

GROUNDHOG

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Grace Jones: Strong Family Tree

By Emily Smith

Grace Shigley Jones is part of a strong family tree. Her parents, Henry Frank Shigley and wife, Rebecca Melissa Keith first came to Mentone in the late 1800's. They had twelve children, ten girls and two boys. She was born Feb. 12, 1900.

Mr. Shigley came south from Arcadia, Michigan, because of his health. He had family friends in Menlo, Georgia, the Powers and took a job with them at age 21. His wife was from the Scottsboro area.

The whole family has enjoyed longevity due partly Grace Jones feels to their abstinence from tobacco and strong drink.

"Only an occasional Coca Cola," smiles Mrs. Jones, "And, I don't even like them very much."

She said her mother was a wonderful cook and used to keep teacakes on hand for the grandchildren. Family meals were a big event with the table stretched out as far as it would go.

Girls seem to dominate the family in numbers. She is one of ten sisters and has two daughters of her own. Most of the second generation are girls also.

Another characteristic of the family is they have had no divorces.

"That is quite a record for such a large family, but we were raised in a different time than now," she explains.

Her oldest sister, Elizabeth married Leonard Reese. She lived to be 93 years old and they had seven children.

The next sister, Annabelle, married William Warren. They live in Mentone and had three children.

Next in line was her brother, Ernest, who married Willie Brown.

"She likes to be called 'Bill,'" Mrs. Jones said.

Ernest was a Wesleyan minister and lived in Mentone. Leonard Shigley is one of his five children.

Just older than Grace was Ethel who first married Green. They had three children. After the death of her first husband, she married an Adams.

Her sister, Stella, was the postmistress in Mentone until she married Mr. Silk. She lives in Menlo.

Edna, the next sister, married David Jones, a cousin of Grace's husband Horace. She lives in Macon, Georgia.

There is one set of twins among her sisters, Rona and Nona. Rona married Winfred Smith, a teacher at Moon Lake who boarded with the Shigley's. Nona married Franklin Williams and they had three girls as did her twin Rona and her husband.

Former mayor Bob Daniel is married to Ruby, the next sister in the line. They live in Mentone and attend the Mentone Methodist Church. They have one daughter.



GRACE JONES.

Clarence was the youngest brother. He married Eunice Mann who was from Marshall County. They had three children.

The youngest in the family is Margaret who married Charles Crow, a brother of Edmund Crow. She taught school and lives in Lyerly, Georgia. She raised five children.

Grace married Horace Jones. He was the son of John and Betty Crow Jones. His grandfather was Eldridge Jones the progenitor of the Mentone Joneses.

"He was a cousin to all the rest of the Joneses on the mountain," she says.

The Shigley family were among the charter members of the Mentone Wesleyan Church and she and her sister, Ethel, are the only two living active charter members of the church in Mentone. All the family who were old enough at the time became charter members. Her older brother, Ernest, became a Wesleyan minister and her daughter, Betty, is married to the son of a Wesleyan minister, James Johnson.

Continued on Page 5

A Piece Of History

BITS AND PIECES
From Zora Strayhorn's History of Mentone

(Hal Howe is the originator of advice Leland Cox feels is the secret to a happy marriage. See the story on Page 6).

Halbert Olla (Hal) Howe was born Feb. 29, 1884, in Talmadge, Ohio. He married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Green in 1908, the daughter of John Stephen Green and Achsah Olivia Culbertson Green; she died in July, 1929. He came to Alabama in 1907, was postmaster at the Latusage mines, and also worked in the commissary with Fred Huron. He first rented the Huron property in Mentone and later bought it in 1922 and made changes to the kitchen and dining room. It was known as "Hal's House" until it burned in 1927. He rebuilt and opened in June 1928, calling it Hal's Hotel and later the DeSoto Hotel.

On Nov. 20, 1929, Nelda Estelle Ellis became the wife of Hal Howe; the Ellis family dates to 1835 in Valley Head, Alabama. Hal's daughter Olga Green married N. B. Haston the same day, and the two couples honeymooned together for four months in Florida. Hal Howe wrote *Mentone and My Philosophy* in 1930.

Town Council Gives Zoning Go-Ahead

The Mentone Town Council unanimously approved the allocation of funds to begin a zoning study for the town at their regular April council meeting.

The zoning issue was discussed at two special council meetings in March. The need for zoning was brought to a head when a local property owner began making moves to develop an RV-trailer park in an older residential area of Mentone.

Miles Allgood, the property owner, had cleared two lots in the Sunset Rock Subdivision, brought in several truck loads of chert and installed water and electrical hook-ups for recreational vehicles. He had applied for septic tanks from the county health department and had approached town clerk, Catherine Bailey, for a license.

The council directed town attorney Pat Tate to seek an injunction against Allgood on the grounds that operation of such a venture in that neighborhood would be a nuisance. The injunction was filed and a temporary restraining order issued.

In his response to the injunction Allgood said, "I do not wish to fight with the town or my good neighbors, nor do I do any harm to the community."

In conversations with Tate and with Mayor Max Cash, Allgood said it was never his intention to do more than provide a place for his sister and a few friends to park their RV's in the summer on occasional visits to Mentone.

Pat Tate questioned him as to "where you draw the line."

