

the

Volume 5 Number 1

# GROUNDHOG

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

April 1987

## HARVARD HESTER

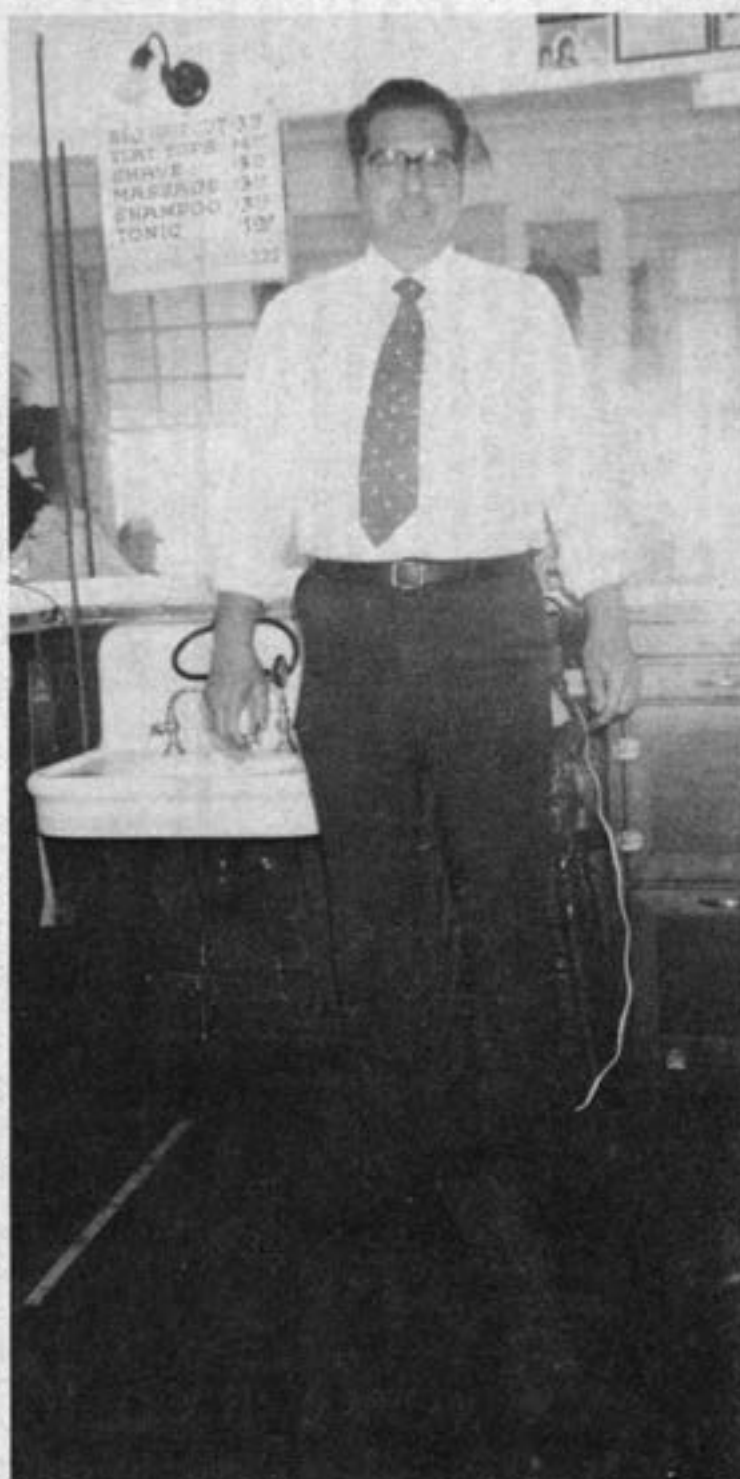
### *Still Busy After All These Years*

Harvard Hester is a man for all seasons. His little Barber Shop near the railroad track in Valley Head has seen many Winters give way to Spring, many people come and go, and the face of the town age as all things must, but Harvard Hester has weathered the changes and remained essentially the same.

The structure that houses Hester's Barber Shop was built by B.W. Tate in 1927. Most of the fixtures were purchased at that time, and are still a part of the shop today. The floors are mellow and dark with years of oil and footsteps. The high sculptured ceiling looks just as it did sixty years ago. The old barber chairs are collector's items, and the cabinets are reminders of the craftsmanship of the past.

In the early days, barbers were also surgeons, but an act passed during the reign of Henry VIII forbade any surgical operation except for bloodletting and toothdrawing. The red and white barber pole represented the bandage with which the barber wrapped his patient after bloodletting. Harvard Hester has the symbolic barber pole, but bloodletting has sort of fallen out of fashion.

The barber's trade is ancient. Alexander the Great had his men shave so the enemy could not grasp their beards. Barber shops in ancient Rome were meeting places of discussion and gossip. Times haven't changed all that much, for Harvard has his regulars who have come to his shop for many years, and a part of that attraction is Harvard's knowledge of the goings-on in the area. One man was asked if he had heard anything new about a certain situation. He replied "No, I've not got my

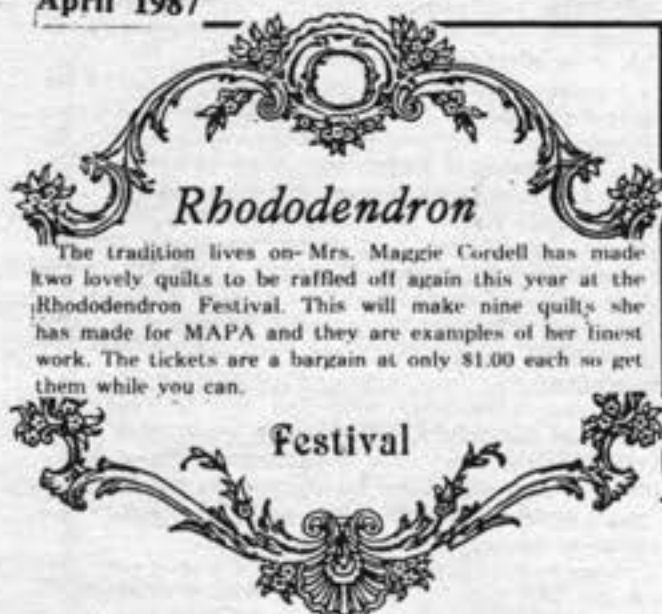


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# the GROUNDHOG

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## Rhododendron

The tradition lives on—Mrs. Maggie Cordell has made two lovely quilts to be raffled off again this year at the Rhododendron Festival. This will make nine quilts she has made for MAPA and they are examples of her finest work. The tickets are a bargain at only \$1.00 each so get them while you can.

## Festival

## BENNY GOSS HOSTS POSTAL MEETING

Benny Goss, Mentone Postmaster, hosted a meeting in March, in the Mentone Fire Hall. Guest speakers were Joyce Sims, accounts representative for the Postal Service, Mike Fells, a computer expert from Nashville, and Jackie Williams who is to be a postal accounts representative in this area.

