

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 3 - NO. 5 - AUGUST 1985

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Councilman Davenport:

From The Beginning

To The Present

When Mentone was incorporated in 1936, young Garrett Lee Davenport was a member of the original town council. After a 34 year business career with one company in Atlanta, he is back on his native soil and will have completed twelve more years as councilman when the present term is over.

His recollections about Mentone are many, but one of the fondest is of a day at the Hitching Post when he made 45 banana splits, one after the other, for girls attending a Baptist conference at the old hotel.

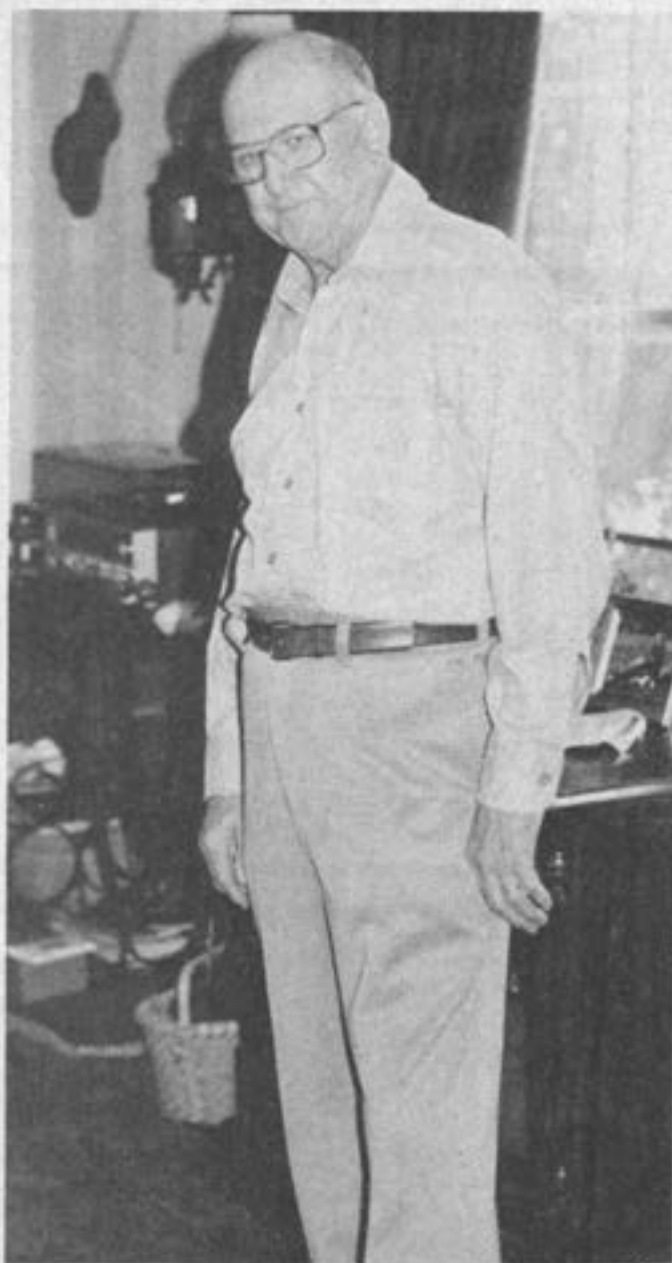
George Washington Crow, the grandfather who raised him, homesteaded here around 1875. His property consisted of some 200 acres, from the present Davenport home to Jimmy Berry's place, to the hill beside Colquitt Jones' home, and down to highway 117 on the side of the mountain.

Grandfather Crow lived in the Mentone Springs Hotel until he built his house. He had come from Missionary Ridge in Chattanooga. He eventually gave his land away to his children. Today, Lee Davenport has bought property back until he has some seventeen acres.

Young Lee Davenport went to Moon Lake School when its classes included the high school years and when the building was two-storied and a bit farther from the road than it is today. He remembers hard times with little cash but with a lot of work.

