

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 4 - NO. 1 - APRIL 1986

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

A Country Druggist

Scarcely a person lives in Mentone whose life has not been touched by Lloyd M. Coleman, Valley Head pharmacist. Last Thanksgiving Doc Coleman



*Reliable,
Competent,
Dedicated*

celebrated fifty years' service to this area.

When he first arrived in Valley Head on Thanksgiving Day, 1935, there was much excitement over the traditional Valley Head — Fort Payne football game. Valley Head was a busy place.

During the late '20's and early '30's Valley Head was well known as a trading center. Travelling salesmen for wholesale groceries made the town their base. Goods came in and were hauled out by freight. In addition, crossties for the railroad were cut from both Sand Mountain and Lookout and sold in Valley Head.

Doc Coleman remembers that there were no paved streets the day of his arrival. Wagons were busy hauling goods. When it rained, there were deep ruts and very muddy roads. Eventually roads were cherted, then paved.

Coleman was born in Edison, Georgia. He was a 1931 graduate of the Southern College of Pharmacy in Atlanta. For two years he worked in a drug store in Buchanan, Georgia, then for about seven months worked with his friend Lee Garrett in Rockmart, Georgia.

Garrett's friend S. E. Crow from Chattanooga had briefly opened a drug store in the old bank building in Valley Head, site of the present pharmacy. However, Valley Head was not to Mr. and Mrs. Crow's liking, and they retired to Chattanooga. Garrett and Coleman talked of coming to Valley Head.

The day before Thanksgiving 1935 Garrett came into the Rockmart store. "Shorty," he said, "You go on alone to Valley Head. If you like it there and work hard, I believe you can make enough to eat — if you stay single."

Luckily for this area, Coleman liked what he saw.

(Continued On Page 6)

Scenic Parkway Dedicated May 17 Page 1
Area Camps Formally Organize Page 7

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James Johnson Named To Council Vacancy

At the April 7 meeting of the Town Council, James Johnson was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Councilman Lee Davenport. Mayor Rob Hammond nominated Jean McGehee; Councilman Max Cash nominated Mr. Johnson. Councilmen Cash, Hobson Kirby, Richard Meadows, and William Russell voted for Mr. Johnson.

Prior to his retirement in 1985, the new councilman was executive vice president and general manager of the Farmers Telephone Cooperative in Fort Payne. Previously he was a public accountant. He and Mrs. Johnson, the former Betty Jo Jones, have lived in Mentone since 1947. They are parents of a son, J. Frederick Johnson, CPA with the Sand Mountain Cooperative in Rainsville, and a daughter, Betty Sue Rickman, elementary school principal in Clemson, S. C.

In other business the council voted to increase town clerk Catherine Bailey's salary by \$50 a month. The mayor announced that only \$600 is owed on the water grant. Councilmen have asked the county to pave the road between the Post Office and the telephone company building, a strip along Cutler Avenue, and across from the new hardware store building.

Mayor Hammond reminded councilmen that if the proposed new bush hog purchase exceeds \$3,000, bids will have to be secured. Mrs. Bailey stated that four businessmen in town have still not paid their business privilege licenses.

Visitors present were MAPA Director Amelia Brooks, State Ethics Commissioner and Mrs. Melvin Cooper, Ray Froehler, Betty Harris, and Angelo Rosario. Mrs. Brooks requested aid from the council to help defray the cost of the second printing of the Mentone brochures. The Mentone Area Preservation Association developed the brochures during the Centennial. Cost for the second printing will be \$3,600. Mrs. Bailey stated that she gets requests regularly for information about the town and mails out the brochures. Councilmen voted \$100. There was discussion about the proposed restoration of the rock wall along 117, but councilmen will delay voting on Mrs. Brooks' request for funds to support the project until the May council meeting. The meeting was adjourned after 45 minutes.

Rhododendron Festival Weekend Of May 17-18

The hills will be alive with the sights and sounds of spring as the 1986 Rhododendron Festival is held on the weekend of May 17-18. Events include a parade, arts and crafts, beauty pageant, clogging, variety of food, and various other activities. Efforts are being made to arrange boat rides again up Little River from the falls.

Events begin Saturday at 10 a.m., with emcee Tony Goggans announcing the events, praising local merchants, and providing joyous music, with the assistance of Susan Bolding and Terry Hutcheson.

At various points of Old Hotel Square arts and crafts booths will be set up. Food of various kinds will be available.

The Rhododendron beauty queens will be chosen at the beauty pageant at the Mentone Springs Hotel Saturday evening at 7:30, with Walter Sumner as master of ceremonies.

Sunday's events begin at 12 noon, again with arts and crafts and food. Tony Goggan's music again will be center stage at Old Hotel Square.

The parade, coordinated by Angelo Rosario and his assistant Guy McCarty begins at 2 p.m. Grand Marshal for the parade will be Judge Paul Thomas. At 4 p.m. drawing will be held for the king sized quilt, a double wedding ring pattern in shades of lavender and white. Four hundred chances are being sold. The quilting work has been coordinated by Maggie Cordell, assisted by Bernise Crow and Stella Crowe.

The Rhododendron Festival committee is chaired by Donna Buckley, with Bill Riedesel as assistant. Other members are Jane Blansit, Harrell Jenkins, Homer Crow, Angelo Rosario, Shurlee Froehler, Walter Sumner, Randy Still, Grace Howard, Ray Froehler, and Sandra Padgett.

The beauty contest has special attraction this year. The winner receives a 2-year art scholarship to Northeast Alabama Junior College.

Scenic Parkway Opens Here

A major and historic celebration will be held at Mentone on May 17 when ribbon cutting ceremonies and the driving in the ground of a golden spike will occur, commemorating the completion of the three-state Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway. As a major event on Saturday of the 1986 Rhododendron Festival, two motor caravans will converge — one from Noccalula Falls, Gadsden, another bearing observers from Georgia and Tennessee which will depart from Point Lookout, Chattanooga.

The caravans should meet at Old Hotel Square at 11:30 May 17, Saturday, at which time leading political candidates are expected to participate.

Identification signs and a brochure will be completed for the celebration — with the states of Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee sharing expenses and coordination. President Billy McDow says the signs are uniform, 12 by 20, of aluminum and will be uniform for the entire route.

At a meeting of the coordinating committee at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain April 7, Steve Spears of Gadsden displayed a layout of the brochure. It reads: "VISIT THREE STATES ON THE LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN SCENIC PARKWAY . . . THE MOST SCENIC 100 MILES IN AMERICA." Printing costs of the first printing of 25,000 brochures will be shared by the three states.

At a March meeting of the DeKalb County Commission \$150,000 of resurfacing funds was appropriated for placing of signs at all county bridges and emphasizing tourist attractions along the Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway. It was explained to the commission that the Parkway offers an alternative route to the interstate highways, promoting tourism. The county engineer said: "It's hoped the Lookout Mountain Parkway can become as popular an attraction as the Blue Ridge Parkway."

Mentone's interest in the Parkway goes back to 1925 when Colonel Milford Howard held a planning session at Hal Howe's Hotel (now the Mentone Inn). He had charted a route from Gadsden to Mentone, hoping someday to extend it atop the mountain to Chattanooga. Mentone's Frank Kirk, father of MAPA Director Amelia Brooks, aided in surveying the route. Because of lack of funds, the project was abandoned.

Bernise Crow is secretary of the Parkway committee.

Momentum Underway

Willie Nelson, who has bought property north of Mentone, will be a participant at the Alabama's June Jam 1986. Other celebrities are Waylon Jennings and Charlie Daniels.

Randy Owen, Jeff Cook, Teddy Gentry, and Mark Herndon hope to exceed 80,000 for this event which produced charitable funds of \$347,000 for 220 organizations.

Advance tickets for the June 14 gala are \$15, available at the Alabama Fan Club in Fort Payne.

