was developed in 1887 by a Major Surgeon with the British Army, Dr. John E. Purdon and his wife Katherine. They came to Mentone from Althone, Ireland complete with servants and a parrot. There was also a hotel on the site at one time known as Riverdale Lodge.

This stretch of the river is one of the most beautiful, running deep and clear and wide, lending itself to all kinds of water activities. Rob Hammond, who is also mayor of Mentone, came to the camp as a camper, and progressed from there to counselor, then to owner-director in 1974.

Rob graduated from Vanderbilt University with a major in political science and history. He taught for five years at the Darlington School in Rome, Ga. He is married to the former Sara Ann Neal (San) of Cartersville, Ga. Rob and San live year round at Camp Laney with their two little boys, Jordan, aged 5 and Robert Mac III (Bo), aged 2.

The main building at the camp is the Lodge, which contains the dining room, dining hall and kitchen, camp offices, infirmary, and nurse's quarters. There is also a gym, swimming pool, 12 horse riding stable, riding ring, three asphalt tennis courts, athletic field and archery range.

Camp Laney works hard to be one of the most beautiful camps on the mountain, and has achieved that goal many times over. The camps reflects the reverence the Hammond's have for nature. The program also is designed for each boy to not only have fun but to learn from nature and from others. Strength in body, mind and spirit developed through understanding, awareness and friendship is what Camp Laney is all about.



Alyson, Tyran, Melanie, Jane and Jim Bennett
Welcome you to Camp Woodmont

Camp Woodmont may be one of the newest camps on the mountain, but it has come to be known as one of the best. It is privately owned by Jim and Jane Bennett and their three children. Jim and Jane are teachers in the off season at DeKalb College in Atlanta, Ga. The two older children are married, but still help with camp. The youngest daughter is a student at the University of Montana.

Camp Woodmont is a coed camp located on Lookout Mountain across the Georgia line. The camp was a dream in the minds of the Bennett family which became a reality in 1981 after years of planning. Jim and Jane have worked with young people most of their lives and are dedicated to the ideal of helping parents provide a wholesome summer experience for their children. Non-denominational, with a strong Christian atmosphere, the camp welcomes up to 100 campers from all backgrounds for from one to four weeks.

The goal of the camp is to help young people become more sensitive to the beauties of nature and to acquire a more mature understanding of themselves and others, enabling them to become more sharing and caring individuals."

Ponderosa is located on 80 prime acres on the banks of Little River near the Georgia line. There are some 12 buildings on the campus, including a craft place, a staff house, an office building, a large dining room and kitchen and a chapel.

There are many activities to choose from at Camp Ponderosa, including Bible classes, singing, volleyball, ping pong, swimming in the river, camp fires, tournaments, fishing, boating, canoeing, archery, basketball, crafts, rappelling, sightseeing trips, softball, preaching and good food.



Glenn and Linda Miller, Directors

Ponderosa Bible Camp is a Christian children's camp that is part of the outreach ministry of Children's Bible Mission whose offices are located in Lakeland, Fla. Other divisions are found in Georgia, the Carolinas, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia. It is a non-denominational and non-profit home mission organization with a "doctrinal position of evangelical, conservative fundamentalism."

Glenn Miller, the director of Ponderosa Bible Camp, is no stranger to camp life. His father was developer and director of a youth camp in south Alabama. Glenn was born in Pennsylvania, but considers Alabama his home. He attended Southeast Bible College in Birmingham where he met Linda Yerkes, who became his wife. As home missionaries for Children's Bible Mission they opened Ponderosa in 1976. They have two sons, Curtis and Kenneth, and live at Ponderosa all year.



Nancy Jones, Director

Nancy Jones, Director and owner of Valley View Ranch, believes that every child needs a closer understanding of the environment and of the creatures with which he or she must share the earth. Every girl who chooses Valley View Ranch is given her own special horse to care for, and it is her responsibility. It is through this hands-on experience that children at the Ranch learn how important the relationship between man and animal and the outdoors really is to all of us.

There are many opportunities for enjoying the outdoors — trail rides, campouts, tournaments, swimming in a big lake, and many other activities that are centered around the rustic, natural campus which is further enhanced by its location — perched on the brow of the mountain with a spectacular view of the Georgia valley.