When he was a teen-ager, Lee helped his

(Continued On Page 6)



GARRETT LEE DAVENPORT

Youth Camps Ending Wonderful Season, Page 1

School Begins Monday, August 25th, Page 1

Key Issues Are Discussed At Aug. Town Council

Principal items of discussion and consideration at the meeting of the Mentone Town Council on August 5th were town roads and the issue of annexation and zoning. A report and recommendation will be made on annexation and zoning at the September meeting by a special committee consisting of Councilmen Max Cash, Hobson Kirby, Richard Meadows, and Mayor Rob Hammond.

The two issues were brought to the council in July by local attorney John Cooper, who returned to address the August session. "We need favorable treatment from the county commissioners to repair our roads," Mr. Cooper said.

Mayor Hammond suggested, "They meet every other Monday at the Court House... Go down there and speak with them."

Mr. Cooper asked for a concerted, unified effort by the town of Mentone. Mr. Cash stated that the county trucks have been around Mentone for two weeks, working in the Lahusage area and on the two loops past Whatley's Store. They are now hauling chert around Dewey Smith's home. "They don't have to do anything here. If you make them mad, you won't get anything," Mr. Cash said.

Then Mr. Cash suggested that Mentone citizens should write Senator Barron and Representative Burke regarding the proposed addition of a fifth district, for Lookout Mountain residents. He further urged that if this district is created, its representatives should be elected from within the district, and not county-wide.

RALPH BURKE & LOWELL BARRON

Former mayor Bob Daniel suggested placing petitions in local stores for Mentone residents to sign. Mayor Hammond said that he will write Senator Lowell Barron and Mr. Ralph Burke on this matter of representation which should aid this area in better upkeep for its roads.

Attorney Cooper then brought up the issue of zoning and annexation. "Steps need to be taken to protect the residential community," He proposed taking

(Continued On Page 6)

Little River Floodwaters

"In all my 32 years of carrying mail it's the highest I've seen Little River."

This is how rural mail carrier Max Cash describes the torrential rains of late July, in which portions of Fort Payne were inundated twice and a dam collapsed near Dogtown on Lookout Mountain.

Although no damage was done in Mentone proper, mailman Cash saw a bridge washed away at the upper end of Lake Lahusage and a small bridge destroyed below Grandpa Bain's house, between Charles Flannigan's and Jane Cash's. The middle fork near Whatley's store did not wash away the bridge but was very high. The worst areas, according to Cash, were in the Thelma O'Rear section and Lake Lahusage around Lookout Mountain Camp, and on the East Fork near the Georgia line.

On the Georgia side of the mountain below Cloudland the rain caused slides of rocks, trees, and mud that closed one lane of highway 48.

Mayor Rob Hammond said that although there was no damage at Camp Laney, the water rose above the banks and the docks. Teresa Cox at Nippersink also reported no damage or threat but that the water rose to the steps and the dock. Potter David Mays who lives in a house overlooking DeSoto Falls said that although the volume of water flowing over the falls, the mists, and the high waters below were quite dramatic, he had seen more water coming over the falls about seven years ago.



Camps Have Wonderful Summer



Camp Skyline Ranch

Despite the heavy rains, the Mentone area summer youth camps have apparently had a wonderful season. With only a few days remaining before the last groups head for their homes throughout the Southeast, GROUNDHOG reporter Cindy Pullen submits the following report of responses from the various camps.

SUE HENRY, CAMP DESOTO: "We've had a wonderful summer. We were a little stretched out trying to find things for the kids to do during the rains, but we made it just fine."

JOHN MORRISON, LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE CENTER: "The rain didn't affect us that much, but we did have 35-feet of our waterfront messed up. All in all — an excellent summer."

BOB DUNAWAY, COMER SCOUT RESERVATION: "Our season for the Scouts is over and it was real good. When the rains came we had some bands that had to be moved inside."