"The problem comes when you have one friend arrive, and then another and another until pretty soon the whole place is full and there are campers there all summer," Tate explained.

He said he had also talked to the John Hadley at the county Health Department about the permits for septic tanks. One lot, Hadley lot, was just large enough for field lines. There was some question as to the second lot both in terms of size and percolation capability.

Because Mentone at this time has no zoning ordinances, the injunction was a solution for the "short haul." At two special council meetings, council members discussed zoning as a solution for the "long haul."

"Is Mentone too small for zoning?" Pat Tate asked. "Ten years ago, Hammondville started zoning and with the development Mentone is facing over the next ten years we will have to look at zoning as a protection for the town."

The council decided to look into the zoning process and heard from Bob House of House Associates, a Birmingham firm which specializes in zoning. House met with the council at the second special council meeting last month.

The zoning process requires a great deal of public comment through public hearings. Advance notice of hearings will be given in the legal column of the Fort Payne Times Journal.

Dates To Remember

- April 16 — Public Meeting on National Park Proposal, 7 p.m. DeKalb County Courthouse
- April 20 — Operation Clean Sweep
- April 20 — Statewide Clean-up Day
- April 20 — Slowest Mule in Alabama race, Gadsden
- April 28 — Kountry Chef Grand Opening — Live entertainment. Professional musicians Mike and Tena Crier, Buddy Votze, magician

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER OBSERVANCE

THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 2 6:30 P. M.
BROW PARK (alternative site:
St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain)
ALL OF MENTONE AREA INVITED!

Butler Updates MAPA On State Park

Talmadge Butler, Superintendent of DeSoto State Park, updated Mentone Area Preservation Association members on activities and issues at the park this spring. MAPA met Tuesday, April 2, for their regular monthly meeting.

The canyon cleaning was a big success, Butler reported. Mentone's Cub Scouts, led by Larry Tate, Bill Rutledge and Eleanor Tate, were responsible for cleaning Tutwiler Gap.

"Their trash bags looked like a military formation so many were lined up on Tutwiler Gap," Butler said. The scouts collected about 175 bags of trash.

He said the Rescue Squads were "very important" in cleaning the rough terrain. Mentone-based DeSoto Rescue Squad assisted in this area.

At DeSoto State Park the staff is getting ready for the summer season. Butler reported the pool has a new pump, new filters and all the locks have been repaired.

He urged everyone to take advantage of the spring wildflower season in a few weeks.

"There are so many different flowers and trees in the canyon, it is amazing that different plants grow on this end of the river than in the canyon. You just have to get down there and see it," he said.

Butler warned the group that it is illegal to take plants out of the park.

"We have to convince some folks that we are not their private nursery. If you see someone taking plants, remind them that they are for everyone to enjoy, in the park," he commented.

Money is coming in for the construction of a handicapped trail. This project is being funded by contributions and will provide a handicapped accessible trail for visitors to the park.

The national park concept was the last topic on Butler's agenda. He pointed out that the state park is one of many and owners who could be affected by a national park.

"It could affect us in two ways: one, the national park could take in all our area and let us manage our part or two, they would not take us in at all and we would continue to operate as we are at present," he said.

One big concern for the state park if the national park did take it over would be the question of operating the park concessions, the lodge and cabins. Butler feels that the state would do the best job of operating the park and that it should improve under the direction of the state and state employees.

"Lots of people are worried about whether they will be able to continue hunting," Butler said.

Currently, Alabama Power owns all the land from the bridge on Highway 35 to below Umbrella Rock, an area of about 3 miles. It is now leased on a year to year basis to the park as a wildlife management area.

Butler explained that Alabama Power could decide to lease it to someone else for another purpose and it would be closed to the public.

"My concern is the protection of Little River and the canyon," Butler explained. "It is a lot to patrol 41 miles of territory. They might be able to do a better job of law enforcement."

"People come here for the beauty of the area and that needs to be maintained," he said.

For Our Visitors

WHAT TO SEE

Begin at the Hitching Post, the Mentone equivalent of a Welcome Center and Chamber of Commerce. If they are open, directions will gladly be given and suggestions made. Maps are also available there.

Standing outside the Hitching Post, you can look across the highway at the Victorian Mentone Springs Hotel. Looking to the left, across DeSoto Parkway, you can see the Mentone Inn and St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Church, built around a log cabin said to be Mentone's oldest structure.

DeSoto Falls is about two miles down the Parkway. Five miles farther are DeSoto Park and Lodge, and Howard's Chapel, built against a giant boulder, where were placed the ashes of the well-known Colonel Milford Howard.

This is just the beginning. Ask questions. Keep in motion.

WHERE TO EAT ON THE MOUNTAIN

- (1) Just across from the Hitching Post — The Log Cabin Deli.
- (2) Across from Mentone City Hall — The Kountry Chef.
- (3) About two-and-a-half miles down the Parkway — Cragmere Manna.
- (4) Further down the Parkway — DeSoto Restaurant.
- (5) Back on I-7 east — Lookout Restaurant at Cloudland, Georgia.

MENTONE EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire Department 634-4545
Police 634-4757



Show Someone You Love Them With The Groundhog

For only \$10, you can join the Mentone Area Preservation Association and receive every copy of *The Groundhog* at home. Send your check to: MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984 or call (205) 634-4731.

