

GROUNDHOG

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Mary Key Strickland Winn

American Heritage And Mountain Home

Mary Alma Key was born on Jan. 17, 1895 in the state of Georgia in a cove over near Trickum, not too far from Chelsea. She was one of seven children, five surviving. Her parents had met in DeKalb County, Ala. Her father, William Houston Key, came to visit his sister, Martha Durham, who happened to live across the road from Mary's mother, Merica Louise Blansit, who was a young girl of 19 still living at home with her father, James Newton Blansit, and her stepmother.

The Blansits lived near Buckle's Lake above Hammondville. But this was not the beginning of the story, and the tale of how the Blansits got to this farm is quite interesting:

Mary's grandfather Blansit was orphaned at an early age with but one sibling, a brother who lived in St. Louis, Mo. An Indian Feen Bean, took in the homeless child. As a young man, James Blansit decided to go to his brother in Missouri, but upon arriving, got less than the warm reception he expected. His brother was a well-to-do owner of a store, and "dressed up fine" and who wanted no part of a poor relation.

"I was in town one day when I saw a sign," James Blansit would later tell the child Mary, "Auctioneer Wanted." I said to myself, "I'll sign my name to it even though I had never done it before. It wasn't long till they came for me to work. The first thing on the block was a mule, and I nearly gave it away, but after that, they paid me more and more."

James Blansit became quite prosperous in later years and married Laura Ann Painter, who was Mary's grandmother. Laura died, leaving a young family. James then returned to DeKalb County and took another wife, this time on horseback all the way back to Missouri. He decided to bring his large brood back to Alabama, (by that time he and his second wife had had nine children of their own) and so the journey back began in a covered wagon. It was to take three months for the trip because James Blansit "traded" all the way home. He purchased the farm at Buckle's Lake where he was to live for the rest of his life. "His funeral was held on the porch, and they carried his casket up the hill and buried him on his own land," Mary recalled.

Merica Blansit, daughter of James, met her future husband there. The young couple moved in with his parents in Georgia where Mary was born. "My daddy built us a house on the farm and we lived there for a long time. Then Granddaddy sold the farm to a Yankee from Ohio, Joe Merit. We stayed on and planted fruit trees and worked the farm for the new owners. In the spring of the year that was the prettiest sight you've ever seen — all those fruit trees in bloom."



The Key family moved to the mountain, up above Cloudland to where they farmed for several years until it was decided to move to Menlo, Ga., so the children could further their education. "There wasn't a high school on the mountain, and grade school was held in the church."

The next move was to the "Rile Hawkins place above Mentone." "We cleared up the land, it was in woods. My Daddy would build a house, sell it, buy another piece of land, clear it, build another house then sell it, that's the way he lived."

William Key also delivered the U. S. Mail from Cloudland to Menlo, in a buggy for some time.

Mary's father owned quite a bit of land and donated a plot for a church and schoolhouse. It was near the Mt. Olive community above Cloudland and was called Key's

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New Police Chief



Mentone has a new chief law officer, and Bill Williamson seems to be just what the doctor ordered. He was born and reared in Rainsville, Ala. He worked for three years for the Rainsville Police Department as a patrolman and two years at Henagar. Bill also worked for the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department as a radio operator and jailer. Bill plans to move to Mentone with his son, Frank, as soon as he finds a suitable home. Bill has made several arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs and says that is one of the most serious problems of this area. "I ask that everyone help by cooperating, and I will do all that I can to make Mentone a safer place to live."

Town Council Donates To Humane Society

The Mentone Town Council held its monthly meeting on April 4 at the Town Hall. The success of Clean-Up Day was discussed, and everyone agreed that the volunteers did a wonderful job. It is hoped that another such operation can be held later in the spring.

It will cost \$50 to qualify to run for mayor of Mentone, and \$25 to run for the council. So far, no one has registered to run. Each new candidate must also file a statement of ethics. Mrs. Bailey has all the information about this. The last date to qualify is July 19 at 5 o'clock. Election day is Aug. 23, with the new administration beginning on Oct. 3.

The Council carried a motion to give \$100 to the newly-formed Humane Society of DeKalb County. (The Crafts Festival Committee gave \$500).

The dangerous intersection at the top of the mountain was discussed, and it was agreed that something needs to be done before a tragedy happens. All citizens who are interested in getting a three-way stop where the caution light is now, write Lowell Barron, P. O. Box 65, Fayette, Ala., or the State Highway Department.

Court Sessions Begin



Mentone will be having a court session each month on the 18th at the Town Hall. Steve Noles will be the judge, and former Mayor Ethel Manifold will be the new magistrate. Ethel has many years experience in the legal field, having worked in law offices for 32 years and in six states. She worked for eight years for the City Judge of Harvey, Ill. He is now the Law Judge for Cook County, Ill. Ethel graduated from Valley Head High School in 1952 and attended Thornton Junior College and Roosevelt University in Chicago. She is the daughter of J. R. Bain and the late Katherine Hale. She has five children — Connie Bell, Donna Hallihan, Butch Manifold, Jack Manifold, and Dink Tillman plus 10 grandchildren.

Ethel is currently employed as bookkeeper and secretary for Camp Skyline Ranch where she has been for several years.

In Memoriam

Willo Blackburn

As *The Groundhog* went to press, a tragedy occurred that will in some way effect every member of our community. Willo Williamson Blackburn was killed in an auto accident on the night of April 18 as she returned from night classes at Northeast State Junior College.

Willo and her husband William owned and operated the Mentone Superette which was the heart of our town. She was much-loved for her kindness and wit — always ready with a sweet smile and friendly gesture. I knew her for many years, as we attended Fort Payne High School together and graduated in the same class.

Willo Blackburn was a friend, not just an acquaintance, to many people and the void created by her leaving cannot be filled. How we will miss her. — M. S.

Anthony (Tony) Randall Sharp

A young resident of Mentone was killed in a one car accident in March. Tony Sharp was 34 years of age, and is survived by his parents, Mr. James Sharp and Louise Sharp; three children, Sandy, Sally and Leah Kay; one brother, Roger; and two sisters, Ladane McKenzie and Anna Payne.

Tony was a carpenter by trade, and had been living at Mentone for many years. He had many friends in the area and will be greatly missed.

Charles Green

The communities of Cloudland and Mentone were deeply saddened by the loss of another beloved citizen. Charles Green was killed in a one-car accident Saturday, April 23.

Charles and his brother, Phil, owned and operated the Cloudland Trade Center and the Cloudland Nursery. He had been a production manager for Bigelow-Sanford for 23 years.

Charles Green made everyone feel like a friend. His kindness and helpful attitude made all the difference to those who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, Alice Ruth Henderson Green; and son son, Preston Green; mother, Mrs. Ruby Willingham Green; and one brother, Phil Green.

DeSoto Management Changes

Most of Alabama's resort lodges will be under new management by the time this publication goes to press. TW Services, a restaurant management corporation with facilities leased in other states will not renew their management of Alabama's facilities.

Park Managers such as Talmadge Butler at DeSoto State Park will oversee the lodges and restaurants, beginning immediately. A whole new classification of state employees will have to be developed and a new register formed. Presently, employees needed will be hired through local job services until the job descriptions and exams can be formulated.

