

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 1 - NO. 4 - JULY 1983 A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

A Postmaster

Who Really Cares

Mentone has a postmaster who cares — about people, about the quality of his calling.

Benny Goss truly believes and daily demonstrates that a post office should be a basic part of the community. This is something that just doesn't happen; it requires a person behind the counter who has concern for people. It helps to have a vibrant sense of humor.

Each morning the post office is a gathering place, a town meeting where people not only get their mail, but greet their friends.

One who has been out of town for several days asks, "What's been happening?"

"Nothing," Benny replies, "and that's the way we want to keep it."

It is often said that in the big cities the bartender is the nearest and most available Counselor or psychiatrist. Benny, a devoted member of a church in a dry county, doesn't flinch at the comparison.

(Continued On Page 5)

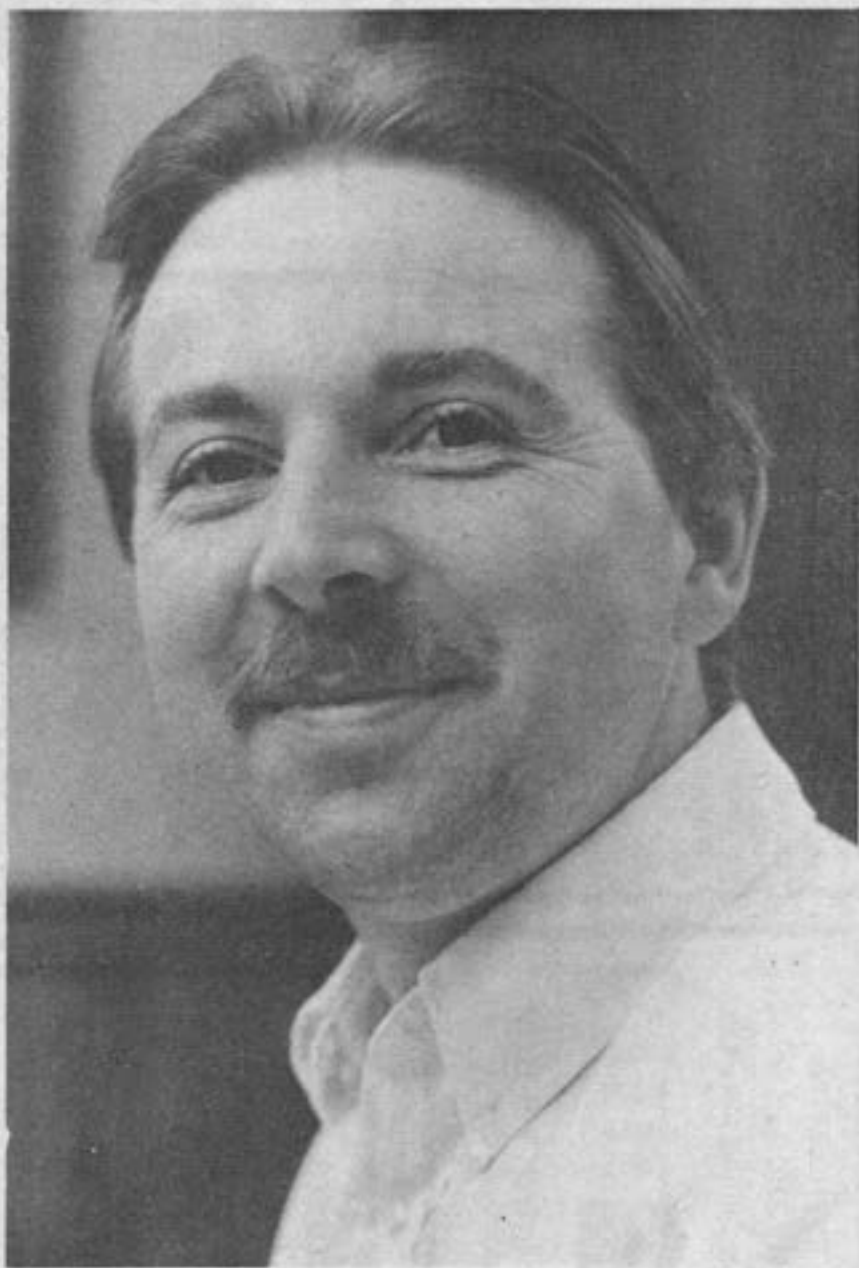


PHOTO BY DOC LONG

WHERE TO EAT IN MENTONE AREA - Page 6

SEVENTH ANNUAL CRAFTS FESTIVAL SET — Pages 4, 5

the GROUNDHOG

New MAPA Officers, Covered Dish Dinner, At July 12 Meeting

Members and guests will bring food for a Covered Dish Dinner, outgoing Director Bruce Bon Fleur will deliver his annual report, bylaw changes will be voted on, and the 1983-84 directors will be elected by the Annual Meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association on Tuesday evening, July 12th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mentone Springs Hotel Dining Room. Because of the heavy July 4th weekend, the meeting was postponed from the usual first Tuesday.

The report was submitted by the nominating committee consisting of Mrs. Mabel Kirk, Mrs. Olive Jones, and Sammy Cash. There were no nominations from the floor. The new slate of officers is as follows:

Homer Crow, Director
Mrs. Frank Kirk, Associate Director
Mrs. William Shadgett, Secretary
Mrs. Robert Clymer, Treasurer

It was suggested and presented in the form of a motion that due to heavier duties, and suggestions from the current secretary-treasurer, Bernise Crow, that the offices be separated. Because this is a bylaw change, the election of these two officers will be contingent on a favorable vote on the motion.

Outgoing officers at the July meeting will be Bruce Bon Fleur, Director; Sandra Padgett, Associate Director; Bernise Crow, Secretary-Treasurer.

Ham and beverages will be provided by MAPA. Bring your own favorite dish: casserole, salad, dessert or bread. The committee on arrangements is Mabel Kirk, Amerlia Brooks, Donna Bukley, Marie Shadgett and Sandra Padgett. For further information call any of these hostesses.

Full Police Protection Voted By Town Council

Fulltime police protection has been provided for Mentone following action at the June 7th Town Council meeting.

Policeman Edward Worthey's hours were increased from 25 a week to 40 weekly. He is on call at all times. (7:00 a.m. to 11, 634-3705. All other times, 634-4507).

The council also has voted to send Officer Worthey to the next session of the Police School at Jacksonville State.

The expanded hours have resulted in a salary increase of approximately \$500 to \$600 monthly.