Pay Water Bills Or Face Cut-Off

Mentone residents more than 60 days delinquent in their water bill payment will face having their water cut off according to action taken at the April town council meeting.

A number of delinquent bills prompted the council to make this resolution in an effort to get the bills paid.

The town also hired Bryan Phillips to work as a policeman on a part-time basis. He will assist the regular policeman, Johnny Ferguson, on an as-needed basis.

The town is continuing negotiations with the Fort Payne Water Board in an effort to provide more water for Mentone. Mentone is requesting four million gallons of water each month plus extra in the summer months.

"I think we're on the road to getting it worked out," said Mayor Cash.

He has talked to Water Board chairman Ed Westmoreland and feels the issue will be resolved soon.

Happenings

By Emily Smith

Easter was celebrated at the churches in Mentone with special programs and music. Moon Lake Baptist Church held a Good Friday Service and hosted a community choir cantata Easter Sunday evening.

Mentone Wesleyan Church minister Blaine Derck led a sunrise service at 5:30 a.m. Easter morning on the east brow. The temperature was a chilly 25 degrees but, several braved the cold for the service.

The Mentone Church of God of Prophecy planned an Easter egg hunt for all ages and special music was presented by the Youth Choir.

St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal held a traditional Jewish Seder meal on Maundy Thursday. The Seder was led by a Messianic Jewish couple from Birmingham and each part of the meal recalled the significance of the Passover for the Christian worshipper.

Mentone Church of God pastor, Ron Johnson, said it was "a wonderful day."

All Mentone churches were filled with members and visiting family and friends for their Easter services.

Dick O'Ferrall, director of Camp Alpine was featured in the Reformed Theological Seminary publication recently. The article spoke of his camp philosophy that camp is "a made-to-order" situation for youth ministry.

Fred Johnson, Betty and Jim Johnson's son and a graduate of Valley Head High School, was featured in the Sand Mountain Electric Co-op publication this past month. He is the manager of Finance and Office Services for S.M.E.C.

Former Mentone resident Bruce Bon Fleur was married Saturday, March 30, in Daytona Beach, Florida to Marsha Moore. They visited Mentone during the October Colofest and Marsha met many of Bruce's friends here. We wish them the best!

The troops who served in Operation Desert Storm are returning home. Johnny and Sara Nelson's son, John, of Cloudland recently returned after a seven-month tour of duty. John is a Marine.

Bluebirds are everywhere and their beautiful bright blue colors are a treat to see. It may be a little late but you can still put up a bluebird house to attract these beautiful little songbirds. The Shed has several houses for sale made by Derrell Rush, park manager of Floyd State Park in Georgia. Bluebirds have suffered from loss of natural habitat as have many other animals.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Two items in the March issue caught my attention. "How Will We Grow?" mentioned the possibility of fast food restaurants, etc. Perhaps the council can come up with guidelines that would accommodate all. After all, Wendy's has a place in the French Quarter but it is in keeping with surrounding buildings. McDonald's isn't (or wasn't) in Helen, Georgia because they would not give up the Golden Arches.

The second item "Environmental Issues" mentioned the tire disposal problem. I believe I read several years ago about tires being used to produce energy. We in TVA land need to urge the use of tires and garbage for this. Also, Summerville, Georgia has a good recycling program. Our household now takes glass, tin, paper (junk mail separated from newspapers), cardboard to Summerville. Our daughter takes plastic bottles to a grocery store in Rome. When my former office moved, we took cardboard boxes to a grocery store for baling.

When we are interested in the environment, we'll look for ways to help.

Sincerely,
Nancy Lusk



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Dear Prospective Contributors,

The DeKalb S.P.C.A., Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is presently in some financial need. I am writing to ask you to give whatever amount you can to this worthy organization. They are in need of \$12,000.00 by June in order to keep their doors open. With State and Federal cutbacks the society is now depending on the contributions of concerned citizens and towns. The city of Mentone as well as Rainsville and Ider are all contributing \$1,000.00. Also several mills and businesses in the Fort Payne area are taking on memberships as Business Members (\$100.00) or Supporting Members (\$50.00).

The shelter serves a large area and is a vital part of our County. They not only protect animals from cruelty, but also protect us from harmful animals and their spread of disease. If you do make a contribution the S.P.C.A. will send you a receipt as soon as they receive your contribution.

If you can't give in a monetary means, the society is in need of cat food, litter, syringes, igloo dog houses (sold at Sams), the repair of their automatic watering system, a portable storage building, and vet cleanser at a cost of \$20.00 a bottle against parvo germs etc. Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated. If you have any further questions feel free to call me at 205-634-4043 or call the S.P.C.A. at 205-845-9463.

Thank you,

Polly Cameron

P. S. If you or a friend are looking for a new pet, look no further. Call the S.P.C.A. and adopt!

To the Citizens of Alabama:

As the State and Nation rejoice over the tremendous victory of freedom over oppression and the end to the war in the Persian Gulf, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Alabama for the overwhelming support that you have given to our men and women in uniform who have achieved this victory.

Just as our soldiers have performed in an exemplary manner in the Persian Gulf, the families left behind have gallantly and honorably carried on the tradition of the American family. Each family member deserves recognition for your steadfast support of our way of life under the strain of financial hardship, single parenthood and the loneliness of having a loved one in harms way.