Mentone is one of the stops on the bus tours arranged by the DeKalb Tourist Association for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the Jam weekend. From the pickup site at the Alabama Fan Club and Museum, the tour moves to the Opera House and Depot, the WQRX building, Old Hotel Square at Mentone for a rest stop, then down Lookout Parkway past Cook Sound Studio, Randy Owens' home, Teddy Gentry and Randy Owens' farms and barns, Little River Canyon, and back to the Fan Club.

Mentone Area Camps Form Permanent Group



Marty Griffin, Polly Cameron, Nancy Jones, Paula Koos, Sue Henry, Susan Hooks, John Espy, Glenn Miller, Dick O'Ferrall, Rob Hammond.

In its organizational meeting at Lookout Restaurant on April 3 the Lookout Mountain Camping Association elected as president Dick O'Ferrall of Camp Alpine. Other officers are Sue Henry (Camp DeSoto), vice-president; and Marty Griffin (Saddle Rock), secretary-treasurer.

President O'Ferrall outlined the objectives of the new association as follows: to preserve and protect the natural resources and environment of Lookout Mountain; interpret the values of camping to the public; further standards of health and safety in organized camping; stimulate high professional standards among camping leaders; promote Lookout Mountain as a vital center for children's camping; provide opportunities for fellowship and the exchange of experience among camping professionals; and to support selected community projects. Objectives will be voted on in September.

The following committees were appointed to investigate various interests of the group: Nancy Jones, directional signs to the camps; Marty Griffin, business memberships; Susan Hooks, special programs to be offered this spring; Rob Hammond, obtaining non-profit status for the association.

A post office box is being acquired in Mentone and an account opened at Citizens Bank in Valley Head. Lori Honig submitted a logo for the stationery to be printed. Membership dues were set at \$100 per camp, \$50 for a business and \$10 for an associate member.

In addition to officers O'Ferrall, Henry, and Griffin, those present were Polly Cameron, Rob Hammond, Lori Honig, Betsy Chandler, Glenn Miller, John Espy, Paula Koos, Nancy Jones, Barbara Clark, Susan Hooks, Olive Jones, and Don Guin.

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 29, at 5:30 at Lookout Restaurant.

May MAPA Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association will be on May 6 at 7 p.m. in the St. Joseph-on-the-Mountain parlor. It will be a business and planning session, concentrating on the Rhododendron Festival. Director Amelia Kirk Brooks will preside. Refreshments follow. Everyone welcome.

Rock Wall Restoration April '86



Roy Crowe, shown above, is the only surviving rock mason from the crew which built the wall along 117 from Tutwiler Gap to the top of the mountain.

During the years 1927-8 Wallace Hartline and Nick Davenport contracted with the state to build a new road from Mentone to Valley Head. The original specifications included a post and cable edge to the highway. However,



A principal project of the Mentone Area Preservation Association is the rock wall restoration. On Friday, March 21, Senator Lowell Barron came to Mentone to present a letter of commitment for \$2,500 from the Alabama Historical Commission to be used toward restoration of the rock wall alongside Highway 117 down the mountain. Shown above are from left to right: Larry Oaks, director of the Historic Commission; Homer Crow, former MAPA director who is coordinating the project; Amelia Kirk Brooks, MAPA director; Senator Lowell Barron; and MAPA member Sammy Cash who has been instrumental in promoting the project.

Mentone citizens wanted a rock wall built along the upper portion of the road leading into town. Since the latter could be built at about the same price as the post and cable edging, the state officials agreed to its being built instead.

Lee Crow was the rock mason in charge of building (Continued On Page 4)

MAPA Minutes

The April 8 MAPA meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Amelia Brooks, director, after a covered dish dinner. The minutes were read and corrected. Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$4,628.52; Groundhog balance was \$800.97. The cost of Zora Strayhorn's history will be \$3,500.00. Ways of financing it were discussed.

Amelia reported on the idea of selling corn on the cob at the June Jam. Members voted to go ahead with the plan. A check for \$2,500 has been received toward the 117 wall rebuilding project. Bernice Crow reported on the Lookout Mt. Parkway project (See story elsewhere). Donna Bukley reported on the Rhododendron Festival plans (See story elsewhere). All meetings in the future will be held in St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Church. We are to pay \$25 a month for use of space, etc.

MAPA members presented the McGeehes with figurines of a groundhog and a beaver, created by Maggie Cordell, and with a hemlock tree. Director Brooks said, "MAPA appreciates you as well as do all the people who read **THE GROUNDHOG**." — Condensed from the minutes of Bill Riedesel, Sec't.

Groundhog Finance Report March Issue

Income	
Balance on hand	\$549.19
Ad Sales	1220.00
Donations, Crows' Nest	23.65
Debits	\$1792.84
The Summerville News Co.	\$440.42
U. S. Post Office	73.45
Greg Purvis, reporting	15.00
Donna Bukley, sales and delivery	213.00
McGeehes, expenses	100.00
Ad refund	30.00
Bookkeeping error	120.00
	\$991.87
Balance on hand	\$800.97

State Ethics Director

Melvin Cooper, director of the Alabama Ethics Commission, spoke at the anniversary dinner meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Church April 8. Cooper received the Outstanding Public Administrator of the Year award in 1983 and a Common Cause national public service award.

For twelve years, Alabama has had an ethics law, "making honest people out of politicians." From 1968-73, "Alabama had its own Watergate, with some 44 county officials being indicted, the state docks commissioner, finance director, a large city's attorney general, and so on. The bill, Senate Bill 1, was passed and signed by Governor Wallace before anyone realized what was happening."

Alabama was the sixth state to enact an ethics law, and officials from all over the country have come to study the commission. Each year some 55,000 statements of economic interest are filed to the commission. The statements, required of all public officials in the state, include a financial disclosure; warnings about accepting bribes; using confidential information for profit; and "the heart of the law," standards of conduct stating that no official can use his position for financial gain for himself or for any member of his family. In addition, the bill registers and regulates some 450 lobbyists to the state legislature.

Contributions Needed For Community Project

Two of the current projects of the Mentone Area Preservation Association are the reprinting of 50,000 brochures first printed during the Centennial celebrations last year, and the repairing of the rock wall along highway 117 up the mountain from the valley.

The brochures will benefit the entire community. They are at the Welcome Center, places of business, at Town Hall and describe the history, natural beauty, shops, recreational opportunities including the summer camps, restaurants, and overnight accommodations. The Rhododendron Festival, Crafts Festival, Fall Colorfest, and Christmas celebrations are also featured.

Although a grant of \$2,500 has been received toward reconstruction of the rock wall and some of the brochure expense will be borne by the state, MAPA will eagerly accept donations from merchants and private citizens to help defray the cost of these worthwhile projects.

Financial gifts to both these projects are tax-deductible. Send checks to MAPA, Box 50, Mentone, Alabama 35964.

Letter To Editor

I grew up on "The Mountain." I remember and identify with many of the happenings back to the '20s. WW II took me away and I never got settled back there. I walked the covered bridge to Moon Lake School in the first grade. I talked to the Sproul's parrot. I ate ice cream from the old soda fountain.

My mother still lives in Mentone. She taught school for many years at Moon Lake and Valley Head. Hundreds of her pupils still live in the area. She did quilts and crafts after she retired. A stroke robbed her of these activities several years ago. We never seem to have enough time in Mentone. By the time we clean house and do a little work it is time to move on. One of these days we are going to stay long enough to get reacquainted.

Sincerely,
Jim Lyday
Cincinnati, Ohio

The Groundhog

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Homer Crow, Past Director
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Brow Briefs

Sometimes when you hear that lonesome sound of a steam engine down in the valley do you wish you could take a trip up the valley in the style many of us did when we were young? It's now possible. There are occasional excursions from track 10 of the former Terminal Station in Birmingham to Chattanooga's Choo Choo shopping area and the old Freight Depot. The excursion is pulled by the veteran steam engine built by Norfolk and Western Railroad in 1950. For information, write Steam Excursion, P. O. Box 254, Birmingham, Alabama. Phone 1-252-2716.