"We hope the transition will go smoothly," Talmadge Butler said of the new administration, "and that we can keep as many of the present employees as possible. We don't expect any drastic changes at present and want to make any necessary revisions in service and food preparation and policy slowly and thoughtfully."

People like former lodge Manager Greg Rice have the option of staying with the Parks Department and becoming a civil service employee under a merit system or of moving with TW Services. Greg has chosen to make a career move to the State Parks System and will be Manager at Cheaha State Park Lodge.

Talmadge Butler envisions some changes in the menu at the restaurant: "I feel visitors who come to the mountain want to sample the kinds of foods that are indigenous to the area. They do not come here for a taste of the coast, but something prepared the way Southern Appalachian cooks have done for hundreds of years and for which they are famous."

"Basically, though, the courteous service and superior quality of able employees will remain the same. With the State Park System, the emphasis is not upon finances, but upon service. Our primary goal is to attract citizens and visitors alike to the beauty of the mountain and to have them love it and care for it the way we do. Our first responsibility is to the people who come here, who in reality, own this place."

Wildflower Pilgrimage

DeSoto State Park is hosting its annual Spring Wildflower Pilgrimage each weekend in May.

The Park's vast array of wildflowers will be highlighted with hikes and other events, which will be monitored by the Park's Interpretive Staff.

The Park is noted for its beautiful rhododendrons, mountain laurel, and wildflowers in general. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Bill Bosworth, Park Naturalist, at 845-0051.



*The Musical Mountain
in Springtime*
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**Rhododendron
Festival**

**Saturday
and
Sunday**
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On Lookout Mountain Parkway

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RHODODENDRONS
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View Rhododendrons From River Boats
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SPONSORED BY THE MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

MAPA MEETING

MAY 3rd

7:00 p.m.

Town Hall



With this April issue (Volume 6, Number 1) **The Groundhog** begins its sixth year of publication. It has been properly defined as neither a newspaper nor a magazine, but a combination of both. How did this unusual publication come into being?

On Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, 1982, a group of citizens was convened by Bruce Bon Fleur, who had purchased and begun operating Cragmere restaurant; and Sandra Padgett, who with her husband Ray was new owner of the Mentone Springs Hotel. Interest grew and on April 6, 1982, the Mentone Area Preservation Association was formally organized. The purpose of the group was to "preserve and protect the heritage, natural environment and unique qualities of life in the Mentone area."

A new MAPA member, Charles White McGehee, volunteered to begin a newsletter for the group. It began July 6, 1982 as a routine legal-sized mimeographed publication. In February 1983, McGehee and Bon Fleur, MAPA's first director, conceived the plan for the publication. At a MAPA meeting when the plan was proposed and accepted by the group, Mabel Kirk recalled a similar publication in California.

In April 1983 the first edition of **The Groundhog** was printed and distributed. Arrangements were made to have the printing done in the plant of **The Summerville (Georgia) News**. McGehee was the first editor and his wife Jean was associate editor. In addition to assisting in the editorial functions, Jean sold the advertising which resulted in financing of the publication. Eventually the advertising function was handled by Donna Bukley, who later became a director of MAPA.

The Groundhog reported such important local functions as the meetings of the Town Council and other key organizations. Its cover each month selected a person who had contributed to the life of the community. It published a special edition for Mentone's centennial in 1984 which is now a collector's item.

A major project of **The Groundhog** occurred in 1986, with publication of **Mentone, Alabama. A History**, by Zora Shay Strayhorn, chapters of which had appeared serially in the monthly issues. The first edition of the history has now been depleted.

In July 1986 the McGehees resigned as editors and were succeeded by Lew and Darlene Keith, who served for six months. Present editor is Mickey Strickland who began in February 1987.

MAPA Minutes

Director Bill Riedesel welcomed guests Mark Biddle, Stanley Crow, Brownie Tuttle, and James Kuykendall to the April 5 MAPA meeting in the Town Hall Meeting House.

Mickey Strickland reported that **The Groundhog** will begin its sixth year of publication with the April, 1988 edition. Jean McGehee stated that Mayor Rob Hammond has made a list of those he will ask to serve on a steering committee for Little River. He will write once again to State Highway Department Chairman Royce King, requesting permission for an asphalt bike trail through the business district.

Jack Jones reported on plans for the Rhododendron Festival May 21 and 22. Bruce Bon Fleur will be in charge of a parade of beauty pageant entrants.

MAPA has been given permission to serve sausage biscuits, coffee, lemonade, corn and iced tea at the June Jam.

James Kuykendall gave an interesting program about Winston Place in Valley Head (See story elsewhere). Grace Howard served refreshments to the group.

Condensed from the minutes of Jean McGehee, Secretary

The Lookout

"Atop Lookout Mountain"
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(404) 862-2515

The Groundhog

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205-634-4198 or 4185

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Secretary Jean McGehee
Treasurer Harrel Jenkins

MAPA Meeting Features Local Historian

James Kuykendall, founder and past president of Landmarks, the DeKalb County historical society, spoke to the April fifth meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Kuykendall is president of the Fort Payne Rotary Club and is manager and pharmacist at Harco Drugs in Fort Payne. His topic was "Winston Place in Valley Head."

To give an idea of the importance of Winston Place, he held up three publications, all of which tell about the home: a 1921 **National Geographic** magazine, a 1951 book, **Antebellum Mansions of Alabama**, and a 1971 edition of **Landmarks**.

Winston Place was built in 1836 and is the same age as DeKalb County. Originally a two room log cabin, it grew into 12 rooms, with an outside kitchen, 94 windows, and eight fireplaces. At one time an additional six rooms were built, but they were later removed.

From Virginia, William Overton Winston and his wife Maria Louise Beene purchased the home from its builder, Dr. James Gardner, who was the first postmaster in Valley Head. Kuykendall revealed that Winston was a cousin to Dolley Madison and Patrick Henry. The Winstons had 14 children, but only four lived to marry. Winston Place is one of two homes in DeKalb County in **The National Register**. It is both socially and architecturally significant, Kuykendall believes.

The only son who lived to adulthood was Dr. John Nelson Winston. One of the daughters married an Alexander; she was the mother of Brownie Clay Tuttle of Valley Head. Mrs. Tuttle, a guest at the MAPA meeting, formerly taught at Valley Head High School.

Mrs. Winston held the organizational meeting of the Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church in her parlor. Today Mrs. Tuttle and her sister are the only remaining members of the church.

On a committee voting whether or not to secede from the Union, Winston voted not to secede — and thus his home was spared during the Civil War. One of two large slaveholders in the area, he owned some 42 slaves.

Kuykendall stated that the county was relatively passive about the war. Skirmishes were fought here, but no major battles. Some 30,000 Union soldiers camped on the Winston Place prior to the Battle of Chickamauga. According to a surviving legend, the family hid its silver in a dry well.

Winston is credited with getting the railroad from Chattanooga to come through Valley Head. Winston Place was in the same family for 106 years. The Tutwiler family owned it for some time, and the Hammond family purchased it in 1944. Kuykendall ended his presentation showing slides of Winston Place and of various sites in Mentone.