Communities and civic organizations throughout Alabama have supported our troops in numerous ceremonies, parades and rallies. Your heartwarming support of our troops will be long remembered as your contribution to the victory. The greatest gift which could be given to the troops and their families was your approval of their commitment to our country's decision to defend the freedom of Kuwait.

Media support of our State's involvement in the mobilization and deployment of Alabamians was outstanding. The compassion, professionalism and ethical standards demonstrated by our radio, television and newspaper personnel must stand as an example for other correspondents throughout the nation.

Again, I congratulate all Alabamians on their support of our men and women in uniform who are defending our country and the freedoms which we cherish. I ask that you keep our service members in your thoughts and prayers until each of them returns home safely.

Sincerely,
Guy Hunt
Governor

MENTONE'S

GROUNDHOG

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Country Journal

(Due to a death of Homer Crow's brother, Clyde, Bernise was unable to write her column, Country Journal for us this month. Clyde Crowe was also the son-in-law of our feature person this month, Grace Shigley Jones. Our sympathy goes to the family).

CROWE

William Clyde Crowe, age 73, of Clinton, Tenn., died Monday, April 1, 1991 following an extended illness.

Funeral was Wednesday, April 3, at 8 p.m. at Wilson Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was Thursday at 10 a.m. at Bankhead Cemetery. The family received friends from 7 until 8 p.m. Wednesday.

Mr. Crowe is survived by his wife, Frances Crowe; daughter, Lila Pettit of Clinton; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; sister, Mildred Burgess of Texas; brothers, Homer Crowe, Chester Crowe and Jesse Crowe all of Mentone, Lester Crowe of Clinton, Dewey Crowe of Fort Payne.

Mr. Crowe was born May 1, 1918 in coalfield, Tenn., son of the late Lee and Fannie Magnusson Crowe. He was retired from the Union Carbide Co. in Oak Ridge, Tenn., with 28 years of service.

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Who Are The County Commissioners? (for the G. H. wants to know)



LUTHER HENDRIX

The DeKalb County Commission has several new faces this year. Only one commissioner, Benny Hunt, was a returning incumbent. The commission is headed by Luther Hendrix of Rainsville. Hendrix's father retired as president of the County Commission in 1966.

Hendrix has close ties to Valley Head where he graduated from high school in 1948. He lived in Henagar and says he and his classmates were bused to Valley Head. He joined the service at the age of 15, leaving school in the tenth grade. After World War II, he returned to finish high school then went on to Auburn where he graduated in 1953.

He feels there are many challenges facing the current Commissioners.

"We have a \$1/4 million deficit carried over from last year to address. Three county agencies have budget problems. We are looking at other sources of income to place the least burden on the taxpayers," he said.

A goal for the Commission is long-range financial planning.

Road improvements will be made on a priority planning basis, according to Hendrix, using criteria such as development, school bus and mail routes to determine the greatest need. He said there is no provision in the budget for replacing road equipment as it becomes necessary.

"Public water is another top priority," Hendrix said. "If the wells in the county were tested it is estimated that over 90 percent might be contaminated."

A third area of concern for the Commission is what to do about solid waste.

"County government needs to resolve this and determine what is in the best interest of the county," he said.

"All of these issues need a lot of study. It is an almost overwhelming job."



HOMER MONROE

The newly elected commissioner for District Four is Homer Monroe. District Four includes Mentone and the northern section of the county.

Monroe lives in Sylvania and is a former mayor of Sylvania. He and his wife, Lois, have three sons, Tim, Clint and Shelton.

"If I can just please one person in my time as a commissioner, it will have been worthwhile. I was elected to serve the people and that is what I want to do," he commented.

Monroe feels that the proposed national park will be "for the betterment of the whole area, especially for Mentone and Fort Payne."



RANDY TUMLIN

Randy Tumlin of Rainsville represents Commission District Three which begins at Comer Scout Reservation and extends south to the McNutt Memorial area below Dogtown. The majority of his district is on Lookout Mountain.

He explained the new unit system of road management which rotates four grader crews throughout the county. The crews were working in his district last month for the second time since Jan. 15. He said one unit is set up to take care of emergencies.

Tumlin feels that should the national park become a reality, it will improve road conditions in the county.

"I think it is a positive step for DeKalb County. I hope from an agricultural standpoint, the park and folks can work together to benefit both," he said.



BENNY HUNT

Benny Hunt is the only returning incumbent on the County Commission and represents District One, the southernmost district for DeKalb County.

He spent several years in the poultry and cattle business and has been active in politics since he was 21 years old. He and his wife, Linda, have two children.

Although Hunt is an ardent Democrat, he said Linda, his wife, was a Republican before they married.

"She's a Democrat now, she saw the light after we were married," he said with a smile.

Hunt enjoys politics and had praise for both his opponents in his last race. He defeated Billy Uptain in the Democratic primary who he says is "a neighbor and friend." In the general election, he defeated Republican, Ronnie McCollum who he calls "a good guy."



WINT CHITWOOD

District Two is represented by Wint Chitwood, a newcomer to the Commission but not new to county government. He worked in the county road department for many years before being elected to the Commission.

District Two encompasses the area from below Rainsville to Geraldine.

Chitwood and his wife, Dorothy, who works at DeKalb Medical Center, have two sons and two daughters.

