

the

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GROUNDHOG

VOLUME 7 — NUMBER 4

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Amelia Kirk — *Home Is Where The Heart Is*



Cover Story On Page 7

★ ★ ★ Mayor Hammond Resigns ★ ★ ★ Max Cash Selected To Serve Out Term

Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond tendered his resignation to the Mentone Town Council at the August meeting. He cited conflicts with his business and his young family as the reason for his departure from office. He is the owner and operator of Camp Laney for boys.

"I felt I needed more time with my family and with my business and I just could not continue to be mayor and do justice to all that I have to do," Mayor Hammond told *The Groundhog*. "I still feel that one of the best ways to serve one's country is in the area of public office, and I am going to miss it greatly. I would not rule out entering politics at a later date." Mr. Hammond holds a degree in Political Science.

Mr. Hammond reflected on his terms as mayor and his time as a council member: "I feel we have accomplished good things for the town of Mentone, especially with the water project. Also, when we worked with MAPA, the Crafts Committee and others to renovate the town hall.

Law enforcement has also been a positive effort. I know Max will be a good mayor and I feel he is the right choice. We all need to give him our support."

Mr. Max Cash, a retired rural mail carrier, was selected by the council to serve out Mr. Hammond's term. The decision was unanimous. Mr. Cash has served for 14 years on the town council. He is a life-long resident of Mentone and is active in the community. His brothers, Edmund and Edward Cash, own Camp Skyline Ranch and his daughter, Susan Cash Hooks, is the director.

Mr. Cash: "The council chose me, and I will do the best I can to continue much as we have in the past. I would have preferred for Rob to stay for I like and respect him. He has been an excellent mayor. I feel my top priority as mayor should be to continue efforts to obtain an adequate water supply, and I am going to work toward that goal. And I just want to keep Mentone a quiet and peaceful little town."

Local Craftsman Teaches In North Carolina

Aug. 6 through the 12th found Phil Faircloth in Brasstown, N. C., helping to insure that the skill and knowledge he possesses in the field of handmade rustic furniture will not pass away.

The John C. Campbell Folk School issued an invitation to one of Mentone's finest craftsmen to teach his expertise to others. Phil's class consisted of six students from various walks of life, including a marine biologist and a retired college professor. They were taught to work in willow and each built a chair, a table and a wall shelf.

It was Elder Hostel week and each student paid from \$200 to \$300 per week to live in simple austerity while learning the old crafts. The school is based on a danish folk school and was founded in the memory of John C. Campbell by Olive Dane Campbell. The original purpose was to teach the local people to make a living with the talent and raw materials that were at hand.

It is a place where students can go to escape the pressures and distractions of the outside world and really get into their craft. Classes last from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. but many come back after supper to continue the day's efforts.

The rooms are rustic and simple, and the food is as well. The emphasis is upon getting down to the heart of creativity, and to do so in an uncomplicated, peaceful atmosphere.

Each day is filled with activities that compliment the image and feeling of back-to-basics craftsmanship — folk dancing, lectures, singing and programs in the same theme.

The campus consists of 365 acres of beautiful wooded land enhanced by blue rolling hills. There are many resident crafts people with shops open to the public. Phil toured these establishments and was impressed with the quality of the work done there. There is a fully stocked wood shop, a sawmill, a fiber arts building, a pottery building, a jewelry studio, a woodcarving studio and many more.

Phil is going back next November to take a two-week log building class taught by Peter Gott, one of the foremost authorities on the subject. In return for the opportunity to take the class, Phil will furnish a bedroom in the original Campbell house. He will hand craft a twin bed set, tables, a wall unit that will serve as a closet.

"It was very peaceful there, with no television or radio or other normal distractions," Phil talked of the unique experience. "In fact, it was hard to adjust to life back at home for a little while. I am really glad I got to experience the event, and proud that I was invited to teach." One of Phil's favorite things about the school was getting to work with senior citizens. But the high point of the adventure came when a college professor in one of his classes, Clarence Patrick, honored Phil's son Ryan in a very special way: Mr. Patrick has an extensive collection of Indian artifacts that he treasures very much. Ryan had assisted his Dad in the classes and Mr. Patrick was very impressed that a 13-year-old could be so mature and learned. He presented Ryan with one of his most prized possessions, a 50-year-old knife made especially for Mr. Patrick from deer antlers by an old Cherokee Indian. As he gave Ryan the gift, he told him what a fine young man he was and how proud he was that someone deserving would have the knife. He told Ryan to keep the knife until he was old, then to pass it on to someone else deserving.



Donna Bouldin Bukley

Donna Bukley Graduates From JSU

Local resident Donna Bouldin Bukley graduated from Jacksonville State University on Aug. 11.

Ms. Bukley is a graduate of Valley Head High School. She majored in Fashion Merchandising and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in that field. She holds a double minor in Marketing and Art.

Ms. Bukley also attended Northeast State Junior College where she majored in Art.

Ms. Bukley is the daughter of the late Virgil Bouldin and Oma Bouldin of Mentone.

She is the wife of Charles Bukley, a former resident of Fort Payne.

Barron, Murray united in marriage

On July 15, 1989, Shala Charlene Barron and Coy Lee Murray were married at St. Joseph's On The Mountain Episcopal Church with Dwayne Whittington officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Senator Lowell Barron of Fyffe, Ala., and Sharron Barron Burke of Mentone.

The groom's parents are John Albert Murray of Oneonta and Betty Harris of Mentone.

The bride, given in marriage by her parents and escorted by her father, was radiant in a gown of candlelight made of slipper satin and Alencon lace.

The gown featured a pearled basque waistline, a sweetheart "V" neckline outlined with tiny pearls. The window pane back was draped with rows of pearl drops. A matching veil of English silk illusion covered with seed pearls falling from a sequined tiara completed the ensemble.



Mr. and Mrs. Coy Lee Murray

The maid of honor was Anita Portwood and the bridesmaid was Sharon Reese. Lauren Craft and Anna Kate Murray served as flowergirls.

John Murray Jr. served as the groom's best man, and Lowell Ray Barron served as groomsman. Collier Craft was ringbearer.

Music was provided by Don Murray and Lanette McCary.

Immediately following the ceremony, a reception was held at DeSoto State Park Lodge.

Julia Padgett and Ashley Burke served the refreshments and Bethany Murray distributed birdseed bags.

Jim Connor, noted musician and songwriter, wrote and performed a song in honor of the occasion.

Governor's Toll Free Hot Line For Minorities

Gov. Guy Hunt announced a toll-free hotline has been established to provide information to members of any minority, including veterans, who are in business or interested in starting a business.

The phone number is 1-800-248-6889, and the hotline will be in operation from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on weekdays. The service will be available for 60 days, and longer if there is a need.

The hotline will be operated by the state of the Alabama Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE), a division of the Alabama Development Office in cooperation with the Alabama Small Business Development Consortium.



It's A Boy!

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Blackburn proudly announce the birth of their son, William Albert Blackburn, on July 14, 1989. "Will" weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21 inches long. The proud grandparents are Mr. William Oscar Blackburn of Mentone and Mrs. Helen Crabtree, also of Mentone, and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Gaines of Dalton, Ga. Great-grandmothers are Mrs. Albert Cash of Mentone and Mrs. George Dillard of Chatsworth, Ga.



Phil Faircloth

Appalachian Rustic Furniture Now
In The White Elephant Galleries

From The Editor

By Mickey Strickland

When I was growing up in and around the big city of Fort Payne, it was possible to keep busy and to have fun on a very limited budget. My cousins, Janice and Steve Nappier and I, received one dollar a week each to use in any way we saw fit. We often supplemented this income with the refund from Coca-Cola bottles picked up from the side of the road, but that money was usually set aside to buy birthday and holiday gifts for the family.

At least once a week, we would walk from Forest Avenue School down to the old DeKalb Theatre and sit in delicious horror as Count Dracula gave new meaning to the term "fast food," or The Creature From The Black Lagoon swam into the audience as we dived under our seats. My friend, Mary Nell, would sit stoically through the goriest, scariest scenes and never flinch, while I found numerous excuses to run for it, sort of like I do now when Gerald Rivera is on television. The cost of a theatre ticket was one dime, and often we would save our break money from school and buy some Raisinettes or a big, salty pickle to munch while we squirmed.

The municipal pool was a popular spot, and only cost 30 cents for long hours of fun in the sun. This was before the days of blow dryers and such, and it didn't seem crucial to keep every hair in place. At least, not to me. But there were many girls I knew who never let a drop of water touch their new bathing suits, bouffant hairdos or Cover Girl makeup. Those bathing suits separated the well-blessed from the under-privileged, that was for sure.

The most fun for me, however, was roller skating on Saturday morning. The rink was located on the north end of town in what is now a hosiery mill. An old couple ran it as a real Mom and Pop operation, and we knew they cared about us. I wish I could remember their names, but at least I can clearly recall their kindness and concern.

The lucky kids had their own skates with big colorful pom poms on the toes. Often, a snazzy little skating skirt completed the outfit. I wouldn't have been caught dead in anything so cute, as I was in my James Dean rebel phase and swore that even though God had made me a lousy girl, I didn't have to dress like one. Blue denim and cowboy boots were my trademark long before famous designers got into the act.