Volunteers Needed By Rescue Squad

Additional volunteers are needed for the Mentone Rescue Squad, according to Captain Larry Gray. Eight persons are now on the roster of this valuable unit which stands on the alert for calls involving lost persons; water, climbing and other accidents.

The local rescue squad is the only one in the county which has water rescue facilities — including a boat and dragging equipment.

Three thousand five hundred dollars was donated to the local Rescue Squad from the proceeds of last year's Alabama June Jam.

If you are interested in volunteering for this useful service, attend the next meeting or call Captain Larry Gray (634-4635); Lieutenant Leonard Shigley (634-4140); or secretary-treasurer Barbara Blalock (634-4166).



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Mentone Summer Camps Now In Full Swing

Each of the ten camps in the Mentone Area has its special emphasis and personality, whether it be Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, boys' camp or girls' camp, horsemanship, or religion. They are all in full swing and going well. **Groundhog** checked in with each of the directors and submits the following reports:

Marty Griffin, director of Camp Skyline Ranch for Girls, reports that they are having a great season. Sixty percent of the campers have been there before. They go on their usual outings to such places as the falls and the brow. The rain hasn't slowed them down at all. "It just doesn't matter," Marty quotes the girls as saying.

At Camp Alpine for Boys, Director Dick O'Ferrell says the first session is underway nicely. Registration is good. Outings include Six Flags Over Georgia, and the older boys have been on a white water rafting expedition on the Ocoee. They are looking forward to the big Fourth of July celebration and square dancing with campers from the girls' camps.

Over at DeSoto Camp for Girls, Director Sue Henry is having "a wonderful season." Outings have been to Rock City and down the Hiwassee River for white water rafting. The rain is not slowing them down at all. The staff at DeSoto is getting ready for the second session and looks forward to the County Fair.

Camp Laney for Boys also seems to be having one of its most exciting sessions. Registration is up to par. They have been to Opryland and white water rafting on the Ocoee River in Georgia. Their various programs move along nicely — sports tournaments in track, tennis, archery, and water skiing. Rob Hammond is director.

Camp Cloudmont for Boys has been leased by Jack and Olive Jones to a Florida-based group —

Dick Moerriler, Shelton Whittle, and composed also of Ed Estess and Dick Lauwig. A companion camp to Valley View Camp for Girls, it stresses health-conducive sports, crafts, arts, and computer work. They report that all is moving along nicely.

Over at the Comer Scout Reservation, Director Bob Dunaway says they are having a "real good summer" and will serve some 1,000 scouts this year in the one-week sessions. He is especially enthusiastic about Comer's Wilderness Survival program this year, which has an outpost camp on Little River.

The Girl Scout Camp Juliette Low is on a vast tract in Cloudland, Ga., where the girls sleep in tents, sing, and come from throughout the Southeast. Director Kathy Holly says, "we're swinging along great. We keep them happy and busy. Ninety have already attended. There are spaces for the other sessions." Activities of special interest are sailing, canoeing, and rappelling.

The Valley View Ranch Riding Camp for Girls six to 18 is directed by Nancy Jones. Nancy says enthusiastically that the season is going extremely well. Most activities center around horsemanship. At the time of the interview they were excited about the Fourth of July Rodeo. There has been one field trip to Six Flags Over Georgia.

Anne and John Morrison at Lookout Mountain Christian Conference Center report that they have been quite busy with a series of individual church conferences involving congregations from throughout the Southeast. Excitement mounts for the Fred Day Camp August 1-5, ages 6-16. Dundi the Elephant will be there. Bring sack lunch and bathing suit. For information, call 634-3471.

The first session is well underway at Ponderosa Bible Camp. Glenn Miller, Director, says that Chief Eagle Feather and his wife Singing Heart have just visited the camp. Missionaries to India, they were principal speakers at two elementary camp sessions and also spoke at Moonlake Baptist Church June 14th.

"For over 30 years I have been familiar with the summer atmosphere of Mentone," says one resident, "first as a vacationer and then as a permanent resident. One thing in particular that stands out in my mind is the sound on Sunday afternoons of the vacationers from one of the girls' camps.

"They come to watch the sunset, disembarking from a huge covered truck. They play games, eat packaged sandwiches, and above all, sing familiar folk songs. It is a sound of lyrical youth and spontaneous hope. The songs are usually the same. The voices, incredibly the same. But the campers change from year to year.

"It is a musical mountain sound, with blended voices from Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, and other southeastern states. The sound is like life itself, always the same but always changing too."

July Groundhog Award



The Groundhog Award for July has been awarded to the residence of Charles White and Jean McGehee. Situated across the road from Brow Park, the home is a log cabin originally built as a summer residence of the Morgadanes sisters from New Orleans.

The McGehees have moved the house to the center of the spacious lot, added a garage, back porch, and upstairs, and done extensive landscaping — especially emphasizing the Morgadanes rhododendrons.

This monthly award "for the most improved business of residential structure" is by a special committee composed of Mayor Sam Barrett for the City Council; Betty Chapman, Garden Club; and Ferne Fitzgerald, MAPA.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Honest, folks! We had absolutely nothing to do with it.

Valley View Camper

Bulletin

This Saturday, July 2nd, there will be a Rummage Sale for benefit of the North Lookout Fire Protection District, beginning at 10:00 a.m. and continuing until late afternoon.

Get set to enjoy a tasty hamburger or hot dog for lunch, and browse for some good bargains — all for benefit of our fire department. Coordinator is Marty Griffin. Call her for further information.

from your director

By H. BRUCE BON FLEUR

To me, Mentone seems especially alive and well this summer — at least a little more than usual. The flowers seem more abundant and colorful, and the woods are thicker and greener. Maybe it's the extra rain that we've had.

Business activity along 117 seems to have picked up some over last year. There are more people in and around Mentone this season. Maybe it's because of those efforts of local businesses to effectively advertise and relate the good life and beauty of Mentone to many of those who live in nearby crowded, less personal, polluted cities.

People around town seem friendlier and more willing to work together to make Mentone an even nicer place to live and work. Maybe it's coincidence, or maybe it's because for the first time in a long time people sense a common purpose — a common interest in preserving and enhancing the qualities of life that attracted them here in the first place — or that have kept them here.

Maybe MAPA has been instrumental in this apparent re-awakening of spirit in this especially nice place. This is my final official message to you as MAPA's Director, and all I really wanted to say was "Thanks!"

Thanks for making me feel welcome here, and thanks to all of those MAPA members (and other Mentone citizens) who have believed in the idea that "community" is not dead — perhaps temporarily neglected — but not lost in our great country.