The Postal Service offers assistance to those who wish to use zip +4, and for first-class mailers the change-over can bring quite a savings. It was learned that in the near future, all mail will use the zip +4, especially business mail.

Benny stands ready to assist anyone who wishes to learn more about saving money on volume mailing.

Attending were Ethel Manifold, Polly Cameron, Roy and Mickey Strickland, Linda Brown, Glenn Miller, Mrs. Bailey, Ellis Clark, Gail Purvis and Mary Holloman.

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## MAPA MEETING APRIL 7, 1987

The April M.A.P.A. Meeting was held on April 7th in the parlor of St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain, Episcopal Church.

Several relevant issues were discussed, including: The Rhododendron plants to be sold at the upcoming Festival have been purchased and paid for. The two beautiful quilts made by Maggie Cordell, are also paid for.

As the city of Mentone does not own a bush hog, it is suggested M.A.P.A. write a letter to Jim Bradshaw to see if the county would mow the roadside before the May festivities begin that mark the opening of the tourist season.

Grace Howard has found, through diligent compassion shopping, a company that offers a substantial saving on the printing of the Mentone brochures. Grace is chairman of the committee given the responsibility of working out the details of the printing.

M.A.P.A. needs sixteen volunteers for the June Jam. Nine have signed up so far.

A motion was carried to have a food booth at the Crafts Festival in July.

M.A.P.A. agreed to donate \$100.00 to the Moon Lake Little League.

Shurlee Froehner reported that the Rhododendron Festival is going well. She is to be commended for all her hard work.

Adapted from the minutes of Bill Riedesel, Secretary.  
Would you like to work at the June Jam? M.A.P.A. needs volunteers. Come be a part of something wonderful! Call after 8:00 p.m. hard work, good fellowship, community service. 634-4451

## In Memorium:

Mrs. Edith Blalock Lyday died recently. She was born Nov. 9, 1898 the eldest of eight children. Born and reared in Mentone, she spent most of her life here. She touched many lives through her years as a teacher, and through the beautiful hand-made quilts she crafted.

Mrs. Lyday was a very special person, and the world is a better place for her stay here. Like ripples in a pool, her influence, love and concern will be felt for generations.

## M.A.P.A. Meeting

Tuesday

MAY 5TH

The Parlor

St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain  
Church 7:00 p.m.

## MENTONE CRAFTS FESTIVAL

The Mentone Crafts Festival, which will be held July 11th and 12th at the Mentone Park on the brow, is now accepting application from craftsmen.

The Festival Committee is looking for exhibitors in each of these classifications: Painting, drawing and graphics; Sculpture, pottery and ceramics; Handwork—weaving, stitchery, leather, woodwork, metal work, jewelry, basket-making, and candle making. In addition to these classifications, the committee is interested in people to demonstrate skills and crafts from years ago, when these skills were necessary for survival.

If interested contact:

Festival Committee

P. O. Box 103

Mentone, Alabama 35984

205/634-4166 or 205/634-4755

## WELCOME

Mentone welcomes home a native son, Don Castleberry, who has moved back to the Mountain with his wife, Lynn, who hails from up North. (Maryland)

Don is Bernice Crow's brother and has been away for 25 years, part of which he spent in the military. We're glad to have him back, and are delighted that he and Lynn are here to stay.

A big Mentone welcome to Robert Vaughn of Montgomery who just moved into his newly-constructed house on the brow, South of Cragmere.

Dr. John Soasborough has purchased a home across from Cragmere, so we can hopefully assume he is here to stay. John is a welcome addition to our community.

## A TUP OF TEE HAT TO.....



...Perea's Carpets, Hickey's Salvage and The Paint Shed for their help in providing materials for the Groundhog office.

...like Bledsoe, owner of McDonald's, who really does love children.

...Quality Photo in Fort Payne for quality assistance in providing film and development for the Groundhog pictures.

...Ethel Manifold, for taking care of Groundhog business - free of charge

...Jack Jones for finishing Mentone Mountain Village

...Bill Cyr, of Mar-Mil Steel; without his help the Groundhog would not go far, literally.

...Anyone who picks up cans from the side of the road.

...The Kiwanis Club in Fort Payne for making a difference, individually and collectively.

...Paul Thomas, Probate Judge for DeKalb County, for treating everyone with respect and kindness. He exemplifies the best in government service.

...the supporters of the Fort Payne Depot Landmarks Museum, for caring about where we've been, so that we might realize where we're going.

...Anyone who will help keep an eye on Tutwiler Gap to prevent it from becoming a garbage dumping site (take down tag numbers and tell the Health Dept.)

## Our Town with Linda Brown

April has been designated as clean-up month in DeKalb County. Wouldn't it be nice to have it said that Mentone was the cleanest town in DeKalb County? Dare we go for cleanest in the state of Alabama? We could do it. Let's all do our part and clean our yards and roadsides. Pick up litter wherever you see it.

The Rhododendron Garden Club resumed their meetings after a recess of two months. They met at Raven's Haven (home of Homer and Bernice Crowe) for the annual business meeting. Plans were made for projects for the coming year. Bernice gave a demonstration of the basic rules of flower arranging to conclude the meeting.

The Mentone Crafts Festival held the first planning meeting for this year. Committees were appointed and suggestions were made to improve the eleventh festival on July 11 and 12. If you are interested in helping or know someone who would like to exhibit at the show, you may write to: Mentone Crafts Festival, P. O. Box 103, Mentone, AL 35984 or call 205/634-4755 or 634-4166. All proceeds from the festivals are turned back in to the community.

A Spring Revival will begin on Easter Sunday at the Mentone Church of God (3 miles east of Mentone.) The services will begin at 6:30 each night and will continue through the following Saturday. Rev. Darrell Nunley of Bridgeport, AL will be the evangelist. Everyone is invited to these services.

An old time tent revival will be held in the big blue tent beside the Alabama Band Fan Club in South Fort Payne. Services will begin at 7:30 each night from May 15 through 23. Evangelist will be Rev. Larry C. Johnson, pastor of the Engrafted Word Church of Fort Payne.

All men who are interested in learning more about a Methodist Men's Club are invited to meet with Eddie Self, president of the North Alabama Methodist Men, at the Mentone United Methodist Church at 6:30 on Monday, April 27. A meal will be served.

The lady from Quality Plus Photo has asked me to express her thanks to the person who carried some lipstick cases to her. She has promised to let me know when she has the finished products ready for display. I can't wait to see what she did with these.