Bobby Lee Cook, weekend and summer resident, is making headlines these days in an attempt to secure a new trial for Wayne Williams, convicted of the Atlanta child murders case. James Baldwin recently wrote a book about this case, "Evidence of Things Not Seen."

Martha Kirby recently won a serger as door prize at the Fort Payne Sew-A-Rama.

Shala Barron recently went on an eight-day tour of Europe with several other Fort Payne High School students. Places visited were The London Tower; Oxford and Stratford, home of Shakespeare; the palace of Versailles, Mount St. Michael, and the Louvre in Paris.

George Huie, III has been offered a music tuition scholarship to attend Shorter College in Rome, GA. While at Shorter he will work toward the degree Bachelor of Music Education with piano as his major instrument. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Huie of 267 De Soto Parkway, Route 1, Mentone, AL.

The final chapter of Zora Strayhorn's history of Mentone erroneously read that Alexander Glover had inherited the structure from Eleanor Glover and John Glover. It was an editing error that should have read "Eleanor Graham Glover and John Graham."

Congratulations to Valley Head coach Steve King for being elected DeKalb County Coach of the Year for 1986. King has brought Valley Head fame and success this year. He intends to do another great job next year, also.

Thanks to MAPA for cleaning up the triangle flower bed by the Superette and to Postmaster and Mrs. Benny Goss for sprucing up around the Post Office.

At one of the first meetings of the committee for development of the Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway, September 17 at DeSoto State Park, Mentone's Brenda Fuller and Park Ranger Larry Steeler met. At the April 7 meeting, announcement was made of their marriage two weeks previously. When the ribbon cutting of the Parkway is held at Mentone on May 17 they will have additional cause for celebration.

Maybelle Cox celebrated her 89th birthday April 7 by going fishing at Weiss Lake with her son Leland, former Mentone postmaster. And, yes, she caught a fish.

Landmarks Features

Mentone's Ralph Wescott Libby, whose daughters Mary Louise Crow and Marjorie Gray still live in town, is featured in an article in the Winter-Spring issue of **Landmarks**. There also is an excellent feature on the Cassidy Brothers. Written by Jim and June Cassidy Rotch, it deals with the lives of Woodrow and Carl Cassidy, both over 80, who still entertain with their banjos on special occasions at the White Elephant Galleries. In announcing funding for the Fort Payne Depot, Senator Lowell Barron writes: "All DeKalb County and the state can be proud of the outstanding job currently being done in historic preservation in Fort Payne and the Mentone Area."

Another **Landmarks** features A. A. Miller, father of Mrs. Isabelle McSpadden. He built the DeSoto Falls dam and owned one of the first automobiles in this area. Congratulations to James Kuykendall and the others in producing another excellent publication. If you're not already a member of **Landmarks**, send a check for \$10 to **LANDMARKS**, P. O. Box 518, Fort Payne, Alabama 35967.

If you have a friend or relative you would like to have listed in **Who Was Who in DeKalb County**, pick up a form at The Hitching Post. The person does not have to have been famous or a public figure to qualify.

Mountain Watch

By Charles White McGeehee

This is being written on the Ides of March. I'm not quite certain of the significance. It has something to do with the way the Roman calendar was calculated, and Brutus' warning to Caesar to "Beware of the Ides of March." By the time you read this the April **GROUNDHOG** will be in the mail. Yesterday at The Summerville News as we were reading proof, one of the printers said, "Wonder if the martins will come to the gourd tomorrow? That will mean winter is over." It bothered me a little that the martins are invading the territory of our beloved groundhog.

So today is the 15th. The sun is shining and the martins most likely returned to the gourd. Perhaps Sharon Barron can do something with that in her Gourd family. Jean and I went to the valley. Had breakfast at the Rock Castle. Went over to Skippy Mathis' place and selected two crosssties for our yard. He'll deliver them tomorrow. On the way back up the mountains we saw a cardinal in one of the redbud trees. They're bursting forth.

Some people have already ploughed ground for their gardens. The worry is that a hard freeze will come and do damage to the plants that are already blossoming. With our roto-tiller Scott Holleman has done a superb job of tilling our entire yard, almost an acre, and planted fescue seed. We chose days between freezes to do this work. On the lower section the grass is already greening its way through the straw that Jean spread over the soil.

Here it is, the Ides of March. What are some of the things I'm looking forward to? First and foremost is the return of my chess and conversation partner Doc Long from St. Maartens in the Caribbean. Friday afternoons will be the scene of hearty competition. There's also the expectation of Cable-TV in Mentone, better picture on the TV, more variety in programming. More and more of us are enjoying VCR's — catching up on movies we have missed. They say people are buying them faster than they did TV sets at this stage of their development. Before long the summer people will be returning and the joyous sounds of the kids at the camps.

With winter almost gone, the TVA is to be commended for no major power failures and the town council for no water cutoffs. All of us are to be congratulated for surviving another winter.

Jean looked over my shoulder and said, "That's interesting but it'll be dead when the next issue comes to press." As of now, my train of thought will just continue. This judgment will be made when we begin sorting out the stacks of copy from which the April edition will be fashioned.

We constantly strive to keep **THE GROUNDHOG** relevant to Mentone. Writing fees cannot be paid, but sketches about Mentone or its people are welcome, providing they fit the requirements of space and general editorial style. We get a lot of poetry. These are the measurements about poetry. They must be about Mentone and must not be religious. Perhaps all good poetry is religious. But the tendency of the religious poetry submitted to us is to be voluminous and doctrinal. We could never possibly print it all. So we draw the line. Sorry.

So, this ode to the Ides of March. Perhaps it should be retitled The Ides of April.

March 20: They're telling us that tomorrow night the temperature will drop to the low 20's. Today we saw our pileated woodpeckers, known in this area as Indian Heads. They live in our vacant lot, scrounging gracefully for choice insects in rotting pines.

March 22: Paid a visit to the Hitching Post, spent time browsing in the musty books at the Crow's Nest back room. Had a delightful chat with Darlene Clifton Keith at her Nightingale Art Works shop. She's doing some of the finest pottery in the area — glazes of deep soft colors. She and her husband came to Mentone a year or so ago, are building their house step by step with their own hands. He wants to write full-time; she is serious about her pottery. They are the kind of people who give creative depth to Mentone.

In "Walden" Thoreau bemoaned that so few people build their own houses. Did you know that when Thoreau built his famous cabin at Walden Pond, he dug the cellar "on the side of a hill sloping on the south, where a woodchuck (groundhog) had formerly dug his burrow, down through sumach and blackberry roots . . . six feet square by seven deep, in a fine sand where potatoes would not freeze in winter."

March 24: Finished reading a book about the Kennedys, a sort of gossip narrative by Judith Campbell Exner. I'd literally been looking for it for at least three years. The Chattanooga and Birmingham libraries and many used book stores were unsuccessful. It was tracked down through the Huntsville inter-library service by Rachel Manning of the Fort Payne Library. She is operating a superb library, always courteous and efficient.

March 31: On this last day of March there has been no rain for 13 days. Woodlands are dangerously dry. Fire alerts prevail across north Alabama. Any April showers will be merciful. Despite the dryness Easter was a glorious day as we drove to our church in Chattanooga. As we returned up the mountain, redbuds were in full color, now challenged by dogwood — white bursts at the lower level, thinner at the brow where temperatures have been colder. Today, literally from hour to hour, the two huge dogwood trees grow whiter. Tomorrow begins our concentrated week preparing **THE GROUNDHOG**. We strive not to spread the editing over the entire month.

April 2: In the ecstasy of spring we took a late-afternoon drive, around and downward from the water tanks, to Taylor's Ford, through Old Hotel Square, back around Brow Park. It's sad to relate that there are some very unsightly areas where timber has been cut and the debris not cleared; much too much litter at the roadsides, beer cans in this dry county, cartons, and bottles. Taylor's Ford is almost impassable.

