

the GROUNDHOG

November 1989

Volume 7 — Number 6

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Memories Of The 1989 Fall Colorfest

By Bernise Crow



Emcee Tony Goggans

The 1989 Fall Colorfest was a huge success due to the hard work and planning of its chairman, Ray Froehler, and his many assistants: Surlee Froehler, Harrell Jenkins, Maggie Cordell, Lynn Bathurst, Homer Crow and Jean McGehee.

The cold snap just added to the excitement. The crisp fall air, following our first heavy frost of the season, was exhilarating.

People came from far and near to help us celebrate our fall colors. It's interesting to hear conversations about our quaint, unique, quiet little village.

The Groundhog classic run, with Jean McGehee chairing the event, was well attended. Larry Hooks, of Camp Skyline, supervised the run on the morning of Oct. 20.

Tony Goggans kept things lively with his singing and music and constant banter. The Mentone Church of God and The Church of God of Prophecy served wonderful homemade goodies and plate lunches. This was really appreciated, since the Deli had all the customers it could possibly handle.

Emily Smith had a booth for Moon Lake School on the side porch of the Hitching Post. The cloggers were very good, both small ones and adults. Rita Davis of Fort Payne was again in charge of the clogging, and did a super job.

The Karate performance on Saturday was interesting — such control in motion is a delight to see.

(Continued on Page 4)



Groundhog run winners,
Michelle Gilbreath and Jamie Doss.

MAPA Plans Festive Mountain Christmas

The Mentone Area Preservation Association is planning to make this holiday season bright by hosting a community get together in the city park on the second Sunday in December.

Beginning with the lighting of a Christmas tree in Ed Mason Park and ending with a party for local children in the Mentone town Hall, the day promises to be one for all to remember. Highlighting the event will be carol singing by all who attend.

MAPA is also sponsoring a contest to find the most beautiful holiday lighting. Twenty-five dollars will be awarded to the private residence that wins first place, and a plaque will be given to the best-lit business. To participate, write MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, Ala. 35984.

The festive event begins at 2 p.m. — Dec. 10, 1989 and everyone is invited to participate. Anyone who wishes to assist please contact Harry or Judy Weaver. They are the owners of **The Elephant's Tail**, a shop in the White Elephant Galleries that features hand-crafted doll houses, rocking horses and other items — most of which are made by the owners.

MAPA CHRISTMAS PARTY

—AT—

CRAGSMERE MANNA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 — 7:00 P.M.

BUFFET \$6.95 PER PERSON

RESERVATIONS — 634-4554



Early snow on the mountain — November 1989.

Big Changes At Old Hotel



Lynda Wallin

Times are a changin' at the Mentone Springs Hotel and if Jack and Linda Wallin have their way, many more good things are in store for Mentone's most visible and historically significant structure.

The original structure had a big porch all the way around the front and sides, and now with the new Wallin facelift, it sports a new one. The rock wall in the lower front yard has been restored and landscaping has begun. The inside has taken on a new perspective on an old look also, as the place fills with goodies and gifts of all descriptions — from dolls to doughnuts.

The usually dark, silent windows glow with warmth and light well into the night, and the big OPEN sign out front beckons to passers-by.

Linda Wallin is busy getting ready for the holidays with all her home canned relishes, jams and jellies. Phil Faircloth, local twig furniture craftsman, personally designed and made gift containers so that individuals and businesses can give something really down home and delicious to all those special people on their lists. Linda and Jack grow all the fruits and vegetables on their farm on Puddin' Ridge near Rising Fawn. The Wallins own several thousand acres in that area. At their Puddin' Ridge Fruit Farm there are birds of every feather — pigeons, guineas, turkeys, peacocks and just plain chickens. There are acres of fruit trees and berry bushes. Linda spends her summers filling thousands of jars with her own unique recipes, then sells them in the winter. Although Linda does not look the part, she is known as "Granny Lyn" because of her skills in the kitchen.

The Wallins have some top-secret plans for the old hotel, so it might be that the best is yet to come. It is good to look to the huge house on the hill and see that all is well once again.

Senator Roger Bedford

—Profile In Courage

In January 1983, Roger H. Bedford was sworn in as Alabama's youngest state senator in modern history. After winning the 6th District Senate seat, at age 26, in a tough campaign against a well-known police commissioner, he has since been overwhelmingly elected twice by the Northwest Alabama District that sent him to Montgomery with 70 percent of the vote.

Roger Bedford has distinguished himself and represented the best interests of his constituents during all the years of his public service. He is Vice-Chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee and serves on the Rules, Finance and Taxation, Banking and Insurance, Economic Affairs and Small Business Committees. In addition, Senator Bedford has been appointed as a Special Deputy Attorney General by Attorney General Siegelman.

Sen. Roger Bedford's record is impressive as he has done battle over what he calls "people issues" such as fighting drug and child abuse, keeping the state from being a dumping ground for hazardous waste and working for more industrial growth so all can share rather than "trying to get more by taking from someone else."

According to Bedford, Alabama ranks at the bottom in funding for drug treatment programs. He advocates forcing everyone who is convicted of a drug related offense to be required to participate in a drug education program.

He has taken a sensible, strong stand on drug and alcohol abuse. "I am not for coddling criminals," he said recently, "but I am for saving users." He noted that in the whole state there are only 60 beds for persons recovering from drug addiction: 12 in Birmingham and 48 in Gadsden.

Sen. Bedford has acquired a reputation for taking the tough line when it comes to polluters. He has received numerous awards resulting from his legislative work, including: being voted as a recipient of the Outstanding Legislator Award by his fellow legislators in 1989; Legislative Conservationist of the Year by the Alabama Wildlife Federation in 1984, and Outstanding Legislator Award by the Alabama Probate Judges Association.

Senator Bedford was instrumental in getting the record-setting \$2.4 billion education budget passed. "Education isn't cheap," he remarked, "but it is a lot less expensive than ignorance." He stressed that today's generations and those of the future need the quality of education necessary to keep abreast of rapid changes and to survive and advance.

One of the areas of prime importance to Sen. Bedford is the welfare of Alabama's children and he was a key figure in the modernization of the state's child abuse laws. He cited 33,000 cases of child abuse and neglect in Alabama in 1983, and the number is rising.

Roger Bedford is not a man to be taken lightly — his courage and dedication have taken him into the throes of battle when it comes to defending the rights of the people of Alabama and in protecting their interest. Now, however, he has a more personal war to wage, and that is against the cancer, a lymphoma in his right hip, that he sees as just another challenge to be overcome. "The doctors discovered it so early that it will not require surgery or radiation," he said. "With the help of the good Lord, my loving family and the fine Alabama doctors, we are going to whip this cancer and continue serving the people of Alabama. I may look like Yul Brynner for awhile, but that's okay," he spoke of his hair loss and weight gain due to the chemotherapy. "I can whip this thing." All who know Roger Bedford agree.

Senator Roger Bedford is a man who faces challenges head-on, hands-on and now he has announced his candidacy for Attorney General of the State of Alabama. Attorney General Siegelman is expected to throw his hat into the governor's race. Sen. Bedford has been making hundreds of appearances throughout the state seeking support and funding for his campaign. This tour of duty has given him ample opportunity to do what he loves to do best — meet the people. He feels "the people in the grassroots should get stirred up and tell their legislators what they think and feel. When that happens, something will be done." Roger Bedford is ready to listen, and to do something about what he hears.