No one has requested help with anything this month I will share a hint that was given to me recently. I have a very old hump-back trunk that I would like to use for storage, but the old musty odor prevents my bringing it inside the house. Recently while visiting my aunt in Crossville I mentioned this and she suggested that I put Carpet Fresh (brand name) in it several times. I am now in the process of doing this and will let you know the results. If you have any announcements or other items of interest, please write or call Linda Brown, Rt. 1, Box 271, Mentone, AL 35984 or 205/634-4755.



## Las Vegas Trip

Sam and Rosemarie (Toots) Whalley of Mentone, spent a wonderful vacation in Las Vegas the week of March 25

They visited a chocolate factory, the Liberace Museum, and the Cactus Gardens. They also took in some of the Las Vegas nightlife - The Legends in concert, Ceseair's Palace, local entertainment and of course, the Casinos. "The Town never sleeps," Toots told the Groundhog, "And we didn't either!"

## From the Editor....

by Mickey Strickland

More and more, it seems as if values are changing and priorities are becoming misplaced. The American society of today has become a disposable society. Things aren't made to be kept for future generations—they are created to endure for a short time, then be thrown out and replaced with something equally worthless.

This country is burying itself in its own throw-aways. It's just too much trouble to keep something and re-use it, when for a few cents extra another can be bought. And if there is no dump or trash can nearby, it is often tossed out until the roadside and river banks have themselves become abominations to the environment.

We insist upon absolute convenience at any cost to the world we live in. We demand food be piping hot so we must have styrofoam containers; we expect beverages in plastic bottles; we use glass containers once and throw them away, then use our precious reserve of raw materials to make more; forests are fast disappearing so that we might have paper products to litter the earth.

There must be alternatives for we are fast running out of places to store it all, and store it we must, for such materials as styrofoam and plastic do not deteriorate for centuries. So actually we are not throwing it away, just keeping it and adding to the collection daily. The mess does not go magically away somewhere, it is ours forever.

Perhaps because we care so little for the material things in our lives, we care less for our own kind as well. The streets of major cities are littered with the refuse of humanity. They lie in cardboard boxes and doorways, on rags in alleys, in sewer systems and on park benches. And as we have no respect for the landscape, neither do we have any for the people who have not been able to take care of themselves.

A few years ago when the winter wind blew deathly cold as far South as Atlanta, one of the television stations there interviewed street people at Christmas time. I'll never forget the look on one old man's face. He was dirty and dressed in rags. His face was covered in grimy stubble, his mouth toothless. In response to the reporter's question concerning how he felt about being homeless at Christmas, he looked at her with tears streaming down gaunt cheeks and said ever so slowly, "I'm cold, I'm so cold!"

In a disposable society, there is cold and not just in bodies of hungry old men and wide-eyed children, but in the hearts and souls of people who place the same value on scraps of paper and on human life.

## Neighborhood

by Maureen Hammond

There's a lot of Spring housekeeping from Trenton to Fort Payne and all over DeKalb County, the referral center is well-stocked with clothes. We sell them for ten cents an item to families who need them (you do not have to receive any other kind of aid to purchase this clothing). They are sold every Wednesday at the National Guard Armory at Hammondville, and are available at the Neighborhood Referral Center in Valley Head.

We still have heating fund for those who have not yet received help. Deadline is April 27.

For those families receiving assistance already, or whose income is below certain levels (same as school lunch assistance or cheese) the Neighborhood Referral Center has seed, fertilizer, and insecticide to help make a garden.

There will be money available for one-time help with electricity bills for the elderly or handicapped who must have a fan or air-conditioner for health reasons.

The Center has a well-stocked food bank to provide emergency groceries to families in need.

The Center basically offers referral to other agencies, but offers, through the help of volunteers, services that are greatly needed by the community.

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# The Groundhog

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Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. First conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and 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.

### THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

Mickey Strickland, Editor

Jean McGehee, Copyreader

Contributing Editors:

Charles White McGehee

Linda Brown

Gregory Purvis

Helen Turner

Jean Powell

Desmond Disney

Law Keith

Randy Still

MAPA OFFICERS

Donna Budkley, Acting Director

Bill Riedesel, Secretary

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ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Lookout

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## MOUNTAIN WATCH

BY CHARLES WHITE MCGEE

Would you believe it? We grade our guests.

In advance, we make every effort to make their visit an event of consequence; the kind of food they enjoy, sights they should see, all those things we know to make their time with us a delight. On the other hand, we expect them to adjust to a certain extent. How do we arrive at the evaluation?

The best example is the individual we refer to as our only A-plus guest: J. F. Rothermel, whom we knew in Birmingham as editorial writer and book page editor for THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS. He visited us both at Mentone and in Jacksonville during the Florida years.

Rothermel was a brilliant, gentle scholar. He loved music, social justice, and people. He always checked with us well in advance about the scheduling of the visit. He never notified us of the kind of foods he preferred not to eat. He was a worthy competitor in family SCRABBLE games and watched our favorite TV programs.

During those times when our two teen-age sons provoked disciplinary excitement, he would retire to the corner of the living room with a book. Once at Mentone in such a situation, he disappeared for almost an hour. When questioned on his return, he said, "I was down at the shopping center."

Once in Florida he heard one of us quietly say, "This is our last night to see GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER." He said, "I've been waiting a long time to see that movie." When we questioned him about his proclivity for being such a perfect guest, he said, "I want to be invited back. It saves money on a trip."

It also pleased Jean when she noticed that he invariably cleaned his plate. He well knew the vanity of cooks who are proud of their culinary ability.

Our near-deification of Rothermel (we always refer to him by his last name) does not imply that we do not have other guests who rank amazingly high. The secret is to have friends and relatives with whom you are comfortable and compatible.

It never occurs to us that our guests as they drive back down the mountain may judge us. In some ways we are difficult. We have favorite TV shows which we do not like to miss. DALLAS is a favorite, for instance, which we sometimes are ashamed to admit. Once while a guest was present when an exciting football game was in progress, I suffered until near the end, when I said I'd like to check in on the score. The guest said, "I'd been wondering about that myself."

We make a ritual of the evening news. We don't like for conversation to occur except during the commercials. This is tedious and difficult to enforce.

A near unpardonable sin is for people not to phone in advance. Yes, in olden times it was hospitable to say "The door is always open. The latchkey is always out." But this was before the arrival of the telephone. I've never agreed with professional people who brag about their "open door" policy. You can just drop in on them anytime.

Once an appointment was made with me by an attractive young lady who was near-blind and confined to a wheel chair. After a friend had wheeled her in and the secretary had closed the door, the tortured girl asked, "Tell me why I should not commit suicide." As I agonized with her, it indeed would have been ineffective if an "open door" policy had been in effect.

Certainly there are differences in the atmosphere of offices and homes. Hospitality is somewhat unique at resort-vacation-type places like Mentone. More people are likely to want to come, especially in spring and fall. One cynic who owned a beach house once said, "At such a place never have comfortable mattresses."