Julius Caesar was warned to beware of the Ides of March. On this Ides of April, perhaps we lovers of Mentone, so interested in its preservation and future, should beware less of it becoming a gaudy Gatlinburg, and more of the possibility of it expanding into an unsightly litter-infested disgrace.

Royal Tour



Rep. Tom Beville (AL) (left) congratulates Rick Chapman on receiving NHSC's Outstanding Home Study Graduate Award.

Rick Chapman was one of twelve finalists chosen from over 3,000,000 home study students in this country and abroad for a three day trip to Washington, D. C., with his wife Betty. The honor was sponsored by the National Home Study Council, composed of 91 accredited home study schools and by the Gemological Institute of America.

A World War II bomber pilot, Rick was stricken with cancer in his mid 30's. He retired from his career in the packaging industry and began a new career as a gemologist. He has taken all of the courses offered by the Gemological Institute in Santa Monica, California, and was chosen honor graduate of the year.

The all expenses paid trip for the couple included a Congressional reception February 26, meetings with Senator Jeremiah Denton, Senator Howell Heflin, and Representative Tom Beville, a two hour meeting with the curator of the Smithsonian Institute discussing gems and minerals, the Air Space Museum, dinner at the Washington Navy Officers Club, and a personal tour of the White House.

On the morning of their last day in the capital, it was snowing heavily when a cab driver let them out at the wrong entrance to the White House. Rick convinced the Secret Service men to admit them to their booth, where Rick and Betty were frisked and questioned. Finally, two of the officials took them into the kitchen entrance and thence onto the President's private elevator. They glimpsed the regular public tourists while they were enjoying their private tour.

Other highlights included partaking of the famous Senate bean soup and delivering a personal message to Mentone attorney John Cooper's old school chum Senator Heflin.

Rick organized and served as first president of the DeSoto Gem and Mineral Club. He and Betty have a retail gem and jewelry business in their home.

Mentone Crafts Festival Planning Underway

Plans are underway for the Mentone Crafts Festival '86, to be held at Brow Park July 5 and 6. Officers for the festival are Linda Brown, president; Sunny Mays, vice president; Barbara Blalock, secretary; and Richard Meadows, treasurer.

Once again, the Rhododendron Garden Club has been asked to be responsible for the entrance gates. Club members will also have their traditional plant booth. Sunny Mays is in charge of advertising and publicity.

The Church of God will host the food booth on Saturday, and on Sunday the Valley Promenaders will serve food. The local fire department will have its usual drinks trailer.

Entertainment will be provided by the DeSoto Squares and the Valley Promenaders. There will be clogging both days by the Country Creek Cloggers and the Little River cloggers, as well as other groups.

Luke Lucas and H. P. Goss will resume their security duties, and father of Little League baseball teams will handle the parking arrangements. United Methodist Church women will have a bake sale. Bobby Brown is in charge of electrical hook-ups. Barbara Blalock is assigning booths to exhibitors and demonstrators.

This year's tenth festival plans to be even bigger and better than that of 1985, which had some seventy-five booths. The next meeting of the festival committee is at 7 p.m. Monday, May 12. All interested citizens are invited to attend.

St. Jude Bike-a-thon Scheduled For April 26

There will be a Bike-a-Thon for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital April 26, at 9 a.m., starting at the Valley Head School. The route will cover two miles. Children from ages 9 to 15 are especially urged to enter the bike ride. Anyone from this area is eligible.

Sponsors arranged by the riders donate sums for each mile completed. Any contributions are most welcome, according to Nancy Rutledge, chairman. St. Jude in Memphis is the largest cancer research hospital for children in this country. The Bike-a-Thons are to raise money to help defray expenses of those parents who cannot afford treatment for their children at St. Jude. Further information may be obtained by phoning Mrs. Rutledge at 634-4837.



Moon Lake School News

Pre-Registration

Moon Lake Elementary pre-registration will occur Friday, April 23, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. Children must be 5 years of age before October 1st to be eligible for kindergarten. Parents should bring a Blue Certificate on Immunization from the Health Department and a birth certificate. All children who did not attend kindergarten or first grade will need to register.



Above photo shows signs of progress with the Moon Lake Elementary School Gym. Following completion of the pad, chert has been hauled in preparatory to pouring the concrete slab. Steel girders have been delivered. Work is being done by Wilkins Construction Company, Rainsville. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to Moon Lake Gym Fund, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

Perfect Attendance

Principal Charles O. Bell at Moon Lake School congratulates the fifth grade for having the best attendance through the first six months of the school year. Those students having perfect attendance for six months are Kindergarten, Grace Godbois, teacher: Teri Campbell, Ryan Drake, Brad Hale, and Haley Hilliard.

Grades 1 and 2, Brenda Bobo, teacher: Amy Crane, Ginger Gray, Cassidy Hudgins, Heather Jackson, Nikki

Smith, and Brandon Taylor.

Grades 2 and 3, William Berry, teacher: Crystal Bettis, Nichole Cash, Jennifer Hale, Cheri Keith, Eric King, Chris Smith, Cyle Springman.

Grades 4 and 5, Joyce Smith, teacher: Michael Flannigan, Bridgett Blalock, Duane Blalock, Junior Smith, Sally Sharp, Kip Taylor, Carla King, Whitney Smith, Kelly Johnson and Stacie Worthey.

Grades 5 and 6, Charles O. Bell, teacher: Shannon Blalock, Sam Whitley, Clay Green, Ivy Godbois, Allison Kirby, Spring Wimberly, Tiffany Coots, Dewayne Cash, Clark Smith, and Chris Stallings.

Those students having perfect attendance for five months include for Kindergarten, Rene Brendle, Starla Crowe, and Grant Meadows. Mrs. Bobo's class, Curt Miller, Brian Smith, and Chris O. Smith. Mr. Berry's class, Jon Baggett, Josh Goss, Terry Durham, Lyndall Elkins, Josh Godbois, Jason Goss, and Joseph Lee. Mrs. Smith's class, Melissa Worthey and April Langston. Mr. Bell's class, Marian Crane, Jeff Crow, and Jennifer Furgerson.

Perfect attendance for four months: Mandi Browder, Lee Worthey, Shaunathan Bell, Timmy Brown, Shirley Collins, Lisa Drake, Jeff Hopper, Matthew Kilgore, Nicky Langston, Matthew Smith, Darrin Smith, Charlton Bell, Nathan Baggett, Richard Harrison.

Perfect attendance for three months: Angela Hunt, Corey Ingram, Jeremy Hope, Kevin Worthey, Vanessa Helms.

Perfect attendance for two months: Chris Helms, Toby Manifold. For one month: Michael Shandruk.

Junior Parade Coordinator



Guy McCarty, junior at Valley Head High School, is assisting parade coordinator Angelo Rosario in organizing the parade for the Rhododendron Festival Sunday, May 18, at 2 p.m. Guy, son of William and Arlene McCarty, was a member of the football team at Valley Head and is interested in video cassette filming. He is coordinating the marching band, Boy Scouts, and other youth participation.

"Investment In Living" \$3 Million In Camping

Mentone area camps are prominently featured in an article by Joanna C. Hutt in the April issue of ALABAMA Magazine. Marty Griffin, whose Saddle Rock Camp is shown on the cover photo, is quoted as saying, "Camp is an investment in living."

DeKalb County, the article states, has the largest concentration of resident camps in the nation. County Health Department Director Jim Russell calls "camping in our county a \$3-million summer industry, with thousands of kids camping on thousands of acres devoted to camps of all kinds."

American Legion

The Mentone chapter of the American Legion will host a fish supper April 25. The supper will cost \$3.50 per plate, and the American Legion cooks will start serving at 4:00 p.m. Guests are welcome at the Fire Hall.