Gilbreath Breaks Groundhog Classic Record

Michelle Gilbreath of Fort Payne ran the 4.2 mile Oct. 21 Groundhog Classic Race in 26 minutes, 19 seconds, beating the previous record set in 1984 by Carolyn Nelson of Trussville, Ala.

The men's overall winner was Jamie Doss of Rome, Ga., with a time of 23:36. John McCartney, on the University of Georgia's track team in 1983, holds the men's record with 21:17.

This year, the seventh, saw 114 registered for the classic and the one-mile fun run. Youngest registrant, two-year-old Allen Ballinger, was frightened by the gun's firing and had to be carried part of the distance by his mother. Five-year-old Benjamin Shaffer went the distance of the one-mile fun run. Runners came from Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama, some having run in

all previous races.

Larry Hooks and Mark Pickle of Camp Skyline Ranch were in charge of the runs, assisted by recorders Barbara Nancarrow and Harrell Jenkins. Donna Bukley and Jean McGehee registered runners and served fruits and juices after the races.

Police Chief Bill Willingham was on hand, as well as a unit from the DeKalb Ambulance Service. Trophies were awarded by Larry Hooks, and Brant Craig. DeSoto Athletic, presented warmup suits to Gilbreath and Doss.

Local sponsors contributed to the \$1,166 profit from the race. Tangible results from the festivals of the Mentone Area Preservation can be seen in the sidewalk, street signs, and the Town Hall Meeting Room and kitchen.

From The Editor

By Mickey Strickland

I had the honor recently of accompanying a very special lady on her quest to fulfill a dream. Through years riddled with despair, through dark moments when she thought she could not go on in the face of unreasoning hate and condemnation, through financial struggles and long, lonely days, Mary Moore Birchard never gave up the hope that some day her late husband, William Moore, would be recognized for the ultimate sacrifice he made in defense of liberty and justice for all.

On Sunday, Nov. 5, in Montgomery, Ala., William Moore, along with 31 of his fallen peers, was given a place in history when the cool waters of the nation's first Civil Rights Memorial rolled across his name as it glistened in the evening sun for all to see.

William Moore was a man who put his life where his convictions were, and in doing so, was murdered on a lonely stretch of Highway 11, April 22, 1963. He was walking to Mississippi to hand deliver a letter of racial equality to Governor Ross Barnett. He pulled his postman's cart behind him and carried a sign covered with the words: "Eat at Joes, Black and White," but the word "Black" had been torn from it.

On that fateful evening in April, William Moore was tired and he was hungry. He stopped at Keener, a little community south of Collinsville, Ala., for a can of corn and a pecan pie. He ate the cold food in silence, then continued his lonely trek. His feet were terribly blistered and bloody so he removed his shoes. He pulled his cart, carrying personal possessions, wearily behind him.

At this time, the Gadsden police were discussing picking Moore up for mental observation but decided he could not be legally detained. Captain Roy McDowell was ordered to interview William Moore and, if possible, to find a reason to incarcerate him. He spoke with Moore 30 minutes before his death and was the last known person to speak with him before his murder.

William Moore had been hounded for his beliefs and journey by local people who argued with him about his religion, his feelings about integration and other topics. Later, these same men sought him out on the road to continue the conversation.

He recorded parts of the meeting in his log: "A couple of men who had talked to me before drove up and questioned my religious and political beliefs. 'Now I know what you are.' And one was sure I would be killed for them."

At 4:10 William Moore made the entry: "feet sore all over. 5 p.m., shoes too painful, walking without them; adopted by hungry, thirsty road foolish dog. 6:50, kids adopt dog."

Two hours later, William Moore was dead, killed instantly when one 22 calibre slug tore into his right temple followed by another which ripped into the left side of his neck.

Then the hell began for Mary Moore. Noble Yokum, Etowah County Coroner, called her collect at midnight, referring to her husband in the past tense but not divulging the reason for his call. Mary ran to her pastor's trailer, leaving her three small children asleep. When her pastor returned from taking the call, Mary already knew Bill was dead: "My head felt as if it were falling back, back. Even when I collapsed onto the sofa, it still felt as if I were falling." Mary wept at the memory of those awful moments.

The hate calls and death threats continued for over a year and a half. She lived in fear that harm would come to her children. The townspeople ostracized her; her family turned a cold back to the lonely, grieving widow and William Moore's father responded to the death of his son with "Now that it's over, let's keep it quiet." Mary never heard from him again.

Unscrupulous individuals raised money for the Moores but never gave it to them. Mary suffered a mental and physical breakdown, her back breaking out in boils. It took years to fully recover, but she had to go on — for William who had given his life and for the three children he had taken to his heart as if they were his own. A card made by Danny, the only son, for his stepfather read: "May I live to be, as good to my dear Daddy, as he is to me."

Mary eventually remarried, and now lives on a big farm in Pennsylvania with her husband, Courtland Birchard. He went against warnings by his friends and family when he began to befriend her, but Courtland Birchard is as special as the widow he loved and married.

These 26 years have not been kind to the widow of William Moore, but she has kept going in the face of horrible persecution and trial. As she tearfully told the other family members of slain civil rights activists at the banquet in their honor in Montgomery, "Bill always called me his female Prince Valiant."

(NOTE: Groundhog editor Mickey Strickland is writing a book about the death of William Moore. It is co-authored by Mary Moore Birchard.)

EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE!

The family of Mary Ann Corbett wishes to express heartfelt gratitude to all the friends who helped through the tragedy of her loss. Each kind word, each visit and card and loving thought has meant so much.

The Corbett Family—
Steve, Dava, Zachary

The Groundhog

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Valley View

With Eloise Brown

The United Methodist Women met at the home of Mary Louise Holleman, Oct. 24. Frances Longshore read the scripture and Elizabeth Coleman led the Pledge Service. Cindy Barrett concluded the Bible Study, "Women in Alien Lands." Others present were Mary Frances Tate, Gladys Holleman, Geraldine Hawkins, Janie Longshore, Helen White, Venna Livingston, Mary Frances Barrett and Evelyn Phillips.

The Sunshine Club enjoyed their annual picnic at the home of Ruth and Bert Pickett. Those present were Dot Blackburn and Bill Blackburn, Geraldine and Howard Hawkins, Evelyn and Samp Clark, Gladys Cobble, Jean and John Jones, Mae Card, Bess and Tom Bauerle, Lila Schlicher, Betty Brown, Doris Shaw, Billie Harper and Heather, Willie Mae Palmer, Gladys Scott, Vernice Young and Eloise Brown.

The following members of Valley Head Baptist and Moonlake churches enjoyed a Retreat at Golf Shores, conducted by L. A. Smith: Dailynne and Jim Jones, Vivian and Jim Ellis, Gertrude and Leland Cox, Teresa and Van Cooper, Debbie and Ricky Bentley, Ruth and Bert Pickett, Mary Ann and L. A. Smith, Jean and John Jones, Anita Young and Priscilla Gregory.