This attitude in no way limited my admiration for boys and I still remember those times I would skate with really nice ones like Gary Haas. The music sounded as if it was piped in from Wilson's Funeral Home, as organ music was the sound of choice for the old skating rinks. There was a Coke machine that dispensed those little ice-cold bottles that tasted so much better back then, and the owners sold snacks also.

There was a lapse of several years when I did not go to the rink, and when I returned as a teen-ager, things had changed somewhat. The ownership was different; the Chessers owned the rink, but they were just as kind and friendly as the previous owners had been and we loved them dearly. These folks really liked young people and it was evident.

The music was now more contemporary — The Beatles, Fabian, Dion, the Supremes, Connie Francis and many others provided the sound to roll to. Many of the skaters were very good, with moves that would have impressed an Olympic committee. I envied those people their agility and daring — I figured if I could just keep going in a forward direction and cross one foot over the other at the corners and keep my back from sweeping the floor, I was doing great.

One of the best skaters I ever saw was Milton Chambers. We didn't call him "FeelFree" for nothing. The girls lined up to skate with Milton, and he was happy to oblige.

There was no more Saturday morning skate for us — we were older now and could go skating at night. I don't remember much rough stuff or profanity, but I am sure it existed. In those days, it was an attention-getter; now it is a force of habit.

When my children were old enough to want to go skating, I assumed the same rules applied today as yesterday. I would take them to the Starlight Skating Rink and friendly, concerned David Poole would assure me and the other mothers that he would treat our children as if they were his own. We would go off shopping and visiting, safe in the knowledge that David would not allow them outside, and would not tolerate any indecent behavior on the premises.

We trusted David Poole, and mistakenly assumed he must be like those people long ago who watched over us so diligently. Last year, I was shocked to hear of a morals charge in Tennessee against David Poole, but after giving it some thought, decided that there just could not have been anything to it — that David was falsely accused. To believe the charges would have meant the realization that I had left my children with someone who could have done them great harm — that I had made a disastrous error in judgment. So I chose not to believe.

When I took the Times-Journal from my mailbox last week and the headline told of David Poole's awful activities, I was truly shocked. Now I had to face the truth — there are many people out there who cannot be trusted, and I don't know who they are, and never did. There are many horror stories in the news today of trusted individuals betraying that trust and in the process hurting and damaging the very members of our society who cannot defend themselves — the children. These sick, depraved people are so very good at presenting a clean face to the world while inside lurks the dirtiest sort of heart.

I decided to visit the Fort Payne Skate Center to try and put some of the events into perspective — to maybe relive the old days a bit, and to see how this establishment rated. Was I looking for a David Poole? I really don't know.

The Groundhog

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What I found there was reassuring. Ron Bailey and his staff have it under control, and they impressed me that the Skate Center is a safe place for my grandchildren. They talked to me at length, and I found that even though it is not a Mom and Pop affair, at least there is concern and a genuine desire to provide a wholesome, fun place for young people to spend time and to develop new skills.

Ron Bailey is a well-educated businessman who takes his position of president of the marketing and management company that operates the rink seriously. The owner of the Rink, Larry Campbell, who lives in Tennessee, selects the music personally, and expects the same kind of mannerly behavior that Ron Bailey believes is necessary in order to protect those children entrusted to his care.

Would I take my grandchildren to the Fort Payne Skate Center and leave them in the care of Ron Bailey and his staff? Yes, for I feel that even though we cannot return to the days of Mr. and Mrs. Chesser, we can still trust. But it is always best to check out credentials and background, and we are going to have to do this ourselves.

I even tried a roll or two around the rink and found I could still remain erect, but it is not nearly so easy as it was 35 years ago.

Where is Gary Haas when you need him?

Get A High School Diploma On Public Television

I would like to announce a very important television series that will be airing statewide on Alabama Public Television. It's called GED on APT and it may just make a critical difference in the lives of hundreds of Alabamians.

It is a 43-part series of basic skills programs that are designed to help adults pass the GED test. That's the nationally recognized examination that leads to a certificate that is accepted the same as a high school diploma.

Alabama Public Television is sponsoring and airing this very important and worthwhile series in partnership with the Junior League of Birmingham and the Department of Education's Adult Basic Education section. This series will begin in January, 1990.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about the GED on APT, please contact Alabama Public Television at 1-800-392-8086.

The Lookout

"Atop Lookout Mountain"

CLOUDLAND, GEORGIA

(404) 862-2515

Valley View

With Eloise Brown

By Eloise Brown

The Youth Group of Valley Head Baptist Church, led by Teresa Cooper, Devan Jackson and L. A. Smith, went white water rafting at Cherokee, N. C. Thirteen youths and seven adults went. They are justifiably proud of the fact that they had an enrollment of 110 for Bible School with good attendance.

Adelaide Biddle, accompanied by Elizabeth and Nelson Ellis, and Jenny Kirby, vacationed at Unicoy State Park, near Helen, Ga. She also visited Varetta and Forest Biddle and their daughter, Rhonda at Pensacola, Fla. She was accompanied by her daughter, Mary Lou and David Carmichael and children.

Mary Louise and Ted Holleman, and Katherine and Jimmy Crumbley went to Crossville, Tenn., where they attended a performance of "The Music Man" at the Crossville Playhouse.

Ruth and Bert Pickett had as recent guests their grandson, Jimmy Pickett and friend Wendy, from Maryville, Tenn.; their daughter, Patti and her husband, Syd Spencer and children, Brandi and Sydney from Chattanooga, Tenn. They brought the Pickett's great-granddaughter, Shawna Mae Pickett.

Robert Hammon has returned home after being treated for a heart attack in a Chattanooga hospital.

Jean Jones is recovering at home after surgery at the North Mississippi Medical Center at Tupelo, Miss.

Billie Pickett and Gladys Cobble visited Gladys' son, Donald and Margaret Cobble and family at Columbia, S. C. They spent the night with Mickey and Linda Cobble in Chattanooga on the way home.

Evelyn and Robert Phillips had as guests their son, Jerry and Myrna Phillips and children, Lindsay, Robin and Craig from Butler, Ala.

The U.M.W. of Valley Head Methodist Church met July 25 at Mary Crow's home. Mary Louise Holleman presided and Laura Margaret Alison read the minutes after which Elizabeth Coleman gave the devotional. Verna Livingston continued the Bible study, "Women in an Alien Land." Others present were Mary Frances Tate, Frances Longshore, Helen White, Geraldine Hawkins, Brownie Tuttle, Cindy, Malcolm and Mary Frances Barrett and Eloise Brown.

The Sunshine Club met at Evelyn Phillips' home for the July meeting. Those present were Addie Hall, Janie Longshore, Bess Bauerle, Gladys Cobble, Vernice Young, Geraldine Hawkins, Betty Brown, Tillie Schlicher, Billie Harper, Ruth Pickett, Willie Palmer, Evelyn Clark and Eloise Brown.

Thelma J. Brown of Chattanooga, Tenn., celebrated her 94th birthday by visiting places dear to her heart in Sulphur Springs and coming to see me and Alba Brown. Her niece, Sarah Ruth Hilliard brought her, accompanied by her sister, Ruth Free.

The old theater building is gone from the scene in Valley Head. I enjoyed many good movies from years ago when movies were a joy to see.

Howard and Geraldine Hawkins and I went to the Tivoli Theater, Aug. 12, and enjoyed the Ziegfeld Follies. It was a great treat to see so many good stars of the past. It is worth the trip to see the seven million dollar restoration of the Tivoli. It is beautiful!

I received a note from Ann Lohr Erikson which she asked me to share. She wrote that "It's very hard to find time to write between work and the baby. Thomas at 4 months, weighs 16 pounds and is about 26 inches long. He is eating a little each day and wants to feed himself. He plays in his walker and likes to stand up but needs help to balance. He can almost sit up by himself. He is very strong. He grabs his duck toy out of the water in the tub. His 12-month clothes are what he is wearing now. He's a big talker — no words though. He's a good baby — only cries when he's hungry. He likes the Day Care set up we have for him. They are crazy about him there. He loves to look at the pictures when I read him his story books. He also loves music, especially harmony.

My work is very busy and challenging. Jim stays pretty busy too at work. Time off is pretty much family time. We go for walks or off together outside while the weather is so pretty. Tell Malcolm "hello" — glad he's back with you. They have said I can go on leave Nov. 16-Dec. 1. I want to try to come to Valley Head area for weekend of Nov. 18 and 19.

Love,

Ann

New School Buses For Alabama

Citing Alabama's strong economy that has increased school revenues, Gov. Hunt Thursday ordered \$5 million to be given to Alabama schools to buy new buses for the new school year.

Gov. Hunt ordered that a \$5 million appropriation that had been put by the Legislature into the education budget on a conditional basis be approved and turned over to the Department of Education. Gov. Hunt specified that the money be used to buy new school buses.

Gov. Hunt was joined in the announcement by state school Superintendent Wayne Teague.

The Department of Education reports there are 2,748 schoolbuses on the highways that are more than 10 years old. The \$5 million would buy about 156 new buses.

To encourage schools to use the money only to buy new school buses, Gov. Hunt instructed the finance director to require reports from each school district within 120 days of the release of the funds to indicate how the money was spent.

Wedding Shower For Lisa Strickland



Left to right are Lisa Strickland, bride-elect; Kim Harrison, sister-in-law of groom-elect; Kelly Hughes, niece

of the groom; Lisa Hughes, sister of the groom; Leslie Harrison, sister of the groom; and Carolyn, mother of the groom.