Red Cross First Aid

The American Red Cross hosted a basic first-aid course at the Mentone Legion Hall for all Rescue Squad members on April 1 and 3. The six-hour course included first-aid for bleeding, shock, heart attacks, broken bones, heat stroke, frost bite, and the basics of CPR. Attending from DeSoto Rescue Squad were Pless Cox, Desmond Disney, Therese Cox, Raymond Brown, David Mays, Linda Biddle, Frank Purvis, Paul Purvis and Greg Purvis. Also attending were Anita Flynn and Brenda Blansit. The course was taught by Judy Brewer and Gerry Ellis. All of the members passed and will receive a certificate of merit.

Fire Department Busy

The Mentone area fire department has had a busy month fighting grass and woods fires scattered about the area caused mostly by the dry weather. A period of rain is expected for late April, which will dampen the climate. The fire period is then expected to end.

Plants For Sale

L. A. Smith, agri-business teacher at Valley Head High School, announces that his students now have their greenhouse plants ready for sale at any time during the school day. A special feature this year will be trays of 36 bedding plants, such as petunias and marigolds, for \$5 and \$6. Hanging baskets of impatiens, begonia, transcendentia, or ferns are available for \$4 to \$6.

Attention, Summer People

For \$5.50 a month or for weekly rates that can be secured by calling Downer's, 635-6379, summer residents may arrange for garbage pickup. It is possible to take garbage to Downer's where 117 crosses 11 in Hammondville. Some weekend visitors simply take their garbage back home with them. Please do not leave your garbage along our roads or in our parks.

Our Town Featured

Mentone was featured in the March 31 DeKalb County Sesquicentennial edition of *The Gadsden Times*. In addition to an ad purchased by the Town Council, there were photographs of the Mentone Springs Hotel, the old Alpine covered bridge, and a feature article in which Mayor Rob Hammond points with pride to the renovated water system, the natural beauty of the area, and "a rebirth of business in the Old Hotel Square." Also there is an article about Mentone's summer camps which it cites as the greatest summer camp collection in any county in the U. S.

History Corrections

In reading the various chapters of MENTONE, ALABAMA: A History, as it has appeared in THE GROUNDHOG for the past year did you notice any dates or names that required correction? As plans for publication of Zora Strayhorn's history in book form move along, every effort is being made to correct any possible errors. Please send corrections to MAPA, Box 40, Mentone, Alabama.

Rock Wall Restoration

(Continued From Page 1)

the wall. Most of those assisting were Dave Ledbetter, Jim Cohen, Jack Jones, brothers King and John Magnuson, and brothers Joe and Roy Crowe.

Roy, son of Lum and Alice Keith Crow, was born and brought up across Little River from the present Cloudmont ski slope. He lived on his parents' 160 acres until he was married. Related to most of the Crow and Crowe families at Mentone, he changed the spelling of his name to add the "e" at the request of his children.

He can remember when his father used a yoke of oxen, Tom and Jerry, for hauling purposes. Today, Ray Blalock and Luke King are his only childhood boy friends remaining, together with "the Shigley girls," Ruby Daniel and her sisters.

Roy Crowe helped to build most of the familiar structures around Mentone. In 1924 he helped to build the bottom part of the dam above DeSoto Falls. He recalls that the dam was twice raised. He also worked on the rock columns of the Hitching Post and of the Mentone Inn. The rock chimney in St. Joseph's central cabin is some of his work. His first job was in 1919 in his fifteenth year when he washed dishes in the Mentone Springs Hotel. Later he helped to build a fifty-person dormitory behind the hotel.

Although he still refers to Mentone as his home, Roy Crowe has lived in Henagar for most of his life. His grandfather Tobe was a Baptist preacher on Sand Mountain. His first wife, Edna Blalock (Ray Blalock's sister) is now deceased. He and his present wife Annie are still active, growing a garden and putting up their vegetables each year. Mr. Crowe builds lawn and porch furniture "just to keep busy." His daughter Lucille lives in Washington, D. C.; his son Curtis was drowned several years ago but left two children and three grandchildren. For twenty-three years Roy Crowe drove a bus for the Chattanooga Bus Company, retiring in 1966.

He credits his mental alertness and physical fitness perhaps to his never having used tobacco or drunk alcohol. For forty years he has not touched coffee.

When the original rock wall was being built, Mr. Crowe was out for a month, having his appendix removed. The rock masons worked while the road was being cherted. Work was begun at the lower end, just past the present reconstructed slide area. A young Hammond boy from Valley Head was killed one day when his truck, hauling chert, turned into the new rock wall.

Will Roy Crowe do any rock work on the wall fifty-nine years later when it is to be repaired? "I might do some over-seeing or lay a stone or so," he said. "Who knows? I might have laid this very rock I'm sitting on now," he said as he sat for his picture shown above.

April Portrait



It seems that with the dawn of April, cold weather has finally left the mountain. Spring is coming quickly behind, and with it comes one of the most popular festivals Mentone has to offer, the Rhododendron Festival. The dogwoods and wild flowers are beginning to bloom; the mountain is coming alive again after months of snow, ice and rain.

This time of year is a special time to hundreds of tourists from around the country and, yes, from around the world. People look forward to visiting our community, and it is up to us to give them something to remember. While Mentone is blessed with a great variety of activities to attract tourists such as Cloudmont, DeSoto Park, and the camps, the Rhododendron Festival benefits the entire community of Mentone. Local merchants, restaurants, and shops all thrive during the festivals Mentone hosts throughout the year.

Try to remember to keep up the respect and long-standing courtesy we have been noted before this year. Make our guests, not just at the Rhododendron Festival, but guests of Mentone anytime, feel welcome and secure. These small efforts on our part have put Mentone on the map more than once, and each little thing we do boosts Mentone into a better economic position.

— Greg Purvis, **GROUNDHOG** student reporter
Photo by Angelo Rosario (Sparrow and purple finch)

A Tour Of Mentone

At the top of the mountain where 117 intersects with DeSoto Parkway (89), you are at Old Hotel Square. Within walking distances are these points of interest (Maps are usually available around town; see ads in **THE GROUNDHOG**):

- (a) **MENTONE SPRINGS HOTEL**, focal point of the town, built in 1884, a classic example of Victorian architecture. It is not operated at present as a hotel.
- (b) **THE WHITE ELEPHANT GALLERIES**, formerly an annex of the hotel, now a fine gifts and antiques place, beside the hotel to the west.
- (c) **THE MENTONE INN**, operated as a Bed 'n' Breakfast, built in the 1920's. Available for parties.
- (d) **THE HITCHING POST**, once a place of festive dances, site of the post office and various stores; now houses a number of attractions, such as Crow's Nest Antiques, Gourdis, Mentone Realty, and Nightingale Art Works.
- (e) **THE LOG CABIN DELI**, excellent food. Closed Mondays.
- (f) **THE STRAWBERRY PATCH**, open 5:30 to 9, short orders. Closed Tuesdays.
- (g) **ST. JOSEPH'S-ON-THE-MOUNTAIN CHURCH**, usually open for visitors. Its center unit is thought to be the oldest original residence in town.
- Time now to get in your car and head south on the parkway, checking points on the map.
- (h) **DESOTO FALLS**, a natural landmark.
- (i) **CRAGSMERE MANNA RESTAURANT**, originally a log cabin residence of a former slave. After 5 Wed. through Sat.; Sun., noon to 4; top-notch dinners; parties.
- (j) **CLOUDMONT SKI AND GOLF RESORT**, southern-most ski resort in the country; grass skiing in the summer; chalets, golf, hiking, fishing.
- (k) **DESOTO STATE PARK RESORT**, restaurant, camping, swimming, tennis, hiking, etc., beautifully kept area.
- (l) **HOWARD'S CHAPEL**, a small structure just east of park entrance. Built during the Depression by Col. Milford Howard. Unique stone design, flowing from a huge boulder. His ashes are here. He was an author, movie producer, nominated for President, and did much for the development of Mentone.