Jeanette Burford of Dupont, Wash., spent two weeks with her parents, Sue and Foyle Cooper, and other relatives. They toured points of interest and had a family Reunion.

Betty Brown and Howard Hawkins, with Geraldine Hawkins, Lila Schlicher and Eloise Brown, celebrated their birthdays with dinner at the Banquet Table in Rainbow City.

Linda and Mickey Cobble and sons, Steve and Mike, came from Chattanooga to attend Valley Head Baptist Church with Mickey's mother, Gladys Cobble, and took her to Western Sizzlin for her birthday.

James Wells of Florence, Colo., made a short visit to his mother, Lila Schlicher. He is manager of the Florence County Airport and had attended an Aviation Seminar in Atlanta.

Ruth and Bert Pickett attended the funeral of Grace Carroll in Knoxville. She was a former resident of Fort Payne and a niece of Gladys Cobble and Mae Card.

W. D. Chadwick was badly bruised in a tractor accident.

The Baptist Prayer Group met at the home of Renae Burt. Others present were: Gladys Cobble, Priscilla Gregory, Mary Ann Smith, Louise Hammonds, Jean Jones, Ruth Pickett, Mary Ellis, Ruth Burnett, Oline Roberts and Frances Ingram.

Adelaide Biddle is convalescing at the home of her daughter, Mary Lou Carmichael, in Dallas, Ga., after having heart surgery at St. Joseph Hospital in Atlanta.

Jewell Palmer has returned from Glendale, Ariz., where she visited her granddaughter, Traci and William Adamski and their son, William III. She visited the Grand Canyon and other tourist attractions.

Venna Livingston visited her sister, Zula Waddell, and other relatives at Guin, Ala.

Edith and Alvin Cox spent a week with Elise and Robert Riddle at Opelika, Ala. They have had as their guests their son, Jimmy Cox and his wife, Cindy, and daughter, Jennifer of Cumming, Ga. Their daughter, Susan Stack and her son, Michael, of Lawrenceville, Ga., were also recent visitors.

Louise and Charles Hammonds and son, Tony, visited their son, Tim of Hoquim, Washington.

Eleanor Woodall and daughter, Peggy Woodall, of Knoxville, Tenn., were recent guests of Laura Margaret Allison.

COUNTRY JOURNAL

By Bernise Crow

The beautiful soft glow of moonlight in the country, where we have clear, fresh air, is one of our most enjoyable free gifts of life.

I'm a moon-struck person — have been fascinated, intrigued, and awed by it for as long as I can remember. It has been interesting (since learning in grammar school about the cycles of it) how it receives its glow from reflection of light from the sun. For a long time it was a mystery to me about how it started showing a small slim line and appeared a little higher in the sky each evening, and a little larger each time. The Farmer's Almanac uses the moon as a guide for planting. Some things are planted on the "dark" of the moon, when it gives no light; some are planted when it is on the increase, and others are planted when it is on the wane. The moon makes a complete orbit around the earth every month.

It is interesting to study the effects of the moon on gravity and the tidal flow of the oceans. Not being a person of scientific knowledge, I will not pursue this facet of moon study. I just love it for its beauty. When there is a full moon, such as the harvest moon in October, it's hard for me to sleep. I just want to gaze at this marvelous creation of wonderful silvery light.

There are many songs about the moon — some very lovely ones. Kate Smith was a great singer, and used to open her radio show with the song, "When the Moon Comes Over The Mountain" — somebody waits for me. I loved it! By The Light of The Silvery Moon is an old tune, as is "Carolina Moon; Moon Over Miami". Shine On Harvest Moon; I'll Be Seeing You" (I'll be Looking at the Moon, but I'll be Seeing You).

The nurses at the hospitals declare that the maternity wards fill when the moon fulls. More babies are born then than at any other time of the month, and they prepare for the rush.

Dogs, coyotes, and wolves have always howled at the moon. There is not a happy sound. There are stories about vampires and werewolves being turned loose on full moon nights. The Indians judged time by the moons — everything was planned by so many moons. This is one of the marvelous creations by God, given to us to enjoy, keep track of time periods. The whole universe was set into harmonious motion, well organized and balanced until we human beings have tampered with it, and gotten some things in our environment unbalanced. So far we have not contaminated the moon, and I pray man never does that. It was a little frightening when we placed a man on the moon.

Last week the atmosphere was especially clear on the occasion of the full moon, giving it the appearance of being much larger than usual. I have never seen a more beautiful scene than one evening when the moon was shining in the east, and the sun was still glowing in the west. The horizon glowed in a panoramic vision of pink, peach, orchid and blue tones, giving the moon a fragile "paper moon" effect.

One has to be a romantic to be so obsessed with the love of the moon, but most of us have a little romance in us. And what better hobby or pastime could one have than that of observing beauty at its best? The other planets and stars are very interesting also and on dark nights their luminescence is striking. We used to walk at night, and loved seeing the Big Dipper and what we called "The Hunter and the Bear."

Oddly enough, the word lunatic came from the moon. It was thought that the lunar aspect had something to do with insanity. So we say if someone acts strangely, he is "looney." I'm a bit "looney" perhaps, but it surely is nice. Are you a moon-moon person? Start observing the moon in its many phases, and you too may become an addict. Beauty surrounds us, but here we pollute it and throw trash on it, pour asphalt on everything, and destroy much of our lovely world — but we have the moon, so far, in its purity.

Our visitor of the month at the Hitching Post was Nancy Cowley from Texas. She just walked in one afternoon and said, "I'm Nancy from Dallas." We loved talking to this pretty lady and telling her about Mentone. She had been told to go somewhere where it was quiet and peaceful and relax for a few days. Betty Harris was in the store that day, and she and Nancy immediately struck a rapport. Nancy used our phone to call back to Dallas and report that she had found the place she needed. I referred her to Grace and Milton Howard, and she rented their log cabin for a few days. It was the weekend of our Colorfest, and she thoroughly enjoyed our ghost-story session around the bonfire on Amelia Brooks' vacant lot. Betty and I have had letters and pictures from her, and she assures us she will be back next with a ghost story of her own to tell.

The Lookout

"Atop Lookout Mountain"

CLOUDLAND, GEORGIA

(404) 862-2515



Guy Hunt
Governor of Alabama

A Letter From The Governor

By Dec. 15, 1992, all of Alabama's 67 county Boards of Registrars must clean up their voter's lists. This act passed during the 1989 legislative session and it will make sure that everyone registered to vote is actually alive, human and living in this state.

Funds must be made available so this enormous task can be completed. Many of the 67 counties are small and economically disadvantaged and this is posing a problem for the local officials. I hope the announcement will greatly benefit the local registrars.

I have directed that \$60,000 be transferred from the governor's contingency fund to the Director of Voter Registration Office for use by the local boards of registrars.

Local officials have said one of the most important problems they face is the lack of basic office supplies. They complain of the need for typewriters, postage supplies, and in some counties, telephones. This money will help many county offices pay for these needed supplies.

Because the state voter file maintenance system will be computerized, the counties also will need computers and computer related supplies. At the present time some of the larger counties are computerized, but once again because of the extra expense of computer supplies, these counties still need financial assistance.

