

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 1 - NO. 5 - AUGUST 1983

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

A Chapel, A Cabin And A Dreamer

Had Milford Wriarson Howard not lived in the Mentone area there would be no Alpine Camp for Boys and Sally Howard Memorial Chapel, and most likely no DeSoto Parkway, Comer Scout Reservation, or Desoto State Park and Lodge.

This tall and dignified man died in virtual poverty after serving two terms in the U. S. Congress, being nominated for the Presidency of the nation, and considered for the offices of Alabama governor and U. S. Senator.

Called by his biographer a man with feet of clay who reached for the stars, he wrote several books, scripted and acted in a movie, interviewed and became an admirer of Benito Mussolini, and began many more projects than he completed.

Born in northwest Georgia, he came to Fort Payne in 1880, married Sally Langford, taught himself law, was admitted to the Alabama Bar and became the first solicitor of DeKalb County in 1886. The following year he was highly instrumental in the Fort Payne boom which

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This oil painting and a companion one of Howard's Chapel are both available for sale by the artist Jimmy Frazier, of Valley Head.

About to Open -
Moon Lake And Valley Head Schools - Pages 4, 5

the GROUNDHOG

Next MAPA Meeting Outlines New Plans

Plans for the upcoming year will be discussed and committee appointments announced at the next meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association on Aug. 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the newly-decorated dining room of the Mentone Springs Hotel.

Presiding will be the new director, Homer Crow, who will make announcement of the appointments of the new goals committee, the Groundhog Awards committee, town council representative, and the Groundhog editor.

Of particular interest will be an open discussion of plans and goals for the next 12 months. Among those under consideration will be a new community center for Mentone, badly needed for winter MAPA meetings and other events.

Members and visitors are urged to begin formulating suggestions which will be passed along to the new goals committee for their disposition.

Outgoing Director Cited At Meeting

H. Bruce Bon Fleur, out-going first MAPA director, used the analogy of a play director in giving his annual report at the July meeting, a shared dinner in the newly-painted dining room of the Mentone Springs Hotel.

For the first act of the play he directed during the past year, Bruce especially praised those actors who had played star roles in MAPA productions. Bernise Crow, secretary-treasurer, was cited for her record keeping and warm support of all MAPA activities.

Sandra Padgett garnered honors especially for achieving state and national registry status for the old hotel and for securing, with Bruce, attention for Mentone on *PM Magazine*, Channel 9, Channel 48, PBS's *First Thursday*, and for articles in *Anniston*, *Birmingham*, *Atlanta*, and *Chattanooga* newspapers.

The next performer praised was Marie Shadgett, whose research instigated the *Groundhog* directory and whose organization and back breaking work created the bright triangle flower bed at the Superette.

Ed and Gerry Disney were MAPA's liaison with the city council and are largely responsible for the traffic caution light at Mentone. Grace and Milton Howard began the Christmas tree decoration project, with electrical connections by Homer Crow that will carry on for future years.

Lee and Barbara Boyd and Billy and Elene Lee worked to make the October Color Festival a big success. They were assisted by Ed Jones, the Crows, Padgetts, Clyde McNew, Marie Shadgett, Glenn Baty, and the Moon Lake School children.

Bruce next praised the McGehees for their work on the *Groundhog*, which he considers MAPA's outstanding performance of the year. Then he cited Donna Buckley, whose attendance at all MAPA meetings and whose advertising and artistic skills with the *Groundhog* contribute to its success.

Ferne Fitzgerald chaired a committee that began the *Groundhog* award of the month program. Mabel Kirk made sure MAPA members supported the Rhododendron Garden Club's planting project and that they contributed to baskets for families at Christmas.

Act Two of the MAPA production will star the new MAPA officers. Just after their election, Sandra Padgett, for the MAPA membership, presented Bruce with a citation:

"In appreciation to H. Bruce Bon Fleur: He caused us to point with pride to the heritage of this area. He provided initiative, leadership, and the courage to act. He did these things because, like so many of us, he came here, derived enrichment, and made Mentone his home. Before he came to Mentone, we already had fashioned a map. He gave dimension and splendor to that map. So it is that we desire to do lasting tribute to H. Bruce Bon Fleur, first director and principal organizer of the Mentone Area Preservation Association."



Homer Crow Elected New MAPA Director

The director of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, elected at the meeting on July 12, is Homer Crow, who will serve for 1983-84. Other officers are Mabel Kirk, associate director; Marie Shadgett, secretary; and Ann Climer, treasurer.

Making the nominations, which were unanimously approved by the membership, was the committee composed of Mabel Kirk, Olive Jones, and Sammy Cash.

Member of one of Mentone's founding families, the new MAPA director attended Moon Lake School, Valley Head High, and served four years in the U. S. Air Force during World War II as a maintenance supervisor. He is president of Leco Door Company in Gadsden and president of Ancro Wire Harness in Fort Payne.

Homer is architect's inspector on two HUD housing projects, Ider and Henagar. In his spare time he works at remodeling his home in Mentone.

He is married to the former Bernise Cooper. They are parents of four children: Barry, Cleveland, Texas; Coy, Hemphill, Texas; Joyce, Columbia, S. C.; and Doreen, Houston, Texas. Since the formation of MAPA, Homer has been helpful in many aspects and supportive of Bernise, who has served as secretary-treasurer.

Town Council Emphasizes Police, Fire Protection

Police and fire protection were given principal emphasis at the monthly meeting of the Mentone City Council on July 11, with Mayor Sam Barrett presiding and all members present.

In matters pertaining to policing, \$500 was voted for repairs to the police car (unanimous). At the request of Policeman Ed Worthey his salary was returned to \$112 weekly and his hours to 25 a week (unanimous). Worthey, who is occupied daytime in Fort Payne as a plumber-electrician, stated that in his opinion adequate protection was being provided under the present circumstances. The council also approved purchase of three pairs of uniform trousers for the policeman (unanimous).

In another action pertaining to police matters, a \$5 fine was levied for illegal parking in the area fronting the Log Cabin Deli and the adjacent shops (unanimous).

The council also voted appropriation increase of \$175 from the previous cost of \$125 for each water meter installed by the city (unanimous).

Following discussion, the council voted to extend for six months the payments of \$150 monthly toward meeting cost of constructing the fire house for the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District (Ayes: Mayor Sam Barrett, Councilman Kenneth Crowe, Rob Hammond, and Hobson Kirby. Nays: Councilmen Max Cash and Lee Davenport).