On Sunday, Aug. 20, a bridal shower was held for Lisa Arlene Strickland at the home of Mrs. Danny Hughes in Fort Payne, Ala. Mrs. Hughes is the sister of the groom-to-be, Jeffery Harrison.

Also serving as hostesses for the event were Kim Harrison, sister-in-law of the groom, Leslie Harrison, sister of the groom, and Kelly Harrison, niece of the groom. Lisa is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Strickland

of Mentone. Jeff is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Harrison of Fort Payne, Ala. Over 40 guests enjoyed the hospitality of Mrs. Hughes' beautifully appointed home and the many party dishes offered.

Many lovely, thoughtful gifts were received, including numerous pieces of the china, silver and crystal pieces selected by Lisa.

The wedding will be held Sept. 16 at the Mentone Methodist Church.

UFG Spotlight — The Salvation Army, DeKalb County Service Unit

By Barbara Turner

The Salvation Army Service Unit in DeKalb County, a UFG Member Agency, is a resource for area residents needing temporary or emergency assistance. Applications for services through the local service unit are screened by the Department of Human Resources in order to verify need and absence of other resources.

Assistance with utility payment, food, shelter and medication are the needs most frequently handled. Another area of local involvement is the providing of gifts at Christmastime to the residents of our area nursing homes.

Shelters are available in Birmingham and Gadsden for indigent and/or stranded individuals. In the absence of a shelter locally, motel lodging for one night is provided.

Other resources available to this area through the local service unit include a camp, located in Mississippi for underprivileged children and families, a maternity home and hospital located in Birmingham, and an adult rehabilitation center (for alcoholics and drug abusers).

The program of the Salvation Army is coordinated to provide local, regional, and state-wide services for the communities involved.

Because of the support provided by United Givers Fund dollars, emergency needs are met and crisis type assistance is provided to many needy individuals and families in DeKalb County.

Alabamian Presented With Coveted Award

Gov. Guy Hunt Thursday used the Alabama Reunion theme to "welcome home" Tuscaloosa native William A. Christenberry while presenting him the distinguished Alabama Prize award sponsored by three Alabama newspapers.

The governor invited Christenberry to the Executive Mansion for lunch to present to him the Alabama Prize award for his outstanding work in the visual arts. Gov. Hunt also presented the talented artist with an Alabama Reunion Spirit Award medalion, a special commendation "for outstanding service to the state of Alabama."

This is the second year the Alabama Prize has been given to a visual or performing artist who lived in Alabama for seven years or was born in the state. The \$10,000 award was established by the Gadsden Times, the Times-Daily of Florence and the Tuscaloosa News, which are members of the New York Times Regional Newspaper Group.

Christenberry, 52, was born in Tuscaloosa and graduated from the University of Alabama. Christenberry is well known for his paintings, photography and sculptures that emphasize Southern lifestyles and landscapes. The exhibits have been located for years in Washington and the Northeast but recently Christenberry's work has been shown in the South.

NEW SHOP IN LOG CABIN CRAFT VILLAGE . . .

LOG CABIN BOUTIQUE

Handmade Acid Wash Denims,
Jewelry, Washable Silks,
And Crafts.

VFW Update

Mrs. Clara Cash wins one hundred dollars. Legion Post 215 drew the winning ticket for a \$100.00 bill about 2:30 on Sunday afternoon at the Crafts Fair. The Legion Post congratulates Mrs. Cash as the winner and wants to thank those who took part in this event.

New Officers: The following members were elected and installed as officers for the 1989-1990 year in the Mentone American Legion Post 215. Post Commander, Jesse Crabtree; First Vice-Commander, Ray Froehler; Adjutant, Raymond E. Ringer; Service Officer, Leonard Shigley; Chaplain, Leland Cox; and Sergeant-at-Arms, Rudolph Bell.

A reminder to any Legion member and War Veteran that the 1990 Legion membership dues are now due and payable to the Post Adjutant.

Veterans are invited to attend the regular meetings of the Mentone American Legion Post at the Post Home each second Tuesday night at 6:30.

The 13th District meeting of the American Legion was held in Arab on the night of Aug. 10. Post Commander, Jesse Crabtree, and Post Adjutant, Raymond E. Ringer, represented the Mentone Post 215 at this meeting. The last District meeting was held at the Mentone Post in June.

Linda Frith Speaks To Metropolitan Group

Linda Frith, CLU, an account representative with Metropolitan Life in Gadsden, was recently featured speaker at a regional meeting of top producers in Gulf Shores. Linda's presentation to about 150 agents addressed the use of life insurance with more affluent clients. Specific ideas related to estate planning, retirement, and various business uses of life insurance. She also talked about the various tax advantages of using annuities, a popular strategy for individuals concerned with the Medicare Catastrophic Health Care surtax.

Linda and her husband, Greg, are part-time residents of Mentone.

Wedding Invitation

Lisa Arlene Strickland
and
Jeffrey Glenn Harrison
together with their parents
Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. Strickland
and
Mr. and Mrs. Lester Harrison
invite
all their friends and family
to share in the joy
of their new life together
as they exchange marriage vows
on Saturday,
the sixteenth of September
nineteen hundred and eighty-nine
at six o'clock in the evening.

Mentone Methodist Church
Mentone, Alabama

Reilly's Deli

At State Line Package Store

Cloudland, Georgia

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DELI HOURS: 10 A.M.-7 P.M. (CLOSED SUNDAY)
Friday & Saturday Night Open Until 9

Amtrak To Serve Alabama

By Governor Guy Hunt

For Alabama to become a major force in the national and international marketplace, we have to improve our transportation system.

I believe transportation holds the key to tens of thousands of new jobs in Alabama's future. Better transportation may well prompt the kind of economic boom across the board that will make sure that our children never again have to leave Alabama and go north to find jobs.

That's why I was excited to recently announce the return of passenger rail service to south Alabama. A new Amtrak route will begin Oct. 29 and will carry passengers through Mobile and Montgomery, on into Birmingham and Anniston and through major U-S east coast cities.

This agreement concludes a lot of work by a lot of dedicated people who want more jobs and a better way of life for all of our people, from the waterfront in Mobile to the beautiful mountains of north Alabama. Alabama is getting back on track.

I have instructed the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to commit \$430,000 to combine with federal funding to begin this new passenger train route.

In addition to the obvious benefits of improved industrial development, with this new route Alabama can attract new tourists from the large population centers of the northeast.

Tourism in Alabama already is up significantly this year, in part because of the Alabama Reunion. A new rail service should bring thousands of people to Alabama who have never seen our state before.

The train will depart Birmingham at 11:50 a.m. daily, arriving in Mobile at 6:30 p.m. Departures from Mobile will be at 7:15 the next morning and will arrive in Birmingham at 1:15 p.m. to connect with the "Crescent" route that already services New Orleans, Birmingham, Anniston and points north. The train and crew will remain in Mobile overnight. While the train will consist of two coach cars, one sleeper car and one food service car initially, future make-up of the train will vary according to demand and usage.

I hope every Alabamian can enjoy this Amtrak service because we don't want to be standing in the station when Alabama's train to the future pulls out.

The Country Groundhog Meets A City Cousin

By Mickey Strickland

One hot Sunday in August I had to make a trip to Atlanta on business. I invited a friend along, and we decided to arrive in town early and visit some places she had never been.

We began with the Omni which is not the most exciting place in the big city, so on the spur of the moment we decided to take the Marta transit over to Underground Atlanta. We had heard a lot about the renovation, and decided we wanted to see it first hand.

We took a bystander's practically incoherent directions and found ourselves near a trashy, almost deserted railroad track. If this was a Marta outpost, we were not impressed. No wonder this system was in trouble. While waiting for the train, a strange gentleman informed us we were at a real train track and Marta was in another direction.

We latched onto a street-smart employee of the Omni Hotel who handed us over to a friend who offered to let us follow her to our destination. She was very kind, but seemed a bit amused at our ignorance. We felt like aliens in a strange land.

We arrived at Underground Atlanta all in one piece, and were grateful just to be in a big crowd of people. And crowded it was. There were shops with names like "Victoria's Secret" and "Effie's." Such a lot of things to buy,

to see and to eat. International foods abounded such as the multi-layered French Creme Strawberry Tart that almost did us in.

I foolishly had not worn the proper shoes for all this walking, so I hobbled around looking for a place to park it. We asked directions to a good place to get a cool drink and someone told us about a place called, of all things, **The Groundhog**.

We made our way to **The Groundhog** and were not disappointed. There sitting in the doorway was the city cousin of the country Groundhog. Quite sophisticated, but still a party animal, the debonair Groundhog allowed himself to be photographed with us when he learned of his namesake in Mentone, Ala.

The manager of the establishment was very cordial and gracious and requested copies of **The Groundhog** for her customers. The staff was most friendly and made us feel right at home, especially a very efficient waiter known only as "Beau."

It was worth the trip just to get to meet the sophisticated city 'Hog and to get close enough for a photo. We promised to return on another day, and we assured **The Groundhog** that he was welcome in Mentone any day of the week and not to look for his shadow, we don't have any here.



Some People Prefer Groundhogs



... Others Prefer Wolves.

Berry College To Host Famous Speakers

Journalist Howard K. Smith, author Edward Albee and astronaut Scott Carpenter are scheduled to visit Berry College in the coming months as part of the 1989-90 Conson C. Wilson Lectureship Series. The series brings a variety of distinguished speakers to the Berry campus each year. The lectures are held in the Berry College Chapel.