I am pleased to announce the following counties in your area will obtain financial assistance: Jackson, Etowah and DeKalb.

This \$60,000 will make it easier for these people to do a very important job.

Site Selected For Alabama Veteran's Memorial

Gov. Guy Hunt, honorary chairman of the Alabama Veterans' Memorial Foundation, Inc., announced Monday the Alabama Veterans' Memorial Park will be located on Interstate Highway 459 in Birmingham.

The land, located east of Mountain Brook, was donated by Liberty Park Partnership with additional acreage proposed to be donated by USX Realty Development.

Gov. Hunt said the purpose of the memorial foundation is to raise money for the construction of a suitable memorial for Alabamians who gave their lives in World War I, World War II, Korean War or Vietnam War. The memorial park also will be an honorary memorial for all Alabamians who served their country in any of the four wars.

A statewide design competition for the memorial, involving registered architects and landscape architects for the state, also was announced by the University of Auburn's Dean of the School of Architecture Ray Parker. Parker said all those interested should contact him at the university.

DeKalb County Employee Assistance Program

Although alcohol remains the most serious form of chemical abuse, illicit and prescription drug abuse is a growing concern in the workplace, involving such complicated issues as legal action, security measures, and alternatives for treatment.

From multinational corporations to small businesses, from educational institutions to the military, from federal, state and local agencies and government, from Wall Street to the assembly line, and from high-tech firms to retail stores, the United States has the highest rate of illicit drug use of any industrialized country.

Some of the costs of drugs in the workplace can be measured, but many cannot. When drugs are in the workplace everyone loses. The employees involved with drugs have four times as many accidents, two and a half times as many absences, use three times the amount of sick benefits, file five times the worker's compensation claims, and work at about half of the productivity level of fellow employees. When we speak of drugs in the workplace, we are speaking of the drug alcohol also.

There are other costs which can be even more damaging such as the manager who makes a bad decision, the stockbroker who uses bad judgment, the machine operator who endangers fellow workers, the truck driver or airline pilot who might not be alert, or members of the medical profession who might make mistakes. There's no way to determine what impaired workers really cost business and industry.

Many companies have a program for troubled employees, a broad brush program that deals with any problem they may be experiencing, including legal financial, marital, children, alcohol and/or other drugs, etc.

These Employee Assistance Programs have proved to be the least costly, most effective way of competing for and retaining good employees, the most valuable asset any company has.

For more information contact your local Employee Assistance Program by calling 845-4528.

Big Plant Expansion In Leesburg

Construction is underway on a \$15 million expansion of Fruit of the Loom's Leesburg Yarn Mills. The 153,600-square-foot building is scheduled to be completed by Dec. 31, 1989, company officials announced today.

Leesburg Yarn Mills is one of six Alabama divisions of Fruit of the Loom, headquartered in Bowling Green, Ky. The other Alabama plants are located in Jacksonville, Fayette, Aliceville, Winfield and Brundidge.

The existing Leesburg plant processes cotton and man-made fibers into yarn for underwear produced in the company's other plants. The plant currently being constructed will knit the yarn into fabric.

The company will employ 350 people at the knitting mill when full production is reached, according to Joseph Medallie, vice chairman of the board of Fruit of the Loom.

Production is scheduled to begin in January 1990 and the entire 350-employee work force will be hired by December 1990.

Come to . . . Cragsmere Manna

for Christmas Cheer — Let us host your parties, luncheons and meetings — We can make this the best dinner ever!

Call Bonnie at . . .

845-2209 or
634-4677

Valley Head Christmas Kick-Off

Valley Head has big plans for a Christmas season that will bring the residents of this small town closer together. A group of citizens, headed by Evelyn Hunt, has set aside Dec. 2, 1989 for a carol singing get-together for all those who will come and join in. "We want everyone to share in the spirit of the season with us, friends all together, as we sing to the joy of Christmas," Ms. Hunt told *The Groundhog*.

The festivities begin at 6 p.m. at the town square (next to Morgan Drugs) in downtown Valley Head.

Valley Head is also planning a Christmas parade which will begin at 10 a.m. on Dec. 16. All those who wish to participate are urged to meet at the Valley Head School at 9:30 to line up. "We want as many people to be a part of the parade as possible, the bigger the better," said Ms. Hunt.

Events In Georgia's Rome

Dec. 1-17 — "Christmas at Chieftains" — Chieftains Museum — Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, 2-5 p.m. Admission charged, 404/291-9494.

Dec. 2 — "Coosa River Christmas," a lighted boat parade on the river. Boats decorated in Christmas themes. Entertainment and fireworks included, 5:30 p.m., Free, 404/291-8985 or 404/295-5576.

Dec. 2 — "Chieftains Run" — Berry College Campus — AAU sanctioned run — 5K, 10K, 15K open to male and female, 8 a.m., no admission, registration fee charged, 404/234-2884 or 404/291-4683.

Dec. 3 — "Christmas Concert" — Atlanta Chorale Guild — First Baptist Church, 4 p.m., free, 404/291-6870.

Dec. 3 — "The Messiah" — Berry Singers and the Cartersville Oratorio Choir — Berry College Chapel — 3 p.m., Free, 404/232-5374.

Dec. 3 — "Festival of Lessons and Carols" — Darlington School Chapel — the Darlington Chorale leads a candlelight march around the lake to await the lighting of the tree, 7 p.m., Free, 404/235-6051.

Dec. 7 — "A Christmas Celebration" — Lock and Dam Park — Off Hwy. 27 S. The search for and lighting of the Yule Log, 7 p.m., Free, 404/291-0766.

Dec. 8 — "The Nutcracker" — Ruth Mitchell Dance Company — A Rome Little Theatre presentation — DeSoto Theatre — 2:15 and 7:30 p.m. Admission charged, 404/295-7171.

Dec. 9 — "A Christmas Program" — Rome Symphony Orchestra — Rome City Auditorium, 8 p.m. Admission charged, 404/291-7967.

Dec. 10 — "The Messiah" — Shorter College Oratorio Chorus and Orchestra — First Baptist Church, 3 p.m., Free, 404/291-2121.

Dec. 10 — "Christmas Concert" — The Darlington Chorale — Darlington School, 7 p.m., Free, 404/235-6051.

Dec. 11-12 — Tour of Churches — Local churches, beautifully decorated for Christmas, are open to the public, Dec. 11 features downtown churches and Dec. 12 features the outlying area churches, 6-8:30 p.m., Free, 404/291-7663.

Dec. 11-15 — Christmas Music Festival — Riverbend Mall — Handbells, carollers, etc., 5:30-7:30 p.m., Free, 404/295-4828.

Dec. 11-17 — "Candles and Carols of Christmases Past" — Martha Berry Museum and Oak Hill — Beautiful decorations, music, readings and refreshments, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, 1-5 p.m., Dec. 15 is a special candlelight tour of Oak Hill from 7-9 p.m. and Dec. 17 is a free open house at the museum from 1-5 p.m. Admission charged, 404/291-1883.

Dec. 16 — "The Best Little Christmas Pageant Ever" — Children's Theatre Guild — Rome City Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Admission charged, 404/295-2787.