Fire Chief Sam Cash requested that the *Groundhog* include in this issue his public thanks and that of his board of directors for the action of the council in appropriating these funds. Chairwoman Marty Griffin of the District recently reminded local citizens of the Class 9 fire protection rating granted by the Insurance Rating Office of the State of Alabama which represents an approximate 15 percent savings on local fire insurance ratings. She suggested that local citizens check with their agents about this matter.

Seventh Annual Crafts Fair Is Declared Another Winner

The Seventh Annual Mentone Craft Festival was a success — 2,773 paid adults attended — up from almost 1,800 last year. Mentone should be very proud of such an accomplishment.

There were 65 craft people exhibiting their skills with us. They had very good quality workmanship displayed in all their crafts. Several people told us it was the best overall work that they had seen anywhere. For this we thank our exhibitors and urge them to keep up the good work. Many of them are local people and we are very proud of them.

We often have people ask us what the purpose of the festival is. We say that our main purpose is to help the community of Mentone in any way we can. Of course we like to show a nice profit because we use this money for any community project that we choose to support. But more than this we consider the many organizations and businesses that help us and are helped in return. The local stores, shops, restaurants and hotels reported that they did a record breaking business on these two days.

The Mentone Church of God, the Moonlake Baptist Church, the Mentone United Methodist Church and the Little River Cemetery Committee all had a profit-making project at the festival. The Valley Head Athletic Club, The Valley Head Band Boosters Club, the Rhododendron Garden Club and the North Lookout Mountain Fire District all had a project to boost their treasuries. The Mentone Dixie Youth fathers helped with the parking to make some extra money for the ball team. We thank them all for the great job they did and urge them and any other organizations to participate in next year's festival. Please contact us early if you are interested in being in the 1984 festival.

The local populace dotted our community with garage sales, yard sales, bake sales and such. One young man turned his yard into a paying parking lot. We hope they were all a success.

Not the least of all the festival accomplishments was the community spirit shown. We work together and have a time of fellowship and friendliness as well. We meet new people and see some we haven't seen in a long time.

Let me change to writing in the first person here. I want personally to say a few things to some people without whom the festival would not be the success it is. I want to thank the following committee

(Continued On Page 7)

August Groundhog Award



The August Groundhog Award for the greatest improvement goes to the triangle at Blackburn's store. Greatest credit goes to Marie Shadgett who not only supervised this project of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, but was often seen doing such actual work as spreading soil and setting out plants.

Numerous thanks are in order: to Bob Baty for sawdust and soil; Hobson Kirby for hauling the fill; Milton Shinbaum for treated timbers from the Ocoee Dam; to Cleo Smith, Ray and Duncan Padgett, and Ken Perry for installing the timber; Marty Griffin, Bob and Ann Climer, and for keeping the grass cut and trim.

The flowering at this prominent beautification project is in full evidence; shasta daisies, gloriosa daisies, chrysanthemums, sweet williams, petunias, day lilies, red salvia, candy tuft, marigolds, burgundy petunias, and blue ageratum. Among those presenting and planting these plants were Grace and Milton Howard and Jean McGehee.

The award was made by the special committee composed of Mayor Sam Barrett for the town council, Fern Fitzgerald for MAPA, and Betty Chapman representing the Garden Club.

THE CITIZENS BANK

large enough to serve you —
small enough to know you

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from your director

By Homer Crow

Thanks to MAPA members for your vote of confidence in electing me as your Director for the coming year.

We are looking forward to a great year with many constructive accomplishments, but MAPA officers can do nothing without the help of the community.

I urge you to come to the next meeting at the Mentone Springs Hotel Dining Room Tuesday, Aug. 2, at 7:00 p.m., join MAPA and let's see what can be accomplished by working together.

Some of our goals will be discussed at this meeting and we need your input.

If you enjoy *The Groundhog*, write to our editor, Charles White McGehee. He welcomes and needs your encouragement.

Groundhog Finance Report

July Issue

INCOME	
Ad sales	\$655.00
Balance in account	222.20
	\$877.20
DEBITS	
The Summerville News	425.00
(includes printing of 3,000 maps)	
Doc Long (photos)	25.00
Donna Buckley (sales)	55.50
Jean McGehee (sales)	42.75
Post Office	48.10
	\$596.35
Balance in account	\$280.85

Recognition

According to reliable sources, Mentone will be featured in the November issue of *Southern Living*. Reporters and photographers have recently visited this area.

The following appears in the July/August issue of *The Preservation Report*: "Also passed by the board (recognition granted) was The Mentone Springs Hotel, 'The best remaining example in the state of a late 19th-century resort.'"

The Groundhog

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

Charles White McGehee, Editor
Jean McGehee, Associate Editor
Donna Buckley, Advertising
Homer Crow, Director
Mabel Kirk, Associate Director
Marie Shadgett, Secretary
Ann Climer, Treasurer

Letters . . .

We thought your last *Groundhog* was superb. Keep up the good work. Enclosed are our membership dues.

The Marshall Jacksons, Mentone
As a former resident of Mentone I consider the *Groundhog* excellent, well-written and heart-warming. I'm delighted to see MAPA keeping its goal towards a natural setting.

Dorothea Bankston, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Enclosed is my check enrolling me as a member of MAPA. Although not a resident, I want to be a contributor to the preservation of Mentone as we have seen it in the too brief times that we have had the pleasure to enjoy its environs. . . I enjoyed reading the whole paper, even the ads which places of business I have had experience with or at least visited.

John Bohonis, Hyattsville, Md.

ViewPoint

By Charles White McGehee

My friendship with Norville Hall began when I was continuity director for F WSGN in Birmingham. He came in for a the Hammond organ. I assisted in the and listened with amusement as Norville bouncy old tune "Glad Rag Doll" as one tions.

We became enduring friends. One day and said, "I've bought the Mentone Sp Plan to spend your vacation there." Sometimes during winters I'd come up for The lobby was the scene of some unusual by talented musicians, with Norville acci first on a badly tuned piano and then on which he installed.

Here is my favorite Norville Hall story. I we were having lunch together he said: pleted rebuilding that church organ on the I'm playing for its dedication Sunday night. to come." I replied, "You know I never go except on Easter and Christmas Eve. But I'll exception if you play 'Glad Rag Doll.'"