Thanks for all of the people hours that you've put in over the past year — whether it was donating blood or decorating our town Christmas tree; or sweating for hours pulling weeds, moving rocks, planting flowers and shrubs along our roadsides; or donating your time and expertise or hard-earned business dollars to support the **Groundhog** so that everyone can know what's going on; or whatever other activity or program you have contributed to or participated in — please believe that it has been worthwhile and will be remembered.

If you doubt it — just look around you — the flowers seem especially abundant and colorful, business is picking up, and your neighbor is waving to you from across the street. Maybe Mentone is especially alive and well because of you. Thanks, MAPA!

The Groundhog

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, Organized April 6, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone Area. Chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.

Charles White McGehee, Editor
Bernise Crow, Managing Editor
Jean McGehee,
Donna Bukley, Advertising

Bruce Bon Fleur, Director
Sandra Padgett, Associate Director
Bernise Crow, Secretary-Treasurer

Letters . . .

It is such pleasant news to hear about the new Preservation Association and the work it's doing to enhance and maintain the unique character of that much loved area. My grandparents would have been charter members. My grandfather, Kenneth Steward, was instrumental in helping start the Hitching Post. My husband and I would like to make a donation in their honor.

Elizabeth Steward Ausmus
Palm Harbor, Florida

ViewPoint...

By CHARLES WHITE McGEHEE

Now that Jack Dempsey is dead they can turn out the lights.

This is what the sports commentators said when the last authentic American folk hero died on June 1st.

He was a personal hero of my childhood, when heroes were heroes and not public relations creations. It was the time of Charles Lindberg, Babe Ruth, Bill Tilden, Knute Rockne, and their ilk.

It was a strange twist of fate that brought him into my life for a time. He was best man in 1945 at my first wedding. Prior to my 34-year marriage to Jean, which occurred in the Mentone Springs Hotel June 7, 1949, I was married for a brief time during my radio career in Birmingham.

On the morning of the wedding I received a phone call from Evelyn Hicks (who later was Evelyn Shannon). A native of Fort Payne, she was assistant manager of WSGN and quite active in Alabama politics and civic affairs. In a cheerful voice she said, "How would you like for Jack Dempsey to be best man at your wedding?" Naturally I said I would be honored.

He was in town for a war bond tour in his capacity as lieutenant commander of the Navy. Indeed he showed up for the service at the Dixie-Carlton Hotel, remained for the reception, and the next day the daily paper carried the wedding picture, which I naturally sent to my hometown paper in Summit, Miss.

Several months later he wrote me a letter, stating that as best man at the wedding he thought he should check up on the relationship. In 1948 on a trip to New York I visited his restaurant, but he was out of town. After that we had no communication. But he remained a hero figure to me in a time when heroes are hard to come by.

How well I remember the broadcast of the Dempsey-Tunney fights. Scores of us were gathered, seated on sacks of oats at Atkinson's warehouse. The blow-by-blow details were given by an excited announcer through the loudspeaker which was huge and shaped like a photograph horn.

Both times, especially after the "Long Count" when we thought Dempsey had really won, I remember going home through the night, crushed at the defeat of this giant among giants — especially at the hands of a skinny marine who read Shakespeare.

He was a hero in defeat, however. He made no excuses, other than that famous remark to his wife, movie actress Estelle Taylor: "Honey, I just forgot to duck."

Jack Dempsey is immortalized in **The Web and the Rock**, written by Thomas Wolfe, another of my idols. It is a description of the Firpo fight, in which Dempsey was knocked out of the ring by his opponent, pushed back in by reporters, and went on to brutally knock out his opponent.

What finally remained most vivid, in that kaleidoscopic whirl of violent images, was the memory of Dempsey's black and bobbing head, his teeth bared in a grin of passion, the incredible speed and power of his sledge-hammer fists, and the sound of blows that moved so swiftly that the eye could not perceive them. He was like a human riveting machine. Over the terrific roar and tumult of the crowd one could hear the steady thud, thud, thud, the sickening impact of blows delivered with the velocity of a bullet. Again and again the great brute went down before those whizzing gloves as if he had been shot."

Those who fought him said he was literally a killer in the ring, but a total gentleman at all other times. He and Tunney remained friends throughout the years.

Someone once said, "Get organized, get it done, and get out of the way!" This is what Dempsey did. He did not stumble through press relations comebacks. He did not attempt to recreate a fallen dream. He somehow discovered the fibre of his character and remained to the last of his days the genuine individual he was.

Boxing has now become a brutal and too often fatal sport. It has outlived any purpose it ever had. I can no longer watch it on television. Civilization has moved on to higher and more sophisticated forms of sport. The chain of violence can move from a street-fight or barroom brawl to the atomic catastrophe that can destroy humanity as we know it. There are better ways to resolve disputes than through violence, and we must utilize them, in our households, in our streets, and in international disputes.

So the lights of the prize ring should be turned out.

But history's spotlight will remain on Jack Dempsey as long as they write about sports. He was my best man at an important time in my life. He was a gentleman about it. May his soul rest in peace.

Brow Briefs . . .

When the Fort Payne High School presented its annual awards, Shala Barron of Mentone won a first prize of twenty-five dollars as a Social Studies Fair Winner.

Five Mentone citizens were part of a new Guinness Book record achievement on the weekend of June 19th at Louisville, Ky. Linda and Bobby Brown and Barbara and Ovie Blalock and their daughter Barbie were present when the most square dancers in all history danced to one caller — on an athletic field.

Glen Baty of Mentone tied for second place in the Alabama State Checkers tournament June 11-12 at Fort Payne.

Constant compliments are in order to Marie Shadgett who has coordinated and done much of the literal work in beautifying the triangle at Blackburn's store. She hauled dirt, did tasteful landscaping, and encouraged others to participate.

Several persons recently have requested mailings of the monthly **Groundhog**. Subscriptions are not available. You or a friend, however, will be placed on the mailing list if a donation is made to cover expenses. Send your donation to Mentone Area Preservation Association, Box 50, Mentone, Alabama, 35984.

All persons in the Mentone mailing area receive their **Groundhogs** free. Copies are also available at businesses, which support us by advertising.

Your dues to the Mentone Area Preservation Association are now due!

They were reduced at the last meeting to \$10 per member, effective July 1st.

Bring your dues money to the July 12th meeting, or mail them to MAPA, Box 50, Mentone, Alabama.

Enter our exciting contest!
Win an enviable prize!

Because the Mentone Area Preservation Association was founded on Groundhog Day, we have a special interest in this individualistic creature who abounds in this area.

If you are the first person to submit a photograph of a Mentone groundhog (woodchuck) you'll receive a free meal at the Log Cabin Deli, as guest of Lee and Barbara Boyd.