SUSAN HOOKS, CAMP SKYLINE: "This year has been great, real successful. The rain hasn't affected the kids but has been a lot of frustration for us."

RICHARD O'FERRALL, CAMP ALPINE: "We've had a wonderful year. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of our dietician, Bea Crow, the first session. The rain hasn't dampened the spirits of our kids. They had rain hikes. We had to move some things inside, but other than that it was fine."

MARTY GRIFFIN, CAMP SADDLE ROCK: "Fantastic. It's really been good. It has been a full summer."



Ponderosa Bible Camp

mer. The rain started when we were between opening and closing, but we worked around the rain while the campers were here."

GLENN MILLER, PONDEROSA BIBLE CAMP: "Good summer over all. Numbers were down in June but good in July. Sure, the rain affected us, having to go to plan B and sometimes C. It demonstrates the necessity of that big multi-purpose Gym/Chapel we hope to build within a year. Kids adjust. The talk of one week was the 'Super Mud Bowl' football game."

KATHY HOLLY, CAMP JULIETTE LOW: "The season went very well. Our staff of counselors performed excellently. During the rains we moved the girls into the lodge. Some of our roads were washed out but no buildings. Enrollment was slightly lower the last session, but we expect that."

JANE BENNETT, CAMP WOODMONT: "It was a great season. This is our fifth year and enrollment was up 30 percent. We averaged 75 each session. The rain caused us to move some activities indoors but it all went well."

NANCY JONES, VALLEY VIEW RANCH: "The season was just super. We survived the monsoon. It wasn't as hot this summer and the kids were enthusiastic. Our horse shows went well and we had a good safety record. It was sad saying goodbye."

ROB HAMMOND, CAMP LANEY: "We've had a very good summer — the most campers we've ever had. Luckily for us, the rains mostly came between sessions. We had only one full day of rain."

September Meeting

MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

Speaker: Ken Wallis, legal aide to
Governor George Wallace

Presiding: Amelia Kirk Brooks, director

Everyone Welcome
Refreshments follow

Mentone Springs Hotel

Tuesday, September 3, 1985
7:00 p.m.

Write About New District

Write your legislator about the expansion of the DeKalb County Commission districts to include Lookout Mountain!

At both the August Town Council meeting and the Mentone Area Preservation Association Mentone citizens were urged to write their legislators immediately for action in the Alabama General Assembly later this month or in September.

Expanding to five districts would give Lookout Mountain more immediate representation in such matters particularly as road maintenance.

The letters to the legislators need not be long or involved. The principal message is: "Please vote to include Lookout Mountain as a new DeKalb County District."

Senator Lowell Barron
P. O. Box 55
Fyffe, Alabama 35971

Representative Ralph Burke
Cherokee Apartments
200 45th Street NE
Fort Payne, Alabama 35967

Moon Lake, Valley Head Schools Begin Aug. 25

School bells ring for the year 1985-86 for Mentone students when Moon Lake Elementary School and Valley Head begin activities on Monday, Aug. 25.

Principal Charles Bell announces that in addition to himself, the Moon Lake faculty consists of Juanita Smith, Joyce Smith, Bill Berry, Kim Youngblood and Grace Godbois, who is also President of the Parent Teachers Association.

Custodian is H. P. Goss. The lunchroom is operated by Delight Pruitt and Cheryl Crane. Don Ingram is bus driver.

For this new season Valley Head School will welcome approximately 14 new 7th graders from Mentone. According to Principal Elaine Keith, approximately 150 students came from Mentone each day, driven down the mountain by bus drivers Billy Cash, Tony Blalock, and Larry Gray. Faculty members from Mentone are Edna Morgan, home economics; Linda Biddle, 5th grade; and L. A. Smith, agribusiness.

"We are looking forward to a great year. We have expanded our curriculum and expect an increase in enrollment," says Principal Keith. Contractors have been busy all summer, installing a new heating system to replace the outdated radiators and boiler. The lunchroom now has a new heating and cooling system. There's new carpet in the library and there are many new library books.