During the service I forgot the stipulat the offertory, when in the midst of tones ren of Wagner and Tchaikowski I suddenly re that these were variations on "Glad Rag Doll" was Norville's humor, this ability to impi humanistic theme in the midst of reverence.

Jean and I were married in June of 1949 be stone fireplace in the lobby of the Mentone Hotel. Many friends from Birmingham came i ville orchestrated the occasion. We had a pro honeymoon, spending the summer as assistants in the operation of the hotel. Norvil a difficult task-master, concentrating especia the dining room.

After we returned to Birmingham our frier with Norville continued. He had a knack for arriv propitious times. For instance, he appeared ft dinner hour and drove us to the hospital on the McGregor, our older son, was born. We often we concerts together. He visited us when we livi New England.

He was delighted when we built our house or brow behind the old hotel. Sometimes weeks or r this would elapse before we saw him. But when h rived on the scene it was always with the st warmth and sense of family spirit.

His training at the Chicago Conservatory was cellent preparation for his ultimate career as an org builder and tuner. He traveled throughout the east United States pursuing his skills. It always sadden him when a church insisted on replacing a pipe org with an electric instrument. He stored countie discarded organs in the old hotel, knowing that son day they would return to favor.

Norville Hall had a rare zest for the good life. He enjoyed music, good food, and he knew the value c enduring friendships. No one ever loved Menton more. He had grandiose plans for the old hotel. The included a summer theatre, restaurant, and various other projects which he would pursue upon retire ment. He would be happy at the restoration process begun by the Padgetts.

One night after enjoying a good meal, and during the playing of a concert at a banquet meeting in Detroit, he toppled from the organ bench and died instantly. He could not have planned a more appropriate departure.

Photo Contest Winner



Homer Crow, new Director of MAPA and a sixth generation native of Mentone, is winner of "d hog Photo Contest . . ."

Brow Briefs . . .

Bill and Marie Shadgett have discontinued their twice-monthly Knotty Knots Arts and Crafts Park showings because of lack of participation. They wish to thank those who assisted. The Shadgetts' Knotty Knots Woodcraft Shop remains open and in full swing, behind Whatley's Store on Lake Lahusage.

Sonny Pokorski of Mentone recently spent a two-week training period at the Royal Air Force Base at Coltishall, Eng., in connection with his duties as a

member of the 117th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing of the Alabama National Guard.

For your information: Copies of *The Groundhog* may well be a valuable collector's item in the not too distant future. Some issues, particularly the one with Sammy Cash on the cover, are difficult to secure. Keep yours in a safe place. The staff often receives requests for back issues which now cannot always be filled.



IMPORTANT!

Dues Due

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

NAME: _____

Mountain Cookery

At the Mentone Inn, I love supervising and preparing cakes and desserts, easy to fix meals, and party food. Here are a few super-good easy to fix recipes for whatever occasion. Next year Mentone Inn will be doing more private parties and wedding receptions, ladies luncheons and business luncheons.

RYE BREAD AND DIP

1 round unsliced loaf of dark rye or pumpernickle
1 pint sour cream
1 pint mayonnaise
2 tablespoons dried parsley, onion, dill, beau monde (each)

Cut tops off loaf of bread and hollow out. Tear bread into small bite-sized pieces and arrange around edge of loaf. Mix all ingredients together and fill center of loaf with it. After pieces of bread are used around the outside to dip with, begin to tear pieces from the loaf.

SHRIMP BALL

3 cans medium shrimp
¼ cup chopped onion
¼ cup melted butter
¼ cup miracle whip

Wash and mash shrimp, add and mix remaining ingredients. Form in ball and refrigerate.

NOTE: Shrimp balls can be made in desired sizes and frozen for future use.

TIJUANA PIE

1½-pounds ground beef
1 or 2 minced garlic buds
¼ teaspoon pepper
1 (16-ounce) can corn drained
6 corn tortillas
¾-pound grated Cheddar or more
1 chopped onion
1 teaspoon salt
2 (16-ounce) cans chili-seasoned beans
1 (6-ounce) can olives drained
1 (10-ounce) can enchilada sauce

Brown beef, onion, and garlic in skillet. Pour off excess fat and season with salt and pepper. Wipe inside of crockpot with oil. Layer tortilla, meat mixture, sauce, and cheese; top with layer of tortilla, beans, cheese, and corn. Drop in a few olives. Continue layering, finishing with a cheese and olive top. Cover and cook at low heat 5-7 hours. Serve with additional hot tortillas and melted butter.

Amelia Kirk-Brooks, Innkeeper
The Mentone Inn

Mentone, Alabama

In the little town of Mentone
(Its history lies so deep)
A lot of nice people
Are awakening it from sleep.

They all are working so hard
To restore its natural beauty,
Each one giving his time
With his love and duty.

There is so much beauty to see:
The rivers and the lakes,
The pretty waterfalls —
Take a camera, for goodness sakes!

You can see the wild flowers
Perched among the rocks;
You can wade a cooling stream —
Just shed your shoes and socks.

You can go horseback riding
Or fishing in a stream.
This should be the answer
To many a people's dream.

There comes along the wild life —
The deer and pretty bird
With the sweetest song
That you ever heard.

Now awake, Mentone, Alabama,
From that long sleep!
Let us find your history
That was buried so deep.

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Families Of Mentone

Glenn Baty believes "each and every species has something special about it," and that his job is to turn out each piece of lumber to its best advantage. The Baty family business began when Glenn married Sis, whose father owned a sawmill. Glenn had been given his forty acres when he turned 18 and later built his home where he still lives. Mrs. Baty has worked as a dietician at Moon Lake School for the past five years.

Son Jimmy went to college for two years, then announced that he was ready to work with his father full time. "Take hold and go," Glenn told him, placing him in charge of the logging operation. Bob was in college for four years, spent two years in the army, and now runs the mill.

Glenn Baty's grandfather John and his wife and nine children came to Mentone in 1900. Glenn's father was a twin, Norris, who had five boys and four girls. Twin brother Horace had 10 girls and three boys. Josie Smith, Glenn's mother, was the daughter of Sherwood and Mollie Smith, who had also come to Mentone around 1900.

Norris Baty truck farmed and did various and sundry jobs before joining his son in the lumber yard. Norris was a fox hunter, and he didn't like people who killed foxes.