Submit your photo to MAPA, Box 50, Mentone, Alabama.

TO MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, BOX 50 in support of the objectives of MAPA, desiring to join with others in preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, I enclose \$10 for voting membership for one through June 1984.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____

Groundhog Finance Report

JUNE ISSUE

INCOME
Ad Sales \$638.00
Balance in Account 105.80
Donations 2.80
(Mentone Inn Tourists)
\$746.60

DEBITS
Desoto Printing Co. 7.95
Donna Bukley (sales) 62.70
Jean McGehee (sales) 33.00
Ken Pennington (map) 50.00
Desmond Disney (photos) 5.00
Morgan Drugs (photos) 6.85
The Summerville News 308.00
Post Office 48.10
\$521.60

Balance in Account \$225.00

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Mountain Cookery

Here are some of the favorite foods served at Nippersink Lodge:

TRAMP EGGS

Butter a shallow baking dish and break into it the number of eggs needed to serve the diners. Sprinkle salt on the eggs and pour rich milk around them until their yellow tops are peeping out. Dot with dabs of butter. Grate cheese over the top. Use lots of butter and cheese. Bake in a 300 degree oven until cheese is bubbly and eggs are of desired doneness. We serve Tramp Eggs for Saturday breakfast at the lodge and I always get requests for the recipe. The dish was introduced to the lodge by Annelee Tucker who was the first innkeeper. The dish was a favorite of her family and has an interesting story of how it got the name of Tramp Eggs: Back in the depression days of the 1930's a tramp stopped at a friendly kitchen to ask for food. He was served the baked eggs and was so delighted with the dish that he asked for the recipe. For easy serving at the lodge we bake the eggs in muffin tins.

Another favorite at the lodge is a dish I had served to my family for years and introduced to Nippersink on our October weekends.

RICE-ASPARAGUS CASSEROLE

This dish was introduced to Nippersink Lodge by Osceola Hauge (who was the second innkeeper) and is still a favorite of our guests.

1/2 stick oleo
1/2 cup slivered almonds
1 cup raw rice
1 can cream of mushroom soup, dilute with 1/2 cup milk
2 cans (1 lb. size) cut asparagus, drained
1 cup grated cheese
1 cup Rice Krispies

Cook rice according to directions on package. Melt oleo in 13x9x2 pan. Add almonds and return to oven to toast lightly. Add rice and mix well. Pour soup over this but do not mix. Lay asparagus on top and gently press down into soup. Top with cheese and last with Rice Krispies. Bake at 350 degrees until bubbly.

We serve this with Lemon Chicken and Cranberry Sauce.

Gerry Disney, Innkeeper
Nippersink Lodge, Mentone, Ala.

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Families Of Mentone

In 1918 a young couple, raised below Menlo near Cedar Bluff, Ala., borrowed a wagon and two mules to move to Mentone to be close to relatives. Edd and Lula Bain had been married four years and had come to live near Mrs. Bain's sisters, Mrs. Ivens.

Edd Lester Bain, born July 27, 1891, was the son of John William Bain and Amanda Cameron Bain. Lula Mae, born April 21, 1894, was the daughter of Loranza Marion Sharp and Lucindy Minerva Clift Sharp. At the first the Bains lived at the Mathis place (which Ronnie Jones has now), but finally they bought their first four acres.

With a cross-cut saw, the two of them cut the timbers for their house. They farmed and raised vegetables which they sold around Cloudland, first from a buggy, then from a car. In the '30's and '40's Daddy Bain worked for the Southern Railroad and was away from home frequently.

Anyone who knew Mama Bain even slightly knew her to be mild-mannered, quiet, and easy going. Nothing upset her; she simply went about her perfectionist ways. She handled her children with a quiet, "We don't do that," and was not easily disturbed.

Mama Bain set high standards of conduct of which she herself was the prime example. Her church came first in her life. Her apron always had one pocket for money she earned from selling flowers; that was church money. She treasured the summer people who came to her porch for vegetables, calling them her "girls."

Daddy Bain didn't believe in doctors; when he was ill, his children and grandchildren took care of him, just the way their parents and grandparents had taken care of them. He believed in rest, loving attention, little food, and a lot of liquids — not a bad regimen for any illness.

Both parents believed in old-fashioned ways, not just of morality, but in daily living. Daddy Bain resisted a pump for years, convinced it would ruin the well water. There is a story that was featured in a Chattanooga newspaper about an old black mule he had for so long that it turned snow-white.

Finally Daddy Bain knew the mule was near death so he dug its grave and tethered it nearby. The next morning when he went to check on the mule, it was lying in its grave dead.

The Bains were the subject of TV shows and several newspaper feature stories. But the part of their lives of which they were most proud was their nine children and grandchildren. They joyfully welcomed each new arrival, although one never spoke of anyone's "expecting" in their presence.

Today a surprisingly large number of these offspring are still in or near Mentone. The oldest son, J. R., lives here and has raised six children here. He worked in coal mines and for twenty years worked on the railroad. Pat lives in Missouri, Bobby in Illinois, and Evelyn enjoy nineteen grandchildren.

Homer, the second son, is deceased, as is his wife. They had two children who now live in California and in Culman. Homer was a mechanic. There are four grandchildren.

Dewey, who inherited his mother's disposition, is in Trenton. He and his wife Addie had three children and six grandchildren. Dewey worked as a shop foreman and was a chief mechanic in Chattanooga for years.

The fourth son, Dolas, is a newly retired minister. He and Della also live in Trenton and have a daughter there. Their sons live in Pennsylvania, Montgomery, and Kentucky. They have seven grandchildren.

Mama and Daddy Bain welcomed Naomi, their first daughter. She and her husband Hoyt Potts live in Chickamauga. Naomi is a hospital dietitian. The Potts have two sons and two daughters and twelve grandchildren.

Everyone in town knows the next Bain girl, Ruby Stalvey. She and Russell own and operate the Chevron station. Like her parents, Ruby likes people and makes everyone who comes in contact with her feel better. Ruby has three children; one son is here, and a son lives in Nashville and a daughter in Rossville. There are four grandchildren.

Emmet Bain works for Georgia Forestry and lives with his wife Jo in Cloudland. They have four daughters; three live here and one in Atlanta. These Bains have nine grandchildren.

The last daughter is bubbly Annie Pearl Watkins, proprietor of Grann's place. Ann has her own Elvis, now retired, and has two sons who live here and a daughter in Jacksonville, Fla. They have one grandchild.

The baby of the family is the capable Roy, who helps Ruby and Russell at the Chevron station. Roy

has six children, most of whom live in the Fort Payne area, and six grandchildren.