Valley View was founded by Nancy's father, Jack Jones, as part of the organization that included several camps in the area. It was originally a wild west camp for boys.

A former camper at Camp Skyline, Marsha Shipp Burns, wrote in praise of Mentone's summer camps: "My love for Mentone started in 1961 when I attended Camp Skyline for the first time. I spent four wonderful years there, making friends I shall never forget. In fact, I am still in contact with many of them. My memories and love of Mentone area have now extended through my boys." Marsha Burns' sons attend Camp Laney and Camp Alpine. She continues, "Camping is a wonderful and rewarding experience for a young person. It helped me to understand and appreciate others, as well as the importance of lasting friendships. I always have a peaceful and refreshing outlook on life when I return from the area." Marsha has kept the friendships close that she formed with Marty Griffin and Polly Cameron, who were at Camp Skyline when she attended camp there. "Marty Griffin and I have been friends for 25 years and I have watched her develop Saddle Rock Camp into an outstanding establishment — Sitting in the worship area at Saddle Rock is a 'must' with me at least once a summer. Hearing Polly sing and Ellen give the devotional is a constant reminder of the beauties that the Lord has given us."

Time flies quickly, and childhood is such a short time in comparison to the time of an adult. Each moment should be treasured and filled with wonderful learning experiences. Perry Tanksley, in *These Things I've Loved*, wrote, "What you are tomorrow you are becoming today. What you have been becoming you are now." How true this is for children, and to give them the advantage of summer camp in the mountains is to help them to build tomorrow with the experiences of today.

"How carefully we would teach, if we were really wise."



Valley View

With Eloise Brown

The Sunshine Club met at the home of Dot Blackburn. The president, Gladys Cobble, presided and the Secretary, Ruth Pickett, read the minutes. The opening prayer was given by Sue Cooper and the devotion by Eloise Brown. Others present were Evelyn Phillips, Geraldine Hawkins, Jewell Palmer, Bess Bauerle, Opal Tatum, Jean Jones, Vernitice Young, Billie Harper, Evelyn Clark and Heather Harper.

The U.M.W. of Valley Head Methodist Church met with me with Geraldine Hawkins as co-hostess, for the June meeting. Eleven members were present. Laura Margaret Alison led the study on "Women in Alien Lands."

Jewell Palmer was the recent guest of her daughter, Gail Brenaman and family at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. She was present at the graduation of her granddaughter, Kristi Shirley, from high school. Kristi won a four year scholarship to college. Jewell also enjoyed playing with her great-grandson, William Admiskia III, who is 17 months old.

Agnes Finster and Maxine and Bill Anderson of Dallas, Texas, visited their cousins, Lila Schlicher, Betty Brown and Sue Cooper and family. They also visited Pauline and Howard Finster and Ruble and Fay Finster and families at Summerville, Ga.

Gladys Cobble has returned home after visiting her son, Mickey Cobble in Chattanooga, Tenn. He took her to Atlanta to meet another son, Don Cobble, and they attended the American Food Tasting Show, where Gladys was amazed to discover popcorn that pops on the cob.

Walter Planzer of Tampa, Fla., accompanied by the Frank Casons, visited his sister, Addie Hall. They visited Sequoyah and other points of interest. Addie fell and suffered a nasty cut on her head.

Dot and Bill Blackburn visited their daughter, Linda, in Jacksonville, Fla., and Epcot at Orlando, Fla.

Frances Longshore has returned home after a visit with her daughter, Mary Lyle at Haleyville, Ala. She went to her grandsons' graduations — Ethan's from high school, and Chris' from elementary school.

Iris Spicer has returned home after treatment at B.M.C., DeKalb.

Geraldine and Howard Hawkins visited their son, Bobby Hawkins, and family at Brewton, Ala. Bobby is Escambia Conservation Agent and raises Blueberries. They attended the Blueberry Festival and the tasting of the Blueberry dishes that were contest winners. Daughter-in-law, Gail, won three awards.

Ruth and Bert Pickett, accompanied by Betty and Leonard Bracken, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary by touring the Western and North western states in Canada. They visited 23 states and traveled 7,000 miles. They had a wonderful time and saw beautiful sights — the most beautiful flower garden ever seen at Victoria, Canada.