Once Jimmy and a cousin were out squirrel hunting with their first rifles. Suddenly they saw a black nose poking out of the top of a hollow stump. They shot first and discovered later they had killed a fox.

Excited, they rushed home and asked Glenn to help them skin the fox. With a twinkle in his eye, he said, "Take him on over to Grandpa's."

Grandpa Norris pitched such fits the boys thought he'd shoot them for sure. Then he settled

down and helped them to skin the fox and nail him onto a board.

Today Jimmy enjoys his father's hobbies of making music and fishing. In addition to playing the banjo, Jimmy plays guitar, and both Batys like to play for neighbors and such events as school parties.

Jimmy and his wife have one son Kevin. Bob likes to build and remodel in his home. He and Maxine have a son Scott and have raised Steve and Jon Hawkins, Maxine's sons by her first marriage.

Other Batys living in the Mentone area include cousin Billy, son of Uncle Willie's son Cecil; John, a brother of Glenn and VHHS math teacher who married Rev. Nelson's daughter Mary Sue; Sarah, wife of another brother; and Willie Jean, a cousin.

The building that is now the office of Baty Lumber Company was once the house of worship for the Church of God of the Prophecy. Now Glenn Baty goes in and out of there daily, coordinating the various activities and "not making much of a job of it at all."

The office is across from the mill, the scene of a painting by Jimmy Frazier purchased by Homer and Bernise Crow.

Glenn's principal feat is coming in second in the state in checker competition, winning the Gadsden Open Tournament a couple of weeks ago, and reminiscing.

A favorite story is the one about one of his uncles who worked at an old filling station. One day a stranger rode in and began pumping furiously with a hand pump, trying to revive his T-model tire. Glenn's uncle walked over and suggested that he avail himself of the free air pump. The stranger replied, "Brother, this here ain't costing nobody a d--- thing either," and kept on pumping.

By Jean McGehee

Herb Lady Addresses Garden Club Members

Directions for making potpourri, fragrant oils, and an arthritis treatment were given at the July meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club by Ruby Maddox, self-taught herbalist from Marietta.

Mrs. Maddox has been to our crafts festival for two years and is extremely complimentary about Mentone and her customers here. In her business she is beginning to introduce a new line of perfumes, assisted by a chemist friend.

Four years ago Mrs. Maddox began growing herbs. She particularly recommends ambrosia (with a coconut fragrance), costmary (spicy), and lovage (good for sore throats). Herbs require a great deal of lime, but little or no fertilizer except natural manures occasionally.

Club members were urged to try apple and pineapple mints along with the standard peppermint and spearmint. Excellent teas may be made with fresh or dry elder flowers or comfrey. The mugwort is good for soothing arthritis pain; simply place leaves or branches in the bath water and rub affected areas with the leaves.

If you want a quick pick-up, sip a cup of borage-basil tea. This stimulating drink has been used by herbalists for centuries. Borage is easily grown, being kin to chard; its taste is similar to the cucumber's.

Potpourri can be made by gathering one quart of dried rose petals and one quart of scented herbs and flowers such as lemon thyme, mints, geranium leaves, lemon balm, bachelor buttons, and lavender. These are mixed with two tablespoons of orris root, a fixative, and one teaspoon of rose oil.

The recipe for rose oil takes a bit of patience: one

must saturate about six cotton balls with olive oil and pour a bit of oil in the bottom of a quart jar. Then put either mint leaves or rose leaves on top and place in the sun. Every two days change the leaves, taking the jar in at night. This eventually makes a fourth or a third cup of oil, squeezed from the cotton balls which have absorbed the mint or rose fragrance.

Easier potpourri is made from fragrant cedar (not the scratchy kind) or from spices such as broken bits of stick cinnamon, whole cloves and allspice (with marigold flowers for color) and spice oil. Similarly, fragrance can be made with powdered spices, adding lemon peel for color and smell. Spice balls can be made from applesauce, orris root, spices, and oil shaped into balls and allowed to dry.

Potpourri can be placed in calico or silk bags or in pretty jars or tins. Mrs. Maddox recommends placing a bit of felt saturated in the oil of the fragrance desired beneath an arrangement.

Mrs. Maddox has her own herb booklet for sale and also uses the Rodale Press **Herb Book**. She recommended ordering materials from Nichols Garden Nursery, Pacific North, Albany, Oregon 97321.

Ferne Fitzgerald worked long and hard hours for the crafts festival booth and collected \$117.75 for the garden club. Mrs. Fitzgerald especially thanked Miss Ruby O'Rear for answering questions put to the ladies about plants for sale.

The next meeting of the club will be Aug. 9 at the home of Betty Chapman with a program about planting and caring for fruit trees.



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The Hitching Post

BERNISE CROW JEAN ELROD



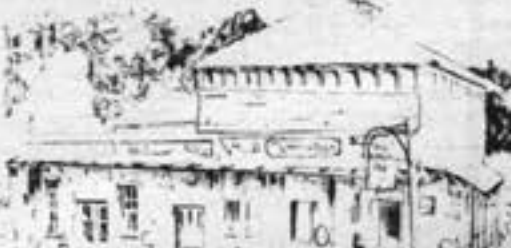
Crows' Nest Antiques

OPAL'S BOUTIQUE

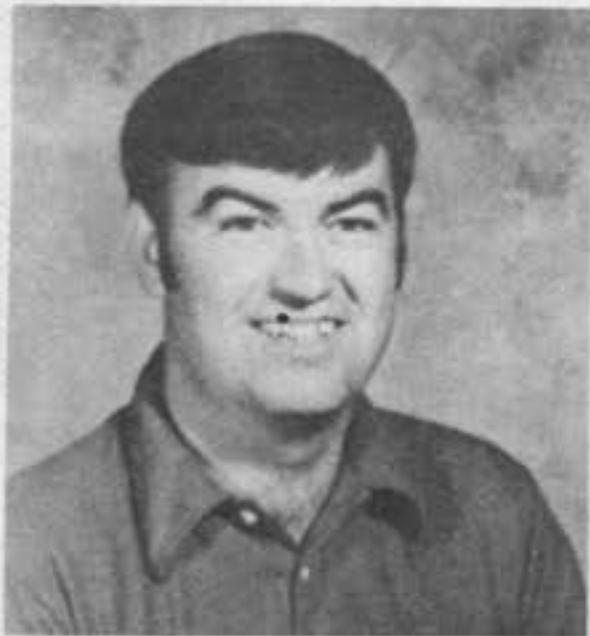
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At The Hitching Post



Principal



Charles O. Bell, principal at Moon Lake School, is entering his 13th year as a member of the faculty. This is his second year as principal.