Mama Bain lived to be eighty-four years old; Daddy Bain was eighty-nine when he died. Understandably, they were proud of their fine family. The children were so proud of the fine example set by their parents that they put their marriage date on their tombstone — October 12, 1912 — the beginning of a fine union whose lessons and love still radiate throughout this area.

—Jean McGehee
(This is the first in a series)

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The History

The Mentone Crafts Festival has grown each year. During the first fair in 1977, twenty-six exhibitors and demonstrators participated, and almost 1,000 adults paid the \$1 entrance fee. Last summer's festival had fifty-five exhibitors and demonstrators, and the gate was almost 1,800 paid adults. So the fair nearly doubled in its first six years.

This year's seventh annual festival will include exhibitors Bill and Patricia Amos of Rome, Ga., who will show their pottery for the seventh time. Rick and Betty Chapman of Mentone have missed showing their lovely jewelry only once, and Jimmy Griggs, the bee man, has demonstrated working bees every year.

The officers in 1977 were Stanley Brown, president; secretary, Becky Steele, succeeded by Linda Brown; treasurer, Christa Brown; Vice President, Bud Ellis. There were numerous committees that first year, too.

On the 1977 finance committee were Johnnie Ellis, Eleanor Moerlins, Nancy Hunter, and Willo Blackburn. On the crafts screening committee were Millie Moerlins, Bud Ellis, Edith Lyday, Pete Moerlins. Serving on the entertainment committee were Ann Wright, Linda and Bobby Brown, Edna Crowe, Graham Glover, and Sammy Cash. Those active on the advertising and publicity committee were Doyle Benefield, Alice Woolf, Doc and Kyle Long, Ruby O'Rear, Frank Young, R. J. Suddeth, Hal Jenkins.

Also that first year on the food committee were Gail Chambers, Darlene Jones, Zora Strayhorn, Lydia Speed, Nancy Hunter, Peggy Johnson, and Vickie Overman. In charge of parking were Ovie Blalock, Dick Speed, Bob Steele, Jimmy Jones, Bob Baty, Leonard Shigley, Guy Staub, and Millie and Pete Moerlins.

By the second year of the festival, in 1978, president was Raymond Brown, vice president was Grace Howard; secretary-treasurer, Linda Brown. There were still large active committees. These officers remained the same for 1979 and 1980.

In 1978 twenty-two exhibitors and their families were served dinner by the officers and board of the festival. Roy Crowe demonstrated shingle splitting and Mrs. Lyday and her son Jimmy demonstrated quilting.

By 1979 the list of exhibitors and demonstrators had grown to thirty-three. The publicity photos for 1980 showed Lynette McCrary painting, and a booth shared by local craftspeople.

Officers for this year's festival are Linda Brown, president; Raymond Brown, vice president; Grace Howard, secretary-treasurer. Publicity is handled by Stanley Brown and Gay Godbois. These same people were in charge of the 1982 festival.

The next meeting of the festival board is on August 9 at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. All are welcome to attend and to participate in the

Local Groups

Local groups involved in the Crafts Festival include the Moonlake Baptist Women who will be selling cookbooks at site 43-A. **Home Cooking for Home Missions** includes all local recipes.

At site 44-A Bruce Bon Fleur will be selling copies of the latest **Mountain View** magazine and visitors' guide, focusing on "Entertainment and Enterprise." Bruce is immediate past president and founder of MAPA and editor/publisher of **Mountain View**.

MAPA will be selling **Groundhog** T-shirts designed by Jimmy Frazier from a sketch by Ken Pennington. This will be at site 38-C.

The Crafts Festival itself will have sun visors advertising the arts and crafts fair for sale at site 38-A.

Once again the Rhododendron Garden Club of Mentone will sell potted plants, bedding plants, dried flowers, hanging baskets, and other items pertaining to gardening at site 44.



Mable Kirk, Alice Woolf, Lydia Speed
PAGE 4

Demonstrations

Demonstrators at the 1983 Crafts Festival will include three popular Mentone residents. Maggie Cordell will display her quilting, and Mayfred Whatley will show pine needle basketry. Robert Lee, a blacksmith, will be demonstrating his craft and will also have items to sell. Jimmy Griggs, bee keeper, will be back for the seventh year with his bees and honey.



Jimmy Griggs, Bee-keeper

Food

Traditionally local church and civic organizations prepare and sell food at the Crafts Festival. This year is no exception.

Under the shelter on Saturday festival guests can look forward to barbecue plates and sandwiches served by the Mentone Churches will be serving hamburgers and hot dogs. On both days the Athletic Club of Valley Head High School will offer homemade ice cream. The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection district will serve all drinks.

At site number 38-B the United Methodist Church Women will be selling cakes, cookies, candy, and bread. They will have cookies wrapped individually on Saturday.

The Band Boosters of Valley Head High School will sell snow-cones at site 32-A.

The Statement Of Purpose

The statement of purpose for the Mentone Crafts Festival adopted in 1977 is:

"In recognition of the favorable location, the professional talent, and the local interest toward producing a community-wide arts and crafts fair, we propose that the organization of such an event be based upon the following principles and purposes.

"1: The dedication of the entire membership of the organization will be to present an arts and crafts show consisting of only the best quality works available, and the demonstration and display of the mountain craftspeople from the Mentone area.

"2: It shall be the desire of the organization to provide for and to encourage the participation of the natives of this area in the display of their crafts foremost, but not to the exclusion of those arts and craftspeople from outside the area.

"3: This organization is committed to the use of any profits from the arts and crafts fair to be used toward the improvement of the social and recreational facilities of the mountain area as decided by the executive committee and the membership.

"4: The desire of this organization shall be to work with local businesses and businessmen to encourage a more active trade in the arts and crafts, and antiques within this area.

"5: It shall be an outgoing project of this organization to work for and support efforts within the Mentone area which are in harmony with the natural beauty and the protection of the environment with which we are blessed."

Come to the

Welcome to the Seventh Annual Mentone Crafts Festival at Brow Park Saturday and Sunday, July 9 and 10. The variety of exhibitors is heightened. The quality of the entertainment is more exciting. The

Aries Gems



Rick Chapman

The Exhibitors

This year's Crafts Festival will be the biggest and best yet. Fifty-six exhibitors had signed up by the June 1st deadline. Alphabetically, these include Bill and Patricia Amos, from Rome, Ga., who show their pottery, and who have exhibited every year since 1977.

Rick and Betty Chapman, of Mentone, will display their Aries gems. They have missed only 1979, when their son's wedding conflicted with the festival weekend.