As usual Mentone students will be prominent in such activities as football, basketball, and band.

Valley Head's football team was recently listed in the top ten of the state in the poll of the Associated Press and the Alabama Sports Writers Association.

Cable TV Survey

Mentone citizens interested in cable-TV service are urged to send their favorable opinions to Bill Kidder Cable TV Company.

Mr. Kidder states that telephone viewpoints now may be phoned to a local number 634-4861.

Best time to place the calls is evenings and weekends. Those who received the questionnaire several months ago may still mail it to the company headquarters. Mr. Kidder is hopeful that enough interest will be expressed to begin installations.

MAPA Minutes

The MAPA meeting was held at the Mentone Springs Hotel on August 6, 1985. Amelia Brooks, director, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. She presented a plaque to previous director Homer Crow in appreciation for his having served for two years. The treasurer's report showed a balance as of August 1, of \$4,895.38. The *Groundhog* report showed a balance of \$986.05 as of the same date.

The triangle corner by the Superette will be maintained by Bob Brooks and Barbara Crow, assisted by Ray Froehler. Members voted to erect five new signs, "Visit Historic Mentone, Alabama."

An Octoberfest meeting will be held on August 14th at the hotel at 7 p.m. for ideas and planning. Members were urged to report any telephone problems to the Public Service Commission, whose toll-free number is on the inside front cover of the phone book.

Amelia announced her appointment of Maggie Cordell as chairperson of the hostess committee which arranges for refreshments for each MAPA meeting. Grace Howard has been appointed parliamentarian and Charles McGehee editor-in-chief and Jean to assist in *The Groundhog*. Frances Rosario is chairperson of the telephone committee.

Attorney John Cooper explained about annexation, zoning, and the proposed new fifth district in the county. Members voted to have more information about annexation and zoning and possible tax increases.

— Temporary Secretary, Angelo Rosario

Groundhog Finance Report

Income:	
Balance on hand	\$986.69
Donations, Hitching Post	34.75
Ad Sales	955.00
	\$1,976.44
Debits:	
Donna Bukley, sales & delivery	\$180.30
McGehees, editing	100.00
Tenn. Office Products Co.	31.57
Angelo Rosario, photos	15.00
The Summerville News Co.	584.75
U. S. Post Office	71.33
Harco Drugs, book	7.44
	\$990.39
Balance on hand	\$986.05

MAPA Salutes Crow

At the beginning of the August MAPA meeting August 6th, Director Amelia Brooks presented former director Homer Crow with a framed certificate, lettered by Mickey Strickland and framed by Henry Barnett:

"In Appreciation to Homer Crow

For his dedicated two years of leadership of our organization. For his patient devotion to our group and its goals and principles. For the time that he allotted to us, despite the pressures of his business. For sharing with us his knowledge of and his devotion to Mentone from the Members of the MAPA."

Grace Howard has been appointed parliamentarian. Angelo Rosario, chairman of the October Colorfest (Oct. 19-20), announced tentative plans for the weekend (story elsewhere). Members voted to purchase five new signs pointing the way to Mentone off major roads.

Attorney John Cooper spoke on the necessity for those present to write and to urge their friends to write Senator Barron and Representative Burke to help establish a fifth county district for Lookout Mountain residents. Also he said we should ask that the commissioner from here be elected by us and not countywide.

Mr. Cooper also spoke of the need to keep residential areas of Mentone intact and of the necessity to maintain what we have now. He talked of annexing outlying areas so they would have police protection and ultimately, water and maintenance of roads. He felt that taxes would be raised minimally, at the most \$25 annually. Valley Head is taking in all the way to Wade's Gap, he said. Mr. Cooper thinks that Mentone should annex the outlying areas before Fort Payne or Valley Head seize them.