He attended Sand Valley and Valley Head elementary and high school. He graduated from Northeast Junior College in 1967, following which he attended and graduated from Jacksonville State. At present he is pursuing a degree in educational administration at the University of Alabama (Gadsden Branch).

He is married to Angela Allen, a native of Etowah County. They have two sons: Shaunaton (5) and Charlton (8).

For three years he was minister of Bethel Baptist Church in Hammondville, and is now serving Walnut Grove Baptist.

Principal Bell is indeed a busy educator. He teaches all the courses of the fifth and sixth grades; coaches the basketball teams; is boys advisor for 4-H, along with his multiple duties of administration and co-editing the school annual.

He feels he is getting superb support. "The people of the Mentone area are much above the average in support of their school."

When asked what he considers the most obvious problem for the coming semester he forthrightly said: "The problem of space. When I arrived on the faculty 13 years ago the enrollment was 83. There are now 122. Obviously the community is growing, and this affects the limited amount of space available for our activities."

He relishes the challenge, however, and states that his principal enjoyment in life is "working with people." His pride was undisguised when he pointed out that Mentone students last year were valedictorian and salutatorian of VHHS. This has occurred on other years, too.

Sports

The sports program at Moon Lake principally consists of baseball and basketball.

In 1970 there was only one level of participation. By 1976 the Farm League was added; in 1980 the T-Ball Leagues, which were expanded to three by 1983.

T-Ball coaches this past year were Frank Hall,

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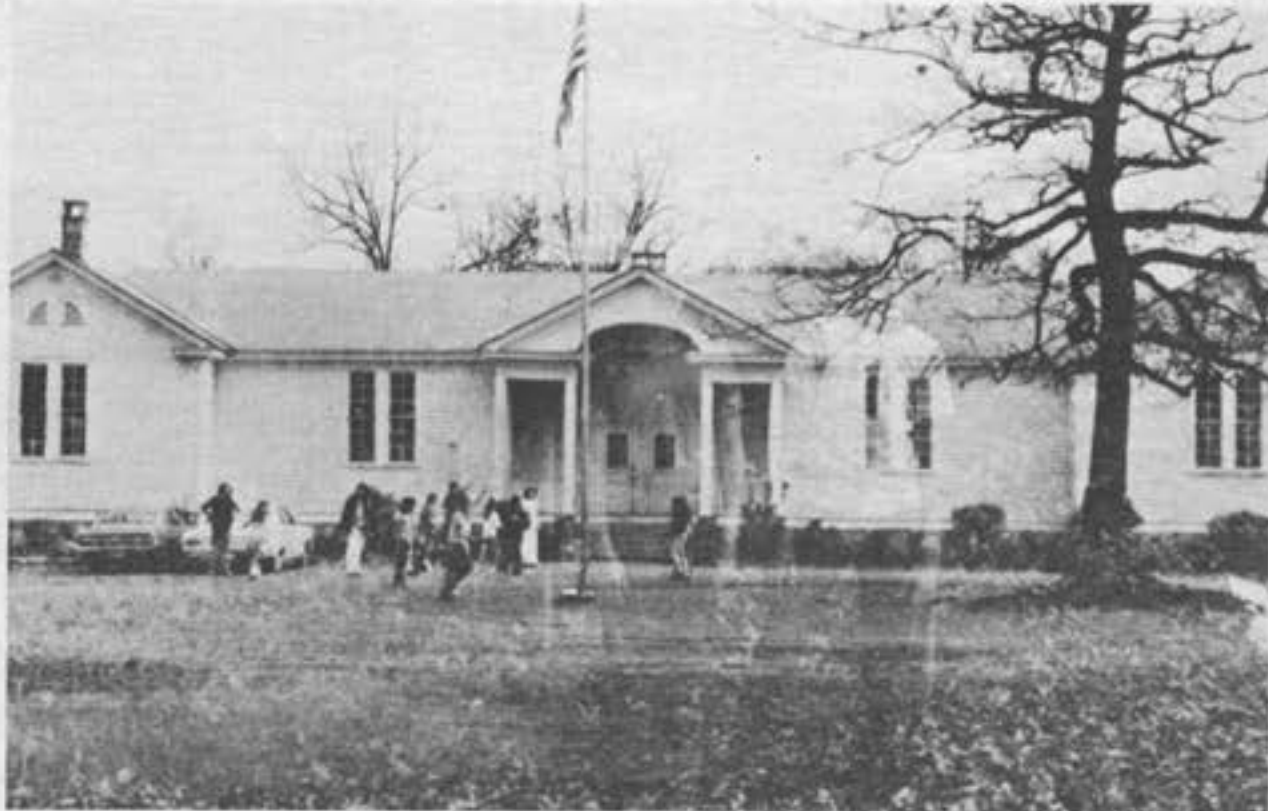
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MOON LAKE



Moon Lake School: A History

Moon Lake School is on Highway 117 east of Mentone, near beautiful Moon Lake from which the school derived its name.

The first building was erected in 1911 on land donated by Mr. Ed Mason. It was a large two-story structure. The first teacher was Miss Lizzie Mason. Some other principals in this building were Chester Allen, Ernest Shigley, Foye Doherty, Ben Price, and W. B. Smith.

On a dark dreary night in November 1927, Old Moon Lake School went up in flames.

In 1928 the debris was cleared away and a two-room building was erected. Mrs. Willie Mae Davis and Miss Louise McKown were the first teachers in the new building. They had very little equipment, not even desks. They used long wooden benches borrowed from Camp DeSoto.

The following year Mr. and Mrs. Charles Adams came, and Mr. Adams remained until 1935. In 1932-33 depression hit school funds and a short term resulted with the loss of some teachers. The school year 1933-34 saw brighter times an enrollment increased. Another milestone was reached — a school bus was added with Roy Crow as driver.

Frank Purvis and Benny Goss.

Eleven and 12-year-old Little League was added last year with Hobson Kirby and Bo Scott as coaches. Farm League coaches were Eddy Kirby and Nelson Stallings.