Howard K. Smith will present "Changing Challenge to America" at 11 a.m. on Nov. 9. Scott Carpenter will speak at 7:30 on Feb. 20, 1990. Edward Albee will present "The Playwright vs. the Theater" on April 4, 1990.

Howard K. Smith is the only journalist chosen to moderate two television debates widely thought to have been decisive in two Presidential elections: the first Kennedy-Nixon debate in 1960 and the Carter-Reagan "Great Debate" in 1980. He is the only newsman ever to be invited to address the House of Representatives, which he did on Flag Day in 1975.

He has won every important award given for excellence in broadcasting. He received the Peabody Award and an "Emmy" for the documentary program "The Population Explosion." He is the only journalist to have been awarded the DuPont Commentary Award twice. He has won the Overseas Press Club Award for reporting and interpreting foreign affairs six times, more than any other commentator. He was the first working newsman to receive the "Paul White Memorial Award," which had previously only been given to Presidents of the United States and to one network president.

Smith has received 17 honorary doctorate degrees from American universities. He was honored as a public speaker with the Lowell Thomas Award by the International Platform Association.

A native of Ferriday, La., Smith graduated from Tulane University, then won a Rhodes Scholarship and attended Oxford University in England. He began his career as a newspaperman, leaving the New York Times in 1941 to join the Columbia Broadcasting System as its wartime Berlin correspondent. He left CBS in 1961 to join the American Broadcasting Company, where he reported for 17 years.

Now lecturing, writing and accepting selected television assignments, Smith is doing research on a book which will be a newsman's commentary on the 20th century. He is married to Benedicte Traberg of Copenhagen, a former correspondent for a Danish newspaper. They have two children, Jack and Catherine, both working journalists.

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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 wish to thank all those kind and thoughtful individuals who have already given so generously.



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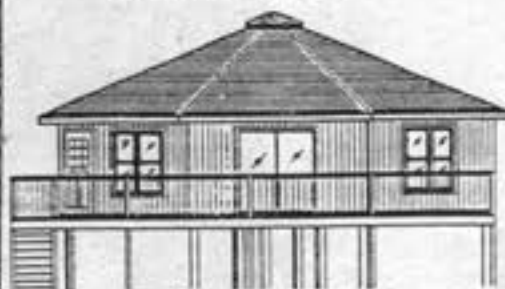
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UGF Campaign Kickoff Scheduled

By Barbara Turner

Final plans are being completed for this year's United Givers Fund Campaign with an early morning Kickoff scheduled for Sept. 13.

Volunteers will enjoy a complimentary breakfast of biscuits and coffee provided by McDonald's and served from the porch of the beautifully restored guest house of Randy and Kelly Owen on Alabama Avenue in Fort Payne.

Other Kickoff plans include a brief orientation session presented by Freda Lucy, Campaign General Chairman, and the distribution of Campaign materials to the volunteers.

More than 100 volunteers are already in place with a total involvement of close to 200 expected by Kickoff date. The important role these volunteers play in the Campaign cannot be stressed often enough. For without their dedicated involvement, the Annual United Givers Fund Campaign would not be possible.

In addition to the Steering Committee and Division Chairman who have been in place since early May, other volunteers who are hard at work are the Team Chairman.

Serving as Industrial Diversified Chairman will be Jerry Bong. Sarah Davis will serve as Industrial Hosiery Chairman. Their combined goal will be \$157,500.00.

Commercial Division Team Chairmen David Brouwer and Robert Dixon are looking at a goal of \$26,000.00. Herb Martin and Patrick Tate have a combined goal of \$19,825.00 as Professional and Special Gifts Team Chairmen. Sid Holcomb, Pam Hancock, and Sara Malone have a combined goal of \$8,900.00 for the Public Service Division. The Town and County's Team Chairmen Sue Wills, Gail Skaggs, Bill Rogers and Carolyn Crawford have a \$32,775.00 goal to achieve.

These Team Chairmen are now busy recruiting volunteers to assist them in reaching those goals. With the reaching of all Team and Group Goals the \$245,000.00 Campaign Goal will be met.

This year's Campaign Goal of almost one-quarter million dollars was set in order to meet the funding needs of the 12 member agencies as well as those of the two new programs approved for funding in 1990. UGF-sponsored programs are available year-round for DeKalb County Citizens.

Early response from those joining the newly-established Cornerstone Club has been encouraging. Letters have gone out this week inviting additional early contributions and participation in the President's and Two Hundred Plus Clubs. Names of those who respond and assume this kind of leadership will be listed, along with those who have joined the Cornerstone Club, in subsequent UGF reports.

"Do Unto Others" is the theme for this year's campaign and truly reflects the UGF mission of meeting local human needs in DeKalb County with increased caring and sharing.

1989-90 UGF CAMPAIGN DO UNTO OTHERS

C	\$ 245,000
A	\$ 240,000
R	\$ 230,000
I	\$ 220,000
N	\$ 210,000
G	\$ 200,000
	\$ 175,000
A	\$ 150,000
N	\$ 125,000
D	\$ 100,000
S	\$ 75,000
H	\$ 60,000
A	\$ 50,000
R	\$ 40,000
I	\$ 30,000
N	\$ 20,000
G	\$ 10,000

UNITED GIVERS FUND
OF
DEKALB COUNTY, INC.

FROM A 1907 PUBLICATION:

Race Suicide Due To College Girls

By The Rev. Dr. G. Stanley Hall, President of
Clark University.



HERE is a growing tendency to celibate life. From an exhaustive study of the statistics of graduates of nine of our oldest colleges for men and four for women, it appears that ten years after graduation about one-fourth of the men and one-half of the women remain unmarried.

Young men and women, especially those in easy circumstances, delay, deliberate, weigh the attractions of single and wedded life, consider social and even pecuniary pros and cons until the golden dawn of youth advances to the high noon of maturity, and in Herbert Spencer's phrase, "The motives that make for individuation become too strong for those that make for genesis."

When man has as fully domesticated himself by civilization as he has domesticated the animals, the voice of the medical profession will be heard upon this problem of the national and racial economy. Those with most grounds for pride in their own ancestry should feel most keenly their obligations to transmit the sacred torch of life undimmed to future generations.

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Amelia Kirk — Home Is Where The Heart Is

(COVER STORY)

Amelia Kirk remembers clearly the days of her youth spent on her grandparent's farm near Alpine in Mentone. J. B. and Maggie Crow owned and occupied that property for over 70 years and it was always a place to come home to, no matter how far away her family might live.

"Those times were wonderful," Amelia recalled. "We did all the things country kids did in those days — milked the cows, played in the creek, worked in the garden and cotton patch and picked berries in the warm summer sun. We hardly ever went anywhere, but there was plenty to do there on the farm."

Amelia's aunts, Dorothy and Grace Crow, were often the brunt of her pranks: "I would throw their lipsticks in the turkey pen and just make their lives miserable in general. But they were always a lot of fun to be with." Her aunt Bea ran a small grocery store and Amelia quickly learned how to get candy. "One day Aunt Bea put a Hershey bar aside, saying she could not sell that one. When I asked her why not, she told me it was because it was broken. At least one Hershey bar per day was mysteriously broken after that."

One of Amelia's favorite memories is of sitting on the front porch of her grandparent's home and listening to friends and family spin yarns. "Grandma would always be cooking something wonderful, and all the people would sit around and just enjoy conversation." One of her favorite people was Col. Milford Howard. "I would sit on his lap as he told stories of his life and of the area." Colonel Howard was an entrepreneur who came to the mountain in the '20s hoping to develop the Alpine area into a world-class resort. He completed some projects, such as a lodge, a school and a grist mill before his dreams outdistanced his money. Amelia's father, Frank Kirk, had been a personal friend of Col. Howard's, and assisted him in several projects.

Amelia was born on the farm at Alpine, and at the age of 1½, her dad and mother moved to San Diego, Calif., where Frank was stationed in the Navy. Frank Kirk was a career Navy man who became one of that organization's first pilots, and a designer of note who received commendations from the Secretary of the Navy. He had a distinguished military career, and most of Amelia's growing up years were spent in California, except for summers on the mountain farm in Alabama.

Amelia's dad, and mother, Mabel, knew local legend Granny Dollar, a Cherokee Indian who made her home with her dog Buster in a little shack near Alpine. Frank Kirk had helped Granny Dollar move her belongings from the site of what is now Cragmere Manna to that shack. He loved to tell of his conversations with her, and of his friendship with the Uncle Ned Jackson family, the first blacks in the area who moved into the Cragmere house when Granny Dollar moved out. Mabel worked at the Mentone Springs Hotel as a young girl, and had wonderful stories to tell of those days. Amelia was raised on the rich heritage of folklore of the area, and with the tap root of her family tree running deeply into the farmland of the mountain she called home, it is no wonder that Mentone has such a treasured place in her heart.

Amelia spent her winters in San Diego as a leader in her peer group. She was in the Brownies and Girl Scouts. She was concert Mistress at Point Loma High School. She was active in the Mission Hills Congregational Church and sang in the choir for 16 years. She was also president of the young people's group there.

The beach was near Amelia's home, and she spent many happy hours enjoying the sun and sand. Still, she recalls the ocean with an aching fondness, and looks forward to her visits to the coast each year.

In high school, Amelia was Commissioner of Girl's Activities. She was also Song Leader and was the Commencement speaker for her graduating class.