Dec. 17 — "Holiday Cavalcade" — Rome City Auditorium. Sponsored by Cherokee Business and Professional Women's Club, Professional magician team, Santa, 2 p.m., Admission charged, 404/291-8338 or 404/234-2723.

Dec. 17 — "Christmas Concert" — Rome Boy's Club Choir — First Baptist Church, 5 p.m., Free, 404/291-6870.

Dec. 18 — "A Christmas Carol" — Broadway Marionettes — A Community Concert presentation, Rome City Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., Admission charged, 404/232-8540 or 404/234-7362.

Dec. 29-30 — New Year's Bluegrass Festival — Dillard's Music Park — Old Calhoun Road — over 25 Bluegrass Bands featured, Friday, 7 p.m., Saturday, 12 noon, Admission charged, 404/291-0216.

Greater Rome Convention and Visitors Bureau
P. O. Box 5823
Rome, Georgia 30162-5823
404/295-5576



Bettye

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Whisper to Me— A Poem



Whisper to me gently
Sweet summer wind
Tell me the story
Of my childhood again.
Of climbing trees
That reached the sky
And of dreams that put
Stars in our eyes.
Fishing down at Paw Paw's lake
Scaring Mama with lil' green snakes
Up to the top of the mountain we would run
With gold-kissed cheeks from the summer sun.
And once on top, the kings would reign
Over castles, dragons and lands far away.
We had June bugs on strings
and tire swings;
The world was ours
Or so it seemed.
We sat by our little campfires for hours
Telling ghost stories in frightened bliss
The crickets sang our lullabye
And Mama would give us each a kiss.
Sweet dreams and goodnight,
So whisper oh, so gently
Sweet summer wind
And take me back home
Just once again.

By Pvt. Darlene Wooten,
Fort Bragg, N. C.

Happy birthday, Neal Carpenter,

Plainville, Indiana!

Nov. 13 — Is it the big 20?
Love from your Alabama Buddies!

Memories Of The 1989 Colorfest

The old Mentone Springs Hotel, all dressed up with a new porch, held many booths of rustic crafts, furniture, paintings, and jams and jellies. The Wallins, new owners, were very generous to let us use their frontage for placing booths.

The Cassidy brothers played their banjos on the porch of the White Elephant Galleries adding a festive touch.

Lane Traylor and Homer Crow kept the pontoon boat running at the DeSoto Falls. Even in the cold weather, the boat was full each time. The American Legion had a concession stand there that was most welcome, with hot chocolate, hot coffee, and snack foods. Mrs. Dewey Crow (Pam) won the quilt, made by Maggie Cordell, which was raffled to help pay for the new sidewalk and bike path — which is done!

Ron Cordell (no relation to Maggie) from Newport, New Hampshire, won the drawing for the hundred dollar bill.

Everyone seemed in good spirits and had a good time. This is our goal — to furnish something for local families and guests to enjoy together while giving MAPA much-needed revenue to continue efforts to improve the quality of life for all who live here and for all those who come to visit.





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Lora Dell Perkins —Mentone's Weather Girl



For five years, local resident Lora Dell Perkins has kept up with Mentone's temperature and rainfall daily and provided Chattanooga's WRCB, Channel 3, with the results. Even though Lora has a degenerative bone disease and must use crutches, she checks the gauges at 3 a.m., at 2 p.m. and again at 10:15 p.m.

Lora Perkins has always been a trouper for her life began with medical problems that have plagued her through numerous operations and treatments, but she overcomes each hurdle and emerges with a smile and an attitude that reflects the strength her parents, Ethel and Atlee Perkins, have always shown her.

Lora's weather career began with former Channel 3 weatherman Tony Shelton's call for Skywatchers to help record the changes in the area's weather.

When Tony left, Lora decided to give up the job she loved if no one contacted her about continuing. Before long the new weatherman, Paul Barys, was on the phone asking Lora to continue her work. She readily agreed and she and Paul have become friends. He calls her on the average of twice a week, and sometimes Chris Hohlman will call to get the readings from Lora.

Lora has standing instructions if anything unusual happens, a freak storm, unusual rainfall and such, she is to call Channel 3 collect immediately with the information.

DeSoto Park, located about five miles from Mentone but still on the mountain, also checks the temperature changes and rainfall and Lora finds Mentone's temperature to be about four degrees colder.

When asked why she continues with the volunteer effort although she is in pain most of the time, Lora replied, "I like doing it. I have always loved snow and the weather has always fascinated me. I love the change of seasons, and could not live in a place where that did not happen. It is worth the effort."



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MAPA Meeting

The October meeting of M.A.P.A. held at the town meeting hall was given mostly to discussion of the bike path. It is done, and we are proud of it. Jack Jones said the state would inspect it and if approved, they would repay \$500 we had to pay to them initially. This was a bond to protect the state in case any damage was done to state property. Lynn Bathurst, president, reported that the phone company had removed the guy wire that was in the way.

Lynn Bathurst is on the board of directors for "Keep DeKalb County Beautiful," and said a problem of most importance is the disposal of garbage. We are going to have problems with landfill areas — must have no leakage out of the area where it is placed. This is a concern of M.A.P.A. Mickey Strickland said Senator Lowell Barron is working on a bottle bill. There should be no throw-away bottles.

Sherman Gough said the city council was putting an ordinance into effect to shut off all well water from going into the city water line.

Harry Weaver led a discussion about doing something for the children in the community for Christmas — maybe a tree with refreshments and goodies. Lynn asked him to work as chairman of the festivities.

Dorothy Reeder expressed a desire to see the trash cleaned from the Brow Park. She said she walked daily through the park, and was dismayed at the amount of garbage she sees.



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Village Boutique Moves Across Street



Donna Barnes of Village Boutique

Donna Barnes and Janette McCord have moved their popular shop to the Hitching Post on Hwy. 117 in Mentone. The space has doubled and so has the number and variety of beautiful handmade items. Most are one-of-a-kind and original. Donna weaves capes, scarves, dresses

and cocoons on her loom in beautiful colors and fabrics. Janette makes art-to-wear, silk patch coats and antique quilt coats, as well as unusual blouses and belts. The shop has added many gift items from other artists, too.

Remembering Vergia Perkins On Her Birthday



Although Vergia Perkins made her home in Mentone for most of her life, she was not born here. She came into the world in Tenbroeck, Ala., on Nov. 16, 1902, the oldest of eight children born to Mary Magnolia and John Eldredge Johnson.

After graduating from Jacksonville State University she came to Mentone to teach in 1931. At that time, teachers from out of town often boarded with a local family. Vergia Johnson made her home with the W. C. Adams family who lived in what has been known for many years as the Ruby O'Rear house.

Before moving to the mountain, Vergia attended a meeting in Fort Payne, Ala., at a Baptist church. She met Willie Perkins for the first time there and thought, "That's the man I am going to marry." As fate would have it, when she moved into the home of the Adams family, Willie Perkins lived right next door! Two years after that first meeting at the Baptist Conference, Vergia and Willie were wed.

Vergia taught at Moon Lake School for several years before retiring to raise her family. She had four children, but two died shortly after birth. One of the remaining children, Montez Williams, now resides in Huntsville, Ala., and the other Wilma Hogan, lives in Harrison, Tenn.