In 1974 the basketball program consisted of only the sixth grade team. In 1975 fifth grade boys and girls were added. In 1979 it was expanded to fourth grade and in 1983, third grade. Principal Bell is the basketball coach.

A girls' cheerleader squad, coached by the various mothers, adds joy and good spirits to the games.

P.T.A.

A key factor in the vitality of Moon Lake School is the Parent-Teachers Association which meets at the school on the first Monday of each month. Its president, William Berry, states that there is "great support" from the parents of this area.

Other PTA officers are Gary Crow, vice-president; Brenda Hopper, secretary; Pat Schoen, treasurer.

A principal objective of the PTA, in addition to providing communication and cooperation between parents and faculty, is to raise funds for supplies and additional costs that arise in connection with operation of the school.

Principal events for fund-raising are the Spring Festival which is held outdoors and the Harvest Festival which is conducted indoors at the school. Both festivals feature a variety of good food, games, and happy activities.

One of the goals of the upcoming year is to provide momentum and funds for a gymnasium, now needed for the expanding activities of the school.

Another accomplishment of the Moon Lake PTA this past year was to assist with the Alabama Band's June Jam.

In 1939-40 New Union School was consolidated with Moon Lake and another room was added.

During the late 1940's a lunchroom was opened where children and teachers were able to get a hot nutritious meal. Mrs. Grace Jones was the first cook; but, after about two years, Mrs. Winnie Mae Shigley became manager of the lunchroom.

Some other principals were T. O. Kuykendall, Ralph Madison, Dooley, Maria Ellis, R. N. Shigley, Eugene Smith, Curtis Stoner, Pat Priest, Aubrey Elam, Edward Ringer, and Kathryn Jones.

Mrs. Kathryn Jones taught a total of 34 years at Moon Lake, the last 11 as principal. Upon her retirement in 1978, Mrs. Elaine Keith assumed the duties of principal. Others who taught a number of years were Wallace Turner, Ernest Shigley, Charles Adams, Edith Lyday, and Foye Jones. Mrs. Juanita Smith has served for a number of years as Title I teacher.

The P.T.A. is one of the most active in the county. It is not unusual for the "Harvest Festival" to raise several thousand dollars in one night. This money is spent on improving the building and buying playground equipment and teaching aids.

By Foye Jones

Faculty

Kindergarten: (First semester only). Teacher for the upcoming year is Angie Benson (Mrs. David Benson), who will be moving to Valley Head after the first semester. This program will be shared with Valley Head.

First Grade: Nancy Rutledge, now in her second year at Moon Lake. Formerly she taught at Henagar; she is married to William Rutledge who is completing his degree in education at the U. of Alabama. They are parents of two children.

Second and Third Grades: William Berry, who attended Moon Lake and Valley Head schools, Sanford University in Birmingham, and participated in the three months shipboard education program of the U. of Colorado. His parents are the James Berrys of Mentone. He is PTA president and now in his second year at Moon Lake.

Third and Fourth Grades: Joyce Smith, who graduated from Valley Head High School and Jacksonville State, is in her 12th year at Moon Lake. She and her husband, Hoyle, are parents of two children. She is advisor of the Moon Lake 4-H Girls Club and is recognized as one of the outstanding 4-H workers in this area. She also is co-editor of the annual.

Chapter One Teacher: Juanita Smith. This is an enrichment and reinforcement program. She and her husband Eugene have four children. He is assistant principal at Ider. She is most helpful in the PTA program with music and various other activities.

Fifth and Sixth Grades: Mr. Bell.
Head Dietician: Lola Mae Bialock, who has eminently fulfilled this task since 1978. Her assistant is Mrs. Glenn Baty.

Secretary: Helen Seibert.

Schools

In only two short weeks our children will be returning to school. The principals and faculty of Moon Lake Elementary and Valley Head are diligently preparing programs, curriculum, and

routes for the upcoming school year. What they are doing is for us and for the future advancement of society. They should be given the utmost of support in their duties and responsibilities.

VALLEY HEAD



Valley Head High School

There have been three school buildings in the history of Valley Head High School. The first two buildings were destroyed by fire. The main building on the school site today was built in 1924.

The first students began classes in the fall of 1925. Since the first graduation class in May of 1926, 57 other senior classes have proudly hailed VHHS as

The school campus has grown from the original main building to include a vocational agriculture department and home economics department, a gym-

nasium with dressing rooms, weight rooms, and classrooms; a lunchroom, an elementary school building, and a modern library. The school was accredited in 1938.

The enrollment of VHHS averages 525 students in grades K-12. They come from Valley Head and the surrounding communities of Hammondville, Sulphur, and Mentone. Students finishing their six years of elementary education at Moon Lake School travel by bus to VHHS. Approximately 16 to 20 students from Mentone each year join those already in Valley Head School.

Faculty

Valley Head School will have at least three new people on its faculty this year. Mrs. Mary Lyle Satcher will be new librarian, Mrs. Peggy Kirby will teach English, and Mr. Jim Kirby will be head football coach and history teacher. New teachers for second and third grades were not known as Groundhog went to press.

Returning teachers include Angie Vincent, kindergarten; Angie Bell, first grade; Norma Jones, fourth; Linda Biddle and Richard Ellis, fifth; Kay Medina, sixth; Title 1, Marie Culpepper.

In the upper school returning teachers include Mack Whiteside, Charles Jones, W. J. Dalton, Edna Morgan, L. A. Smith, Judy O'Daniel, Judith Hammond, Campbell Smith, Becky Rogers, Sue Reagan, Gary Gehrig, Steve King, Bill Burke, Micky Lemaster.

Events

Events in the VHHS calendar that are eagerly looked forward to include the October Harvest Festival, Homecoming, the Junior and Senior plays, the Prom, and the Sports Banquet and the Band Banquet.

Parents participate in the PTA, of course. Mrs. Martha Stanley is president this year. There is a Band Boosters Club led by parents, and they also take part in the Athletic Club.

Principal



Ms. Elaine Kirby Keith, Mentone native, will be serving as principal of VHHS, following the retirement of Mr. Tommy Johnson. Ms. Keith was raised in Mentone and states, "My heart will always be there."

Her parents, the Luther Kirbys, reside at Alpine. She is the mother of two grown children, Connie and Allan. She is an alumna of Moon Lake School and of VHHS. Elaine recalls many experiences as a student at Moon Lake, but two things come quickly to her mind. "We had to keep warm by a coal-burning pot-bellied stove, and if you've ever spent a cold winter in Mentone, you know that isn't easy." She also recalls graduating from Moon Lake as valedictorian of her sixth grade class.