I attended the Tittle-Martin Reunion at the Historical Society building at New England, Ga. It is always good to get together with family and friends.

Doris and Jim Carmichael accompanied by Linda and Bob Thomas, and children of Fort Payne and Emmy and Mark Ricketts of Birmingham, Ala., vacationed at Destin, Fla.

Tillie Schlicher had as recent overnight guests, her granddaughter, Donna Comtossecco and children, Bobby and Julie, from St. Petersburg, Fla., another granddaughter, Rose Lynn, her husband, Steve Halverson, and children, Ashley and Blake, of Clearwater, Fla.

Tim Phillips took his mother, Evelyn Phillips, on a tour of the western states to the Grand Canyon, Ariz., and New Mexico. They were accompanied by Tim's son, Craig.

Barry Brown received a nice award recently. It stated: "The Alabama Forestry Planning Committee, having been furnished satisfactory evidence that this forest land is being managed in such a manner that it is making the maximum contribution to Alabama and America, hereby certifies the forest land of R. B. Brown as a Treasure Forest." Signed by Ernest V. Todd, Chairman. It listed the Qualities — Timber, Recreation, Environment, Aesthetics, Sustained, Usable Resource — together they spell Treasure — as indeed it is! They have worked hard to make it so.

I had an unwelcome visitor to my dining room. A King snake had my what-not shelves outlined with his long, slim body. Luckily my grandson, A. J., came and grabbed him and threw him out the door or the task would have been mine. Lightning also came in on my water heater and refrigerator-freezer and I lost so much good food.

I lost my beloved son-in-law. My daughter's husband, Larry Root, died suddenly, in Pasadena, Md. He was 55 years old.

Country Journal

By Bernise Crow

The day is bright and beautiful — some sunshine after so many days of heavy rainfall. This summer we are blessed with lush greenery beyond any we have ever had in July. July is usually a hot, dry month. It has rained 'till one can't spray for bugs or pull weeds very easily — so our gardens are a bit overgrown. The vegetables we have look beaten. What lovely cool days we enjoy, though.

Blackberries are ripening, and zucchini are producing at a rapid pace. My recipes for using the long green vegetable of the squash family are not ample to handle all of it. We need a whole book of ideas just for zucchini. We enjoy fried ones, stewed ones (with tomatoes), casseroles, and fresh tender ones eaten raw in salads. I haven't tried bread or cake yet. They are good, but there is a limit to how many two people can consume. And we have yellow crookneck squash, and good cabbage and beets. Beans are not doing as well. The bugs are eating them before we get a chance at them.

Since we have had rain practically every day for six weeks, the DeSoto Falls are a wonderful sight, even in the rain. DeSoto State Park, of which the falls are a part, has made more nice walkways and added more picnic tables, which is certainly appreciated.

The mountain is certainly the place to live this summer. At least we are not afraid of being flooded, as has been the case in low-lying areas. It is always nice to have our many good friends drop in to see us at the Hitching Post. Some of them are old friends we haven't seen in years. Our visitor of the month in June was Carolyn (Hammonds) McMahan. We had a wonderful time reminiscing about the "good ole days." Jean and I worked with her at The DeSoto Hotel in the forties, when we were just kids. We had not seen her since.

One of Homer's classmates — Wesley Gunter — was in last week, and Homer just happened to be there. They had not seen each other since 1942. Of course they had a good visit — comparing notes on children, jobs, and of course — grandchildren.

The old Hitching Post has been alive this summer. First we had the Rhododendron beauty pageant there, and later we had Roy and Jean Matthews' wedding reception there. It gets a little warm upstairs, to say the least, but it has an old barn atmosphere that is good. People used to dance there 'till midnight, and think nothing of the heat.

Mr. P. W. Roberts came in last week and brought me some of the old back issues of *The Groundhog*. That was most welcome. Mr. Roberts is one of my favorite people

anyway. And not only mine. Everyone loved him when he was at Valley Head High School where he taught Agriculture and coached football. Many thanks to Mr. Roberts for the papers. Homer and I are trying to get sets of them together. I told Mr. Roberts I hoped he had one of the issues with Sammy Cash featured, because we have less of them than any. He laughed and said, "One was all we needed of Sammy anyway."