MOUNTAIN WATCH

By Charles White McGehee

You are about to read a very significant piece of writing. It will be referred to as **The Billy Barnes Column**. It will be xeroxed and sent to relatives and close friends.

You're probably asking, "Who on earth is Billy Barnes?"

Billy Barnes was a boyhood friend in my hometown of Summit, Miss. He went away to a military school, seriously considered the Presbyterian ministry, then settled down at home. First he operated the butcher shop left to him by his uncle. Eventually he sold the butcher shop and opened a furniture store.

For many years, in addition to operating the furniture store, he farmed a piece of land in the edge of town and served as caretaker of the town waterworks. He was a talented person with a wry sense of humor who made a success of just about everything he attempted. His wife, Halcyone, was from Detroit and exactly my age.

Once Billy Barnes made a trip up east, to New York City, I think.

Upon his return, Billy walked up and down Main Street, from the bank where he was on the board, past the railroad depot where he liked to chat with the station master, past Lotterhos' grocery — all the way across Highway 5 to the post office, where he went each morning to pick up the daily mail.

To one and all he said in a loud voice: "This is an announcement: From here on if anybody wants to see Billy Barnes, they'll have to come to Summit, Miss."

From then on Billy drove to nearby McComb for a movie; one-day business trips to New Orleans, and to the state capital in Jackson — but never overnight. It became known to one and all that if anyone wanted to see Billy Barnes, they'd have to come to Summit.

Stick with me and you'll find out what this is all about.

Recently Jean and I returned from a trip to Jacksonville, Fla. It was the annual visit in my role as minister emeritus of the Unitarian Universalist Church. I was first minister of the church and remained for 16 years. Our relationship was good, the experiences ran deep, and when I resigned in 1976 it was an emotionally wrenching event.

We established a custom whereby I would — in my own word — come down from the mountain and walk on water in the early part of each year. There was a reception on Friday evening and I delivered the sermon on Sunday morning. In full generosity, the church paid all expenses for the visit.

The 1988 visit to Jacksonville was about all one could expect. For two weeks we stayed on the seventh floor of a luxurious condominium overlooking the Atlantic — made available to us by a friend. There was a constant view of seagulls, pelicans, surfers and a variety of people strolling along the beach. Often a shrimp boat tossed in the ocean or a tramp steamer moved outward or a helicopter patrolled overhead.

There were visits from people we cherish. We indulged in a variety of foods: Chinese, Italian, Mexican and above all, seafoods, so native to the area. I lost a heated chess game with a longtime competitor; evaluated music with a friend who is a composer; consoled a friend who lost heavily on Black Monday and was grinning about it; and constantly encountered persons with whom I had gone through depths of anguish and heights of joy.

Amid these encounters, the thought began to surface: When I get back to Mentone I'm going to write my Billy Barnes Column. At first it seemed foolish, fatalistic, plain nonsense. But it wouldn't go away. During the second week, Jean and I were saying, "Won't it be good when we get back to Mentone?"

There we were in the midst of adulation, luxurious surroundings, and people who generally agreed with us about the presidential primaries, the Iran-Contra mess, and life in general. Yet we kept saying, "Won't it be good when we get back to Mentone?"

Mentone, where our comfortable cabin is situated on our three acres of earth; where the folks are so friendly when we go to the post office for the morning mail; where we chose to live when we had a multitude of choices; where the pace is slower and the air is cleaner.

Actually, in younger years I wanted to travel. We did go with our children to Mexico and Canada, but never to Europe, where the idea of visiting Paris, Rome, and taking a boat trip down the Rhine River in Germany appealed to me. A week on a palatial ocean liner had certain appeal. In the earlier years of retirement we owned an Allegro Motor Home, traveling as far as Key West and East Texas. But more and more the urge to travel diminished and Mentone seemed better and better.

We began settling for those bargain weekends in swanky motels in Atlanta and Birmingham. As years passed these places seemed less and less comfortable — especially the beds. There is no bed in the world quite equal to our old four-poster. Much as I enjoy eating out, Jean's cooking attains higher gourmet standards each year.

My younger sister in Washington is seriously ill. I have nagging feelings about visiting an older cousin and younger sister-in-law in Mississippi. A sense of duty is overwhelmed by a reality of the inconvenience of travel. What's that corny old song? "Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."

Perhaps in time I'll relent. But Billy Barnes got away with it when he was many years younger than I. So, my proclamation: "If anybody wants to see Charley White McGehee — they'll have to come to Mentone, Ala."

Rhododendron Festival May 21,22

Our Town With Linda Brown

I was thinking about the opening sentence for this article. I had decided on something like, "What a beautiful spring this is." Then I heard about Willo's terrible accident. My first reaction was, how can it be a beautiful spring when something like that happens. Then I realized that Willo was life and love and a beautiful person. She would want us to appreciate what a beautiful spring this is.

The Rhododendron Garden Club met at St. Joseph's church this month. A lot of plans were made to improve our community. Mr. Talmadge Butler of DeSoto State Park showed us a video of our area that made us realize again what a beautiful park of the world we live in. Let's continue with our clean-up campaign.

The Mentone Crafts Festival held its first meeting for the 1988 season recently. We have mailed applications to all of the exhibitors who were with us last year. The response has been very good so far. If you are interested in participating in any way, you may write to: MCF, P. O. Box 103, or contact me.

The DeSoto Rescue Squad decided at the last meeting to help with the parking of cars at this year's June Jam. We didn't receive any money last year, but we have in years past and we want to see the Jam continue.

You never know where you will meet someone who knows about Mentone. I was in the restroom at Shoney's in Birmingham recently and started talking to a lady. She was from California but now resides in Birmingham. I told her I was from Mentone. Her eyes lit up and she said, "Nippersink." She had stayed up here when Lowe and Tucker were the owners. We should be careful to project a good image of Mentone where ever we go.

Thanks to Mr. Ed Disney from Ovie Blalock and myself. We have had a lot of fun with the old records. I found this in my desk today. It was written by a dear lady who was in Mountain Manor Nursing Home.

ZEST AT 80

When I was young, my slippers were red,
I could kick my feet clear over my head.
When I was older, my slippers were blue,
But I could still dance the whole night through.
Now I am older, my slippers are black,
I walk to the corner and puff my way back.
The reason I know my youth has been spent,
My get up and go has got up and went.
But I really don't mind, when I think with a grin,
Of all the grand places my get up has been.
People everywhere tell me that they saw it in the
Groundhog. It seems that this little publication is widely circulated.

Let me know if I can help you in any way. Linda Brown,
P. O. Box 207, Mentone, AL 35984, 205/634-4755.

Milton Howard— An Inspiration



Milton Howard recently received two commemorative medals to mark the over 50 years he has lived with diabetes. One medal is from the Eli Lilly Company and the other is from The Joslin Diabetes foundation of Boston, Mass.

Milton and his wife, Grace, have a home on the north brow of Mentone with a breathtaking view of the valley.