After winning a scholarship in Drama to a local college, she was active in many things in college just as she was in high school. She was queen of Job's Daughters and a member of the Alpha Phi Sorority. Amelia loved bridge and played in duplicate bridge tournaments.

Amelia met Robert Brooks in the church choir while she was still in junior high. They attended the same high school and college. His major field of study was geology and cartography. They married while still in college, and both took jobs in local banks. Amelia had worked briefly at age 18 at the Hamilton National Bank in Chattanooga, Tenn., while living with her aunt Mary Lee Camp.

Robert went on to join the Air Force and became a pilot. Three children were born to Amelia and Robert — the oldest, Katherine, is now a stockbroker and executive office manager for Prudential-Bache. Katherine has two children, P. J., age 10 and Justin, age 9, and is married to David Higdon who owns California Moving Systems. Larry, Amelia's son, is a model in Tokyo and owns a pizza shop there. He is married to Eriko, a Certified Public Accountant. Daughter Cindy is a Dallas homemaker for her three-month-old son Brandon and husband Robert Foxworth. Robert is a pilot who owns his own plane and uses it to take care of his family's three ranches which have exotic animals, cattle and horses.

While Robert Brooks was in the Air Force, Amelia joined in all the activities that were expected of an officer's wife. She served as president of several officer's wives clubs and as chairman of many social functions. When Robert was aide to General Andrew Lolli, she filled in for the General's ailing wife on many occasions at social functions. Life was very hectic, but she managed to skillfully juggle the care of three small children and the duties expected of her to help further her husband's career.

After leaving the Air Force, Robert was appointed Director of General Services for the state of California by the then-Governor Ronald Reagan. The Brooks' family moved to Sacramento and Amelia dove into her expected duties as usual. She helped out at the state capital on occasion and served on several committees. She was very involved in the Family Service Agency, the Symphony League, the Hearing Associates, the Assistance League, and served as president of The Committee, a group that raised funds for the Family Service Agency and for the testing of pre-school children for amblyopia.

Amelia was chairman of many social events during Governor Reagan's terms in office, and managed to be very active in her children's lives as well. She was involved in 3 PTA organizations and served as president, secretary and treasurer. On top of all this, she worked as an assistant to a doctor at an OB/GYN clinic for nine years.

Robert liked to travel, and he and Amelia visited 48 states, Europe, the Orient, Mexico and the Caribbean. "I loved meeting new people, seeing wonderful places and having the opportunity to make new friends, but I often thought of my mountain home," Amelia told of her travels.

When the Mentone Inn became available in 1976, she realized this was opportunity to own something of home: "I had always wanted the Inn, and now I had my chance."

The Inn has a background that reflects the history of Mentone. Around 1873, H. B. Gillette built a two-story house on the site of the present Inn. A store was built on the western edge of the property, probably built by Ed Mason, a founder of Mentone who ran a post office on the hotel site. Mr. and Mrs. James Huron and family moved to the mountain 1899 and bought the store and ran the post office until June, 1900 when they moved back to Indiana.

In 1903, the Hurons moved back to Mentone and purchased the property from P. K. Smith. There was a board-

ing house which operated as a summer inn for people from many states to escape the heat of the cities. Back then, people who could afford it stayed the summer months in cooler climates such as the North Alabama mountains afforded.

Then, as now, the inn was famous for its warm hospitality and unequalled food. Mrs. Huron grew her own vegetables and raised chickens, and pigs to provide the freshest meals possible. One entry in a journal she kept describes her setting some of her hens in the ladies' toilet and keeping baby chicks on the back porch. Mrs. Huron ran the establishment until her death in 1920.

In 1922, Hal Howe and his wife Nelda, purchased the property. He converted the store into a kitchen and dining room and opened in 1927 as Hal's House. After the structure burned, it was rebuilt and called Hal's Hotel. Mrs. Howe was well known for her gracious hospitality and Southern cooking. Later, the name was changed to DeSoto Hotel.

In 1954 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Plotts of Coral Gables, Fla. They changed the name to DeSoto Lodge and ran it until Amelia and Robert bought it in 1976.

Amelia had fallen in love with the vintage charm of the inn — the tongue and groove clear-grain pine walls from Mississippi, the 12 beautifully appointed rooms, quaint cottage, and an atmosphere that has been unsullied by modern remodeling, except for the necessities of efficient wiring and plumbing. She added her own personal touches, but was very careful to keep the feeling of a bygone era.

Amelia ran the inn for two years before regretfully selling it to Mr. Nesbitt so that she could spend more time with Robert, who was deeply involved in his career and different projects around the country. The inn changed hands a few more times, and finally in 1982, Amelia took it back to open it as a Bed and Breakfast. She was very active in local organizations such as MAPA where she served as director, the DeKalb County Tourist Association where she was on the board of directors and executive board, and as a member of the Alabama Mountain Lakes Association. As director of MAPA she worked hard to get Mentone signs on I-59 and center lines painted on county road 89. She was instrumental in getting the public telephone installed at the town hall and worked every year at the June Jam to help MAPA raise funds for community projects.

Once again, she felt it best to keep her family together and rejoined her husband in California, accepting a position as assistant manager of the prestigious Ingleside Inn in Palm Springs, Calif.

The Mentone Inn returned to her possession in the Spring of 1988, and she decided that this was where she was meant to be. Her parents had retired to the place where they grew up near Alpine and built a Federal mansion there. "Home is where the heart is," to Amelia Kirk and she wanted to be back in the place of her birth, the place where some of her fondest memories lived.

Amelia once again opened the inn as a Bed and Breakfast and has rapidly gained an admiring clientele. She closes the Inn after the Fall color and opens it again just as the rhododendron and azalea come into bloom.

This past year has seen Amelia Brooks once again become Amelia Kirk as her marriage to Robert ended. It has been the best of times and the worst of times for Amelia, but she is the kind of person who has the inner strength and intelligent resolve that it takes to belong to this mountain. She comes from a long line of people who believed in hard work and perseverance and in giving life all that one has to give.

Amelia Kirk is back home again, and that is just where she would like to stay.



Frank and Mabel Kirk with baby Amelia

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Senator Barron Part Of Cultural Exchange Trip To Japan

On June 17, Senator Lowell Barron visited Japan as a part of a cultural exchange trip sponsored by the Japanese-American Foundation. The trip was financed by a foundation grant which was given to the University of Alabama.

Included in the entourage were Sen. Fred Horne, Sen. Bill Drinkard and Rep. Bill Slaughter. Officials from the University of Alabama as well as several prominent Alabama businessmen also made the trip. Senator Barron tells the story of his visit:

"The trip was primarily for the promotion of the exchange of culture, trade, ideas, technology and good will between the two countries. There is much we can learn from the Japanese, both about what we need to do and about things we want to avoid. The same is true for them.

"The culture is so very different from ours that we suffered a sort of 'culture shock' after the first few days. And the schedule was very fast-paced. It was hard to become accustomed to the food, but it was beautifully prepared and presented. It is an art form to the Japanese who do everything with rituals of dignity and grace.



A two hour tea ritual

"Farmers in Japan have a monopoly on food production as very little is imported into the country. We were told that General MacArthur set the system up that way so that the farmer would hold a lot of political clout and not be taken in by communism. It has worked too well. The farmers demand and get very high prices and control the food market totally. A pound of steak averages about \$20.00. The Japanese pay from 8 to 10 times the world market price for rice. And they successfully prevent export trade.

"The Japanese people do not complain about the prices, however, as they are very group-oriented and regimented. They are not consumer-oriented as we are. They have few huge supermarkets, or large department stores. They live to work and save. They average saving about 16 percent of their income as compared to 3 percent in the U. S.

"Work is a very important part of their lives. In addition to a regular 8-hour shift, each person donates from 30 minutes to two hours per day to the company and they do it gladly. A job is usually held for life, and the company takes care of the needs of its workers. The Japanese wage is about like ours, but the standard of living is approximately one half of ours because of the high prices there.

"The Japanese can borrow money at an interest rate of about 3 to 5 percent due to the overstock of money in banks where so much savings money is held. This has a positive effect on the economy.

"Most of the Japanese do not own automobiles — they ride bicycles, walk or take the public transit system. The average worker spends about two hours getting to work and two hours going home. It is not unusual to get home at 10 or 11 at night. There is not a great amount of home life. There is so little space and it is so expensive that there is a move toward zero population growth, and they have almost achieved it.



A Typical Family with Mr. Hicks, a member of the University System who arranged trip.

"Tokyo has over 25 million people and it has been said that space is so expensive that the several hundred acres belonging to the Emperor's palace is so valuable that if it were sold, the proceeds could buy the whole state of California. A tiny one-room-apartment in Tokyo costs a million dollars.

"The people are heavily taxed to discourage consumerism. This is because if the Japanese became buyers like we are here, the demand could not be met and the country's delicate balance between its population and natural resources would be destroyed.

"The Japanese place friendship above all else. They will not do business with someone who is not first their friend. There are many small Mom and Pop shops, and each one is run with trust and dignity. There is no danger of crime. One of the interpreters told us: "We trade with a friend. If I am baking a cake and I need two eggs, my friend will bring them to me. Would a big supermarket do this? I would not walk to a supermarket past the door of my friend, his heart would break."

"The Japanese love golf — it is comparable to football and baseball combined over here. It is a sport for the upper classes, though, for people of average income cannot afford the green fees which average \$210.00 for 18 holes.