Vergia and Willie set up housekeeping in a small rented dwelling near Little River. Soon they were able to purchase the place that was to be their home for many years. Ethel and Atlee Perkins purchased it in 1972 and raised two daughters there, Lora Dell and Mary Jane. The Perkins family resides in the home today.

Ethel Perkins remembers Vergia's love for the children she taught at Moon Lake: "In the cold winter months, Vergia, or Aunt Vergie as we all knew her, would bake sweet potatoes or make a big pot of soup and take it to the children. She said she wanted them to have something warm to eat. She always was one of the first to help out in the community. She often sewed for the poor and gave away her canned goods she put up for the winter. She always made a big garden and was generous with all she harvested."

Vergia was a loyal member of Moon Lake Baptist Church and taught Sunday School there for years. She also held various offices in the church.

Before Willie's mother died, she made Vergia promise to care for her daughter Lora if the need should arise. Lora was Willie's sister, and as with all of his family, Vergia loved her dearly. She took all of the Perkins family to heart as if they were her very own, even after Willie's death in 1968.

In 1972, Lora began to need assistance. Vergia sold her home and moved Lora into a trailer where she spent the next 11 years caring for her diligently, often not leaving the place for months at a time. It was a real treat to go into town once a year to the courthouse to pay her taxes. After Lora's death, Vergia became active in the community again and even traveled quite a bit. She loved going to family reunions in Louisiana and Texas.

Each year, for several years before her death in 1988, Vergia took a bus load of children and their teachers from Birmingham, to Little River Cemetery where she would walk among the grave stones telling the students about the people who were buried there such as local legend Granny Dollar. She pointed out the oldest grave and the graves of all the veterans buried there. She thoroughly enjoyed these outings and looked forward to them.

Vergia Johnson Perkins, in her quiet, sweet, giving way, touched all who knew her — from the children in her classes at school, to the needy families who shared her vegetable garden, to the neighbors who could always count on her, to the family into which she married and adopted as her own. She is sadly missed by all her friends and family, but her kindness and strength will continue to live as long as one person who knew her is still here to remember her with love.

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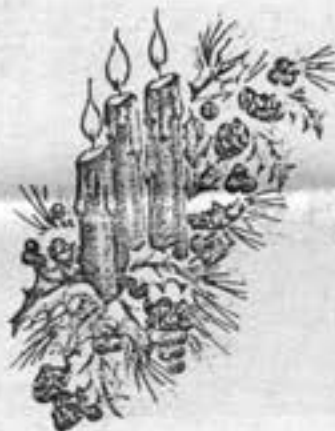
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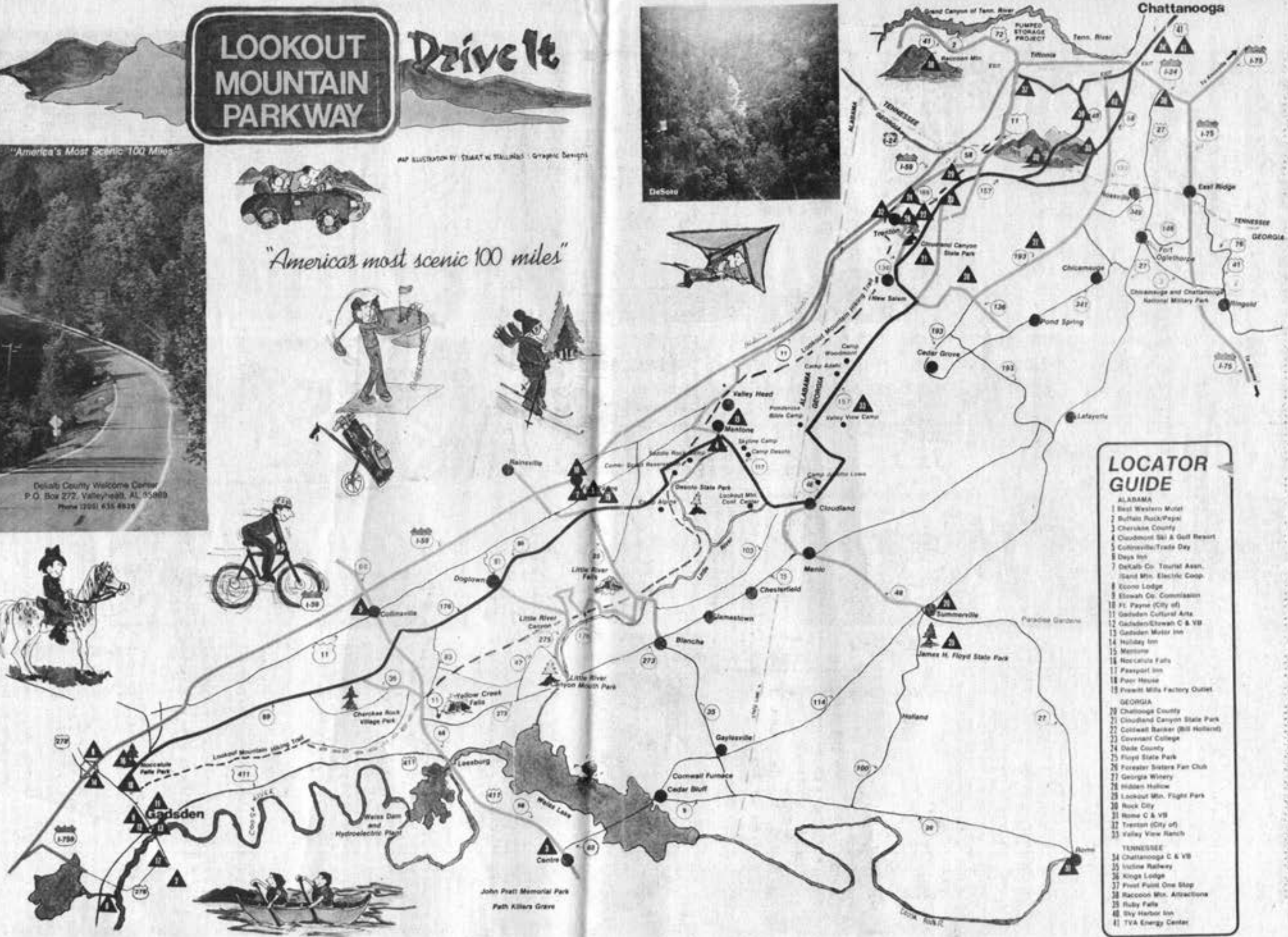
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LOCATOR GUIDE

- ALABAMA
- 1 Best Western Motel
- 2 Buffalo Rock/Papal
- 3 Cherokee County
- 4 Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort
- 5 Collierville/Trade Day
- 6 Days Inn
- 7 DeKalb Co. Tourist Assn.
- 8 DeKalb Mtn. Electric Coop.
- 9 Econo Lodge
- 10 Elbow Co. Commission
- 11 Ft. Payne (City of)
- 12 Gadsden Cultural Arts
- 13 Gadsden/Elbow C & V
- 14 Gadsden Motor Inn
- 15 Holiday Inn
- 16 Meritone
- 17 Norcalula Falls
- 18 Peapack Inn
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- GEORGIA
- 21 Chattooga County
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- 23 Coldwell Banker (Bill Holland)
- 24 Convent College
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Senator Lowell Barron Addresses Congress In Guatemala

Senator Lowell Barron was honored recently by an organization known as The Center for Democracy when he was chosen to speak to a third world nation's congress as it struggles to establish a fledgling democracy.