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COX CHILDREN HONOR PARENT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY: (Standing from left) Edie Neely, Felicia Blackwell, Sheldon Cox, Alesia Justice, Leland Cox II, Marsha Merrell and Treva Lindsey; (seated) Leland and Gertrude Cox.

50th Anniversary For Leland And Gertrude Cox

Leland and Gertrude Cox celebrated 50 years of marriage this past month at an anniversary party given by their children and by renewing their marriage vows at Moon Lake Baptist Church. Nearly 160 people attended the party.

The Coxes, both natives of Mentone, went to school together and started "going steady" as seniors at Valley Head School. Mrs. Cox is the former Gertrude Jones, the middle child of 11 children. They were married on March 12, 1941, by a justice of the peace in Trenton, Georgia. That was one week before Leland left for the service.

"Our first honeymoon was in Myrtle Beach, S. C.," Gertrude said. Leland was on leave from Fort Bragg. After that, he was overseas for 36 months and, the couple took a second honeymoon in Miami.

During World War II, Gertrude worked in Atlanta while Leland served in the Army. They returned to Mentone and raised seven children including one set of twins. Leland was the postmaster and Gertrude worked as a para-professional remedial reading teacher for the State of Alabama.

All seven of their children attended University of Alabama. The Coxes now have 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild, a two-year-old boy.

Leland says the secret to their long marriage is based on advice he received from Hal Howe, who ran the Men-

tone Inn for many years: "I let my wife go her own way and, I go her way, too!"

"Marriage is not a one-way street," Cox says. "There must be communication. Don't keep things bottled up."

The Coxes children presented them with tickets to a Caribbean cruise and spending money.

Local Camp Directors Attend Tri-State Meet

East Brunswick, N. J. — Marty Griffin and Rob Hammond, directors of Saddle Rock for Girls, and Laney for Boys of Moultrie attended the American Camping Association's ninth annual Tri-State Camping Conference recently held at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel in East Brunswick, N. J. This was the largest gathering of camp professionals in the nation and was jointly sponsored by the New York, New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania sections American Camping Association (ACA). This year's conference featured over 200 program sessions designed to update and educate these professionals in virtually every aspect of organizing and running a safe, fun-filled, and productive summer camp.

Kean-Hunt Wedding



Shannon Michelle Hunt and Ricky Leigh Kean were married Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Milford Williams at the home of the groom's parents.

The bride is the daughter of Al and Mae Hunt of Mentone. The groom is the son of George and Kathy Bevel of Fort Payne.

After a honeymoon in Tennessee, the couple resides in Mentone.

The ACA is a nationwide accrediting organization for children's summer camps. Camps accredited by the ACA meet standards generally above and beyond those imposed by local and state authorities. They are regularly visited to determine compliance with ACA standards in site, administration, personnel, program and facilities. Marty and Rob viewed over 182 exciting and informative exhibits displaying the latest products, goods, and services available to camps with projected increases in camper safety, happiness, and growth the end result.

Following the three productive days of the Tri-State Camping Conference, Rob stated, "It's always great to be around your fellow professionals. Everyone shares common problems and solutions. Marty and I learned that northern hospitality can almost be as warm as ours."

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Naturalist Joins DeSoto State Park Staff



KEN THOMAS with Reggie, the gray rat snake.

Ken Thomas has joined the staff at DeSoto State Park as the full-time naturalist and is already planning a variety of programs to interest both park visitors and local residents.

Thomas, who has a degree in Wildlife Biology from McNeese State University in Lake Charles, LA., has worked at both Oak Mountain and Guntersville State Parks. His special area of interest is birds of prey but, he says he is "slowly but surely getting into wildflowers." DeSoto State Park is known for its wide variety of wildflowers.

He has been constructing owl houses for both Screech Owls and Barred Owls to put up around the park.

"It's a little late for the owls to nest in the boxes for this year. Next year, though, they'll be familiar with them and probably move in," he said.

He says he has "a million and one ideas" for park programs.

"This park has so much to offer, it is hard to know where to begin," Thomas commented.

When offered the job as naturalist for DeSoto State Park, Thomas says he "packed his bags yesterday!" He is very enthusiastic about the park.

"I visited the park three days in April of last year and fell in love with the area," explained Thomas. "The falls are spectacular and the terrain possesses a very unique ecosystem. In other areas, you don't find mountains and such trees."

He has visited Mentone and says he "loves it." "People here seem to care about the area and are in tune with the needs of the environment," he said.

Thomas said he is available to visit schools "upon request" and welcomes park visits from school and scout groups.

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Elvin Martin (center) helps build for Camp Ponderosa along with Charles Drake of Mentone (left) and camp director Glen Miller.

Missionaries Aid At Camp Ponderosa

A new maintenance and shop building is nearing completion at Camp Ponderosa under the able supervision of Elvin Martin, a missionary from Ephrata, Pennsylvania. Martin and his wife, Vera, are part of Grace Builders, Inc. a service mission that works on projects all across the U. S. and in some foreign countries.

Martin was in the construction business for 30 years before becoming a missionary. He said soon after he sold his business, his church in Pennsylvania received a letter from Haiti.

"It said, 'Help! Carpenter needed,'" Martin recalled. The following day he was on a plane headed for the Caribbean. That launched his missionary career.

"I've always had a heart for missions," he says.