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 1986.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

The Groundhog

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

Charles White McGehee, Editor
Jean McGehee, Associate Editor
Donna Bukley, Advertising, 634-4678
Amelia Brooks, Director
Donna Bukley, Associate Director
Bill Riedesel, Secretary
Shurlee Froehler, Treasurer
Homer Crow, Past Director

Brow Briefs

Congratulations to Bruce Bon Fleur, first director of MAPA, for receiving one of the three awards of the Highway 58 Area Council of the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce. Winner of the business award and photographed for *The Chattanooga News Free Press*, Bruce is now an executive with the Young Men's Christian Association.

Attending the recent workshop on computers for the Agribusiness Teachers of Northeast Alabama was Mentone's L. A. Smith, of the Valley Head faculty.

Mentone area scouts who attended the National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of America in Washington, D. C., were Jeff Dunaway and David Allgood.

The Reverend Drew Wolcott will do a dramatic reading at the annual meeting of Landmarks of Alabama on August 25 at the Fort Payne Opera House.

Historical Note: How did Ovie and Barbara Blalock become interested in square dancing and clogging? Ovie explains that around 1952 — when Annelee Tucker and Elizabeth Lowe operated Nipper-sink, they also taught at Valley Head School. As part of the physical education courses, square dancing was taught. That's how the Blalocks began their abounding interest in dancing.

Happy sounds have been coming from Brow Park lately. From his stepfather Jesse Crow, Bryan Green got horseshoes once owned by Lee Crow and stakes belonging to Jesse, Bryan, along with David Hopper, Iral Brown, and Tom Harrison set up the stakes, dug the pits, and a great deal of fun is being had by many young people. There are so few recreational facilities for our youth. What about basketball hoops in one of the parks?

Drivers along that way are rejoicing at the refinishing of Cove Road.

Congratulations to Tom Jones Jr. for winning the state men's amateur golf title!

Sympathy of the community goes to the families of Dr. Gene Gray and Milton Lance, both recently deceased.

MAPA Director Amelia Kirk Brooks will be seen in a re-run of *The Wheel of Fortune* show where she plugged Mentone — August 29th.

Old Groundhog Copies Are Still Needed

In order to finish a good supply of complete sets of *The Groundhog*, past MAPA director Homer Crow reports that he needs additional copies of the following:

- Vol. 1 No. 2 — Sammy Cash on cover;
- Vol. 1 No. 7 — Rob Hammond on cover;
- Vol. 1 No. 10 — DeSoto Falls caves on cover.

When enough sets are complete, Homer will place them in binders and offer them for sale, proceeds of which go to the work of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

If you would like to trade copies to get your own complete set, contact Homer. They may be valuable some day — like baseball cards.

Rescue Squad

Ovie Blalock, new Captain of the Rescue Squad, succeeding Stanley Brown, states that no emergency calls of significance were received during July's flooding along Little River. One call concerned a boat that was threatened at LaHusage, but it had already been swept away before help arrived. The Rescue Squad continues to meet at the Legion Hall on the first Tuesday of each month.

Mountain Watch

By Charles White McGehee

Wherever we go people repeatedly say to Jean and me, "We just want you to know how much we appreciate *The Groundhog*." Naturally it means a lot to us to know that our efforts are appreciated. It needs to be pointed out that gratitude should be expressed to the board of the Mentone Area Preservation Association. Essentially *The Groundhog* is MAPA's newsletter. In the absence of a local newspaper, it was decided to broaden the function of a routine newsletter.

Once I read of a small town in New England where a church expanded its usual newsletter to include broader community news. I passed this thought along to Graham Glover, suggesting that *St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain* might consider the possibility. His illness prevented any follow-through. If Graham were alive today, there is a good possibility that *The Groundhog* would be a publication of St. Joseph's.