Sartre once said, "Hell is other people." He demonstrated his point in a play called NO EXIT in which two people are confined forever to a room—most likely two people who do not like each other. Jean and I love people, especially compatible people. We love to entertain them and share enduring friendship with them. About guests there should be no sardonic approach. In our view, "Heaven is to share a place like Mentone with other people we admire and respect."



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## Beautiful Trip For Zora

On St. Patrick's Day, I flew from Chattanooga to the Baltimore-Washington International Airport for the occasion of Greg's upcoming wedding to Belinda Crouse Storey of Dover, Delaware. Greg Strayhorn, my son, is a staff sergeant stationed at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware with the CSA's.

It had been almost forty years between flights. I was getting over the flu, shakey and weak, but I would not have missed the wedding for anything. Looking out the window made me dizzy, I helped the pilot gain altitude and would not put my full weight down in the seat. Nearing Baltimore, I asked a friendly stewardess, Donna, to talk to me to help me keep my mind off myself. We laughed and chatted until she had to take her seat for landing. I had asked for assistance, and was the last passenger to disembark. The smiling crew were huddled about the pilot's cabin as I waited for my chair to arrive. "This is the Captain" Donna said. He was gorgeously handsome and I feigned a swoon. "We think you are someone special" said the Captain as he presented me with a bottle of champagne wrapped in a blue napkin. As I was being wheeled off, Donna hugged me and whispered his name. "Captain Lust???" I waved a farewell. Unbelievable!

I waited almost an hour before calling Dover and was assured Greg was on his way. Belinda and Greg arrived and we drove through heavy traffic back to Dover.

With about one week's notice, Mrs. Crouse, Belinda's mother and all of us had a hectic time. Everything went beautifully at the wedding on Saturday, March 21st at 10 A.M. at the Jireh Christian Center in Dover, Greg and Belinda's church. Family, church members, and personnel from Greg's shop attended. Belinda is beautiful, loving and caring. Her two children, Jamie a girl aged eight and Martin, aged six were in attendance. Martin held onto Greg's hand so tightly Greg could hardly get it loose to find the wedding ring. I am a grandmother!

The marriage covenant was deeply moving. A video tape was made and a reception followed.

The bride's mother had a lovely buffet luncheon at the family home and we toasted the bride and groom. Belinda's family ... her mother's I know, are originally from North Carolina.

Greg and Belinda insisted on driving me to Chevy Chase to visit my cousin Bob Standish and wife Lois. It was on their way to Luray Caverns in the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia. A delicious dinner was waiting on our arrival in Chevy Chase.

It had been over thirty years since I had seen Bob and Lois. Bob, a former newspaperman and administrative assistant to a congressman from California, lived in Connecticut when Dixie was stationed at the Submarine Base, New London, Connecticut. We had much catching up to do Bob was with an advertising firm in N.Y. when they lived in Connecticut.

(continued next month.)

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## CRAFTS CORNER by Helen Turner

We marveled at the beautiful flowers that bloom from the time cold weather ends in the Spring, until the first frost bowed their little heads in the Fall. How we wish we could keep them in bloom all year!

Of course, nothing can be more beautiful than flowers blooming in their own habitat, but one can do the next best thing—dry them.

Flowers can be dried in several different compounds. Gilica Gel is a commercial flower drying substance, but is fairly expensive. Sand is free for the taking in this area, but must be clean and thoroughly dry. You can also use plain cornmeal, or commercial borax (the type used in washing clothes) or a mixture of cornmeal and borax. These last three are inexpensive, and like Gilica Gel, can be used repeatedly, providing you let them dry out after three or four uses.

Select a cardboard box, sized to the amount of flowers to be dried. The cardboard box is porous and lets the moisture escape and this is very important.

Pick the flowers to be dried. Some dry better than others, so experiment. Pick them on a dry, sunny day, when the moisture is lower. Break off all stems just below the head.

Spread a 2" layer of drying compound in the bottom of the box. Place a layer of flowers, stem side down, on top of the compound making sure none of the flowers touch one another.

Then, lightly sprinkle (don't pour) enough compound to completely cover each flower. This gently sprinkling keeps the natural shape of the flower.

Add another layer of flowers and repeat the process until all flowers are covered with a least one inch of compound on the top.

Leave box in dry area for five to ten days, (some flowers dry faster than others) check for dryness, then carefully remove from compound.

You can add stem back to the flowers with wire and florists tape. Some flowers can be picked and dried by tying them together by their stems and hanging upside down in a cool, dry, dark area.

Please write to me c/o P. O. Box 345, Mentone, Alabama 35984 if you would like me to feature a special craft, or need a certain quilt pattern.

## BEAUTY PAGENT WINNERS

**Congratulations to Tamara Hall and Cheri Keith for being "Miss Spring Fantasy" of Valley Head. Also we would like to congratulate Andrea Powell for second runner up at the "Miss Menlo Pagent"**

## WEDDING

Danny Stone, presently employed at Beason's Barber Shop in Ft. Payne, is a new resident of Mentone.

On March 28th he and Kim Fox were married at his home on the Mountain. Rev. Ernest Parker officiated, and a reception followed at the Bride's home.

It was a simple wedding with a few friends gathered to celebrate the event. The happy couple honeymooned at Sail The Lost Sea in Sweetwater, TN, and the Smokies.



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## FORT PAYNE KENNEL CLUB FORMED

Throughout the years dogs have been known as "man's best friend." A dog is an ever faithful companion, silent listener and ready playmate, with each one having its own distinctive personality. It is that tremendous love for them that has caused this area club to literally "go to the dogs."

Fort Payne Kennel Club was formed to help create an awareness in the feeding, health care, breeding and showing of all breeds. The American Kennel Club (AKC) has set standards for every recognized breed. Fort Payne Kennel Club is working to continue the furtherance of dogs that not only conform to that standard, but that exemplify excellence in that particular breed.

There are many people involved with the Fort Payne Kennel Club that are not currently showing a dog, but are interested in learning to show. And several that are part of the club strictly because of their love of dogs.

Dog shows are an event for the entire family. They are not only fun, but informative. By attending a dog show you might see a certain type of dog you too would like to own, and possibly show. Also there is Junior Showmanship available for young people from ages 10 to 18.

Not every dog is suited for everyone. Each breed has its own traits and dispositions. While some breeds are active, others are more passive. Shyness, aggressiveness, latent viciousness, gentleness, timidity and loyalty are only a few characteristics that you may want to consider before choosing that dog of your dreams. Remember, just because FiFi next door is so cute, or Killer looks so tough, doesn't mean that either one would be right for you.

Fort Payne Kennel Club is interested in helping you choose that perfect pet, or ideal show dog, or in assisting you with information regarding where it might be purchased. Health care and feeding information are also available.