Janice Bohannon of Fort Payne has been here twice before and will have twig furniture this year. Peggy Bonine from Chattanooga is new and will show "elevated" art. S. J. Bosworth of Mentone will display ceramics for the first time.

Stained glass, lamps, and chessmen will be shown by R.H. Burquist from Chattanooga. Carole Buckley of Birmingham has been here two previous years and has the popular ceramic windchimes.

Also from Birmingham is Ann Campbell who has been here all but two years with her handwork. John Cline of Ringgold is new this year and will show pottery.

Melvo Crane of LaFayette is new this year and will display pillows and aprons. Joan Cunningham of Chattanooga is also new and has paintings and lined baskets. Joy Evans of Birmingham was here last year and will be back with her watercolors, plants, and baskets.

Shirley Fitzgerald, of Ft. Lauderdale and Mentone, will offer her paintings as she has done for the last three years.

Grace Forrest of LaFayette is new with her quilts and pillows, as is Bobbi Foster, of Jackson, Miss., who has weaving and woodworking, including animal-shaped baskets.

Hilda Gilkeson, of Summerville, will show her clay sculptures for the first time at Mentone. Marguerite Haralson of Ft. Payne will be back from last year with her calligraphy.

Mrs. Alton Hendon of Arley, Ala., is new and will have oil paintings and saw blade paintings. Frances Hinson of Ft. Payne will return (she's only missed '80 and '82) with her macrame.

Pat and Robert Holcomb from Rainsville have been here twice before with their attractive shell plaques, along with Mildred and Ralph Holcomb from Ft. Payne.

This year will see a new idea with the Mentone festival: there will be a Gallery Group of three (maybe four) artists. This will include Nancy Shelton (silk ties and hand work) and Margaret Howell (porcelain birds and china painting, jewelry) from Chattanooga and Linda Pickett from Whitwell, Tenn., with hand work.

Joyce Jackson from Summerville has been here

be Fair!

choice of food is better than ever. The entire community of Mentone has combined in cooperative spirit with the Crafts Festival committee to expand the prospects for two enjoyable days of browsing, buying, and festivity.

Monroe Crowe



Shingle-splitting

bitars

vice before with her oil painting and stitchery. Pat Jenkins from Collinsville is new and will have dolls, stitchery, and ceramics.

Roy Kennett of Valley Head will be back from last year with his woodwork. Mr. and Mrs. Alvin King of Jamden, Ala., are new and will show driftwood, silk flowers, and puppets.

June Kinnaird from Bessemer will return from last year with her ceramics. Popular Ruby Maddox from Marietta, Ga., will return with her herb and pot pourri fragrances and will be the featured speaker at the Rhododendron Garden Club meeting on Tuesday after the Crafts Festival.

Mays' Family Crafts will return from Crescent City, Fla., with pottery. Carol Montgomery of Decatur will bring ceramics.

Mentone's Glenda McSpadden and Priscilla Spillman will return with their potholders, dolls, and ceramics. Jan Parker, from Rome, Ga., is new and will display woodwork and macrame.

Vera Rinehart of Marion, Ala., will display hand-made crafts as she did for the two previous years. Wally Ruud, of Attalla, will come for the first time with small decorative wood items.

Also new this year is Priscilla Stensby from Huntsville with folk art and 3-D plaques. Carole Taylor of Chattanooga will show country calico items. O. U. Taylor from Hixson will have woodwork and potato boxes.

Returning from last year are Linda and Earl Templin from Calera with their popular dulcimers, carvings, toys, and pine needle baskets. New from Birmingham are Larry and Phyllis Tidwell with woodwork and tile painting.

Jenelle Thomas from Tuscaloosa will be back from last year with her crochet items, dolls, magnets, and children's purses. Jeanne Thompson, a painter, will come from Chattanooga for the first time.

Mrs. Nesbit Thompson, from Silver Creek, Ga., will have pillows, baby items, aprons, tatting, and place mats. Rodney and Kathy Thrash from Grove Oak, Ala., will bring woodwork including bread boxes and key holders.

Valley Head's Marie Tucker will return from last year with her popular baby items. Ronald M. Waddell of Smyrna, Ga., will show leather work. Returning from '82 is Scottie West, ceramics, from Birmingham.

Ann Webb from Trenton, a painter, is new this year, as is Eva White, from Decatur, a ceramist.

Two returning craftsmen from '82 are Harold Whitley, Fort Payne, who will have stained glass, and Worley's Leather Work from Valhermosa Springs, Ala., with leather work and wind chimes.

Wherever possible, returning artists and craftspersons have been given their previous spots.

Entertainment



Silver Creek Band

Entertainment at the seventh annual Mentone Crafts Festival will feature square dancing and clogging and a special surprise appearance of SILVER CREEK band and Royce Barry Saturday afternoon at three o'clock.

The schedule calls for a Saturday morning appearance of the youthful Dixieland Rebels, directed by Janice Smith and taught by Pam Smith, both of Cloudland. There are many Mentone children in this group of cloggers.

At eleven a.m. Saturday Lads and Lassies, directed by Brenda Dooley and Gay Godbois, will dance. This is a group of children aged five to eight, mostly from Summerville, but some from Mentone.

Following this clogging by the youngest group, the Dixieland Rebels will reappear at noon, and then square dancing will begin with the De-So-Toe Squares, caller Lane Traylor, from Fort Payne.

At one o'clock there will be clogging between square dancing by the Southland Cloggers and the Little River Cloggers.

Finally, the appearance by SILVER CREEK band will commence at 3 o'clock. They will be joined for a second show at 4:30 with Royce Barry, the popular singer who has a new single out, *A Pair of 38's*.

Members of SILVER CREEK are Al Southern, Dennis Hicks, Jimmy Blalock, Chris Roberts, and J. D. Davis. The first edition of Royce Barry's fan club publication states that Jimmy Blalock, son of Bar-

bara and Ovie Blalock of Mentone (on the Crafts Festival Board for several years and square dancers, too), plays drums and "provides the heavy dance beat bottom rhythm that the SILVER CREEK sound rides upon. Combined with the dynamic vocals Jimmy also provides, he is definitely an asset to any band and an intricate part of SILVER CREEK."

"Being self-taught, Al Southern has developed his own style of lead guitar as well as keyboards and drums. He also provides the group with the third part harmony. Dennis Hicks... can only be considered a master of the bass guitar... J. D. Davis has... outstanding capabilities with the steel guitar, and Chris Roberts plays keyboard."