When asked about the medals, Mr. and Mrs. Howard said they would like for Milton's story to serve as a beacon of hope to diabetics and those who love them. The Howards live a very full life — traveling, rock and gem hunting, serving as hosts to a guest cabin they rent to tourists, sharing in the lives of their children and grandchildren and being active members of MAPA and other community organizations. Mr. Howard told **The Groundhog**: "I have hiked for miles on the Appalachian Trail, climbed mountains, traveled in 44 states and six provinces of Canada. I take one day at a time, and live a very normal life."

"I eat carefully and do all that I can to take care of myself, and I keep a hopeful outlook on life — that means a lot."

Landmarks Alone Together A Success

On the night of April 12, the DeKalb County Arts Council, Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc., and University College of the University of Alabama at Birmingham presented to delighted theatre-goers Town and Gown's rendition of Lawrence Roman's **Alone Together**. George Butler, played by Hubert Harper, and Helen Butler, played by Jeannette Stelzenmuller portrayed parents who, after years of looking forward to the time when their three sons would fly from the nest, had to endure the now young adults unannounced and unwanted return, plus an extra sent by the one remaining absent child.

Everyone who ever looked forward to the peace and tranquility of post-childrearing life can identify wholeheartedly with the confusion and anger of these parents. As more and more young people opt to live at home, or to return there after leaving, the social and cultural problems that characterize these situations must be confronted. George and Helen Butler do so in such a manner as to touch upon some very basic emotions through the medium of comedy. And the laughs are abundant, as well as the deeper, more solemn thoughts, and the most important aspect of the humor is that we are laughing with the Butlers, not at them.

The acting was first-rate, especially Mr. Harper and Ms. Stelzenmuller's, with the latter giving forth with facial expressions that greatly enhanced the effects of the verbal exchanges.

I would recommend that everyone over 30 see this presentation if the opportunity arises. It should be a part of every psychologist's portfolio for those parents who need help in coping with the "empty nest." Some folks look forward to all that peace and quiet.

News From The Valley By Eloise Brown

The Valley Head United Methodist Women met at Velma Hammond's for their Day of Prayer program, which was led by Eloise Brown, assisted by Verna Livingston and Frances Longshore. The scripture was read by Laura Margaret Allison and prayer by Brownie Tuttle after which a bountiful lunch was enjoyed. Others present were Mary Louise Holliman, Cindy and Mary Frances Barrett, Elizabeth Coleman, Vesta Hawkins, Mary Frances Tate, Hazel Shankles, Adelaide Biddle, Evelyn Shankles, Geneva Smith, Janie Longshore and Velma Hammond.

The Sunshine Club met at the home of Vernitis Young March 24. Others present were Bess Baurle, Geraldine Hawkins, Sue Cooper, Betty Brown, Carmel Gifford, Tillie Schlicher, Ruth Pickett, Evelyn Clark, Eva Chadwick, Addie Hall, Leona Chadwick, Janie Longshore, Jewel Palmer, Billie Harper, Frances Stanek and Eloise Brown.

Dot and Bill Blackburn had as recent guests their grandson, Mark Gibson, from Houston, Texas, their daughter, Linda Blackburn, and friend, Betty Lewis, of Orange Park, Fla.

Dot Blackburn and Maureen Hammond met Linda and Greg Frith of Mentone, at Hammondville for breakfast.

Edith and Alvin Cox entertained visitors from Canada: Pete and Betty Wills, Roy and Susie Peppers, Frank and Jane Neal, who went on to Key West, Fla. The Coxes had just returned from a trip to Blairsville.

Alba Brown is convalescing at home after a stay in B.M.C. DeKalb. Her sister, Ruby Oaks of Jemison, Ala., has returned home after a visit with her.

Roy Cobble is slowly improving at Parkridge Hospital in Chattanooga.

The news is encouraging from Brad Hawkins, who underwent bone marrow transplants at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Md.

Laurie and Andrew Dell came from Glen Burnie, Maryland to visit her grandmother, Eloise Brown, and took her to visit Laurie's sister's family — Ray and Robin Darby, and children Sharon and Kirsten — at Ballwin, Mo. Trips to the Art Museum, Arboretum, and other sights of St. Louis were enjoyed.

Hammondville is proud to have the Satellite Ambulance Service located here. Work on the new building is scheduled to begin this month. The service is now in operation — the telephone number is 845-3200.

The Hammondville clean-up team reported that 40 bags of litter were collected between City Hall and the cemetery road. For beauty's sake, for the sake of cleanliness, for downright goodness' sake, quit being trashy!!!

Spring Happening



Young people from all over Alabama converged on Mentone's St. Joseph's Episcopal Church for a weekend "Happening." The students stayed at Camp Laney but took their meals at the church, as all the food was provided by church members. This is the Second "Happening" in Alabama.

The above group was spending a few minutes between activities just enjoying the sunshine and each other's company.

Moon Lake Baptist Youth Hold Car Wash



A group of young people from the Moon Lake Baptist Church held a car wash Saturday, April 16, to raise money for a special retreat they take every year. The day dawned cold and windy, but this did not deter these determined youngsters. The group is to stay at Camp Cook in North Central Alabama, and everyone, including Roberta and Eddie Kerby, had a fun day manning the soap and water.

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COUNTRY JOURNAL

By Bernice Crow

I love the things someone has written: Do you remember when? Most of these things make us aware of our age and make us realize that we are senior citizens. Let's talk about now, today. Most of us hold pleasant memories of days gone by and fail fully to enjoy what happened just the day before yesterday. When strolling down memory lane, we tend to file away in the recesses of our minds only the good times. Unpleasantness are not filed away unless you are one of those who holds grudges and seeks a vendetta. Let's hope none of you do that.

Do you remember that just a year ago on the third of April we had about six inches of snow here? What a beautiful, soft, fluffy type it was. No damage was done, and it was gone before the day was over. Do you remember just two weeks ago we had the most beautiful show of Redbud on the mountainside that I can remember ever having seen? They seemed to be fuller — more blossoms to the stem. Did you remember to plant all your bulbs in the fall? I usually put mine in the refrigerator, which is recommended to season them before planting, and don't get around to planting them until February! They will bloom, but not so profusely.

Do you remember that on Easter Sunday we went back on Daylight Saving Time? And I haven't caught up with it yet, and won't until October when we settle down again. When you made pickles last summer, did you remember to remove them from the alum bath after soaking overnight? I didn't, and have some that aren't quite as crisp as they should be.

Now, what I do remember are the things that happened in the '40s. I remember my graduation class was the smallest ever to finish at Valley Head — 1945. There were only 16 of us. Some of the boys had to go on into the armed forces before graduating. Bob McCord would come back and graduate after losing a leg in a battle while serving in the Marine Corps during World War II.

I remember having a ration book with coupons to buy sugar, coffee, gasoline, shoes and other necessities during World War II. Do some of you remember that we got ice cream and Cokes delivered to the Mentone Grocery once a week? Those of us young people would run to the store and eat a pint of ice cream. And I would drink a Coke that I didn't even like — just because it was hard to get. Don't we always count what is rare?

Do you remember when the Glovers operated the Hitching Post? Graham, Alex, Billy and their Mother, Eleanor, operated it during the '40s. They fed breakfast to the fox hunters who stayed at the Mentone Springs Hotel. The fox hunters would start blowing their fox horns early in the morning, calling the dogs for the hunt.