Ms. Keith was assistant principal at VHHS before being promoted to the principalship this year. She was also principal at Moon Lake School for four years. She has a B. S. degree in elementary education and has taught first, second, and third grade classes. She also has a B. S. in English, an M. A. in administration and supervision, an A. A. in administration, and other graduate work. She is the first woman to be placed as principal of a high school in DeKalb County.

"I consider it a real challenge to be principal at VHHS. I am excited about the possibilities of the job. My concern is for students. My goal is to help each one of them in any way I possibly can. But primarily I hope to help them by offering them the opportunity of a good education. Being the first woman in this county to hold this position, I know I have a lot to prove. Everyone will be watching closely. That's great. We need people to watch and to care. I love my job. I love the students, and I'm ready to face the challenges and obstacles that lie ahead. VHHS and its staff and students are very important to me. I hope they are to the Valley Head and Mentone communities, too."

She further states, "Public education faces many difficult roads in the future. The success of our schools depends greatly on the support and interest of our local communities. VHHS wants and needs your help as it strives to expand and upgrade its program to meet the needs of the students. The education of our children must be a united effort."

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A Chapel, A Cabin And A Dreamer (Continued From Front Cover)



brought many New England speculators, ambitious schemes, and numerous ventures which failed.

After the boom, having attained the usual Southern title of Colonel accorded attorneys, he sharpened his oratorical skills with a three-month course in Washington. Signing with a lecture bureau, he went on tour with lectures on "Ambition." His journeys took him, among other places, to Washington, D. C., resulting in the writing of a book titled *If Christ Came to Washington*.

This book contained scandalous gossip about members of Congress, but it also included the theme of Populism which propelled Howard into political effectiveness — namely the disparity between the rich and the poor in America, and the effect of wealth on members of Congress. Renouncing the Democratic Party in 1894, he became a member of the Populist Party and a candidate for Congress. It was a heated

campaign, featuring a near-duel and the accusation by one speaker that the Colonel had in the course of six months been a Democrat, Jeffersonian, Populist, and Republican.

Six foot four in height, with an eloquent voice and a dignified stance, this 32-year-old candidate spoke from a farm background and frequent references to such sources as the Bible and Shakespeare.

Following election, his four years in Congress were highlighted by a proposal for impeachment of President Grover Cleveland, advocacy of freedom for Cuba, and denunciation of the gold standard. His controversial views caused him to move his family for a time to Cullman, also in the Seventh District.

In his book *The American Plutocracy*, written at that time, Howard advocated the general Populist view that this country was ruled by the wealthy, that an ever-widening gulf between the poor and the rich caused great masses of the poor to toil to provide plutocrats lives of idleness and luxury, and that rapid concentration of wealth in the hands of the few could lead to revolution and disaster. This was an attack on the capitalistic system which he considered parallel to the fall of the Roman and British empires.

After two terms in Congress he returned to Fort Payne and resumed efforts to industrialize the city. He was a delegate to the 1900 Populist convention, where his name was placed in nomination for the Presidency, an honor he refused. His business ventures resulted in his filing a bankruptcy claim. He continued to speak throughout the nation, and in this period he was mentioned as a candidate for the offices of governor of Alabama and the U. S. Senate.

His thought process in these years went through a transitory phase which has been called a mixture of mysticism, fatalism, and agnosticism, mixed with his own progressive interpretation of Christianity.

In 1908 at the Chicago Independence League convention, a movement founded by William Randolph Hearst, he engaged in a debate with Clarence Darrow. Back in Alabama he spoke against a proposed prohibition amendment at a state convention. In a strange political switch he entered the Congressional race as a Republican candidate and was defeated.

Howard then retreated to a farm north of Fort Payne, close to the soil and blessed with leisure. Reminiscing about his accomplishments, he yet asked, "Is this all there is?" Just as he had studied oratory to improve his public speaking and short story writing to improve his skills, he was taking a correspondence course on photoplay scripting. The course instructors advised him that there was a ready market for such talents. He went to Hollywood.

His novel *Bishop of the Ozarks* concerning a convict who posed as a minister was filmed with Howard as actor of the leading role. Also while in Hollywood he wrote *Po' White Trash*, a novel about wealthy white slaveholders and poor whites.

It was the writing of another novel, *Peggy Ware*, which motivated his return to Alabama and his residence in the Mentone area. Peggy Ware was a saintly person who established a school for underprivileged children in the Buck's Pocket area of Sand Mountain. The school eliminated poverty, ignorance, and disease and was expanded to 100 units. Determined to turn fiction into reality, Howard returned to Alabama, found the Buck's Pocket site unsuitable, and decided on a site near the present Comer Scout Reservation.

Beginning with less than \$100, he accumulated acreage, and buildings were hastily completed. The Colonel applied his promotional skills, spoke exten-

sively and arranged a gala opening at which Mentone's Congressman Miles Allgood was a speaker. Plans for expanding the school into a center for chautauqua, lyceum, and concerts never really materialized, and the school was eventually abandoned.

Next came the River Park project. Contending that there was a million dollars' worth of scenery on the Master Schools property, he proposed a hotel, golf course, riding trails, and radio station. On July 4, 1924, a crowd showed up for the auction, but few lots were sold. After a period of despondency, he proposed an Alpine Angler's Club, which never materialized, but the Lodge was completed and is now the site of Alpine Camp for Boys.

Groups in Chattanooga and Gadsden became enthusiastic about Howard's proposal for a Scenic Highway along the brow of Lookout Mountain between the two cities. One of the planning sessions was held at Hal Howe's Hotel (now Mentone Inn) in Mentone. The Colonel himself staked the route from Mentone to Gadsden. Due to financial and routing conflicts, the Scenic Highway was abandoned. A result, however, was the present stretch of DeSoto Parkway (Highway 89), leading south from the Hitching Post. Had this project been successful, Mentone might well have become another Gatlinburg or Helen, Georgia.

In 1927 the Master Schools and Scenic Highway properties were sold. He retained Alpine Lodge. His wife Sally had died in California in 1925 and the following year he married Vivian Harper.