Fort Payne Kennel Club is working toward recognition from AKC and toward becoming an AKC sanctioned club. We are currently planning a Dog Days Fair in August with assorted canine activities. A dog wash and/or dip, an UGLY Dog Contest, raffles for feed and assorted pet products along with numerous activities of interest. The exact date of the Fair will be announced at a later date.

Fort Payne Kennel Club is meeting Tuesday, May 5th at Shoney's in Fort Payne. Dinner is at 7:00 p.m. with the meeting following. Business Meetings are held on the first Monday of the Month, with classes held on all other Mondays at the Rainsville V.F.W. at 7:30 p.m. More information can be obtained by calling 845-5537 in Fort Payne or 582-8089 in Guntersville.



## Special People

**Ike Bledsoe - McDonald's**

McDonald's is an organization whose central goal is not the pursuit of profits. McDonald's primary interest is the betterment of the lives of children everywhere, for this company expects it's employees and associates to have this same dedication, and to make it paramount in every facet of business.

Ike Bledsoe is the perfect individual to be a part of an altruistic organization such as McDonald's. He owns three franchises, Fort Payne, Alabama, Rainsville, Alabama and Trenton, Georgia and at each one, children come first.

In talking with Ike and hearing him tell of his experiences with children through the years of his association with McDonald's, the genuine love and sincere caring are very evident. Here is a man, wealthy and respected, a leader in the community, a financially important force in the Tri-State area, but he is entirely without pretension and self-importance.

This month, the Groundhog will focus on Ike's personal contributions through his restaurants, but as one column will not contain the multitude of efforts McDonald's makes on behalf of children, the national organization will be featured in May.

On a local level, Ike has contributed to many efforts that involve helping kids. "I have always believed in putting back into the community some of the good I've been given," Ike said. "Especially where kids are concerned."

Ike provides free hamburgers to the kids in the Special Olympics, Earth Grains and the Coca-Cola Company help with the rest of the refreshments. Last year, this was over 600 burgers.

Children often tour McDonald's in groups, and Ike parades an ice cream or soft drink to each one.

Ike gives a free lunch to the elderly who are bussed to the restaurant by R.S.V.P. He gives to any senior citizen a Golden Archers Club Membership which entitles the member to a free beverage with a meal.

McDonald's furnishes a cooler with orange drink mix to non-profit organization. He provides the first gallon of concentrate, then sells the rest at cost.

Ike works with the Health Department of DeKalb County. A coupon for a free hamburger is attached to each inoculation record card. "I wanted the little fellows to have something to take their minds off the shots," Ike mused.

Ike contributes to the Little League in the area, the new library and to Businesses for Excellence in Education.

McDonald's provides a free ice cream to any child who brings in a toy at Christmas as part of the Toys for Tots campaign.

There are not many charitable efforts made in this area that McDonald's is not in some way a part of, and the contributions are on-going.

Ike Bledsoe and wife Peggy are wonderful examples of people who use their resources to help others. And they give, not for publicity or community approval, but because they really CARE, and in this time of hungry children in an often cruel world, Ike and Peggy believe in doing all they can to make life brighter for all little ones. They are indeed Special People.

Everyone is talking about the splendid buys at The Uh Oh Shop. They have Ladies apparel in regular and plus sizes.

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## The Herb Garden

FAMILY: LILIACEAE

### GARLIC

Botanical name: *Allium sativum*

The distinctive taste and smell of garlic make it one of the best-known herbs. It improves the flavour of so many dishes that it is almost indispensable to good cooking. Garlic is a perennial bulb of the onion family and grows up to 60 cm/2 ft high. It is the bulb which is used as the flavouring. When fully grown it is made up of a number of small bulbets or cloves.

One of the oldest seasonings, garlic was originally believed to be a strengthening herb. It was an everyday food for Egyptian labourers working on the pyramids and it was given to the Roman soldiers to sustain them on their long marches.

#### CULTIVATION & PROPAGATION

Garlic thrives in a rich moist soil and a sunny position. Plant individual cloves of garlic in pots or open ground in very early spring 5 cm/2 in deep and 15 cm/6 in apart. Keep plants well-watered if there is a dry summer. In late summer when the tops die down, lift the garlic and leave it to dry out thoroughly under cover.

#### USES

Garlic is so strong and pungent that it should only be used sparingly; a trace of its flavour can make all the difference to the dish as a whole. One clove is usually sufficient to bring out the flavours in a savoury dish. Use the clove whole in meat stews, vegetable dishes and soups and remove when cooking is complete. Use a cut clove to rub round the bowl for a green salad. Make garlic butter, garlic oil, garlic vinegar and add to homemade mayonnaise. Buy dried chopped garlic and garlic salt as a standby.



Garlic also has medicinal properties. It is antiseptic, antibiotic and antithrombic. The healing properties of garlic have been recognized by herbalists for centuries, but are just now being proven by medical science. The Herb Shoppe in Fort Payne has garlic in capsules, without the odor usually associated with this herb.

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## Foodwise

### Spring Buys

by Shan Bruce

Spring has finally arrived and among other things it's that time of the year to begin thinking about decorations, setting out your flowers and plants around the house to spruce things up and, of course, Mother's Day. At BRUCE'S FOODLAND you'll find a big selection of bedding plants and flowers at competitive prices. In our floral department, you'll find hundreds of first quality silk pots and baskets for all your decoration needs. We'll be having our annual truck load flower sale the first two weeks in May. We invite you to come by and compare our quality and price with anyone. Oh yes, don't forget mom on Mother's Day, May 10th. Send her a bouquet of roses or a bud vase and Mylar balloon from our floral dept. (we deliver)

Also, for the next couple of months, beef and poultry are in good supply and should be excellent buys for your spring-time cookouts. Watch our weekly ads for special savings on these meat favorites.

## MENTONE BROCHURES

M.A.P.A. is in the process of printing 50,000 of the beautiful Mentone brochures. Copies will be placed in all the welcome centers in Alabama and with North Alabama Mountain Lakes Association and the Ft. Payne Tourist Association. The Crafts Festival Committee has given a generous donation, and other merchants and the camps in the area are being contacted to give them the opportunity to contribute. If you have not been contacted & wish to make a donation - call Grace Howard at 205-634-4506.

## COUNTRY JOURNAL

BY BERNICE CROW

## Spring Comes To The Country

My heart sings and every fibre of my being seems to vibrate with the renewing and reawakening of all forms of nature. Oh, Spring! beautiful, miraculous life! How thankful I am to be alive and well with good eyesight to enjoy the slippers in a pine tree area nearby. The crow-foot violets are very delicate and colorful blooming brilliant blue on the rim of Little River Canyon. There are numerous plants that grow only in the Appalachian Mountain Range. Many of the endangered species grow well here in the Mentone area.