Senator Barron flew to Guatemala on Friday, Oct. 13, with his daughter Shala Murray as interpreter. Sen. Barron paid Shala's expenses for the entire trip so that she might have the linguistic experience because her major in college is Foreign Languages.

The Center for Democracy is a non-profit bipartisan organization in which U. S. leaders, working across boundaries of party and doctrine, cooperate to strengthen the democratic process in this country and abroad. For five years, Center programs have been active in confronting crisis situations and implementing long-range projects in every part of the world. Its board of directors is composed of senators, congressmen and prominent private sector figures from both Democratic and Republican ranks — including the current national chairmen of both parties.

Under the leadership of educator and historian Allen Weinstein, the Center has developed close working relationships with leaders of the U. S. Congress and Administration, world leaders, political party chiefs, and heads of legislatures in dozens of democratic societies in Western Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. Allen Weinstein received the United States Peace Medal in 1986 for this outstanding contribution to the democratic process.



Presidential Secretary introduces Senator Barrett and Senator Barron.

The seminar in Guatemala was known as "Atitlan IV" and took place at Lake Atitlan, high upon the mountains. Senator Michael Barrett of Massachusetts was also a speaker at the Legislative retreat.

On Saturday morning, the senatorial entourage left Guatemala City in a four-wheel drive vehicle driven by Erick Bolanos, a program assistant at the Center's Guatemala office. That afternoon, Sen. Barron spoke to the legislative branch of the Guatemalan government on the fundamentals of their role in the budgetary process. Sen. Barron was chosen for this topic because of his experience in this particular function of state government. The National Congress of Guatemala is constitutionally empowered to amend and approve the national budget, but unfortunately the Congress does not have the technical expertise nor the personnel to carry out the function at the present time. This is a prime area of concern for the legislators and they were eager to improve their ability to analyze the budget.

Sen. Barron: "Guatemala, before becoming a democracy just a few years ago, was ruled by a dictator. It has been very difficult for the democratic process to work because the people have always looked to an absolute ruler with military power solidly behind him. The legislators find it hard to do more than rubber stamp the President's presentations. The system of checks and balances is badly askew, and with the military controlling the largest bank in the country with money stolen by a general from the Guatemalan government coffers, it is very difficult to set the process in the right motion — toward a more equalized power structure."

The new democracy is so fragile that when Sen. Barron asked a Center official what his hopes for the future were, the man replied: "Lowell, we do not think in terms of years here in Guatemala, we think in terms of weeks. The government is so precarious and the military so strong, if we can prevent a takeover by the military within the next six weeks we will be happy."

Senator Barron spoke of his observations while touring the countryside: "I passed houses during midday that looked as if they were on fire — smoke was coming out of cracks in the walls and the roofs. The people cook in the center of the huts on an open fire and the smoke finds an outlet wherever it can. These people, the Mayan Indians, are still living as primitively as they did hundreds of years ago. They reside in stick and stone huts with grass-thatched roofs and no sanitary facilities."

"A few years ago the World Health Organization began to build chimneys onto the huts on an experimental basis. They soon discovered a malaria epidemic was devastating



Senator Barron with Mayan Street vendor.

the community, but was largely limited to those who had chimneys in their homes. After careful study, it was learned that the smoke kept the disease carrying mosquitos out of the houses, and the smoke-tainted skin of the Indians was a natural repellent."

Senator Barron continued: "The Indians get their water from open streams into which raw sewage flows. Again the World Health Organization tried to intervene to prevent the diseases carried by the filthy water. They provided water to the Indians in stainless steel containers which were filled once a month at each home. Soon, they began to notice a problem — no marriages were taking place. The mating process had been disturbed when the young girls were no longer sent to fetch the water from the streams. This was the only time the young men could court them. The families are isolated from one another and often live in very remote areas. When the water was brought to them, there was no opportunity for social interaction."

"Guatemala is a very fragmented society with 26 different languages spoken among the various groups. Latinos run the country. They are the descendants of Spaniards who came there and took over the country from the Mayans. The Indians live in a closed, poverty stricken society leading very bleak lives in the struggle to survive one more season."



Shala Murray (Right, back row) with guide and Mayan Street children.

Senator Barron took the opportunity to meet the Indians in their own environment: "Most of the women carry a large pot on their heads and a child tied to their backs and their hands full of other things like vegetables. They carry loads like pack animals. I saw no sign of the use of the wheel — no wagons or wheel barrows and no animal power. They farm with large hoes which they use to break and till the hard soil. The main food crops are corn and potatoes. The vegetables are of poor quality — the potatoes are about the size of a half dollar and the corn grows on 10 foot high stalks but produces small, knotty ears."

"There are few animal food sources — a cow or pig would be tied up beside the huts sometimes. The pigs were tied with halters like dogs are here. There is no fencing and animals are so valuable that they must be tied. Some families are lucky enough to have a few chickens running around the yard."

"The Indians all go barefoot so their feet are very calloused and tough. Their feet are broad and flat for they have adjusted to the harsh conditions they must endure."

"The altitude is very high, over 8,000 feet. The farms are on steep mountainsides as far as the eye can see. The climate is sub-tropical with 60 to 65 inches of rain a year. The farmers make the most of each inch of rocky ground. Landslides are frequent and often close the primitive roads that wind around the mountains. It often takes 8 to 10 hours to travel just 100 miles."

"When I got back to Guatemala City I was asked to recommend measures to enhance the budgetary process and to improve the system of checks and balances between the executive and legislative branches. As I came into the city I saw the presidential palace sitting in splendor while the legislators sweated in a dingy building in a poor section of town. I told them 'I have just one recommendation for you. I suggest you bring the legislative branch into the palace and when you take them out of the dark, dingy back rooms and into equal status with the president and his staff, then you will have begun to insure that the process will work.' 'Oh no, we could never do that,' was the reply. 'Then you will never have true balance of power,' I said, 'until equality between the two branches is achieved.'"