Now return to your car and make the drive back around to 117. If it's dinner time, turn right on 117 to Cloudland, Georgia, to the Lookout, an excellent family restaurant. Closed Sunday night and Monday.



A Look At The Past

During the Centennial and in **THE GROUNDHOG'S** emphasis on history, Ed Mason has somewhat been overshadowed by his father John, often referred to as "father of Mentone." As a historic cornerstone of Mentone, Ed Mason can by no means be overlooked.

As a surveyor, Ed Mason laid out the town. As a promoter, he wrote the brochures and ads which brought some of our earliest settlers to the area — principally Dr. Franklin Caldwell, builder of the Mentone Springs Hotel.

Ed Mason donated the land for the United Methodist Church, Moon Lake School, and Moon Lake Baptist Church. He developed and named Moon Lake and hoped to make it a public lake.

His niece, Jessie O'Rear Whitehead, remembers that her mother Alice thought him to be brilliant, "near to genius," and a sharp business man. He believed firmly in primogeniture, the rights of the first born son.

At the time John Mason first came to Mentone, Ed was in college in Grinnell, Iowa. Brothers Henry and Peter were already working. Henry was a quiet, religious man, well liked by everyone. He married Lorena Crowe. Peter died of typhus fever, while still a young man.

John Mason's first wife and two children had died during a typhoid epidemic in Iowa, when Alice was five years old. After seven years of widowhood, John Mason married Carolina Gillette in Iowa. She had three sons and a married daughter; she was a Vermont native.

For a time Ed was married to Della Christopher, "a fine looking, jovial young lady." Ed's personality was of a more reticent type; he was not out-going like Alice and her father. Neither Ed nor Henry had children.

Ed and Della were ultimately divorced, and Ed lived at home with his parents. Originally Mrs. Whitehead's Grandfather O'Rear sold the Moon Lake property in his holdings to her Grandfather Mason for \$600, involving some two or 300 acres. This was July 17, 1875. Mrs. Whitehead has a large fruit jar full of old deeds from her mother. Her sister Ruby O'Rear had the deed from Ed Mason to the United Methodist Church framed to show both sides; it hangs in the church today.

Ed Mason died under mysterious circumstances. The large old "hall," as he called it, where he lived, burned early one morning. His remains were never found although it is possible he could have perished in the fire.

Stella Crowe was a little girl at the time. She went to school on the second floor of Ed Mason's building. She remembers that he had placed his mailbox on a rope so that he could pull it up to the second floor after the day's mail had been delivered.

Mrs. Crowe also remembers her father rising early at 4 a.m. to stoke the boilers at the nearby sawmill. He saw Ed Mason's building on fire. There were several residents of Mentone who thought Ed Mason's death should have been investigated, but Alice Mason thought "it would have done no good to pursue it; it could have helped nobody."

Mabel Kirk has ascertained that Ed Mason was active in the Little River Debate Club. He had many friends and enjoyed his holdings.

Ed was ten years older than Alice, and for years there was no communication between the brother and sister. However, in his old age, Ed Mason appeared suddenly one day "to settle the estate" with Alice. By this time he had already enjoyed his primogeniture, but perhaps he eased his conscience before his mysterious death.

Certainly his generosity to some to Mentone's abiding institutions and his promotional insight are visible legacies from the time he lived in Mentone.

Did You Know?

Deeds are existent at the Circuit Court conveyed in 1882 to 1888 for the construction of a railroad in Mentone.

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New Director



Already this spring people from Spain, Germany, Japan, and all over America have visited DeSoto State Park. Talmadge Butler, new superintendent, has many goals and plans for the future as well as for the present. He intends the construction of a new maintenance shop and the installment of a fiberglass liner in the DeSoto pool to prevent leaks and cracks. In summary, Butler states his goals as being: "To have the cleanest, safest and friendliest park in the system . . . and to maintain it in a natural state."

Butler has a strong background in education and park experience. He was raised on Sand Mountain near Boaz and began college at Sneed University. He graduated with a law degree from the Birmingham School of Law. Butler quickly put his skills to work at Oak Mountain State Park at Shelby as a conservation officer, a position he held for ten years. Then Butler served as the assistant superintendent for another two years. He accepted the position of superintendent at DeSoto State Park last month, following the previous superintendent, Earl Simpson.

Butler and his wife, Alice, have five children and one grandchild.

Butler's duties as superintendent include the overall operation of the park, personnel, and purchasing, and the control and coordination of the cabins, DeSoto Falls, and Little River Canyon. He is responsible for the enforcement of state and local laws when it comes to poaching and theft or vandalism, though Butler says, there have been "next to none" incidents of these types so far this year. In general, he keeps things running smoothly so that people can continue to enjoy the park in its natural beauty. The employees he hires are from all over DeKalb county, including several as a work crew from Mentone during the summer; Roberta Kirby is employed as a store worker in the General Store near the DeSoto pool.

In stating what people from the Mentone area can do to help the park, Butler suggests we be supportive and proud. Help it remain clean and encourage its use. Butler hopes that more local people will take an interest in their park and use it more often.

As far as problems with the park, Mr. Butler makes it clear that poaching and theft are at a minimum, while speeding and reckless driving need drastic cuts to provide a safe camping area. The speed limit is 25 M.P.H., and drivers are encouraged to heed that limit, for the park is noted for its sharp turns and over-hanging rocks.

Butler is very impressed with the former two superintendents, Earl Simpson and Doyal Benefield. He says: "Benefield was the apparent beginning of the naturalist movement in DeSoto State Park." He says he will give everything he has for the success of a continued naturalist program. — Greg Purvis

Promise Fulfilled



Last November when State Highway Commissioner Ray Bass was guest speaker at the Mentone Area Preservation Association, he promised Director Amelia Kirk Brooks that he would definitely fulfill a promise to have a dividing line on the DeSoto Parkway. The above photograph of a stretch of the Parkway near Cragmere Manna Restaurant is evidence that the highway commissioner is a man of his word.

Unusual Birthday Gift



The sky was the limit when Bobbie Riedesel chose the present for her husband's birthday on March 22. It was a sleek Grumman Cheetah (AA-5-A).

As she presented the keys of the plane to Bill, who is secretary of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, Bobbie modestly conceded that the gift involved a few financial adjustments such as the possible sale of their motor home — and some gentle manipulation by her husband.

The plane, stationed at the Fort Payne Airport and once owned by a Kansas City airline pilot, was purchased from a Fort Pierce, Florida, broker. Already the Riedesels have enjoyed flights to Anniston, visits to relatives in Crossville, Tennessee, and a several day jaunt to Charleston, S. C., where they toured the many scenic and historic spots in that area.

Beyond doubt, the plane was an appropriate gift. Bill Riedesel's lifetime career has been in aviation. For many years he operated an aviation service at the Park Rapids (Minnesota) Municipal Airport. This complete service offered such operations as flight instruction and ambulance service. He eventually sold this business and opened his own private airport several miles away.

At one time he organized and operated a ski manufac-

turing company, flew seaplanes, and did bush flying in Canada. A foremost aviation consultant, he has performed many functions for the Federal Aeronautics Administration — pilot examiner, instrument flight instructor, mechanic examiner, accident prevention specialist, aviation school evaluator, and manufacturing inspection representative.

Bill Riedesel and his first wife Virginia moved to Mentone in 1983. They were attracted to this area by the parks and had relatives in Tuscaloosa and Crossville, Tennessee. Virginia Riedesel became seriously ill and died in 1984. During those troublesome times Bobbie, mother of a son and daughter, was a nurse at the hospital. Only a short time previously she had lost her husband. "Providence brought us together," says Bill.

In 1980 Prentice-Hall published THE STARDUSTER by Norm Weis, a physics teacher and author, who built and flew an unusual airplane, involving much aerobatics, racing, and adventuring. He was aided in technical matters by his cousin Bill Riedesel.

Dedication of THE STARDUSTER is "To Bill Riedesel and all others who cherish the privilege of flight."