Individual members of SILVER CREEK have from fifteen to twenty-two years of musical experience. Royce Barry hails from Oklahoma and has traveled all over the USA. He went to school in Louisiana and has been singing since he was six years old. He is a song writer, too, and now lives in Nashville. Two young ladies also sing with the group — Gina Davenport and Tonya Harwell. They also are from Oklahoma and now live in Nashville when they are not on the road.

The entertainment on Sunday will feature the Yankee Doodle Dandies, directed by Carol Hosmer and Deanna Garaney, at one o'clock, followed by the De-So-Toe Squares at two.

A Postmaster Who Really Cares



(Continued From Page 1)

Routinely he takes time out in his busy schedule to spend time, for instance, with a faltering elderly person in need of a sympathetic ear or a gentle suggestion.

Our postmaster is the direct opposite of the stereotype postal executive who goes through the motions of handling mail. He wants the people of Mentone to use "their post office." He is proud of its growth and wants them to be a part of its process.

Benny is a son of Arthur and Flora Goss, one of Mentone's heritage families. He attended Moon Lake Elementary and Valley Head High School. In 1969 he joined the Coast Guard, first as a seaman on a cutter and then as communications officer in such diverse places as San Francisco, Seattle, Alaska, New York, and New Orleans.

Following service in the Coast Guard he returned to school, receiving a degree in business at Northeast State and in postal management at Sneed College in Boaz.

In 1974 he met Brenda Bain, member of another of Mentone's grassroots families. She was working at Camp DeSoto at the time. They later married and have two sons — Jason, 6, and Josh, 5.

Following the retirement of Leland Cox in 1976 after 30 years of faithful service as postmaster, competitive examinations were held, and Benny Goss was chosen by the U. S. Postal Service as Mentone's postmaster.

He is a person of diverse interests, most of them centered in community concern. As a sergeant in the Alabama National Guard, he continues application of his skills in communications. This requires monthly drills and participation in summer encampments for two weeks each year.

Commander of local American Legion Post 215, he is also a member of the National Association of Postmasters. A key member of the Mentone Church of God, he is its clerk and treasurer.

His hobbies include softball, tennis, volley ball, and some camping and fishing. He coached the Championship T-Ball team at Moon Lake this year.

After a professional carpenter built the shell of his house, he completed the remainder. He has been known to trade cars, but this was a subject apparently not covered in his business training at Sneed College.

Benny coordinates the following staff: James B. Whitehead, assistant postmaster; Max Cash, Rural Free Delivery; Sherman Goss, Star Route carrier; and Ron Wheat, rural carrier relief.

Mentone's first post office was established in a store built just west of the present site of Mentone Inn. Serving as first postmaster from 1888 to 1891 was Ed Mason, son of John Mason, generally credited with founding Mentone. At first the mail was delivered by horseback, then later by wagon, up the mountain from the depot in Valley Head.

The young postmaster grinned when the *Groundhog* interviewer asked: "What did you mean in your reply to the lady's question about what had been happening? You said 'Nothing' — and that's the way we want to keep it." This was before the new post office was built and the new fire station. You weren't opposed to them, were you?"

"I am in favor of improvement," he said. "We are having to drive too far for some of the things we buy."

"What would you like most not to happen to Mentone?"

"Rapid development. Sudden growth. That's what really hurts a town. Growth is already here, whether we like it or not." He then cited statistics showing that since he has been postmaster there has been appreciable increase in box rentals, Star Route, and RFD customers.

"What do you think people mean when they say they don't want Mentone to become another Helen, Ga., or Gatlinburg?"

He answered carefully. "I'm not really sure what they mean. I've been to Helen, Ga., and I like it. I guess they don't want us to lose our friendly attitude."

"What do you like most about Mentone?"

"The fact that it's on Lookout Mountain... It's country lifestyle... It's warm, friendly people."

"You said you did not want to see rapid development. How can you draw a line on this?"

It was not an easy question to answer. Again he thought carefully. "We need more winter activity — more things like the Cloudmont Ski run. For the employment of our people we need more tourist activity. I like the summer excitement."

Obviously Benny Goss has an enthusiasm for his home town. He wants to keep intact its cordial spirit, its cooperative attitudes, its natural beauty, but through his words is an awareness that there is a tomorrow.

The post office over which he presides is a rare exercise and a true demonstration of what a community should be.

Media Still Focuses On Mentone

Perhaps never in its history has Mentone been the subject of so much attention from the media. Its heritage, environs, and recent revitalization continues to attract television producers, newspaper feature writers, and staff persons from magazines.

Most recently is the article by Jim Corbett in the June 8th edition of the *Chattanooga Times*. Entitled *Restoring A Piece of History in Alabama at the Mentone Crossroads*, it points out that Sandra Padgett was born in Chattanooga and spent part of her childhood in the East Lake Courts.

Sandra, who with her husband Ray, computer specialist with Coca Cola in Atlanta, has purchased the hotel, is quoted as saying that the Mentone Springs will never be a luxury hotel. "Its rustic character will be retained, and plumbing installed after the building was constructed will never allow private baths. But the hotel can become a meeting place for friends — a place to settle back and think. That brings out the creativity in the individual."

Local citizens are still talking about the edition of *First Thursday* on the Alabama Public Network on June 2. There was general agreement that it was masterfully done and that the five days of filming were skillfully edited by Joe Terry, producer.

Comments have been received from friends throughout the state. Not only were the interviews directed toward recent events and attitudes, but the camera work resulted in masterful shots of such locales as the DeSoto Falls, a Brow Park Sunset, and the buildings at Old Hotel Square and throughout the area.

Rhododendron Garden Club To Decorate Tourist Center

Members of the Rhododendron Garden Club of Mentone will join other garden club members of the DeKalb Federation in planting flower beds at the newly-opened tourist center on I-59 near the Ider exit. The entire area has been landscaped, but garden clubs are responsible for giving color to the beautiful center.

Mrs. Frank Kirk, outgoing president, donated periwinkle and impatiens plants for the Mentone group. Mrs. Kirk was presented a life membership in the Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs by Mrs. Helen Hill, president for 1983-85.

The June meeting took place at the Tutwiler home, with Peggy Tutwiler, Pattee Ephgrave, and Betty Stephens acting as hostesses. Some thirty ladies were present, including five visitors, and one new member, Virginia Bassage.

Mabel Kirk and Betty Chapman presented the program, a summary of the flower arranging course taken by fourteen club members in February, and taught by L. A. Smith of the Valley Head High School faculty.

Ferne Fitzgerald will be in charge of the flower booth at the Mentone Crafts Festival, and members are urged to bring easy to grow potted plants of all kinds, as well as dried arrangements. Linda Brown, new federation president, sold art and pottery booklets created by patients and printed by the corporation that runs the Ft. Payne nursing home. All proceeds will go toward purchasing patio furniture for the local center.