I was not a founding member of MAPA. I knew few of the people involved. My thoughts were those of most people in Mentone. I came here because I like small towns. I liked the way the wind blew across the brow, the friendliness of the people, the enchanting natural sites. I did not like the fact, however, that there was deterioration of some of our landmarks and a lack of community effort at maintaining pride in the uniqueness of the town.

Mentone attracts talented and unusual people — artists, writers, potters. An artist recently said to me, "The artists here have a right to make a living." One of the ways to help them is to call attention to their work, to provide customers who would come here especially in summers, when we are already thriving with the activity of the camps. Although I wanted my sense of privacy, a reason I came here was the same feeling expressed recently by Mayfred Whatley, "I enjoy sharing my mountain with other people." And as Ruby O'Rear said, "We have it all to ourselves in the winter."

One of my fears was that an investor with money could come to town, buy up chunks of property, and there would be uncontrolled commercialism. I decided that people should be talking about these things and planning toward the future. I also decided that more and more people should be concerned about the need for more police protection, removing the potholes from our streets, and some recreational facilities for our young people, who seem to have little to do and are sometimes getting into trouble.

Wanting this to be the best little town in America, I finally joined MAPA and began cultivating some wonderful friends. Some of them are of families who helped settle the town. Others had recently moved here, wanting to get to know others. Some had established businesses, which give employment to local persons.

In joining MAPA it occurred to me that my newspaper background might be useful in producing a newsletter. Bruce Bon Fleur, the first director, readily accepted my offer. In July 1982 the first mimeographed newsletter was placed in the mail. Around April 1983 Bruce and I simultaneously had the same idea. *The GROUNDHOG* would serve effectively as a community publication, not restricted to MAPA membership, but delivered to every mailbox in the area.

When proposed at an open meeting, Mabel Kirk told us of a similar successful venture in a small town in California. There was much discussion, some doubts. But the idea was adopted and the result is local history. No project I've worked with has met such widespread acceptance. These remarks are personal, but it seemed to me that there was no better way to say that without MAPA there would be no *Groundhog*.

This publication is dedicated to MAPA's principles. They are views to which all citizens of Mentone adhere to in some degree — the preservation and protection of the "heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities" of this wonderful town. The same person who fears that Mentone could become a Gatlinburg can well have apprehensions that it could become a ghost town. To prevent either extreme from happening, some communications must be established, some planning must be done. It involves all citizens.

This is what *The Groundhog* is all about. We hope to keep it going for a long time. Our task has been made possible by the area business people who have bought ads. They pay the cost of printing and mailing. They deserve thanks also. They deserve your patronage.

So it is that Jean and I thank you for your compliments, comments, and suggestions. Please do not let it stop with us. Thank also the MAPA officers: Director Amelia Brooks; past Director Homer Crow; Associate Director Donna Bukley; Treasurer Shurlee Froehler; and Secretary Hill Riedesel. In addition to the regular MAPA meeting each month, they devote an evening to checking the copy and planning for future editions.

When the name "Groundhog" was proposed, I was less than enthusiastic. But something natural has emerged. No other name would have been quite so appropriate. One afternoon when I was writing down at my barn, Herman Jones dropped in, settled in the chair for a chat, and began with, "Well, what are you groundhogs up to now?" More recently our wonderful neighbor Willie B. Langston came by with some fresh corn and brand-new-dug potatoes from Shine McNew's garden in Valley Head. Picking up the newest edition from a *Groundhog* stack on the table, he said, "I see you've gotten out another *Whistlepig*."

Police and Fire Protection



Fire Chief Sammy Cash

Mentone's North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire District received a check for \$675 in a recent gathering at Geraldine. The funds were made available by the Alabama State Legislature. Disbursements were coordinated by DeKalb County Forest Ranger Donald Cole. Checks to 11 DeKalb County fire departments were presented by State Representative Ralph Burke.

Fire Chief Sammy Cash explains that these are matching funds for the purpose of buying tools.

For facilitation of safer fire protection, Chief Cash urges each homeowner in Mentone to install a fire extinguisher and smoke alarm. "We will be glad to visit your home and help choose the right location."