Jack-in-the Pulpit grow near the Mentone Springs. The sweet little trailing Arbutus peeps from beneath the naturally mulched wooded areas. And the birds have been giving their wonderful songs to us: the blue birds, cardinals, robins, towhees and tufted titmouses are everywhere. Ray and Shurlee Froehner have had the pleasure of enjoying the evening grosbeak. These birds are migrating and are just here a short time, but oh how beautiful is their yellow and black plumage - mostly soft yellow.

The Indigo bunting survives in a wooded area near where we live in the Coots neighborhood. The pileated woodpecker is hammering away and calling loudly to the others just across the road from our house.

If you happen to hear the little red-headed woodpecker hammering on your gutters, don't be alarmed, this is his mating call. Spring has sprung!

Soon we will enjoy Rhododendron, Mountain Laurel, wild azaleas, (we mountain people call them honeysuckle) sweet shrub and dogwood. The redbud is blooming presently on the side of the mountain wall is being cleaned and repaired. Soon numerous other wildflowers will bloom on the banks of the road giving a lift to us as we drive up the mountain.

Mentone comes alive in every way when Spring arrives. Jimmy and Lynette McCary come with the arrival of the first robin and Ann Jackson is back at her home on the brow.

## RENOVATION

Valley Head has the potential to provide opportunities for preservation and restoration that many communities no longer have. The lamented destruction of the Depot made many realize that once these lovely and historically significant old structures are gone, they are lost forever.

John Cooper wanted to save the Depot, to keep it for further generations, but the obstacles were impossible for one individual, so it was destroyed.

But John Cooper did not stop there, defeated. He continued to seek the opportunity to save something from the past. When a building on the main street of Valley Head became available, he purchased it and began rebuilding. Unfortunately, a supporting wall had been removed some time before and the roof had caved in, so there was nothing left to restore. Complete rebuilding was the only recourse.

The building has housed many different businesses and services since being built in 1913 by T. W. Holleman. It was originally a meat market and grocery. Since then it has been used as a jewelry store, shoe store, cafe, dentist's office, doctor's office, post office, dry cleaners, television repair shop, pool hall, game room and auction house.

The structure now has six rooms and central heat and air and indoor plumbing. John Cooper and Terry Hutcheson have their law office there. The decor is one of simple elegance that is impressive but not intimidating. One has the feeling of being a part of something that is right and good. Those old structures that have served us well should not be cast aside in our quest to progress through material growth. We must restore what we have so that important and contributive parts of our past will not have been in vain. There must be a continuity to life, for links to the past forge strength for the future. We all need roots, or we cannot have wings.

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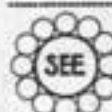
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**SOUTH LOOKOUT**—nice 15 acre farmette has over 600 feet brow frontage along the edge of Lookout with breathtaking views of the valley below. Long county road frontage. Only at \$16,500 with excellent owner financing.

**MENTONE**—13.8 acres with frontage along a pretty mountain creek. Nicely wooded. Gently rolling. Pretty building spot. Good access by private chert road. Excellent owner financing. Priced to sell for only \$12,000.

**VALLEY HEAD**—Nice 40 acre tract is mostly wooded with nice everflowing spring branch winding through the center. Some open. Beautiful building sites. Private road too. Electric and phone. Only \$29,900.

**MENTONE**—Nice 10 acre tract is mostly covered with large trees with very little underbrush. Easy to bushhog. Good building site right in the center. Good pond site out in front of the homesite. Good access. Only \$10,000.

**LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN OVERLOOKING FT. PAYNE**—Unique 19 acres has nearly 800 ft. brow frontage. Two fine building spots. Good access. Exceptionally nice in-town farmette and a good investment for only \$21,500.

**VALLEY HEAD ROAD**—Nice 15.9 parcel has 4 acres of pasture at the foot of Lookout Mountain. Remainder is woods. Good building sites in the edge of the woods looking out across the valley. Good access. Only \$15,900.

**FORT PAYNE (DOGTOWN ROAD)**—Dandy little in-town farmette has a small remodeled frame house on 4 fenced acres mostly in pasture. Small barn. City water and a well. Paved road frontage. A real value for only \$25,000.

**DOGTOWN ROAD**—This dandy little mini-farm has a small but sturdy 2 BR 1 bath frame home on 4 fenced acres. Home has been nicely remodeled and is in good shape inside and out. The land is gently rolling and about 3 acres open in pasture. Small barn. City water and a well. Long frontage on paved road. Lots of value in a small home with acreage located in town and priced to sell for only \$25,000.

**ADAMSBURG**—This nice 20 acre farmette has a good sturdy 5 room frame home which has been partially remodeled. Nearly 1,200 sq. ft. New roof, wiring, windows, etc. Front porch. Deck. Chain link fence around yard. Land is mostly in attractive rolling pasture. Small barn. Pond. Creek. First time offered at only \$45,000.



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**SYLVANIA**—14 acres with 3 BR frame home, 1800 sq. ft. includes Great Room with fireplace and insert. Carpeted throughout. Screened porch. 8 acres in pasture, 6 in cultivation. Fully fenced. New pond. 8 miles to town. \$57,000.

**PORTERSVILLE**—25 attractive acres with long frontage on Hwy. 11. Old homesite with several shade trees remains. Remainder of land is in pasture. Fully fenced. 2 good pond sites. Good soil. \$25,000 with good financing.

**MTN. VERNON area**—30 acres with approx. 16 in pasture, remainder in woods. 6 room frame farm house has been renovated. 2 wells, well house, septic. Old haybarn. Fruit trees. Small stream flows across property. Excellent pond sites. \$36,700.

**HAMMONDVILLE area**—Pretty 12 acres in scenic location with nice valley views and hills all around. 1/4 pasture, 1/4 wooded. Small spring branch. Good pond site. Drilled well. Septic. Gravel drive-way. \$16,700 with good owner financing available.

**SAND VALLEY**—70 acre farm with 2 or 3 acres open, the rest in wooded. 1300 sq. ft. old farm house has large kitchen, DR, LR, 2 large Bedrooms. Nice large 2-story haybarn. Garage/shop bldg and 3 other bldg. \$39,000 with owner financing.

**COLLINSVILLE area**—20 acre farmette has sturdy 6 room frame farm house with 3 Bedrooms, one bath. Large haybarn. Old smoke house. Good well and well house. Land is open pasture and under fence. Scattered trees. A spring branch crosses the pasture serves for stock water. \$30,000

**VALLEY HEAD**—All wooded 18.5 acre mountain parcel runs along the top of a ridge in the valley overlooking Valley Head. Unusually nice views out in both directions. Good access is provided by frontage along a gravel road just a few hundred yards from city street. Electric and phone are close by. Priced at only \$9,900 with good owner financing available.

**NORTH OF FORT PAYNE**—Pretty rectangular 15.9 parcel has 4 acres of gently rolling pasture & the foot of Lookout Mountain. The remaining acreage is wooded in mixed hardwood and scattered pines rising up the slope. A really nice building site sits on a rise in the edge of woods looking out across the valley. 100 ft. frontage on gravel road. Electric and phone available. 1/4 mile off paved highway. Priced to sell at only \$15,900.