The July meeting will be at the Mentone Springs Hotel on Tuesday, July 12. The program will be on herbs, presented by Ruby Maddox, of Marietta, Ga., who has presided over her booth at the Crafts Festival for two years.



Mrs. Helen Hill, new president, Rhododendron Garden Club

Where To Eat In Mentone Area

For benefit of visitors, especially during the summer months, *Groundhog* presents a survey of the eating places in the Mentone area. If you are going to be here for several days, shop around and make your own judgments.

LOG CABIN RESTAURANT AND DELICATESSEN. In Mentone proper, open Tuesdays through Sundays for lunch and dinner. Superb atmosphere. Fireplace and barnwood decor. Choice entrees include country ham, country fried steak, and liver and onions. Highlighted desserts are banana pudding and fudge cake. Well known for deli sandwiches. Careful attention to take-out box orders.

THE MENTONE INN. Across from Hitching Post in Mentone. Luncheon on Mondays through Saturdays 11:30-2:30. Juicy hamburgers, salad plates, homemade pies — surprises. Mondays only from 5:30 to 7:30. Blue Plate dinners. You can call in advance to determine what is featured. This dining room is situated in one of the oldest inns in the area.

CRAGSMERE MANNA. About 2½ miles down DeSoto Parkway from Old Hotel Square. Delightful setting in historic building that originally was home of a former slave. Private dining rooms available. Country gourmet is featured, including aged ribeye steak, stuffed pork chops, and Southern fried chicken. Of note, chocolate amaretto mousse. Open Wednesdays through Sundays.

DESOTO PARK LODGE RESTAURANT. Beyond Cragmere, in the DeSoto State Park adjacent to the motel. Open daily. In comfortable rustic setting, a traditional family menu is featured. Available for private parties. Near campsites and cabins. Of special note is the Saturday and Sunday buffet breakfast. All you can eat — scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, ham, hashbrowns, grits, biscuits.

FERGUSON'S DRIVE-IN. On Highway 117 east, beyond the river and over the hill. Eat in or take out. Attached grocery. Open seven days a week. Hamburgers, cheeseburgers, steaks, seafood, chicken dinners. Of special interest are their sundaes, banana splits, and variety of ice creams. Good, fast, courteous service.

THE LOOKOUT. On Highway 117 just beyond the Georgia line. Open Tuesdays through Sundays. This thriving family restaurant has excellent prices and courteous, prompt service. Entrees include steak teriyaki, shrimp, chicken, homemade pies, and ice cream. One of the most popular features of the Lookout is its salad bar. Available for parties.

DEPOT RESTAURANT. In Valley Head, featuring mural by Mentone artist Jimmy Frazier, with decor in the style of a train station. Delicatessen-type sandwiches; special order steak dinners; conveniently situated in grocery. In winter, the Depot serves excellent chili and other soups. Quiet atmosphere.

TIGER'S INN. Just up the street in Valley Head. Open daily. This is a good place to settle in with a huge, well-endowed hamburger or other sandwich. Fast, courteous service. For an adventure to be long remembered, have a Tiger's Inn breakfast. Choose from eggs, any style; homemade biscuit; sausage, bacon, ham; grits, etc. Complete short order menu.

ROCK CASTLE CAFE. Nearer the expressway on Highway 117. Oldtimers remember the Rock Castle from years of service. Opens daily at 5:30 with an outstanding country breakfast. Lunch and evenings — plate luncheons and a wide variety of sandwiches. This is an efficiently operated cafe.

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Calendar

Sat. and Sun., July 2-3 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Knotty Knots. Arts, crafts, collectibles, flea market.

Monday, July 4 — 7 p.m. Rescue Squad meeting at American Legion Hall Annex. Larry Gray, captain.

Sat. and Sun., July 9-10 — 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mentone Arts and Crafts Festival. Brow Park.

Monday, July 11 — 6 p.m. City Council meets. Town Hall. Sam Barrett, mayor.

Tuesday, July 12 — 10 a.m. Rhododendron Garden Club meets at Mentone Springs Hotel.

Helen Hill, president.

— 7 p.m. MAPA covered dish annual meeting at Mentone Springs Hotel. Election of officers. Dues due of \$10 each. H. Bruce Bon Fleur, director.

Wednesday, July 20 — 10 a.m. Bookmobile at Town Hall.

Thursday, July 21 — 7 p.m. Volunteer Fire Dept. meeting at the Fire Hall. Sam Cash, chief.

Sat. & Sun., July 23-24 — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Knotty Knots. Arts, crafts, collectibles, flea market.

Monday, Aug. 1 — 6 p.m. City Council meets. Town Hall.

Tuesday, Aug. 2 — 7 p.m. MAPA meets. Mentone Springs Hotel. Homer Crow, director.

— 7 p.m. Rescue Squad meeting at American Legion Hall Annex.

Wednesday, Aug. 3 — 10 a.m. Bookmobile at Town Hall.

Mentone Maggie



The "Mentone Maggie" is a new vehicle around town. It was purchased from the Shriners by Dorothy Crow, Mentone resident recently retired from Dupont in Chattanooga. She is a partner with Avline Brown in "Brownie's" at the Hitching Post. "Mentone Maggie" has been painted and readied for friends and tourists to enjoy.



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DeKalb County Tourist Association News

Travelers to the 1984 World's Fair in New Orleans will receive a warm welcome to Alabama if they stop at the new welcome center on I-59. The \$2-million, 6,000 square foot center situated on 32 acres near the Ider exit was officially opened on Sunday, June 26th with many dignitaries attending the ceremony.

The World's Fair which begins next May and continues through September is expected to draw an additional 3.5 million visitors to Alabama. Mentone, get ready!

The primary event for this month is the Mentone Craft festival on July 9-10. The first week of August, a gospel singing will be featured at High Falls.

Good news for small businesses! The Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a counselling service for

small businesses in conjunction with the Jacksonville State Small Business Development Center. These workshops will begin July 26, 1983, and continue each fourth Tuesday for an indefinite period. The service is for any DeKalb County small business or anyone who wishes to start a business. The problems of finance and management will be discussed.

JSSBDC will share their resources with you; and each person will be dealt with on an individual basis. IT IS FREE. To get an appointment, call Rita Adrian, executive director of the Ft. Payne Chamber of Commerce, 845-2741.

The Chamber's regular board meeting is July 17 (Family Tree Restaurant, Best Western) at 7 a.m.

— Sandra Padgett, president DCTA

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your seventh - all
weekend long!

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