During a tour of Europe Howard interviewed Benito Mussolini for a column he was writing for the *Birmingham News*. This resulted in a book *Facism: A Challenge to Democracy*, a strong endorsement of facism.

Back on the mountain, Vivian supervised the building of a cabin by 15-year-old Frank Kirk. Near the present site of DeSoto Lodge and the cabin that had been provided for the fabled Indian woman Granny Dollar, this structure eventually became their home. Unable to withstand its rigors, Vivian spent more time away from the mountain, and they were divorced in 1936.

He continued to lecture and write, but ill health and the mounting years took their toll. After a fire which almost cost his life, he moved from his cabin to Granny Dollar's; she had died six years earlier.

In the sad years of his depression and his own bouts with defeatism, there were some bright moments. He was active in development of DeSoto Park, now a vast state project. Land which he sold to the Boy Scouts of America eventually became the Comer Scout Reservation of today. He stressed the validity of the Mentone area as a bird sanctuary.

"I am thoroughly convinced with Thoreau," he once said in a moment of enlightenment, "that to maintain one's self on this earth is not a hardship, but a pastime, if we will live simply and wisely." At other moments he called this life a dry and arid land, and said that democracy is doomed; all the world will be either fascist or communist.

When he buried his wife Sally at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, Calif., he admired the "Wee Kirk 'O The Heather," a reproduction of the Annie Laurie Church in Scotland. Only a few months before his death, at age 75, he spent six weeks in bitter weather on icy ground, supervising the carpenters and stonemasons in building the Sally Howard Memorial Chapel, a classic design of simple strength. It grows from a huge boulder.

After his death on Dec. 28, 1937, his ashes were deposited in this structure near DeSoto Lodge which stands as a non-denominational chapel, monument for the ages to the better part of his dream.

(Information for this column was gleaned principally from *The Vagabond Dreamer*, a thoroughly researched book by Elizabeth S. Howard. It may be bought from the Fort Payne Library.)



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Calendar

- Monday, Aug. 1 — 6 p.m. — City Council meets. City Hall. Sam Barrett, mayor.
- Tuesday, Aug. 2 — 7 p.m. — MAPA meets at Mentone Springs Hotel. Homer Crow, director.
- 7 p.m. — Rescue Squad meeting at American Legion Hall annex. Larry Gray, captain.
- Wednesday, Aug. 3 — 10 a.m. — Bookmobile at City Hall.
- Thursday, Aug. 4 — 7 p.m. — Volunteer Fire Department at Fire Hall. Sam Cash, chief.
- Tuesday, Aug. 9 — 10 a.m. — Rhododendron Garden Club meets at the Chapman home. Helen Hill, president.
- Monday, Aug. 15 — Opening of public schools. Teachers only.
- Tuesday, Aug. 16 — Children start back to school.
- Wednesday, Aug. 17 — 10 a.m. — Bookmobile at City Hall.
- Thursday, Aug. 18 — 7 p.m. — Volunteer Fire Department at Fire Hall.
- Wednesday, Aug. 24 — Deadline for Groundhog copy for September issue.

CRAFTS FESTIVAL (Continued From Page 1)

chairpersons for doing such a terrific job this year: Gay Godbols for doing the publicity; she writes letters, makes phone calls and personal contacts to get the word around to all areas. Milton Howard for putting up all the signs and directing the flow of traffic; this year he also served as official photographer for the festival. Bobbie Hilderbrand for making the map of exhibit sites and assigning each exhibitor a site; On Saturday morning she is on the brow to show each one where his site is and to determine how much space each one needs. Ovie and Barbara Blalock for contacting our entertainers and setting up the schedule that pleased our guests with the amount of entertainment and our exhibitors with the time left between each show; I also want to thank Ovie for the grading and mowing that he did. This improves our park year 'round.

I want to express my thanks to the entertainers. The clogging and square dancing were great both days. Also, I want to thank the Silver Creek Band for their appearance, and they would only let us pay the expenses of setting up the equipment. We appreciate you, boys!

I want to thank Stan and Christa Brown for putting together the program showing where everyone was located and giving a biographical sketch of each exhibitor. It also informs everyone of things available in the area through the advertising. We thank Maggie Cordell and Lydia Speed for securing our demonstrators of mountain crafts and H. P. Goss and Luke Lucas for the security they provided. Everything went very well. Also, thanks for their help with traffic direction. The City of Mentone allowed the young men who work for the summer program to help with cleaning, repair work and anything that needed doing at the park. We were also able to get the garbage pickup from Downer's Solid Waste through the city. The policeman, Ed Worthey, was also on hand to help both days and to provide security Saturday night; Bob Brown provided a means of electricity for those two days, and hung and removed the banner across Highway 117, and cleaned up afterwards, parked cars and did anything else I asked him to.

A special thank you to the Rhododendron Garden Club for the great job they did at the gates. They do this as a community service and it really helps the festival.

Thanks to our board of directors: William Blackburn, Lola Mae Blalock, Ovie Blalock, Rick Chapman and Charles and Jean McGehee. They keep us on the straight and narrow. They are our advisors in all matters.

These two people I have left until last because we could not have had the festival without their efforts. Raymond Brown, vice president, who puts up signs, directs traffic, parks cars, takes phone calls and anything else that needs doing. Grace Howard secretary and treasurer, who is my right hand; she mails applications, deposits money, pays bills, curate list of our exhibitors. All of this she does before the festival. On those two days she runs her legs off, seeing that every one is pleased with everything. After this she starts all over on next year's show.

I urge all of you to attend our meetings. We can use you and need your ideas to make our festival and our community better. Our next meeting will be a report of this year's festival and a feed-back session as to what we can do better next year. We will have election of officers at this meeting, too.

And a great big thanks to YOU, the citizens of Mentone, for your support, attendance, help and patience for putting up with me.

By Linda Brown

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SCHOOLS

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 Valley Head High School: 635-6228

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 Thursday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 P.M.

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 Wednesday Training Hour: 6:30 P.M.
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 tor; Camp for girls; June 14, July 14,
 634-3411.

CAMP LANEY: Rob Hammond,
 director; Camp for boys; June 18, Ju-
 ly 2, July 17, July 31. 634-3561.

CAMP SKYLINE RANCH: Marty Grif-
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 Cloudland, Ga., four two-week ses-
 sions from June 19 to Aug. 13. (404)
 428-0446.

COMER SCOUT RESERVATION:
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