Everyone is building or remodeling, it seems. My brother, Don Castleberry, and Glen Hansen are working on the Ruby O'Rear place for Patricia Bryan. I am so glad Patricia bought Miss Ruby's place, because she will make it a thing of beauty. The house has a lot of history, which I would like to record one day.

Roy Matthews has almost finished the Gaylords' place, known as the "Yellow House" for many years. We know it as the Charlie Hall Place. The Gaylords are a lovely couple, and a welcome addition to Mentone. The Nancarrowes are restoring the Paul White place; I am glad. They are from Michigan, but love Mentone as much as any of us. They have been away for about two months, due to the arrival of a new Grandchild. Now they are back, and will continue to work on the home. Our new kitchen is progressing, but is not finished yet. We will have a christening when it is finished. Terry and Dorma Hutcheson are in their beautiful new farm house, and are our neighbors. We love it!

Our house rings with laughter now because of having our Granddaughters Lisa and Jennifer Crow who are spending the summer with us. It's a sweet comforting sound. These girls are working at Ancro with their Grandfather, and are doing a good job. This gives them some spending money. This has been a scattered bit of country jargon, but then these are the thoughts of one who is steeped in country lore.

One more little story: Jimmy McCary reminded us at Bible study at St. Joseph's Episcopal to not forget to pray for rain. Our past two summers have been very dry. I told Jimmy the other day that the trouble was he had us pray too much for rain!

A skeptic old farmer was sitting on the porch watching the neighbors walk past on their way to the church to pray for rain during a long hot dry spell. While they were gone, it rained — a good one. When the people returned, the farmer was standing with a shotgun in his hand. He said, "Don't you ever let it get this dry again!"

COUNTRY COOKIN'

WITH NOUR DEAN KILGORE



BUTTERNUT SQUASH RING

- 3 medium butternut squash
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Cut squash in half; remove seeds and fibers. Cover each half with heavy-duty plastic wrap. Arrange about 1 inch apart in microwave oven. Microwave at HIGH for 18 to 22 minutes or until soft to the touch, rearranging after 10 minutes. Let stand 3 minutes. Scoop out pulp; discard shells. Beat pulp at medium speed of electric mixer until smooth.

Place butter in a 1-cup glass measure. Microwave at HIGH for 1 minute or until melted; pour over squash pulp. Combine sugar, spices and salt; mix well. Add sugar mixture, eggs and vanilla to squash; mix well.

Pour into a microwave-safe 1-quart ring mold. Microwave at HIGH 9 to 11 minutes or until set, rotating dish a quarter-turn every 3 minutes. Let the squash stand for 8 minutes before unmolding. Yield: Six servings.

CHERRY POUND CAKE

- 1 cup shortening
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 5 eggs
- 1 cup glace cherries
- 1/2 cup mixed peel
- 2 1/2 cups sifted flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

Cream shortening, sugar, lemon rind and juice. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine cherries and the peel with 1/2 cup of the flour. Sift remaining flour with salt and baking powder; add to batter in three additions. Add the floured fruit. Bake at 315 degrees until well done, 1 3/4-2 hours. Cool; wrap in waxed paper and let stand a week before using. Yield: 3 1/2 pounds of cake.

ORANGE NECTAR CAKE

- 3/4 cups shortening
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- Grated rind of 1 orange
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1/2 cup fresh orange juice
- 3 cups flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup water

Blend shortening, sugar and eggs until light. Add orange rind and fruit juices. Stir in sifted dry ingredients alternately with water; blend well. Pour into three greased layer cake pans. Bake at 375 degrees for 20-25 minutes. Cool.



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Fund For Little Sarah Gregory

By Sible Hopper

On July 12, a church bus ran into an auto owned by Lynn Wright Gregory and Dennis Gregory. Severely injured in the accident was four-year-old Sarah Gregory. She sustained massive head and eye injuries and remains in a coma.

Sarah must undergo surgery, and her hospital stay will be long and expensive.