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## The Journey of Reddog

by Gregory Purvis  
Part III. of the story of Reddog

The sun beat down upon him, and blood clotted coldly in his wounds. His stomach knawed with hunger, and his throat was parched from thirst, but still he moved on-wards. Dragging himself until his hands were bloody and torn. His knees were split and gory. Reddog could not go on, he collapsed on a great ridge overlooking a running river. His wounded haze traced the river path, and he saw a great rocky chasm with the blue waters spilling down far below. The rushing sound filled his head. The Silver Falls. He had come most of the way, he must get up. And darkness swallowed his mind. The last sounds he heard was the roar of the Silver Falls down below... far below...

Part III. will concern Reddog's rescue by the Elders, his return from the Fever Land of Death, and his enlistment of the aid of the Elders.

The young Indian called Reddog's body was slick with sweat, grime, and blood. Thorns and pine needles flicked his skin, and he was tired. He had walked the whole day at a slow pace, across hills and sloping valleys. At last he had found a path through the dense wood which would lead to The Silver Falls.

The sun was hidden in the shadows of dusk, and the sky was dark with ominous dread. Deep in the young man's heart, he felt fear, stronger than any fear he had ever felt. The Silver Falls was a beautiful place, a holy place; the lands around it, legend had said, had been touched by an evil spirit, a Wendigo. That curse was brought on by the raping of the land by the white men. Reddog wondered which would be more dangerous: the spirits and monsters which supposedly infested the woods near The Silver Falls, or the fierce Bear Clan Indians who threatened to destroy his village.

As the threat of night approached, the fear inside Reddog grew. Cold drops of perspiration dripped from his neck, and goosebumps had risen along his arms. Reddog clenched the strong flint knife at his side firmly. His nerves had swelled until they felt as if they would explode, and then the fear left him. The woods had parted and opened onto a high rock clearing, the sound of roaring water was all around him, as if his ears had suddenly been opened.

The crimson-haired warrior stood, arms hanging limply at his sides. All thoughts of monsters and demons had fled, only the beauty of the scene before him held his mind.

The rocks gave away about thirty yards from where he stood, forming a steep ledge. The chasm below was well lit by the moonlight on the water, and by several torches on the bank of the Falls. The water cascaded hundreds of feet down, spilling into a small fresh water lagoon. And an old man sat on the brink of the ledge, facing away from Reddog, dressed in soft doe skin with necklaces of bear tusks around his neck.

The old man spoke: "I have waited here long for you, young one. What have you come here seeking?"

Reddog gasped in surprise: a moment before, the man had appeared to be only a jutting rock on the stony ledge.

"I... I..."

"Speak up, boy!" bellowed the old man.

"I seek the help of the Elders of The Silver Falls, the words ran together nervously, and Reddog gasped for breath.

"Yes, you want the salvation of your village from fierce strangers, some folk called the Bear Clan, is that right?"

TO BE CONTINUED.



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## Bits & Pieces Theater - Puss 'N Boots

The mind of a child is a very interesting place. Children store away treasures and trash in the nooks and cubbyholes of the mind as much as they do in the corners of their rooms.

When they are very small, they accept whatever knowledge is given to them, for they have not yet learned to discern the difference between what is worthwhile and what is not. The place between those little ears has space enough for volumes of learning, encompassing the closest teddy bear to the furthest star. It is the adult world's responsibility to fill those places with the things that form the basis for all the child is ever to be.

The young person who has the opportunity for experiences such as those offered by the Landmarks organization is one whose perception of the world is enhanced through the wonders of the imagination.

On March 21, the Bits 'N Pieces Theatre from Tampa, Florida presented its own unique perception of the art of the puppeteer. Huge body puppets, hand crafted by Holli Rubin, were the central characters in a colorful musical rendition of the classic children's tale, *Puss 'N Boots*. It was a huge success.

The Bits 'N Pieces Theatre was founded by Jerry Bickel in 1975 and has given puppet shows all over the United States, and will soon tour Europe. This particular concept in puppetry was developed by the Bits 'N Pieces Theatre, and has been very well received.

It was a Spring afternoon well-spent and I would heartily recommend the delightful Theatre presentation. If you get the opportunity, take the kids and enjoy this fine example of puppetry. Or just take yourself; there's still room between your ears for storing away treasures.

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## Ode to a Nightingale— Third in a Series

Emma Smith, because she lived in a time of woman's suffering as well as women's suffrage, reflects in her writings some of the attitudes of the era. Often, her objectives were couched in the frame-work of home and family with the attitude that a woman must sacrifice all for those who depended upon her to put aside her own potential and ambition and to sublimate any feelings of independence in the name of the family good.

But Emma Smith was no shrinking violet, trodding in bitter subsequence to a yoke placed upon her by society. She always cut through the hypocrisy and banality of a situation to the bare bones. Her forceful, clean-eyed gaze could see not only beneath the surface, but also into a place far ahead of most of her gender at the time.

Miss Emma despised alcohol and decried its distribution vehemently. She might well be speaking now when she asked: What preparation have we as a people made to fight the giant foe—whiskey and other slops—which are undermining our nation and destroying more of our people than all the wars combined?

Miss Emma was practical in her approach to the evils of drink: "Many laws have been made seeking to regulate this drink business and all we have is failure. We don't need to regulate it. We have too much regulation now... (we should) put clean men in office, pledged to cast their vote against whiskey first, last and all the time."

Emma Smith staunchly defended the right of women to have the vote, if for no other reason than "in the defense of the home... (if) man deny her the power of a voice in the framing of laws to safeguard those dear ones... it is as well to rob the lioness of her teeth and claws, leaving her young a prey for other beasts of the jungle."

She scorned men who high-handedly refused women the ballot on the grounds that it was not lady-like: "One man says, 'I wouldn't want my wife at the polls among a lot of men! That man was casting an insinuation on his wife and did not have sense enough to know it. A lady is a lady anywhere you find her and as such always commands respect. Besides, if a voting place is so corrupt as to be unfit for a lady, I think it is time to clean up. Don't you?'"

Miss Emma believed strongly in the equality of women. "Her sphere is the whole world. Given as opportunity, she will keep pace with men. Give her a chance, an equal chance with man. We see what conditions are without her."

War was a detestable thing to Emma Smith who "first opened my eyes in this world near the close of the war between the North and South... I have seen the effect of it, we have never gotten over it. War is to be shunned always, if possible."

She was compassionate in her defense of the common soldier sent to fight: "I would like to know how those big, fine dressed fellows who voted for war (and which nothing else but war could satisfy) feel about it now. Would they be willing to enlist as privates and fight, standing in mud and water? Would they be content on a poor soldier's fare...? They want the fighting done, but they don't propose to do any of it." These words still ring true.