The Martin's travel throughout the U. S. most of the year with their 30 ft. camper. They usually stay in one place for three months. Mrs. Martin is an expert seamstress and sets up her sewing machine to make clothes, draperies, slipcovers or whatever is needed at the mission sites.

"All we ask is electricity and water for the camper," Martin explained. "We don't take any pay, this is volunteer work."

He added that they are scheduled through spring of 1993 with jobs. Martin said he likes this type of work, he can set his own schedule.

"Usually we head south in the winter months. We enjoy working in the south, people are friendly and have time to stop and talk," he said.

The Martin's find their work rewarding.

"It's good to do a building and then walk away knowing it will be enjoyed," he commented.

The building at Camp Ponderosa is being financed by donations. Camp director Glenn Miller said they have received most of the money they need.

"People have really been generous," he said.

The Martin's came to Ponderosa after a stay at Camp Victory, in Samson, Alabama where they build a 40 x 60 ft. shop. Martin said he probably would not finish the building at Ponderosa before he leaves to move to his next assignment in Washington State.

Other work at the camp this winter are new rock retaining walls and walkways around the pool and gym area. This work was done by Glen Martin of Pennsylvania using native stone gathered from the grounds. He also landscaped and built a gazebo, made some repairs on the river dam and built stone steps on the trail to the river.

Valley View

By Eloise Brown

It was good to see so many church pews filled with visiting family members Easter Sunday. Laura Margaret Allison had as her guests her daughter Peachie and David Cearley, from Houston, Texas, her son, Tom and Irma Allison, from Asheville, N. C., Venna Livingston's guests were her daughter Sue and Sam Mosely and three children from Atlanta, daughter Marilyn and Bruce Mercer and two children from New Salem, Ga. Adelaide Biddle's guests were her daughter Mary Lou and David Carmichael and four children, and son Marty and Marsha Biddle and three children. Mary Louise and Ted Holleman had their son, John Holleman from Huntsville. E. T. and Gladola Holleman had their son Bill and his daughter Abby, from Fort Payne.

Gertrude Landers and sister Vernon of Chattanooga, visited Opal Tatum, recently.

Charles Larmore of Birmingham, visited his parents, Nancy and Thomas Larmore. He is in school to be a nurse after retiring from the Navy.

Sadie Cooper has returned home after a trip to San Diego, Ca., with Jean and John Jones. She saw Hollywood and the sights of Los Angeles. Chris flew down to return with her. Her Aunt Hazel and Buster Johnston of Rossville were her guests recently.

The Sunshine Club had their March meeting at Ruth Pickett's "Out Back Inn." Gladys Cobble was co-hostess. Others present were: Gladys Stott, Billie Harper, Geraldine Hawkins, Sue Cooper, Karen Freeman, Stella Pierce, Veritice Young, Evelyn Clark, Willie Mae Palmer, Evelyn Phillips, Bess Bauerle, Jewel Palmer, Gerie Smith, Addie Hall and, Eloise Brown. We made Needlepoint flag pins.

Helen and Larry Longshore, their daughter, Laurie, their house guest, Carmen Ayuso (an exchange student from Bilbao, Spain), Chris Hammond, Jason Smith, Anthony Brown and Jeff Crowe, went by van to Breckenridge, Col., for a week's skiing. The scenery was beautiful, lots of snow, a very busy place and they did some very enjoyable, expert skiing.

Adis and John Barnard had as their Easter guests: daughter, Jean and David Cassady, from Huntsville — their children — David Jr. from Florence, his son, Brandon, from Birmingham, his daughters, Debbie Stafford from Panama City, Fla., Susan and Art Sims and children, Hunter and Cassie from Huntsville, Dr. John Barnard from Nashville, Tina Barnard and family, Tina Blackmon and husband, Chris, and children, Mathew and Bryan, from Hendersonville, Tenn., Kirk and Elizabeth Barnard and children — Leah and Drew from Pascagoula, Miss.

The Valley Head U.M.W. met at the home of Mary Louise Holleman on March 26 for Call to Prayer and Quiet Day program. Venna Livingston was the leader assisted by Frances Longshore and Helen White. It was a lovely covered dish luncheon. Others present were Laura Margaret Allison, Frances Tate, Elizabeth Coleman, Velma Hammond, Janie Longshore, Evelyn Phillips, Geraldine Hawkins, Katherine Crumbley, Adelaide Biddle, Gladola Holleman and Eloise Brown.

Sincere sympathy to Edith Cox and her family for the loss of her mother, Ida Millican, who passed away March 27. She was 85.

Maureen Hammond and Dorothy Blackburn and her daughter, Martha Gibson, as her guest, went to the meeting of the National Committee for Employer of National Guard and Reserve in Montgomery, as members of the District Four Committee which represents Fort Payne, Collinsville and Hammondville.

They stayed at the very interesting River Front Inn, which had been converted and transformed from a railroad station. Dot and Maureen were awarded beautiful certificates and letters of commendation by the state chairman, Dr. Rube Courington, for spending their time serving as excellent members of the committee.