Adult Graduation

The Northeast Alabama Area Adult Education Program will hold the Sixth Annual GED graduation on May 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Health and Fine Arts Building at Northeast State Junior College. Speaker will be U. S. Representative Tom Bevill. GED recipients from DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall counties will be honored.

Any adult who has successfully completed the GED test and has not previously attended a graduation is invited to participate.

Adult Education classes are held regularly at Moon Lake School. For complete information, call 634-4113.

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Coleman

(Continued From Front Cover)

He quickly made friends with N. T. Carden, just out of high school and later to be in a pharmacy with J. H. MacDonald in Fort Payne. Carden worked with Coleman until he was drafted in World War II. Doc Coleman received deferment after deferment while he worked 80 to 100 hour weeks.

Six years after his arrival in Valley Head, Coleman was married to the former Elizabeth Davenport in June, 1941. The civic-minded druggist was in charge of the town's water even before the water board was formed. He has served on that board and on the town council and in positions in the Methodist church over his fifty years residence in Valley Head.

Sports has always been of prime interest to Coleman. He was instrumental in having the Valley Head High School football field developed. He has been a devout and stalwart Georgia Tech fan over the years. Until recently he attended every Valley Head football game and still goes to home games.

In his early days in Valley Head Coleman enjoyed racing other young men up and down the road by the drug store. He is still an avid fisherman, regularly fishing at least one day a week. Weather has never deterred him and he is famous for never wearing gloves.

Two of his fishing cronies, Ewing Watkins and Paul Hammonds, reported that on at least one evening, Coleman fished until dark despite the lines freezing and the minnow bucket being frozen over.

Coleman remembers several fires during his early decades in Valley Head. Bell's Grocery was burned and replaced in a fire that almost caught the drug store. There were two fires in what is now the pharmaceutical section of the store, but was then a grocery store next to the drug store. Finally, Coleman bought the lot where the store had burned and installed a variety store there. Frances Helms

from Hammondville and Moselle Crow worked here in the late '40's.

The telephone office was located upstairs over the drug store in its early days. There was a popular soda fountain in the pharmacy until the early '60's. Coleman Drugs was famous for its 10c ice cream sodas. "I never charged more than a dime," Doc remembers.

"There weren't too many drugs to be dispensed fifty years ago," Coleman says. "Most were botanical in origin, not chemical. We did have digitalis, aspirin, and quinine, but doctors were at a disadvantage." Ultimately drugs such as sulfanilamide (the parent of all of the sulfa drugs), penicillin, and the antibiotics came into use. "Today, of course, the high cost of medicine and medical attention has gotten completely out of hand," he says.

Over the years there were eight to ten break-ins in Coleman Drugs, most of which were narcotics-related. However, the law making it a federal crime to break into pharmacies has helped considerably, and there have been no robberies in recent years. Coleman is concerned that many drugs on the streets today are dangerous. "The misuse of controlled drugs is a terrible problem," he says.

Dr. C. H. Richey, Valley Head's beloved physician, died in 1949. Doc Coleman went with a salesman friend to Chattanooga some six months later to meet Dr. James Quimby and to introduce him to the area. "Dr. Quimby

has been a life saver to the people here," Coleman says.

His employees have been loyal to Coleman in providing him with many years service. In addition to Carden, Charles Burnett worked for seventeen years. In 1964, Donald Morgan began working for Doc Coleman. They were partners for five years, and for the past ten years, Coleman has been Morgan's employee.

"They don't come any better," says Morgan of Doc Coleman. "He is a nice fellow and an extremely smart man. He has been so good to me over the years. Would you believe that we've never had a cross word between us?"

December 2, 1985, Morgan and Dr. Quimby arranged for a surprise dinner in Lloyd Coleman's honor. About fifty friends attended. Dr. Quimby says of Coleman, "He's the most reliable man I've ever known. For 37 years he's never refused to open the drug store day or night for a patient who needed medicine."

When asked about his vision of the future of Mentone and Valley Head, Doc Coleman replied, "In the past few years industries such as Shaw, the sock mills, and Fritz Steel have been extremely beneficial to the economy of Valley Head."

"The Mentone people are really moving on; your wide-awake organization is producing results. I like your progressive spirit in Mentone." People in Mentone like Doc Coleman and are grateful for his continuing caring attitude.

Library Visit

The Rhododendron Garden Club held its March meeting at the new DeKalb County Library in Fort Payne. Librarian Rachel Manning gave a brief history of the new building, funded by the federal, county and city governments. The library houses 60,000 volumes. Readers check out almost as many non-fiction books as fiction. Circulation has increased greatly since the new building opened.

President Beverly Hoyt reminded members of the county luncheon April 26. Lynette McCary stated that rhododendrons and dogwoods will be planted soon throughout Mentone by Cloudland Nursery. The devotion was given by Corinne Wolcott.

At its April meeting, held in Lydia Speed's home, club members voted to give six rhododendron plants to the Fort Payne library. After the devotion by Bernice Crow, Betty Chapman described the trip she and Rick took to Washington, D. C. (See story elsewhere) Jane Meadows told of the 26 day — 17 state trip she and Epp took to California last fall. Highlights of their trip included swimming in an indoor pool in Estes Park, Colorado, while snow fell on its roof, and a helicopter tour of the Grand Canyon.

Mrs. Hoyt announced the club luncheon at the Mentone Inn May 13. Reservations must be made by May 3.

Business News

McGee's Gulf Mart has been closed. Since Charles' death it has been operated by Evelyn and her daughters. She says they plan to devote themselves to their 18-acre farm. Emphasis will be on gardening, cattle, and reopening their lake for fishing, and a possible resort in the future. Meanwhile, the building occupied by the mart is available for rental.

Beverly Hoyt and Helen Turner have opened a sewing shop beside Cragmere Manna. They have available knitted items as well as fancy sewing. Beve-Jo also features alterations. 634-4549.

Clyde L. Jones' beauty shop is sporting an attractive new coat of paint.

Anne Murray and Wanda Simmons, from Ider, have opened Anne's Crafts in the basement of the Mentone Springs Hotel, for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Dorothy Crow and Ruth Horton will manage a mini-mall complete with food in the Mentone Springs Hotel, weekends beginning now.



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Valley Head Woman's Club

The Valley Head Woman's Club met March 19 at the Lookout Restaurant in Cloudland, Georgia. Hostesses were Mrs. Paul Whitehead, Mrs. J. D. Stephens, Mrs. Vivian Sherrod, and Mrs. Richard Meadows. Mrs. Stephens gave an Easter devotion.

Mrs. Herbert Ephgraves, chairman of the Entertainment committee, reported that the end-of-the-year luncheon will be May 21 at the Lookout. Members voted to send Mrs. Ted Holleman and Mrs. Richard Meadows to the state convention of federated woman's clubs to be held at Guntersville April 24-26.

Mrs. Alex Hamilton introduced Ms. Pat Biddle, assistant vice president of Am-South Bank in Fort Payne. She spoke on "Don't Let Your Money Burn a Hole in Your Pocket," and described the services offered by Am-South Bank. Mrs. Edward Disney, president, presided.

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Leftovers

By Jean McGehee

Although I pride myself on being a liberal, generous, person, there are areas wherein I'm quite conservative. One of these concerns the time to plant the garden. There's always the temptation to plant early because of the unusually warm weather. But I know planting too early causes stunting of growth and even the expense of replanting when a cold spell comes.

Recently I visited Jessie O'Rear Whitehead. She quotes Jeff Kirby as saying, "Don't ever plant a seed in the ground that's going to sprout before the tenth of May or put tender plants outside before then." That's blackberry winter, you know. Over all the years, I've found that to be true.

From the March 10 issue of U. S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, a prediction that our area will be "cooler than ordinary and rainfall . . . heavier than usual" through May 31. Can this be accurate?