Evelyn Jones was Post Mistress at the Mentone Post Office which was in the portion of the Hitching Post now occupied by the Gourdie Shop. Mail was delivered twice a day — at 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The Post Office was a familiar meeting place for neighbors and "summer people" — as the Post Office still is.

Of course I remember Hal Howe — the salt of the earth. He operated DeSoto Hotel, which is now the Mentone Inn. He and Mrs. Howe served the best food I have ever eaten anywhere, bar none. And their guests came back year after year, from New Orleans mostly, some from Mississippi, Birmingham and Rome. My sister and I worked there while going to high school. The Hotel was open from June to September. What happy days those were! Hal Howe was a good performer and he entertained the guests in the lobby every evening, after dinner with his juggling act, story telling, playing "My Old Kentucky Home" on the band saw. They loved him. Do you remember Miss Clara Moorman and Windward Inn? She kept maybe 20 guests at the lovely old Inn all summer. Do you remember that we had Riverside Hotel, now owned by Camp Skyline Ranch, and Riverdale Hotel where we now have Camp Laney? Those places were all filled in the Summer.

Do you remember Goldie Pace, George and Minnie Clinton, Doc Chadwick? These people were a very important part of Mentone in those years.

Do you remember in the '40s we had huge chunks of ice delivered and put in wooden ice boxes? Elmer Crowe operated the ice plant in Valley Head right below the little bridge, using fresh spring water to make ice — between the bridge and the little park. Iced tea seemed to taste better served over ice chipped with an ice pick from a solid block of ice.

Do you remember W. A. (Will) Bruce? He was a living legend here for years — with his plant farm. He had an office on the vacant lot between the Hitching Post and the Mentone Inn. He was an old seaman who loved to tell tall tales of his adventures to whomever cared to listen.

Do you remember when Charlie Hall owned the Mentone Grocery Store and his son, Louis, pumped gas into cars with a hand-operated gas pump?

Do you remember Louis Hall and his band? Colquitt Jones played some with him, and I think Elizabeth (Jones) Romons might have played piano some with them. I remember we loved to get Elizabeth to play any time we could: "Under the Double Eagle."

I remember John Lyday. He was one of the best men I ever knew. He worked some for C. E. Bell in his store at Valley Head. He was so kind. He would pay for groceries out of his own pocket for someone who could not pay for them. I think he finally had to quit because it was taking more than he made. He taught singing schools at Moon Lake, and my sister Jean and I learned a great deal about music using shaped notes. He was a good teacher — be it music or academic studies. He came by the DeSoto Hotel and helped me wash dishes one time, so we could leave a little early and go to a gospel singing.

Do you remember Miss Josie Phillips, who worked at Bell's store? She loved everybody and would assist them any way possible. She handled shoes.

Perhaps you have memories you would like to share with us. Send them to The Groundhog and we might keep a running dialog of personal memories.

Joe Lemaster— Meeting The People



Superintendent of Education hopeful Joe Lemaster is taking his campaign to the citizens of DeKalb County in person. He has logged as many miles as a marathon runner in order to bring his message of priorities and change to the voters, and the people are responding to the personal touch of common man and fellow parent who is "an educator, not a politician."

In a recent interview, Joe Lemaster defined his objectives: "Having been a teacher in the DeKalb County School System for the past 14 years, I know from experience the strengths and needs of our schools. As a parent, I understand the importance of meeting the needs of all our students, and of insuring that each child is given the opportunity to reach his or her full potential regardless of whether that child chooses to attend college or to enter the job force after graduation. I have a very strong interest in the priorities of our educational system, as a parent, a teacher and a citizen."

"One of the main strengths of our school system is the support the individual communities give to their schools. As Superintendent, I want to strengthen the bond of cooperation and trust between our schools and our communities. I want to devote time to each and every one, and add a personal dimension to the office of Superintendent."

"One of the most important priorities that needs to be addressed more fully is the high drop-out rate among our young people. In the early grades, special emphasis needs to be placed on reducing the teacher-pupil ratios, stressing the basics, implementing programs that build self-esteem, and initiating drug and alcohol awareness programs. Working together, we can reduce this high drop out rate and give our students the foundation they need to build successful futures."

"In the upper grades, we need to implement additional career-oriented programs that will help prepare students to meet the challenge of the real adult world. Society is complex and demanding, and our young people need to be given opportunities to make the decisions that will affect their lives forever, and these opportunities must come through more choices and alternatives and through new and unique ways of meeting life's challenges."

"I am not affiliated with any past administration. My only interest in seeking this position is to be a full-time Superintendent of Education, devoting all of my time and energy to working in a cooperative manner with everyone associated with our educational system."

"My top priority will always be the most important special interest group — the children."

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New Member Of Verdon Family

John Paul Verdon and wife, LeeAnn Haney, became the parents of a baby boy on April 17 at Baptist Medical Center in Fort Payne. John is the son of Jean Powell of Cloudland and Tim Verdon of California. Mrs. R. C. Gilbreath is the baby's great-grandmother. The Verdon's make their home with Mrs. Gilbreath in Mentone.

Zora, A Grandmother

Local historian Zora Strayhorn became the proud grandmother of a 7 pound, 2 ounce boy on March 29 at 1:06 a.m., Matthew Aaron.

Staff Sergeant Greg Strayhorn and wife, Belinda, are stationed at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.



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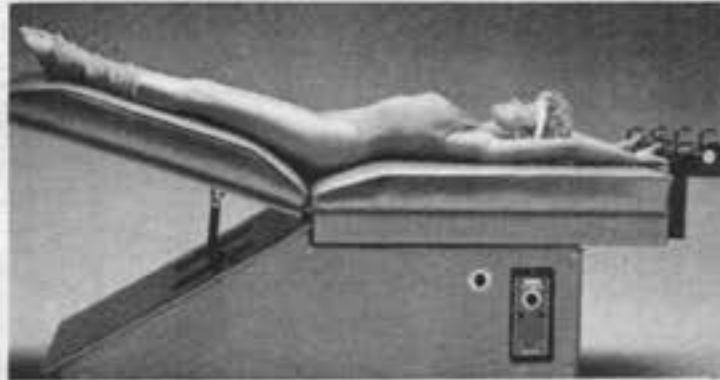
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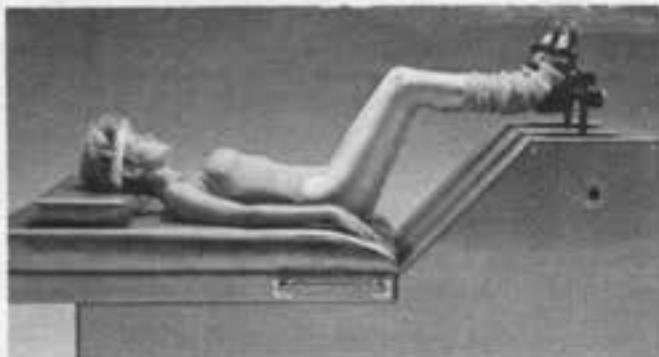
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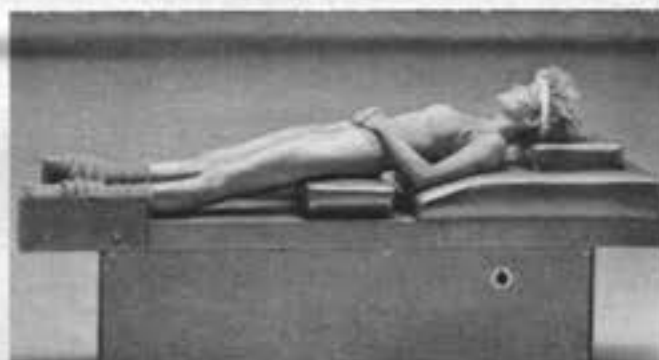
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Betty Bukley, RN