In opposition to the American philosophy of Manifest Destiny she wrote "we have lost more men in this bloody conflict, eager for war, thirsting for blood, taking those islands we have no right to... for we have placed our nation before the world as a fighting nation."

Her love for people extended to the enemy as well. How much better is peace than war; all those Spaniards who have been killed and wounded have people waiting for them at home, who will look in vain for their return."

Emma Smith wrote of issues decades ago that are still relevant today.

She felt that great changes were coming, that "this land (will) blossom as the rose." I wonder how she would feel if she knew that humanity had changed, but not become more civilized, and that the same issues that threatened her world at the turn of the century are just as much a threat to the world of today.

(Continued next month)



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In addition to Campbell's soup labels we can also use labels from these food items: Prego, Mrs. Paul's, Swanson's, V-8, Franco-American, and Recipe dog food.

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(continued from front page)

hair cut yet." Mac McCurdy has been a customer since 1958. "I drive eight miles to get here," Mac told The Groundhog, "and I won't go anywhere else." Mac is always ready to discuss politics with anyone willing to listen.

## Remembering... with Mabel Crow Kirk



In the time of the summer of 1926, many young people worked for the W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill in Fort Payne. They came from the rural areas surrounding Fort Payne, and got a working start in life that propelled them onward to greater things.

It was kind of like belonging to a club, for they were friends as well as co-workers and often socialized in their free time, which was usually Sunday afternoon.

On one particularly warm Sunday, Mabel Crow Kirk and her friends from W. B. Davis went swimming at the Pot Hole, a favorite place located below the Alpine Mill where Mabel's father was a miller.

Pictured that day were: Mabel Crow (Kirk), Mary Lee Crow Camp, Beatrice Crow Kell, Henry Haralson, Dick Clayton, Minnie Baxter, Lode Baxter, Elma Posey, Stout Durham, Buleau McCurdy Guest, Cleo Pace, Joe Keith, Leonard Crow, Mrs. Joe Keith and 2 children, Aunt Lade McCurdy, Mack McCurdy, Mrs. Long, Edmund Wills, Josie Crow, Bill Biddle, Frank Biddle, Woodrow Biddle, Col. Howard's grandson and Helen Crow Cassidy.

Some of these people are now deceased, but the memory of that summer afternoon lives on in the memories of people like Mabel Crow Kirk.



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Harvard Hester is an accomplished musician who plays fiddle and guitar for gatherings. He is not a member of a barbershop quartet but has played with such greats as Jeff Cook. They played for the square dances at Bigham's Barn near Summerville before Jeff hit the big time.

Harvard and his fellow musicians meet every week, at someones home or to be a part of the entertainment for an organization or church. People in the South have long had the tradition of the "Musical" in which blue-grass and folk musicians would gather at a home to play and sing the night away.

Edna and Stella Crowe of Mentone, now deceased, opened their home to many of these joyous get-togethers.

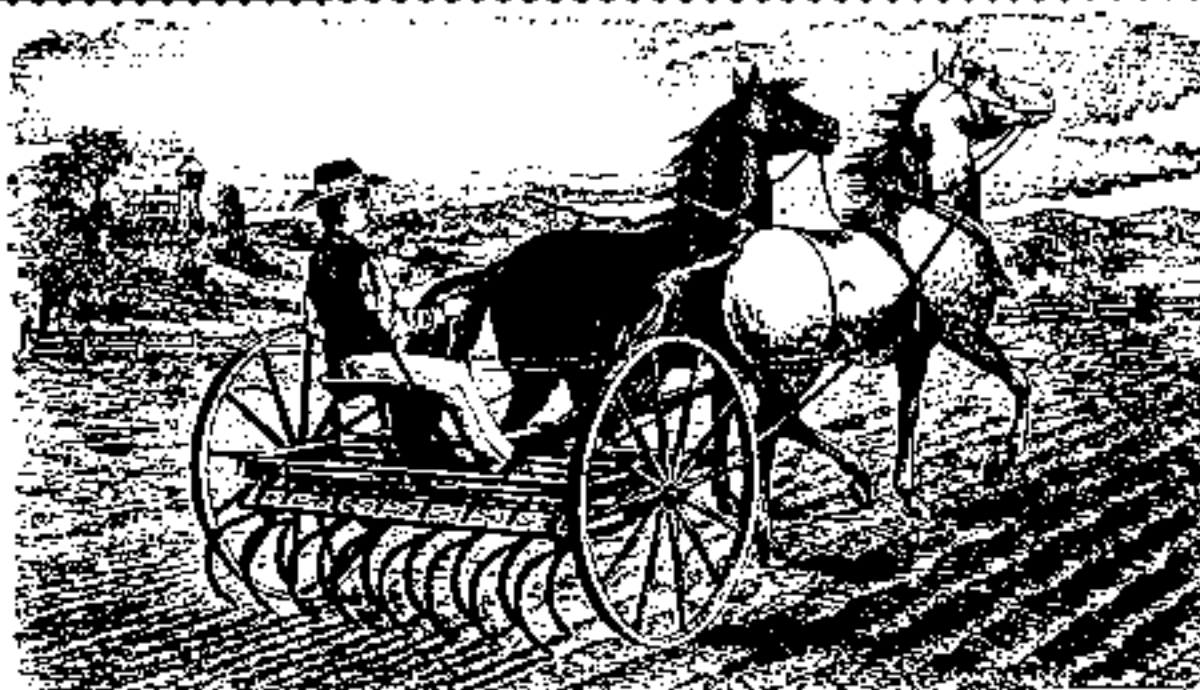
Harvard Hester does not plan any changes in his shop or the way he does business. "Barber in's been, good to me," he reflected, "and I've had, and still have, a lot of fine customers. I depend on them, and I think they count on me to keep things the way they are."

The only barber in Valley Head, Harvard saw some of the world before settling in that small village. He saw combat for two years in World War II. "We took the troops and supplies into shore," he said, "we lived on those boats. But the Infantry deserves the credit. They're the ones who had to go into battle." Many Americans did not return from those embattled beaches, and Harvard Hester considers himself one of the lucky ones.

There has been progress in Valley Head - new industry, a radio station, it's own lawyers, but there have been changes that have not been good. The depot is gone, some old structures have fell into disrepair and neighbors just aren't as interwoven into a community fabric as they once were. Such is the case in most small towns.

But the threads are there, the fibers that form the strength of the cloth, and though there be worn places and tears the integrity of the fabric remains the same.

Traditional businesses like Hester's Barber Shop are the threads that hold small-town America together. Time is the loom & it is run by the hearts, hopes, and circumstances of the people who live there. Whether we patronize these establishments, or give our resources to huge, impersonal corporations is up to us. We have the power to change the whole look and feel of our lives, and thus change the fabric of our Country forever.



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