Jeff and Melinda Adkins, as Counselors, escorted 42 members of the United Methodist Youth Group of the North Alabama Conference by air to La Guardia Field in N. Y. They saw The Easter Show at Radio Music Hall and ate at Lindy's. They worshipped at Riverside Church. They saw the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rockefeller Center, Madison Square Garden, Empire State Bldg., and took the ferry around the Statue of Liberty, they also saw Phantom of the Opera. Then they went to Washington, D. C., where they saw all the sights of interest and met with dignitaries at Howell Heflin's office. They were thrilled by the beautiful sight of the cherry blossoms.

DeSOTO RESCUE SQUAD

"To contact the DeSoto Rescue Squad please call the following:

Jesse Crabtree	634-4171
Leonard Shigley	634-4140
Robert Green	634-4770
Gary Brown	635-6844

Fire Dept. Mews

Fires day after day, night after night, have kept the volunteer Fire Department responding to wildfires. Up out of bed and taking off from their regular jobs at the sound of the alarm the volunteers respond to every call to protect citizens of Mentone from loss of their homes and wooded lands.

Citizens are asked not to burn outside on dry and windy days as sparks can travel hundreds of feet with wind, and catch your property or adjoining property on fire.

Wildfires, even on your own property without a burn permit, subject you to a fine from the Forestry Commission and, if let spread to adjoining lands are subject to prosecution by the land owners. Controlled burning of property consisting of more than 1/4 acre requires a burn permit, free of charge by the Forestry Commission (1-800-672-2017).

By covering your trash and debris till the day following a rain, and then burning you could save yourself dollars and costly responses by the Fire Department.

The Fire Department is not city or state owned, it is a team of dedicated volunteers that devote their time to protect the citizens of Mentone against the hazards of fire. Question arise frequently about the name of your department — North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District — Why not Mentone Volunteer Fire Department? The answer is that when the Department was formed agreements could not be reached by the city to incorporate, therefore, Mentone could not be used in the name. The Volunteers selected North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District.

Anyone wishing to join this team of volunteers or having any questions concerning the fire department are asked to call 634-4745 or 634-3656. Our FIRE ALARM NUMBER IS: 634-4545 and is to be used in fire emergencies only which rings ten volunteers at the same time on a continuous ring. If you use this emergency number, please give clearly your name first, then directions to your fire emergency. This will reduce response time by the fire department. Please post this number by your telephone.

We say thank you to those who have contributed to the Department and need continued support from the citizens to keep the Fire Department active and responding. Any donations can be sent to: North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District, P. O. Box 154, Mentone, AL 35984.

Thanks,
Dale Kerby, chief

Some of our family met at Cindy and David Meadows' for Easter dinner and helped Carl Wright celebrate his birthday.

Adelaide Biddle, Venna Livingston, Gladys Stott and I, attended The Last Supper, at Wesley's Chapel Methodist Church. It was presented by The Upper Sand Mountain Parish. It was Leonardo da Vinci's painting come to life in a very meaningful and beautiful way. It was an exceptional performance and the choir, directed by Dixie Brown, sang so beautifully. It was a feast for the soul.

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VALLEY HEAD

JAKIE D. LEE
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Our Town

With Linda Brown

April may be the most beautiful month of the year. The red buds are already in full bloom on the side of the mountain. The dogwoods are showing their color and will be in bloom any day now. Tulips and azaleas are blooming in almost every yard. A lot of clean-up campaigns are now in progress. A major one is the cleaning of Little River Canyon. The DeKalb County Beautiful Committee has met and will begin their clean-up efforts soon. Let's all do our part and clean up Mentone. If everyone cleaned their property and a little more we would have the cleanest town in the USA.

Work has begun to beautify the area around the sidewalk in Mentone. Rhododendron and other plants have been set along the sides. MAPA and the Rhododendron Garden Club are combining efforts for this project. More will be planted later. Watch this area as it progresses into one of the garden spots in Mentone. So many people care about Mentone and would like to see it grow and prosper in a good way.

The DeSoto Rescue Squad adds to the well being of Mentone. There are 28 members with varying degrees of training to respond in any emergency. Some of the members recently completed a training course for handling an accident with hazardous materials involved. Some of the large trucks traveling on Highway 117 carry these materials and I am glad that someone will know what to do if one ever has an accident. An Emergency Medical Technician training class is now in progress two nights a week at the American Legion building. This class is taught by Mike Kennamer as an off-campus class for Northeast State Junior College. The participants will receive full college credit upon completion. Thirteen persons are now taking the class, five of the students and the instructor belong to the DeSoto Rescue Squad.

Mentone has so many people who should be recognized in a special way. Max Cash, Mayor of Mentone, is one of these. Max accepted this position when Rob Hammond resigned due to increased personal responsibilities. Max has been a member of the city council for more years than he cares to remember. Max is a dependable and caring person. He always does what he feels will be best for the town. A small town has big problems with small amounts of money and resources to solve them. Some problems can be solved, some can only be partially resolved and some have no solution. The Mayor must decide which category each conflict fits and act accordingly. Max is a master of this. The hours spent being mayor are many and the pay is very small. Tell Max how much you appreciate his efforts next time you see him. Everyone should strive to be a part of the solution and not the problem.

Relax and enjoy this beautiful weather. Go outside and smell the flowers. Don't worry, be happy!!!

From The Pastor's Study

By Fred Higgins

Sunday morning, looking out the windows of the little church that I serve, all the world seems to be bathed in sunlight. As surely as the psalmist could look up into the skies and see God, who put the sun and moon and stars there, you could see God in the beauty of that golden sunlight.