Fire protection of the Fort Payne Fire Department was extended to include most of DeSoto State Park at the July 9 meeting of the Fort Payne City Council. It was emphasized, however, that certain conditions must be met — a structural fire, a truck must be available, and the property owner must pay the actual cost of the operation.

Mentone fire department's coverage extends to the entrance of DeSoto Park, according to Chief Cash.



Police Chief R. Colquitt Jones

What's the best and quickest way to get in touch with the local police in event of emergency?

To answer this and other questions **The Groundhog** editors invited Police Chief Colquitt Jones by for a chat. Here are some important things to remember:

At all times when he cannot be reached by any of the other numbers, Police Chief Jones can be contacted through the 24-hour daily radio headquarters of the DeKalb Sheriff's Office:

1-845-3801

Here are the local numbers:
Monday-Friday — 7 a.m.-11 a.m. 634-4444 (Town Hall)

All other times — 4467 (Jones' residential number)

"The sheriff's department does this service for all towns in the county," Police Chief Jones said. "Occasionally they call on me when a deputy's car is not in the area. At all times I have a two-way radio and can be reached. Please do not ever hesitate to call the sheriff's radio. If I'm not available, they will send a car."

Jones reported that he had no emergency difficulties during the recent flood waters. In response to a question about stories in **The Fort Payne Times-Journal** and **The Chattanooga Times** that there had been "at least eight summer homes on one street" burglarized the week of July 8, he said:

"I went to investigate a burglary almost to the Georgia line. It was out of my jurisdiction, on Windward drive, I think. Once I got there I discovered that not only had one house been broken into, but the houses on either side of it also. I alerted the county officials, and they discovered that altogether eight homes had been burglarized. They were cottages belonging to people in Rome and Atlanta."

Jones, Mentone's only policeman, is on duty 24 hours daily. He wants to be called for any emergency.

A Sad Note

An announcement from the National Audubon society predicts a rapid decline of the number of migratory songbirds in the United States. The number of birds returning each spring will drop sharply because of the destruction of one of their major habitats, the tropical rain forests of Latin America. Vast areas of trees are being cut to make pasture for cattle. Mentone is obviously a stopping place for migrating birds. With this in mind the Garden Club successfully requested that the Town Council declare Mentone a Bird Sanctuary at its meeting of April 2, 1972.

Blalock Coordinates Valley Head Center

Mentone citizens were present and Ovie Blalock of our town was coordinator when groundbreaking ceremonies were held on Saturday, August 27, for the new community center to be built at the foot of the mountain just before reaching the railroad in the town limits of Valley Head. Blalock, who operates a sawmill in Menlo, Georgia, is president of the Valley Head Promenaders.

Present from Mentone in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Blalock were Charles and Barbara Houston, Joyce and John Blankenship, Raymond and Becky Blalock, and Robert Green. Also from Mentone involved in the project as members of the Little River and Country Creek Cloggers were Shannon Blalock, Karen Wright, and Christy Voyles.

Plans are for the 50 x 70 square foot facility to be completed by November. It will be built with club-raised and donated funds and largely volunteer labor. Cost of the property was \$4,800, of which \$3,300 has already been raised through pledges, club dues, and such fundraisers as turkey shoots, exhibition dancing, and ice cream sales.

In addition to serving as a permanent location for the clogging and dancing groups, Mr. Blalock told **The Groundhog** that it will also be available for senior citizens, Boy Scouts, exercise classes, Alcoholics Anonymous and aerobics.

In addition to a spacious dance area, the community center will contain a kitchen and restroom. "It certainly will be available to Mentone groups that meet our requirements," said Mr. Blalock.

A Poem About Covers (Groundhog 1983-85)

Gracing the first GROUNDHOG cover was **Ruby O'Rear**, Granddaughter of the Mason who led the way here.