The Greening Of Mentone

—Sure Signs Of Spring

Mentone Inn



Amelia Brooks, owner of Mentone Inn

Amelia Brooks and her staff are polishing the old Inn from top to bottom in preparation for the coming season, which begins the last of April. The Mentone Inn is over 60 years old, with Amelia as proprietor for 12 years. The Inn retains much of the flavor of years gone by with its antique furnishings and big porches with rocking chairs for whiling away cool evenings. There is a hot tub too, and a large cabin for groups. The low price includes a delicious breakfast. The town of Mentone with its quaint shops and famous restaurants is but a stone's throw from the Inn.

Nippersink



The Disney Family — Mr. Disney, Desmond, Teresa and Marlin Cox.

Nippersink Lodge celebrates its 43rd season in operation this summer, the 10th for the Disneys. The Lodge has an impressive list of clientele who have been coming there for years. The spring and fall are the busiest times, and reservations must be made well in advance, but there are sometimes cancellations. And for the summer, it is best to make plans early. Nippersink, set deep into the mountain woodlands within walking distance of Little River and DeSoto Falls, offers tranquility and serene beauty together with scrumptious meals, all for one price. The 1988 season officially begins in May and the Disneys are hard at work to make the Lodge and cabins ready for the greeting of old friends and the making of new ones.



Lightning Goss gets those lawnmowers ready (H. P. looks on).



Leaf-raking gets underway at camps



Harrell Jenkins starts his garden

Old Times Letters

Reprinted with permission from The Times Journal in Fort Payne, AL.

APRIL 22, 1896 — FROM VALLEY HEAD

J. M. White sprained his arm lifting an iron shaft and disabled him a few days last week.

John Wright mistook a horse's head for a bag of sand and let his four-pound fist come in contact with it and is now carrying his hand in a sling.

Thomas Keith has a bad swollen(sic) foot at present, caused by a third party horse turning a democrat bench over on his Republican foot.

Madame Rumor has it that C. Y. Culberson has a large gash cut in his political reputation by voting for Joe Johnson in the Primary, but I guess it will all heal up about dog days.

My friend, J. F. Turner, says he has played on the political checker board long enough to get a king and now he can jump any way he pleases. So he says he lost Clarke in the primary, he will drop back and see if he can run Johnson in for Governor in August.

Boys, I have eat crow and I could and would have done it again if necessary.

A. M. Street of Summerville, Ga., passed through our town Saturday. Alf was once a citizen of our county and of course he gave me an order for the Journal, cash order, too.

Bob Stewart and family, of Allen's Switch, was in town Sunday.

Frank Davenport says he is glad I didn't mention his name in connection with that Sunday swell fishing party.

I wish I had sense enough to say some word of consolation, through the Journal, to the defeated boys, for I am acquainted with the most of them and some of them are good friends, but every effort so far has failed me from the fact that it occurs to me my words would be just like pouring water on a goose's back, but the best thing I can suggest (speaking from experience) is to jump right on the band wagon and toot your horn for the whole ticket, for we have got a good set of nominees that would be hard to beat for good upright, honest men, and will be hard to beat in August.

C.Y.C.

MAY 6, 1896 — FROM MENTONE

A little gossip at proper intervals is a relief to the mind. To slip an ad into the newspaper under the guise of items, etc., is roguish. He who comes from the North to the South and is for ever talking and telling how they do it up North and are like unto a man born and reared in the South and is forever finding fault, and vice versa — the fault finders if they were to go North would tell what wonderful things they do in the South.

And again in a few neighborhoods we find people who are opposed to Northern people coming down here and use various means to discourage strangers from locating. There is another class who make it their business to fleece the newcomers, and when ever they fall into the hands of these unprincipled parties they and we are the losers, and should this happen again we would be constrained to publish names. We do not consider the Northern people who come here as intruders, except they be of the class first described, who are an obstacle in the tide of immigration — they are like a bag of sand in the Mississippi River and would wreck the whole business if let alone.

We should invite all good people to come settle among (us) and be one of us, and we should give them truly warning to fight shy of the enemy to the spirit of improvement, and the sharpers who are found in most all countries.

There are many ways in which we could help our Northern friends to escape the next winter and get in a healthful and most delightful climate. There are thousands of copies of The Journal that could be sent to them giving the information most desired. We would be pleased to get an expression from the 28 different beats of this County — it is not the great blow we make in regard to this County that is attracting the people from other section(s) — we can assure them we have everything they have asked for and we do desire their presence, their knowledge and money, and are willing and ready to divide and enjoy the pleasures together. The demand is great and the supply is wonderful, and when the distribution is made the equilibrium will be restored. Peace will reign in a land of plenty, a happy people we be.

Cor.

MAY 6, 1896 — FROM VALLEY HEAD

Dr. E. P. Nicholson has returned from Chicago, where he has been attending lectures. We imagine the Doctor is just like an engine just out of the shops, where it has undergone repairs and repainted. We just believe he has come back with his head full of new ideas and methods. I hope he has learned something that will help us all to be able to sit and read the papers while he cuts on us. For I have a faint recollection of allowing him to lance my hand last fall, and he did a splendid job, but the funny part was the Doctor asked me if it didn't feel better, and I tried awful hard to say but in my effort to say yes my tongue went off like this: I never was hurt worse in all my life. But I will say just here that the Doctor with the aid of his good wife to hold my hand done all that could be expected, and I got some relief by and by. So now I suppose he will use the Cathode rays which will enable him to step in and see before he begins to carve.

The Editor of The DeKalb County Record made a pleasant call at my desk last week. He was on the lookout for an officer who had the legal authority to issue a warrant of arrest. After inspecting him, I noticed his hat and coat had considerable evidence he had returned to dust prematurely, also one eye seemed to be kinder under the weather not able to be out all the time and other unmistakable evidence that his life is made up of ups and downs with a continual warfare going on. But with all this the editor was nevertheless in a good humor and said he wasn't built for the ring, but he wanted the other fellow to come up before the court (as soon as the primary was over) and show the world that one of his eyes was in the same cyclone and if it is in our power as a court we will insist upon the prisoner acknowledging to the fact that his black eye (if it is black) was the result of coming in contact with a plucky little Yankee, who is the editor of The DeKalb County Record, and who don't believe in fighting and further believes it to be the indispensable duty of all citizens to stop a fight, especially if the plague-take business is running too much one way.

Why are primary elections like the cold spell about Easter? Because as soon as it's over the farmers do better.