Family and friends have begun a fund to help the parents defray the expenses associated with motel bills, food and transportation.

Donations can be sent to: Sible Hopper
Rt. 1, Box 56-A
Mentone, Ala. 35984

The family and friends wishes to thank all those kind and thoughtful individuals who have already given so generously.

ADECA Grants To Human Service Organizations

Gov. Guy Hunt Tuesday announced a new program to promote energy conservation for not-for-profit health and human service organizations. The program, administered through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs' Science, Technology and Energy Division, will help reduce energy costs for those organizations by awarding grants for energy improvement in buildings.

The grants will come from the Pennzoil Petroleum Co. violation escrow funds. This money was made available to the state through a court settlement with Pennzoil after the federal courts ruled the company had overcharged its customers.

"By giving the money to these non-profit agencies who provide basic and essential services to the community, we can help the agencies reduce energy costs and stretch their budgets so they can provide more services," Gov. Hunt said.

The funds must be used for energy conservation measures in buildings owned by the service organizations. Grants can cover no more than 80 percent of the costs, with the remaining 20 percent from local funding.

According to Dr. Munsell McPhillips, Chief of the Science, Technology and Energy Division: "Grant applica-

tions will be ranked and selected for funding based on a points process to include the amount and percentage of energy costs savings, the simple payback period, project need and geographic locations.

The grants will be evenly divided through the state's four geographic regions — northeast, northwest, southeast and southwest.

To qualify for one of the grants, applicants must be certified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(C) — (3) organization. An energy audit must be performed within 12 months preceding the date of the application. The audit may be available from a local utility company.

Application forms for the grants are available from the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs; Science, Technology and Energy Division; P. O. Box 2500347; Montgomery, Alabama 36125-0347 or from the local United Way. A letter of support should be requested from the Alabama Association of United Ways, in care of James Nims, P. O. Box 1122, Anniston, Ala. 36202. Completed applications should be submitted by Aug. 1, 1989, to the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs in Montgomery. Further information may be obtained by calling ADECA at 1-800-392-8098.



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Governor Guy Hunt announced today the beginning of a major training project that will enhance the cooperation among state and local officials in dealing with child sexual abuse cases.

"It is appropriate that this important training project will take place during the Year of the Child," said Governor Hunt. "Child sexual abuse is a grave problem, and it is imperative that the officials charged with dealing with the problem work together to the benefit of the victims."

Human Resources Commissioner Andy Hornsby, who chairs the state task force that administers the training grant, said that the multi-disciplinary training is important

"Police, social workers, and district attorneys are all involved in child sexual abuse, but they all have distinctly different roles," said Hornsby. "It is important that these professionals work together and understand each others' responsibilities."

Huntsville District Attorney Robert Cramer, co-chairman of the task force, agreed with Hornsby. "Law enforcement officers need to understand the social problems of child abuse. Social workers need to know about the criminal aspects. This training will give them the opportunity to learn."

neglect in Alabama. About 10 percent involved alleged sexual abuse.

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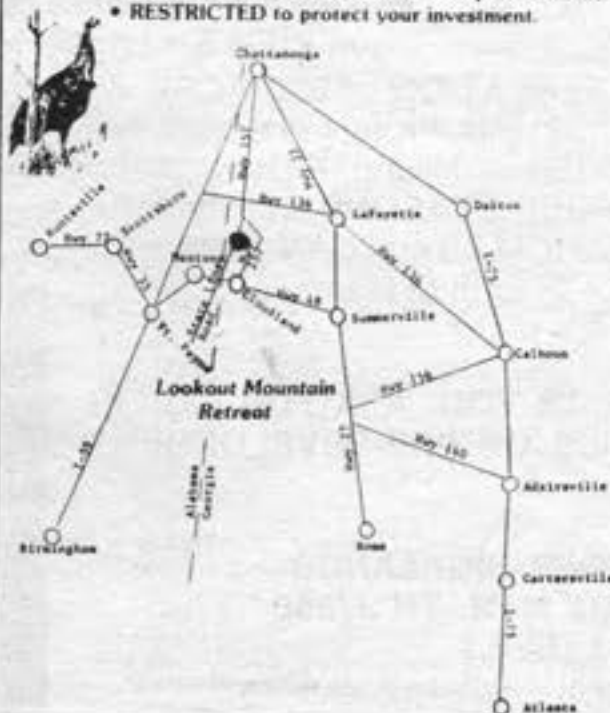
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Jeremy Bain Is Three



Jeremy Nathaniel Bain celebrated his third birthday on June 30, 1989 with his friends at Charlotte Dollar's Day School at Fischer.