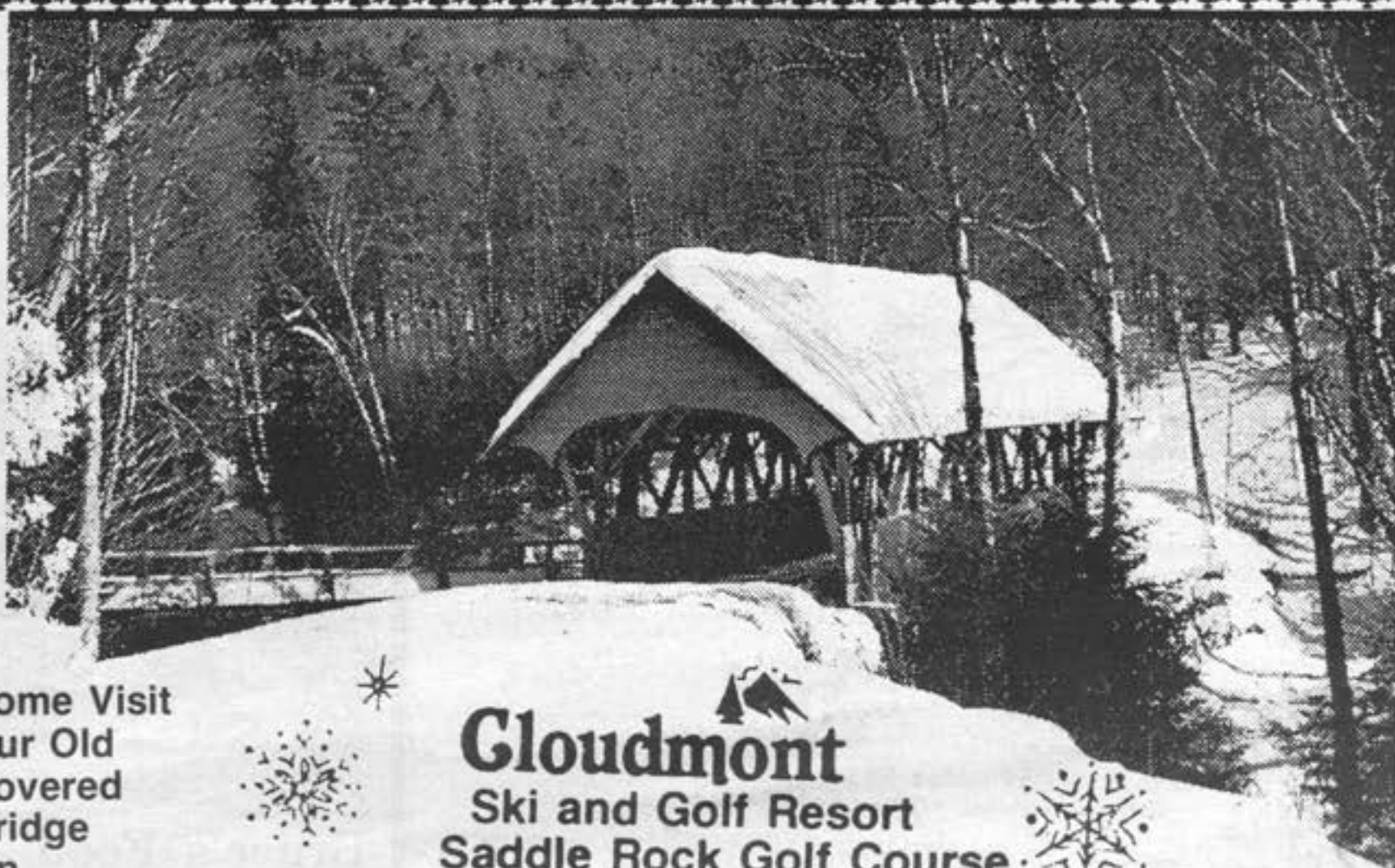


In front of Catholic Church.

Senator Barron summed up his experience with the Guatemalan congress: "They need all the help they can get, and we should be willing to assist them. If we work with them now, we will be playing an integral part in one of the most important processes in history and upon which our own country is founded — the struggle for democracy and freedom."



Senator Barron prepares for address to Congress.



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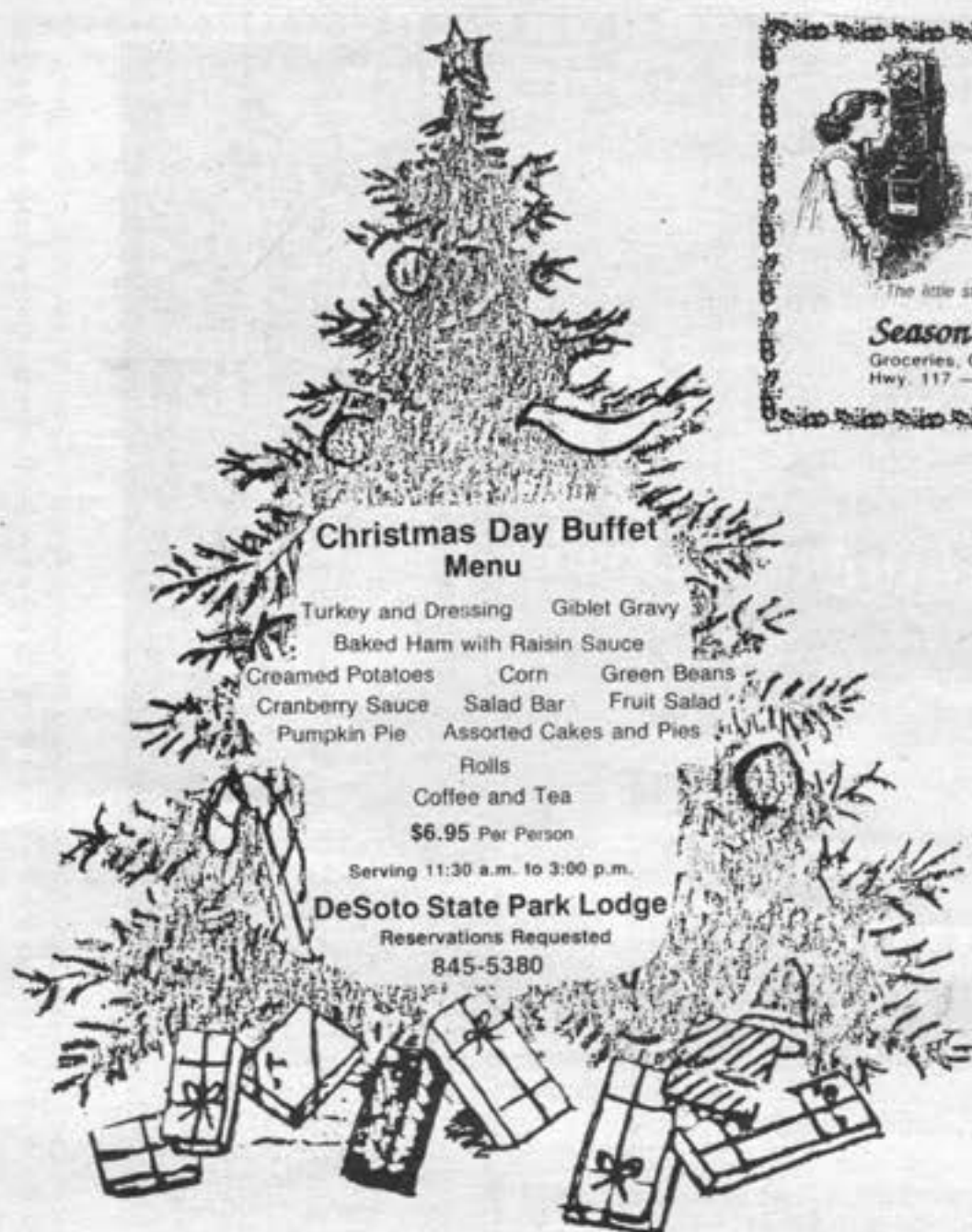
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