Rev. J. H. Blaylock resigned the pastoral care of the Baptist Church at this place last Sunday preparatory to going West.

We learn that our fellow townsman J. S. Burkhart is expected to move to Trenton, Ga., soon.

The Republican Primary passed off quiet Saturday. Mrs. Lucinda Cooper of Attalla is visiting relatives in our town. I wonder what everybody is talking about Bob Crabtree for?

Bob Reynolds says he likes The Journal better all the time.

C.Y.C.

Walking For Others

LAKE SCHOO



Back row — Roneha Combs, Pam Hunt, Lonnie Hale, Steve Gray, Sandra Gray and Larry Gray. Front row — Joseph Bain, Leah Sharp, Phillip Michael Haney, Bradley Hale, Shawn Keefer, Alan Gray and Ginger Gray.

A determined group of Moon Lake students set out from the school Saturday, April 16 to try and walk four sponsored miles to raise money for the Leukemia Foundation. The weather was cold and brisk, but these children were determined to do all they could. Chairman Larry Gray with helpers Steve and Sandra Gray got the show on the road about 11 a.m. There were also parents who participated in the walk. Mentone Police Chief Bill Willingham drove in front of the group to insure safety.

Refreshments were provided by McDonald's, Sunbeam Bread and Krispy Kreme Doughnuts.

Over \$400 was pledged for the fight against one of childhood's most deadly killers, and all of the money raised by the Moon Lake children will be given to the Alabama chapter of the foundation.

CRAFTS CORNER

By Helen Turner

Soap making now, is considered an art but when I was a youngster I remember that it was quite a necessity. Helping my mother make soap was not something I looked forward to.

We had to "drag up pine limbs" to start a fire under a large wash pot, and after the soap mixture was added it was my job to stir the "brew" while running around the pot to escape the black smoke made by the pine limbs. Of course we did it the hard way as you will see in this 1863 recipe. We also substituted commercial lye for the potash.

My mother's lye soap was great for washing clothes and very soiled hands. It cleaned the dirt and if we left our hands in too long, it removed a little bit of skin.

Take 5 pounds potash, 5 pounds grease and 16 gallons of water. Break the potash in pieces the size of walnuts (if large), it will not dissolve so quickly. Put in a clean, tight barrel. Melt the grease and pour it in. Any grease will answer as skimmings, old lard, etc. Have the water hot and pour half of it immediately into the barrel, stirring it until the potash is dissolved, which will require from 20 to 30 minutes. Then add the rest of the water. Stir again until thoroughly mixed, and afterward occasionally for three or four days.

This will make about a half barrel of white soap, hard enough to cut with a knife. 1863.

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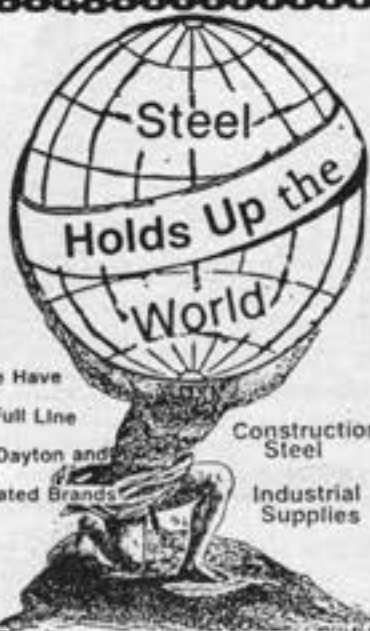
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Judy, Judy, Judy . . . Sims, That Is, Of Judy's Temporary Services



Judy Sims is not a lady to let the world pass her by. She sees a need and finds a way to fill it, and this time in the process she offers something new and different for DeKalb and surrounding counties. Judy has begun a temporary job service to businesses and will soon be hiring extra staff because the response has been so great. "I guarantee the quality of my work and that of my staff," Judy told *The Groundhog*, "and there is no job too large or too small. I will type anything or conduct any sort of business from my home office or will fill in for companies or individuals on a temporary basis."

Judy is well qualified for this type of enterprise for she has 20 years office experience and has worked for the best names in temporary service, Kelly Girl, Norrell, etc., in five states. Most of her experience has been in the fields of real estate, insurance and legal services. For the past two years, Judy has been in advertising and also worked as an independent investigator for several law firms. She has held the position of paralegal and worked for the District Attorney's office in Fort Payne for six years. She is also a notary public.

Right now, Judy handles only business clients, but expects to branch out soon to other services such as construction, lawn care, babysitting, and more. She plans a full-service company within months and asks that anyone who has a need to call her, "and if I don't have someone to do the job, I will try and find someone who does."

"I have talked about doing this for three years, but it took the support and insistence from my friend Carl to make me finally do something about it. He has helped me a lot, and made a lot of my office furniture."

Judy lives and has her office in the house directly behind Battles Grocery on Hwy. 117 in Mentone. She lives adjacent to the area once known as the Tourist Court.

The Death Of Granny Dollar — An Article

From The Ft. Payne Journal—

January 28, 1931

(Editor's Note: Granny Dollar is a legend in north Alabama. She was a Cherokee Indian who lived to be over 100 years of age, and who was so unique and special that people stand in awe of her to this day. She loved the mountain, the simple life and her dog, Buster. The *Groundhog* previously reprinted an article about her life. This one is about her death and that of Buster).

Incident to the death of "Granny" Dollar, a unique burial service was held Wednesday at the foot of a giant boulder just back of the cabin where she died. In this cabin "Granny" lived for years with no companion save a mongrel she called "Buster."

Buster had reached the ripe old age of 20, according to "Granny," had lost his teeth and most of his hair, but to the last was "Granny's" faithful guardian, ready to attack anyone who attempted any familiarity with him, or too close approach to his mistress.

It may have been his sense of guardianship that made "Buster" a mean, vicious beast to everyone except "Granny." He was cordially hated by all the men and women in the community and feared by the children, several of whom he had bitten.

But "Buster" loved "Granny" and "Granny" loved "Buster."

After "Granny's" funeral the question arose as to what should be done with "Buster." No one wanted him. On the other hand, "Buster" would have nothing to do with any prospective adoption, or interference with his affairs, for when neighbors finally went to see what could be done about the dog and tried to enter, they found "Buster" gnawing the door, angrily showing the gums that once held dangerous teeth, and refusing to be coaxed or driven from his position.

A council was held by the mountaineers and it was determined to chloroform "Buster," dig a grave at the foot of the boulder overlooking a beautiful panorama in "Vagabondia" and there place all that was mortal of the faithful animal, his last resting place to be suitably marked.

HOWARD CONDUCTS SERVICE

Col. Milford W. Howard volunteered to conduct the funeral service, which he opened by reading Senator Vest's classic, "Tribute to a Dog." Then in his own intimate way, Col. Howard talked to the mountain people assembled about life's deeper meaning, of the mystery of death and the dream of a heaven where all is harmony, joy and beauty, suggesting that unless these things were carried in life they might not be found in the dreams of eternity.

Concluding, Col. Howard asked what sort of place this heaven would be should it be inhabited "only by such folks as you and I."

"What would heaven be," he asked, without flowers, music, birds and dogs?"