"The Japanese are a very religious people, but do not attend church as we do. There are many temples and shrines and these are a part of life. They revere and worship their ancestors and pray for them to intercede on their behalf. There are rituals associated with their lives, but they mostly center around the reverence for ancestors.



At a Religious Temple

"The family unit is very impressive. They have the discipline that we lack in the U. S. The family is very important in Japan. It is a part of the family honor to do well — in school, in work and in the personal lives of all family members. In the schools, no discipline is needed beyond a talking-to. A Japanese child would do nothing to disgrace his family.

"The children do all the janitorial work at the schools, forming little groups called 'Bucket Brigades.' There is no drop-out problem in Japan.

"Even with all the people so crowded together, crime is practically non-existent. An American living in Tokyo spoke of it this way: 'In New York, I am afraid to step outside my door. In Tokyo, I can walk alone the darkest, meanest streets and never worry about a thing. When I am in New York, I cannot wait to get back to Tokyo.'

"The Japanese take life very seriously — there is not much joking or smiling. They seem to have the mind set that the U. S. had right after the depression. They fear poverty and are very saving with everything — nothing is wasted. One of the Japanese businessmen spoke of their attitude this way: 'We are an island and we have few resources. We must defend our shores, both from without and from within. We have to work very hard to protect our society.'

"At the big manufacturing plants, such as one that produced automobiles, every worker who can afford it will purchase the product of his company. Every last car in the parking lot is made by the company. No one would dream of buying a competitor's product. The workers are intensely loyal from the cradle to the grave.



With Japanese Workmen Eating Lunch

"Females in Japan have for centuries been at the lowest rung of the ladder. They are in the work force, but mostly relegated to supportive roles such as secretaries and domestics. It is unusual for a couple to marry before they are in their thirties so they can produce the maximum amount of work before children take away productivity of the female. Also, there is no space to set up a home. Women are just beginning to establish themselves as viable, intelligent members of the society, but there is still a very long way to go. They are still considered inferior to men.

"There is a lot of change in the area of politics. For centuries politicians were the next best thing to God, and the Emperor was worshiped until the middle of this century. Now, people are taking another look at the system and holding politicians more accountable.

"The Japanese are a patient people. They do not expect instant success. At the hotel where we stayed, it had taken the owner 20 years to purchase the land to build it on, buying just a little at a time. And no one wants to sell their land — often it has been in the family for generations.

"There is a big expansion movement in coastal cities. At Osaka, they are pulling down the mountains and pouring them into a thousand acres of ocean, sometimes up to 40 feet deep, in order to create more land. The expense is tremendous, but when you consider that one apartment building houses as many as 50,000 people, you understand why it is necessary.

"The Japanese are to be admired for their close-knit families, their devotion to hard work and saving and their sense of dignity and honor. We can learn a lot from them through exchanges such as those sponsored by the Japanese-American Foundation. And in turn, we have much to teach the Japanese. They probably summed up the kind of relationship that we should pursue: First make a friend, then do business."



A Japanese Meal with Senator Drinkard, Rep. Slaughter and the vice-president of JVC.



A Japanese Bride

The Fort Payne Skate Center— Rockin', Rollin', Roller Skating

Ron Bailey owns the marketing and management company that operates the Fort Payne Skate Center, and the rink is but one part of a multi-faceted company that includes health maintenance, chemical companies and recreational facilities as well as personality management. Mr. Bailey has produced shows for television and been active in the management of such notables as Barbara Mandrell and Eddy Raven, although his company is no longer involved in the country music business. Mr. Bailey has also been a part in the newspaper industry and served as publisher of a paper with over 15,000 circulation.

Larry Campbell is the owner of the Fort Payne Skate Center and although he lives in Winchester, Tenn., he takes a personal interest in the Fort Payne rink and the other one he owns closer to his home. He selects the music played for the skaters and allows no acid rock or rap with obscene lyrics.

There is constant observation by the staff at the rink. "There were some discipline problems when we first took over the rink," Ron Bailey informed *The Groundhog*, "but we quickly took care of the problem. It meant barring some patrons forever, but we did what we had to do."



Just A Little Help From My Friends

The rules of dress and conduct are strictly enforced. Although the facility is open to the public, it is privately owned and patrons must obey the rules or leave. "We really don't have a lot of problems with the young people who come here — they are good kids from good families. We encourage parents to participate or just to watch," Ron continued. "We will begin a family night soon that will offer admittance and skate rental for 10 family members for just five dollars, and hope it will bring families here to enjoy the evening together."

The Fort Payne Skate Center works with the city and county school systems to reward students who have perfect attendance or who are on the honor roll with a special night of free skating and skate rental. There are colorful programs for each holiday such as a late skate before school begins, a costume party at Halloween, and a Christmas and a New Year's Celebration as well as other events throughout the year that offer variety. "We want to be part of the community — to offer our facilities to further the interests of the civic organizations that benefit the youth," Ron remarked. "We have hosted parties for the Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Soccer team and we welcome fund-raisers."

The Fort Payne Skate Center offers many different services such as skating lessons by Vicki Caneer, who was National Roller Disco Champion in 1980. The lessons take place every third Friday of each month and can be taught as a group or privately. Ms. Caneer gives each student a study and practice program to utilize between lessons. Also, local talented skaters offer lessons each week.

Ms. Caneer is certified to teach by the United States Amateur Confederation of Roller Skating which is the national governing body for the sport of roller skating in the United States. It is recognized by, and is a member of, the United States Olympic Committee, the Confederation of Pan American Roller Skating and the Federation Internationale de Roller Skating. The Confederation serves more than 25,000 competitive skaters in 1,000 skating clubs from coast to coast.

The Fort Payne Skate Center sells top quality skates as well as accessories and offers skate repair at its sister rink in Tennessee. There are also T-shirts available with the Skate Center's logo.

The walls are painted in bright primary colors with carpet on all the floors except the skating rink. The area outside the rink is spacious, enabling little ones to practice on the carpet before trying it with the more advanced skaters. There are tables for patrons and parents to sit while they enjoy the typical snack bar food — hot dogs, nachos, popcorn, snow cones, soft drinks and candy.

The building is cooled with a 30-ton air conditioning unit. Strobe lights hang from the ceiling, and the walls are decorated with more lighting. Often the music is accented with bright light shows as the skaters weave in and out of the patterns created on the floor of the rink.

The sound booth is located so as to give a maximum field of vision and to afford everyone to see the D. J. He wears a head set that allows him to be in contact at all times with other members of the staff who also wear headsets. One staff member patrols the outside front so that children can be called to waiting parents without the parents having to leave their automobiles.

The safety formula is one floor guard for the first 75 people; then one for every 25 people above that number. The Center has over 450 pairs of skates and these are inventoried and checked every three months. There are two fire exits in addition to the main entrance and five operational fire extinguishers on the premises at all times. There is a security alarm that is directly connected to the police department, and a motion detection alarm system also.



You Can Do It!

The Skate Center has regular skaters from age four to age 57. Ron Bailey: "My involvement in the rink has made me realize that skating is an activity that can be enjoyed by almost everybody. I enjoy the kids and seeing them have fun together. I believe when proper procedures are established and enforced, it is not hard to get the kids to comply. We just want them to enjoy themselves without worrying about safety or improper conduct on the part of others."



Vicki Caneer

Lisa Williams, the Operations Manager summed it up: "We are looking forward to a very successful season and hope all of DeKalb County and surrounding area will take advantage of our facilities for get-togethers, parties, community activities, and for just plain fun doing what we love to do best — rockin' and rollin' roller skating. Come and find out for yourself!"

Fort Payne Skate Center's winter schedule is as follows:

Monday Night — Soul Night — 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. All soul music — Admission 75 cents which includes skate rental.

Tuesday Night — Family Night — 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. — \$5.00 admits 10 family members.

Thursday Afternoon — After School Cheapskate — 3:30 to 5:30 — \$1.00 Admission and 50 cents skate rental.

Thursday Night — Regular Skate — 7:00 to 10:00 — \$2.50 admission with 75 cents skate rental except for church youth groups who have free passes.

Friday Night — Regular Skate — 7:00 to 11:00 — \$3.00 Admission and 75 cents Skate Rental.

Saturday Afternoon — Saturday Matinee — 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. — \$2.50 Admission and 75 cents Skate Rental.

Saturday Night — Regular Skate — 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. \$3.00 Admission and 75 cents Skate Rental.

Special Events Will Be Announced and Advertised.

Friends And Family At Mentone Inn

Sunday, Aug. 20, was a festive occasion at the historic Mentone Inn. Amelia Kirk Brooks gave a party to introduce her children and grandchildren to friends and neighbors and the event was an enormous success.

There was such an array of delicious food prepared for the occasion that it was impossible to taste it all. The table was beautifully appointed with several auxiliary tables

needed to hold all the dishes offered.

The highlight of the evening was a songfest with Jim Conner, the noted musician who wrote "Grandma's Feather Bed," one of John Denver's biggest hits, and Terry Hutcheson, a local resident and lawyer who also is an accomplished musician. John Cooper, a lawyer and Terry's partner and Mentor, made it a trio at one point to

the delight of guests. Bernise Crow and a partner danced to one particularly rousing tune as guests clapped and sang along.

Amelia Kirk Brooks has once again proven herself to be one of the area's most gracious hostesses and the Mentone Inn continues to live up to its well-deserved reputation.