That afternoon, I walked out into my backyard and the leaves of purple-leaved plum are beginning to open up. Any day now, this tree is going to burst into bloom. Almost surely, there will be so many blooms that you cannot even see any limbs or leaves behind them. It is a thing of beauty.

Operation Cleansweep Country Set For April 20

April 20 has been set as the annual Spring Cleanup for the State of Alabama. The campaign has been named "Don't Drop It On Alabama" and is supported by Governor Guy Hunt. The DeKalb County Chairman is Keith Herndon, drummer for the group "Alabama."

Herndon visited several local schools, including Moon Lake, to encourage support for the clean-up. This is one of the largest one-day clean-ups in the country and is held in conjunction with Earth Day.

The cleanup was first held in November 1989 and has been instrumental in establishing a statewide network of county chapters that work toward starting programs on litter control, recycling, law enforcement and litter education. Such programs have been established in 38 counties and serve as the foundation for the growing PALS organization.

One of the most exciting aspects about the cleanup is that businesses and organizations have pledged their support of the campaign including Alabama Power Co., South Central Bell, Champion International Paper Co., Food World, ALFA, Bruno's, Wal-Mart Stores, the Alabama Forestry Commission, Alabama River Woodlands, Gulf States Paper and many agencies, businesses and state departments.

"The statewide cleanup gives all of us the chance to enjoy the outdoors, make our community cleaner and get a little exercise," says Governor Guy Hunt.

If you are interested in making the campaign a success, please contact the "Don't Drop it on Alabama" Spring Cleanup at 263-7737.

Local Company At County Home Show

Clean Care of Mentone recently gave away six prizes in a drawing at the Rainsville Home and Garden Show last month. Clean Care is owned by Jim Howell.

The prize winners are: Mark Bryan, Fort Payne, drapery cleaning; Faye Lankford, Fort Payne, couch cleaning; Sheila Harris, Rainsville, one room of carpet cleaning; Mike Whitley, Henagar, drapery cleaning; Martha Broyles, Fort Payne, upholstered chair cleaned; and, Dee Galloway, Rainsville, the grand prize winner.

Clean Care has been in the carpet, drapery and upholstery cleaning business since 1975. They dye and repair carpet and have experience in repairing fire and smoke damage, water damage and soot restoration of buildings and belongings.

Jim Howell, the owner, is a member of ASCR International, the Institute of Carpet and Upholstery Certification and the Society of Cleaning Technicians.

Clean care employee, Tim Mitchell, Mentone, recently received certification as a color restoration technician.

Soon now, Howard's Chapel, will be filled with those coming to prepare their summerhomes. Leaks must be repaired, cobwebs swept out, the water turned on, and the power brought in.

Just before the first Easter, Jesus had observed the passover with his disciples. He had told them that it was with great desire that he had wanted to celebrate this feast with them because it would be his last on earth. They were terribly upset because they still didn't understand his dying for our sins. His response is one of Christianity's greatest promises.

"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."

In my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

A friend of mine died recently. Shortly before her death, she passed out, and her family became very concerned.

Cooking

By Nova Dean Kilgore

More great recipes from Amish cookbooks.

CHOCOLATE UPSIDE DOWN CAKE

1 cup flour
¾ cup sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1½ tablespoons cocoa
½ teaspoon salt

Add:
2 tablespoons butter
¾ cup nuts
¾ cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
Beat 2 minutes.

Mix together and sprinkle over batter.

1 cup sugar
1/8 cup cocoa

Then 1 cup boiling water and pour over batter sugar and cocoa. Bake 350 degrees for 35 minutes or till done. Makes small loaf pan full 6 x 10.

CRAZY CAKE

3 cups flour
2 cups sugar
½ cup cocoa
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 cups water
2 teaspoons vanilla
¾ cup oil
2 tablespoons vinegar
1 teaspoon salt

Sift flour, sugar, cocoa, soda and salt into 9 x 13 inch cake pan. Make 3 indentations in the mixture and put vanilla into one, oil into another and vinegar into the third. Pour water over all, stir with a fork and bake at 350 for 35 to 40 minutes. Top with topping.

TOPPING

1 cup sugar
1 cup hot water
3 tablespoons butter
¼ cup cocoa
2 tablespoons cornstarch
2 teaspoons vanilla

Mix sugar, cocoa, hot water, cornstarch and butter, cook until thick (like pudding). Stir in vanilla and spread on hot cake.

MOCK STEAK

1 pound hamburger
1 cup milk
1 cup white cracker crumbs
Salt and pepper to taste

Mix together and press in a pan making it about ¾ inch thickness. Cover and refrigerate overnight or 8 to 10 hours. Cut in squares to the size you wish, roll in flour and brown. Put in roaster and pour 1 can cream of mushroom soup mixed with 1 can water over and bake 350 for 1 hour. For extra goodness place a slice of velveeta cheese over each piece of meat before adding soup.

She looked up into the eyes of her grandson and said, "Don't worry about me. I've got a better place." She believed God. The same God created heaven and earth, and now he has gone to prepare a place for those who love Him. What a place that will be!

Up from the grave he arose. And with that he gave us Easter and Christmas — for neither would have meant anything, if he had not been who he said he was. Because He lives, we will also live!



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