At the close of the service he offered a prayer that all those assembled might be as faithful as "Granny's dog, "Buster" had been.

WHAT IS LOVE?

It is silence — When your words would hurt.
It is patience — When your neighbor's curt.
It is deafness — When a scandal flows.
It is thoughtfulness — For others' woes.
It is promptness — When stern duty calls.
It is courage — When misfortune falls.

— Author Unknown

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Mary Key Strickland Winn

Continued from Front Cover

Chapel. Mary met her first husband, Blev Strickland, there. When Mary was 16 years old, she and Blev ran off to Georgia to marry. "We had a good horse and buggy and went to David Hemphill's near LaFayette. I went to Sunday School that day and ran away to get married. We didn't come back for about three weeks. After the wedding, we stayed with Blev's parents, Andrew Jackson and Mattie Strickland, in Georgia. Blev had nine brothers and sisters. Our first home was in Georgia, and that's where I had my two oldest sons, Gordon Lee, and James Andrew Jackson (now deceased). We moved back to Lookout Mountain in 1914.

The family's second home was a farm near Cloudland where cotton and vegetables were raised for market. After several more moves, a homeplace was purchased and two more children were born: Evelyn and Russell (now deceased). Blev helped build the Lahouage Dam, and was an accomplished carpenter and rockmason. The farm was part of a parcel sold by two developers, Chapman and Chaney, who had extensive holdings in the area.

The founders of Cloudmont, Mr. Summer's and Mr. Abley, persuaded Blev and Mary to move to the camp and work for them. Blev did the maintenance work and building and such and Mary ran the laundry. "Those were the happiest days of my life," Mary sadly recalled. "It was the last time we were all together as a family." During that time, Blev was killed by a train in Valley Head.

Mary has been widowed four times, and her last husband, Millard Winn, died just a few years ago. She now lives with her dog Stub in a little house on DeSoto Parkway. Mary Alma Key Strickland Winn has seen the mountain change from mostly wilderness where "you could have whatever you wanted, as long as you could make it yourself," to a place where "everybody wants to get by pushing buttons."

She watched the changes as she watched the seasons come and go, and through it all, kept faith with herself and all she believed in. Her family roots are planted deep into American soil, for she is a descendant of Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star Spangled Banner."

"We used to have fun," she said wistfully, "by getting together at the church or school and having spelling bees, grown folks too. We would get together for singings and revival meetings and it seemed like we had plenty to do. And folks knew how to be neighbors back then; they'd all come a'visiting and that was the real thing."

People like Mary Strickland Winn are the real thing. They are as important to the preservation of the mountain way of life as those who are more visibly involved. It took this pioneer spirit and hard work to forge a homeland out of forest, and to have her still with us and able to tell the stories of the development of the mountain and the way of life in a bygone era is a treasure indeed.

APPLE SAUCE COFFEE CAKE

- 2 cups apple sauce
- 1/2 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

Pour apple sauce in pan 11"x7"x1 1/2 inch. Bake in 450 oven 15 minutes. Sift flour, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon sugar. Beat eggs and milk. Stir in dry ingredients. Pour over hot apple sauce. Return to oven for 15 minutes. Mix 1/2 cup sugar and cinnamon, sprinkle over top of coffee cake. Bake 5 more minutes. Serve warm. Serves 6 to 8.



DELICIOUS CAKE

- 1 box White Cake mix (regular size)
- 1 pkg. butterscotch instant pudding mix
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 cup cooking oil
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 cup chocolate syrup (canned variety)

Mix cake mix and pudding mix, water and oil. Beat 2 minutes and add eggs one at a time, blending well after each one. Pour 1/2 of the batter into a well-greased and floured 10" tube pan. Mix the other 1/2 of batter with the chocolate syrup and pour it over the white batter in the tube pan without stirring. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Cool 25 to 30 minutes in pan. Remove cake and sprinkle with confectionery sugar. Let stand one day in cake container to bring out full flavor.

PINEAPPLE SHEET CAKE

- 2 cups sugar
- 1/2 cup oil
- 2 eggs
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 cups flour
- 1 large can crushed pineapple, drained

Cream sugar, oil and eggs together. Add flour which has been sifted with the baking soda. Add pineapple (drained well) and mix all thoroughly.

ICING

- 1 small can milk
 - 1 stick oleo
 - 1 cup sugar
- Boil slowly for 10 minutes. Add:
- 1 cup chopped nuts
 - 1 cup coconut
- Pour over cake while hot.

GINGERBREAD

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup molasses
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon cloves
- 2 teaspoons soda dissolved in 1 cup boiling water
- 2 eggs beaten last
- 2 1/2 cups flour

Cream butter and sugar together. Combine dry ingredients. Add molasses also water with soda. Add dry ingredients stir into batter until flour is blended, add beaten eggs last. Pour into greased and floured loaf pan (13x9x2). Bake in preheated oven at 375 degrees for 30 minutes.

Franklin Kellett Seeks Another Term



Franklin Kellett of Route 3, Crossville, has announced his plans to seek reelection as DeKalb County Superintendent of Education in the June 7 Democrat Primary.

He attended Jacksonville State University and George Peabody College. He earned a master's degree in elementary-secondary education and school administration and supervision. He has a year of graduate work above the master's and holds a Class AA Superintendent/Principal certificate. Kellett is 55 years of age. He has served as a teacher and principal for 23 years and as superintendent of schools for 11 years.

Kellett and his wife, Dorothy, a teacher at Geraldine School, have two sons, Morgan and Edward. They are active members of the Whiton United Methodist Church.

SWEET POTATO CAKE

- 1 1/4 cups of cooking oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups sifted plain flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 1/2 cups grated raw sweet potato
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 4 teaspoons hot water

In a large bowl, cream sugar and oil until smooth. Add egg yolks, beat well. Add hot water and dry ingredients which have been sifted together. Stir in potato, nuts, vanilla and beat well. Beat egg whites until stiff and fold into mixture. Bake in three 8-inch cake pans at 350 degrees for 20-30 minutes. Frost with your favorite white or butter cream frosting.



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Mentone Ghost Story—Reprinted From FOLK CULTURE IN THE DeSOTO

STATE PARK AREA By E. H. Willett, 1977

A local ghost tale involves a house near the Mentone, Ala., area which burned down some years ago. It seems there was a family named Taylor who built a large house near Mentone sometime prior to the Civil War. One day around the turn of the century, a man who had a grudge against one of the sons living in the house rode up on his horse and shot the young man while he was sitting in the front yard eating watermelon. When the boy saw him com-

ing he yelled, "Oh, Don't!" and then was shot. After he was shot he tried to crawl through a window into the house, but died there in a pool of blood. A large bloodstain, which never would wash out, was left on the floor below the window, and for years, residents of the house could hear chains rattling and a voice crying, "Oh, Don't!" This story was told to me by an elderly Mentone resident who lived in the house for awhile as a child.

Stolen Items Recovered

Mentone Police Chief Bill Willingham reported the recovery of articles stolen from The Twig Shop and from Ruby's Variety. The theft occurred Saturday night, April 23. The items were found in a wooded area behind Hotel Square. Still unrecovered are two chairs from Family Home Developers. An investigation is underway.

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