Amelia and Family



A Sing-Along On the Front Porch of the Inn

A Letter From The Landmark's Museum

Please clip and mail to:
Landmarks Museum, P. O. Box 1420, Fort Payne, AL 35967

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| ☐ Corporate - \$150.00 | ☐ Student - \$15.00 | ☐ Patron \$1,000.00 (payable over 3 years) |
| ☐ Benefactor \$100.00 | ☐ Other _____ | Those in this category will be listed on a permanent plaque in the Museum. |
| ☐ Family \$50.00 | | |
| ☐ Individual - 25.00 | | |
| ☐ Memorial Gift _____ | | |

In memory of _____

Please give name and address of person to be notified of Gift:

Any contribution will be greatly appreciated and is tax-deductible. If you wish to volunteer or if you have objects for donation or loan, please call the Museum at 845-5714 or contact one of the directors.

Name _____

Address _____

Dear Friends of the Museum,

Hello! It's been awhile since you have heard from us. Just thought you might like to know what we have been doing. We are excited about all of our activities. We are fast becoming recognized as the hub of Fort Payne civic activities.

Feb. 28 was Fort Payne's 100th birthday. It was celebrated at the Museum with a huge party celebrating the day, the kick-off of the Centennial Year and the Alabama Reunion. The book, *A Pictorial History of Fort Payne, Alabama Then and Now 1889-1989*, was presented and 500 copies were sold.

Presently we are being involved as the collection place for information brought in by every family, church and organization in Fort Payne to be placed in a Time Capsule that will be displayed on the grounds and will be permanently sealed and located here for 50 years. This will take place on Oct. 21.

The following items make ideal birthday and Christmas gifts. Receipts from these sales help pay our expenses.

Depot Museum T-shirts	\$8.00
Depot Museum scarf	\$4.00
Marble museum replicas	\$10.00
Marble magnets	\$3.00
Note paper	\$4.00
Museum pins	\$1.00
Historical History, 2nd printing	\$12.00 plus \$2.50 postage

Our faithful volunteers who keep the Museum open 20 hours each week make all of the above possible.

Thank you for your continuing support.
Marjorie R. Ferguson,
Director

October Colorfest On Its Way - October 21 And 22



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WILD RICE AND OYSTER CASSEROLE

1/2 cup butter
3/4 cup minced onion
3/4 cup minced celery
3 cups cooked wild rice
1 pint oysters with liquid
Milk

1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 cup grated Swiss cheese

Heat 1/4 cup butter in skillet and cook onions and celery until soft and barely golden. Combine with wild rice. Grease casserole and arrange layers of rice mixture and drained oysters ending with a layer of rice. Reserve oyster liquid and add enough milk to make 1/4 cup. Add salt and pepper to milk mixture. Pour over casserole. Top with grated cheese. Melt remaining 1/4 cup butter and sprinkle over cheese. Cover and bake in pre-heated 400 oven for 25 minutes.

QUICK SALAD

1 can strawberry pie filling
1 8-ounce carton Cool-Whip
1 can Eagle Brand milk
1 large can crushed pineapple, drained
Nuts, chopped coarsely

Mix well and chill thoroughly. Serve cold.

COUNTRY APPLE COFFEE CAKE

2 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened
1 1/2 cups chopped, peeled apples
10-ounce can flaky refrigerated biscuits
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 cup light corn syrup
1 1/4 teaspoons whiskey, if desired
1 egg
1/2 cup pecan pieces or halves

GLAZE

1/2 cup powdered sugar
1/4 teaspoon vanilla
1 to 2 teaspoons milk

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Using 1 tablespoon margarine, generously grease bottom and sides of 9-inch round cake pan or 8-inch square pan. Spread 1 cup of the apples in greased pan. Separate biscuits and cut each one into four pieces. Arrange biscuits, point side up, over apples. Top with remaining apples. In small bowl, combine remaining 1 tablespoon margarine, brown sugar, cinnamon, corn syrup, whiskey and egg. Beat 2 to 3 minutes until sugar is nearly dissolved. Stir in pecan pieces and spoon over biscuit pieces.

Bake at 350 degrees F. for 35 minutes approximately or until deep golden brown. Cool 5 minutes. In small bowl, blend all glaze ingredients until smooth. Drizzle over warm cake. Store in refrigerator. Serve with whipped cream if desired.

MILLIE'S CHILI SOUP

Brown 2 pounds hamburger with a large onion. Pour off grease. Put one tablespoon chili powder into meat and add 2 large cans chili beans. Stir. Add one big can tomato juice and half a can of water. Break up one-third of a package of spaghetti noodles into mixture. Pieces should be small. Cook until spaghetti is tender and soup is blended. Add a dash of sugar and stir. Serve with crackers.

OVEN FRIED CHICKEN COATING MIX

2 cups unseasoned packaged bread crumbs
2 teaspoons instant chicken broth
2 teaspoons paprika
1 teaspoon poultry seasoning
1 teaspoon onion powder
1 teaspoon leaf oregano, crumbled
1 teaspoon rosemary, crumbled
1 teaspoon celery salt
1/4 teaspoon coarse-ground pepper
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

Combine all ingredients and store tightly in a moisture proof container. When ready to use, roll chicken parts in tomato juice, then in crumb mixture. Place in shallow pan that has been sprayed with Pam. Bake at 400 degrees F. until fork tender and golden brown. Must be turned once during cooking.

CHEESE WAFERS

1 cup butter or margarine
2 eggs
2 cups grated sharp Cheddar cheese
2 1/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
1/2 teaspoon salt
Dash of paprika

Cream butter, add one egg and mix well. Stir in remaining ingredients. Form into a ball and chill for one hour. Roll out 1/4 of dough at a time to about 1/4-inch thick. Cut into 1 1/4-inch wafers. Brush with remaining egg, beaten. Bake in pre-heated 400-degree oven for about 12 minutes. Makes 6 1/2 dozen.

SEVEN MINUTE ICING

1 1/2 cups sugar
2 egg whites
1/2 cup water
1 teaspoon vanilla

Put sugar, unbeaten egg whites and water in top of double boiler, with water in lower part boiling vigorously. Beat constantly with egg beater for 7 minutes or until frosting is thick enough to spread. Remove from heat and add vanilla; continue beating until frosting is cool. Spread on cake. Yield: 12 servings.

Calligraphy

Aliye Cultu

(Aliyah Chooi00)

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COUNTRY JOURNAL

By Bernise Crow

The days of summer are winding down — getting a little shorter and assuming a drowsy character before the fast pace of Labor Day and school's opening. The mowing of the lawns is being done a little less often; summer camps are closing; grandchildren are returning home. However, our granddaughter, Lisa Crow, has opted to stay with us, and go to DeKalb County High School.

Life is pleasant at this slower pace. Even the sound of the cicadas seems peaceful, like a lullaby. We who own businesses in Mentone work hard all summer and take our vacations in the winter. September is a slow month, but oh, how nice, with warm days and cool nights. Goldenrod is blooming, to the dismay of those bothered with allergies, but it is lovely to behold. Joe Pie weed is majestic in low-lying areas. Its large head of orchid blooms is appearing along streams, and can be seen near us. The wildflowers in our meadow are very pretty now. I just have trouble keeping Homer from mowing them. I love them in their natural state. We lost our beautiful Black-eyed Susans and Coreopsis along Cootsville Road this year, due to the newly constructed paving being done. They will return next year, however. It is always a blaze of yellow color in August and September. But, I am not complaining — this road

is fine. We have called it Cootsville Road for some years now, but it really has no name or number, as is the case with many of our county roads. We should speak to our county commissioners about this problem. I have problems directing tourists to any location around here. And a great deal of my time is spent trying to do just that. Sometimes there are just no landmarks to go by.

Back to the wildflowers — have you noticed how many varieties of them have bloomed all summer on the banks of the road, across from Skyline Ranch? It makes one wonder if someone planted seeds there. This makes me want to get out and do just that — so that we will have something to look at on our roadsides besides litter.

Speaking of litter — have you noticed the lack of it on the Adopt-A-Mile stretch of 117, from the post office east to the city limits? Rhododendron Garden Club has taken this section of the highway for a project. Fernie Fitzgerald has headed this operation, aided by Jackie Skelton, and any other volunteers they could recruit from the club. Litter is a problem everywhere, but I am glad our county has been working to eliminate some of it. It is a problem of simple carelessness most of the time. Perhaps we should have special classes in our schools, in the elementary

grades to teach the children to dispose of trash in containers. Some thought or consideration of others is the key to this. Of course solid waste disposal is a national problem, but cans and bottles on the side of our roads can be eliminated. I am definitely in favor of having all bottles and cans be returnable, and having them recycled. I refuse to buy throw-away bottles and cans for my drink box. (Oh well, I am on my soap box).

Of special interest to those passing daily has been the home of Eloise Burnett. Her little sparkling white cottage is very attractive, with her many baskets and pots of lovely flowers and plants. It takes time and work to produce this special kind of neatness and beauty. Lola Mae Blalock has a very nice yard, and a pleasant home to visit. My respect goes to these ladies who accomplish so much alone. I go by Lola Mae's often, due to the fact that she has a key to my shop! You know I am a scatterbrain, and either lock my key in the Hitching Post, or lose it! Lola Mae works at the shop on Fridays, and everyone enjoys seeing her there.