The cake was decorated with cowboys and Indians, and Jeremy had another treat in store at home when he opened all the gifts from his family. His favorite was a Big Wheel.

Jeremy is the son of Michelle Strickland Bain of Mentone.



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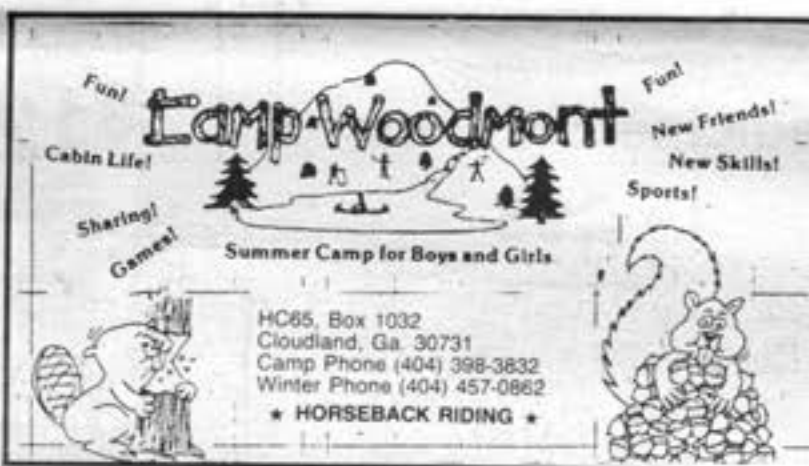


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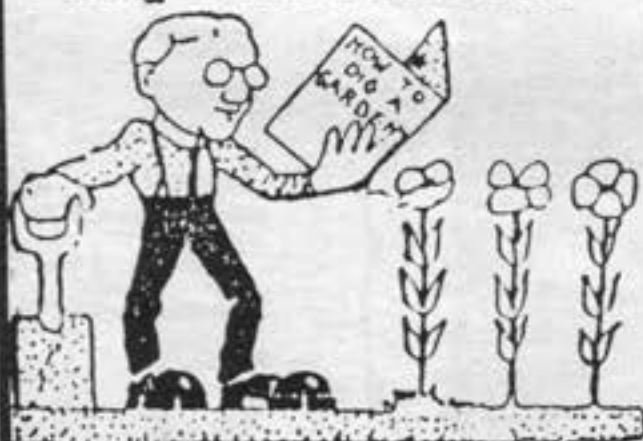
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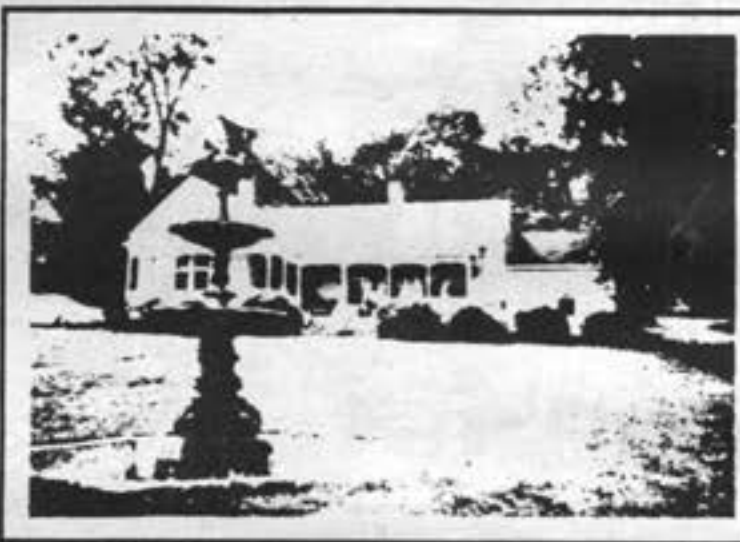
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