Shine McNew, former butcher at Bell's Market in Valley Head and beloved school bus driver, had said that he wasn't going to try to have a garden again. But he couldn't resist the pull, and he and his faithful old mule have plowed a spot down in the valley.

Pearl Hill and Azzielee Lawman, our neighbors, have an uncle in Henagar who will be 93 in August. Uncle Austin Moore lives with a daughter and still uses a riding mower and gardens and helps to put up his vegetables. One day recently he was assisting in cleaning up the wood pile. He paused a moment and said, "I understand why some old folks like to sit so much!"

Meanwhile, the strawberries are in bloom, the temperature is in the 80's, and I hope I won't regret my conservative approach to planting if others are eating tomatoes before we are.

Bill Riedesel kindly took me up for a spin in his airplane. We flew from Ft. Payne to Mentone and back. Everything looked picture perfect — a sea of dogwoods along the mountainside, Matchbox sized cars, and neat houses. And then the automobile drive back home past the littered roads.

Each week I walk around the 650 foot perimeter of our place, beginning with what may some day be called "Willie Nelson Drive," on around to Brow Park, and I fill a large garbage bag with beer cans and bottles. Every time one is thrown out of a car, it's a slap not only in the face of the Creator, but at every person who passes thereafter. This is not a problem with tourists, but with our local people. We need to set examples ourselves, beginning with our children.

Calendar

Wednesday, April 23 — 9:30 a.m. — Bookmobile comes to Town Hall. Judy Dowiat, Librarian.

Thursday, April 24 — 7 p.m. — Fire Department meets at Fire Hall. Herschell Pruitt, Chief.

Friday, April 25 — 4 p.m. — American Legion Fish Supper.

Wednesday, April 29 — 5:30 p.m. — Lookout Mt. Camping Association at Lookout Restaurant. Dick O'Ferrall, President.

Monday, May 5 — 7 p.m. — Town Council meets at Town Hall. Rob Hammond, Mayor.

DeSoto Rescue Squad meets at American Legion Hall. Pleas Cox, Captain.

Tuesday, May 6 — 7 p.m. — MAPA meets at St. Joseph's. Amelia Brooks, Director.

Wednesday, May 7 — 9:30 a.m. — Bookmobile comes to Town Hall.

Thursday, May 8 — 7 p.m. — Fire Department meets at Fire Hall.

American Legion meets at Legion Hall. Leonard Shigley, Commander.

GROUNDHOG deadline for May 15 issue.

Monday, May 12 — 7 p.m. — Crafts Festival meeting, United Methodist Church. Linda Brown, President.

Tuesday, May 13 — noon — Rhododendron Garden Club luncheon at the Mentone Inn. Beverly Hoyt, President.

Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18 — RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL.

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7:50 a.m.
8:50 a.m.
2:10 p.m.
3:10 p.m.
4:10 p.m.
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Buffet Lunch Sunday 12-3



DIRECTORY

MENTONE POLICE

634-4444 — 7-11 a.m. Monday through Friday (Town Hall).

634-4467 — All other times (Chief Colquitt Jones).

1-845-3801 — Sheriff's radio — constant contact.

MENTONE FIRE DEPARTMENT

634-4444 — 7-11 a.m. Monday-Friday (Town Hall).

All other times — 634-3745, 634-4446, 634-4600, and 634-4274.

EMERGENCY AIDS

Ambulance: 845-3200

Baptist Medical Center: 845-3150

Rescue Squad: 634-4864, 634-4166

Highway Patrol: 845-5109

Forest Rangers: 1-845-1331

or 1-800-392-5679

Poison Information Center:

1-800-292-6678

SCHOOLS

Moon Lake: 634-4133

Valley Head High School: 635-6228

TOWN COUNCIL OF MENTONE

Rob Hammond, Mayor; Max Cash, Hobson Kirby, Bill Russell, Richard Meadows

Catherine Bailey, Town Clerk; Leroy Snider, Water Department.

CHURCHES

THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

The Rev. Billy R. Boozer, pastor

Sunday School: 10 A. M.

Sunday Services: 11:00 A. M., 7 P. M.

Thursday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 P. M.

Telephone: 635-6365

VALLEY HEAD PRESBYTERIAN

The Rev. Jerry Davis, minister

Services: 1st, 3rd Sunday, 9:30 A. M.

Telephone: 635-6283

CATHOLIC CHURCH

2813 Gault Ave., North, Fort Payne

Masses 5 p.m., Sat., 10:00 A. M. Sun.

Telephone: 845-4774

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (Traditional Episcopal)

The Rev. Glenn P. Bock

Rector

First, Second, Third Sunday

Communion Fourth Sunday

11:00 A. M. Telephone: 1-845-9207

MENTONE CHURCH OF GOD

The Rev. Roger Stanford, minister

Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.

Preaching Hour: 11:00 A. M.

Sunday Evening Service: 6:00 P. M.

Wednesday Training Hour: 6:30 P. M.

Telephone: 634-4418

MOON LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday School: 9:45 A. M.

Sunday Services: 11:00 A. M., 7:00 P. M.

Sunday Training Union: 6:00 P. M.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 6:30

MENTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Rev. Ann Q. Lohr, minister

Sunday School: 10 A. M.

Sunday Service: 11 A. M.

Sunday Bible Study Group: 6:00 P. M.

Telephone: 635-6581

MENTONE WESLEYAN CHURCH

The Rev. A. C. Clemens, minister

Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.

Sunday Worship: 10:50 A. M., 6:00 P. M.

Wednesday Evening Service: 7:00 P. M.

Telephone: 634-4210

ST. JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Robert Blackwell, minister

Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.

Sunday Worship: 11:00 A. M.

Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 P. M.

Telephone: 634-4476

UNITY STUDY GROUP

The Rev. Edwene Gaines, leader

7 P. M. DeSoto State Park Lodge

Every Tuesday

HOWARD'S CHAPEL

The Rev. Jeffrey Fuller, minister

Tourists and visitors welcome

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(No services January-February).

10:30 A. M. — 1-845-2015

CAMPS

CAMP ADAHI: Pauls Koos, director; Moccasin Bend Girl Scouts. 615-267-3761.

CAMP ALPINE: Richard O'Ferrall, director; boys, June 2-Aug. 9, 634-4200.

CAMP CHEROKEE: Don Guin, director; 634-4660.

COMER SCOUT RESERVATION: Bob Dunaway, director; Boy Scout camps, June 17-July 14, 634-3445.

CAMP DESOTO: Sue Henry, director; camp for girls, June 17-Aug. 13, 634-3411.

CAMP JULIETTE LOW: Kathy Holly, director; Girl Scout Camp in Cloudland, Georgia, June 17-Aug. 11, 404-428-0446.

CAMP LANEY: Rob Hammond, director; camp for boys, June 13-Aug. 10, 634-3561.

LOOKOUT MT. CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER: Anne and John Morrison, directors; 634-3471. Free Day Camp, Aug. 4-8.

PONDEROSA BIBLE CAMP: Christian youth camp, Glenn Miller, director; 634-3795, June 15-July 25.

CAMP SADDLE ROCK: Marty Griffin, director; girls' camp, June 13-Aug. 10, 634-4608.

CAMP SKYLINE RANCH: Susan C. Hooks, director; boys' camp, June 13-26; girls' camp, June 28-Aug. 10, 634-3201.

VALLEY VIEW RANCH: Nancy Jones, director, Cloudland, Georgia; June 17-Aug. 11, 404-862-2231. Girls.

CAMP WOODMONT: Jane Bennett, director; boys' and girls' camp, 404-284-5389, June 17-Aug. 5.

ADDRESSES

State Senator Lowell Barron

P. O. Box 55

Fyffe, AL 35971

State Rep. Ralph Burke

Cherokee Apts.

200 45 St. NE

Ft. Payne, AL 35967

U. S. Senator Jeremiah Denton

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Washington, D. C. 20510

U. S. Rep. Tom Bevil

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Washington, D. C. 20515

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