Our visitor of the month at the Hitching Post, was Mr. John Wright. He was brought here in 1928 by his school teacher, for not being absent or tardy for the school year. And he had not been back since. There were several other children who shared the trip with them. He remembered Sunset Rock and many other places of interest. He enjoyed his return visit so much, he came back a week later with photographs of the 1928 trip. We hope he will return again.



Mentone Field Trip — 1928



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Groundhog Classic VIII —Join Up Now!

Saturday, Oct. 21, is the date for the seventh Groundhog Classic Run. Last year a total of 103 runners participated in the runs: 36 ran in the one mile Fun Run at 9 a.m., and 42 men and 25 women ran in the Classic at 9:30. The youngest runner was five years old and the oldest, 64. A man from Switzerland, visiting friends in Huntsville, ran as well as runners from Florida, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama.

Randall Harris, of Huntsville, has won the men's overall divisions for the last four years although last year he said, "It gets harder each year." Last year his time for the 4.2 mile course from the Hitching Post to the turn-off to the Falls and back, was 23:06. Michelle Gilbreath, Fort Payne, has won the women's divisions for the last two years; her time in 1988 was 28:14, beating her 1987 time by three seconds.

A previous women's runner, Rosemary Hurayt, of Chattanooga, ran this year in the Boston Marathon as well

as in 1985. Also in 1985, Ms. Hurayt won the Groundhog Classic with a time of 29:12.

Mentone residents who registered last year included David Bosworth, the Godbois family, Sandra Gray, Jennifer Keefer, Flynt Purvis, Debra O'Rear, Candy and Benjamin Shaffer and James A. Tate.

Trophies for first, second and third place winners in five age divisions for men and women, as well as prizes for the overall winners will come from DeSoto Athletics in Fort Payne. A light breakfast of fruits and fruit juices will be served to the Classic runners after the race. Everyone registering will receive a long-sleeved T-shirt. The races will be directed by Larry Hooks and Mark Pickle of Camp Skyline Ranch. Sponsors for the race are on the back of the T-shirts; readers are urged to thank them for their support of Mentone:

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MENTONE GROUNDHOG CLASSIC RUN



Sponsored by the Mentone Area Preservation Association
Saturday, Oct. 21
9:30 a.m.

ONE MILE FUN RUN at 9 a.m. Pre-registered entrants are guaranteed a LONG-SLEEVED T-shirt (may be mailed to late registrants). Times called but no records kept.

AWARDS: Specially designed LONG-SLEEVED T-shirts to all pre-registered runners (may be mailed to late registrants). TROPHIES to top three winners in each division. SPECIAL PRIZES to top man and woman winners.

LIGHT BREAKFAST: Fruits and fruit juices will be served free to all runners after the Classic. Water available at half-way point.

COURSE: Begins at Hitching Post to turn-off to DeSoto Falls and back. 4.2 miles, flat to gently rolling hills on DeSoto-Lookout Mountain Parkway.

MENTONE: Located on Lookout Mountain on Highway 117. Exits off I-59 between Chattanooga and Gadsden. From the east, go through Summerville, Georgia, to Menlo to Cloudland to Mentone.

SEVENTH YEAR: This is the seventh year for the race; all proceeds go to the goals of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, dedicated to preserving and protecting the natural heritage, environment, and other unique qualities of Mentone. The race is part of the October Colorfest which features crafts, boat rides, food, drinks, bonfire, and more, beginning Friday evening, Oct. 20, and ending Sunday afternoon, the 22nd.

Detach and mail or bring to:

The Mentone Groundhog Classic
Box 439
Mentone, AL 35984
(205) 634-3737

Entry fee of \$10 per run must accompany each application. \$12 after October 15. Make checks payable to MAPA (Mentone Area Preservation Association).

NAME _____

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Age as of Oct. 31, 1989 _____

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(If under 18, signature of parent or guardian is required).

Shirt Size S M L XL (Circle)

Division:

() Men	() Women
() 14 & under	() 14 and under
() 15-19	() 15-19
() 20-29	() 20-29
() 30-39	() 30-39
() 40 & over	() 40 & over

() Fun Run
() Groundhog Classic

NO ONE MAY ENTER THIS EVENT WITHOUT SIGNING THIS OFFICIAL WAIVER: In consideration of accepting this entry, I the above-signed, intending to be legally bound, hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators waive and release any and all claims for losses and damages I may have against MAPA and all other parties and their representatives, successors, and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me in said event. I attest and verify that I am physically fit. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all foregoing to use photos, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose whatsoever.

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Farm Talk

August is here and I am not much of an August person because it is not the time of the year for any of the things I like to do. It's too hot to fish, too late to be planting anything in the garden, too early for any crops to be harvested, too hot to play outside, time for school to start (School clothes and books expenses), just a slack time of the year.

Some of the more exciting things that have happened or things to remember about August are: Congress passed the first federal income tax in August of 1861; Virginia Dare was born at Roanoke Island, North Carolina, the first English child born in North America, 1587; Curtis H. O'Daniel and Judy Callaway got married on Aug. 7, 1965. See, I told you there wasn't much to do in August.

FALL IS TIME TO PLANT PASTURES AND LAWNS — September and October is the time of the year to plant most of the grasses and clovers we grow around here with the exception of bermuda type grasses. If you will plant in the Fall, your pasture and/or lawn will not have to compete with the many Summer weeds and grasses. Your chances of success will be much better. Fall grasses and forages to plant are: Barley, Blue Grass, Fescue, Oats, Orchardgrass, Rye, Ryegrass, etc.

Legumes to be planted in the Fall are: Alfalfa, all of the clovers, Vetch and Caley Peas. We have excellent single sheet fold-out guides that list the planting dates, types of soils to plant the various grasses and legumes in, Seeding rates, how deep to cover, etc. Give us a call or come by the office if you would like to have one.



Wanda Simmons has moved her art, collectibles and crafts from the Little Log Cabin in Log Cabin Craft Village to a prominent spot in the Hitching Post. The shop is now known as The Country Corner and is located in the rear of the building with a door to the outside, plus it has access from the inside of the Crow's Nest.

Wanda still offers all of the usual lovely handmade gifts and home accessories and art and has added some new items. She has many pieces of graniteware as well as a colorful selection of hand sewn quilts.

The new shop is chock full of every kind of country item imaginable, and there is some antique furniture and an old wood cookstove as well. The look is pure mountain country with a touch of artistry. Wanda invites all her old friends and customers to stop by and see the new shop.



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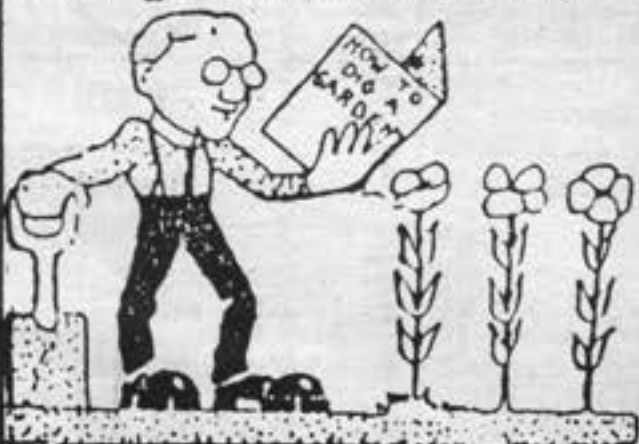
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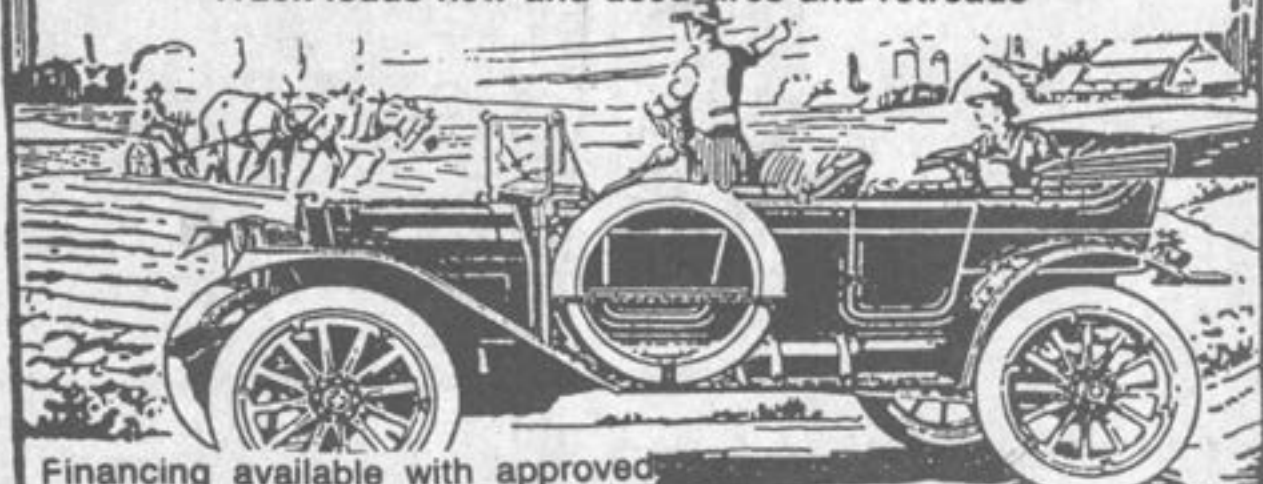
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