Next came a fire chief, **Sammy Cash** of fame, Forester with many relatives by the same name. Then came a mayor whose name was **Sam Barrett**: He quit when his health didn't let him bear it. Young Postmaster **Benny Goss** was next in line, Who everyone agrees is doing fine. **Millard Wriarson Howard** emerged from our history, Dreamer, builder, writer — still a mystery. **Linda Brown** was shown as an example for us all, Crafts Festival, garden club, ever standing tall. Mayor Barrett's successor evolved at Town Hall, Young **Rob Hammond** of Camp Laney heeded the call.

Our new policeman, native **Rufus Colquitt Jones** Vowed law without fear or favor — he made no bones.

The source of our name, **Menton**, Pearl of France: Thus the Mediterranean was given a chance. Doc Long took a photo of those mysterious caves That stand above the falls, far from the waves. Artist Jimmy Frazier drew the legend that thrives: **Granny Dollar**, one of Mentone's haunting lives. A lawyer became priest, named **Graham Glover**, He built St. Joseph's and made our cover. Eighteen eighty-four — a very good year, Celebrated the Centennial in the best of cheer. Then it followed with very good reason That founder **John Mason** was given his season. **Simmie Sherman Vernon** was ushered on stage; He built our first house at a very early age. Who then more fitting than **Nelda Howe**? Historian, Hal's wife, most worthy of a bow. Next on the cover, **Leonard Shigley** was shown: American Legion, Rescue Squad, he's well known.

Jessie O'Rear Whitehead, paragon of wisdom & wit, John Mason's granddaughter, a constant great hit.

Center of our town, standing proud and tall, **The Mentone Springs Hotel**, grandmother of us all.

Then another historical edifice across the street, **The Mentone Inn**, gaining in favor as a retreat. Then following was **Sequoyah** and the tragic story Of the Trail of Tears and a loss of glory. A country lawyer with a home in our town Is **Bobby Lee Cook**, of national renown. Another dreamer, **Bon Fleur**, name of Bruce, Restored Cragsmere, put his talents to use. Former Mayor **Bob Daniel** has been known to frown,

Says he just wanted to clean up the town. Who more appropriate than a Mentone teacher, **Kathryn Jones**, whose influence was a feature? Mayor of Berry Patch, poultryman, wheel in TVA, On the cover **Jimmy Berry** was given his day. World War I Ace, artist **William Terry Badham** Tied Bobby Jones at golf — he almost had 'im! On our doorstep, spreading music o'er the earth, The group **ALABAMA** stays in the soil of its birth. Now is **Lee Davenport**, still going strong, Councilman off & on since '36 — that long!

— CWM

Did You Know?

Russell Sage of LahuSAGE was a Wall Street financier who bought the Alabama and Chattanooga Rail Road around 1870 — an absentee owner.

PAGE 3

The Silver Falls

By Gregory Purvis

I know a path on down the road
Cutting through the mountain
And down into the forest, freshly mowed

And as we come out of dark trees
Swarming with birds, deer, and bees
Bright sunshine greets us in the clearing
Beating down on our backs, hot and searing

We see the silver falls
Where water, clear and cold, flows
Over sculptured rocks of old

When God first touched the lands
Spilling glory with His hands,
He gave this place an extra touch
To give it the beauty of so much

Where lovers dream and artists paint
And poets write
Listening to the waters fall
Under skies so bright.
— Inspired by DeSoto Falls, Mentone

A Tour Of Mentone

At the top of the mountain where 117 intersects with DeSoto Parkway (89), you are at Old Hotel Square. Within walking distances are the following points of interests: (Maps are usually available around town).

(a) MENTONE SPRINGS HOTEL, built in 1884, a classic example of Victorian architecture. It is not operated at present as a hotel, but there are gift shops worthy of a visit.

(b) THE WHITE ELEPHANT, formerly an annex of the hotel, now a fine gift and antique shop, beside the hotel to the west.

(c) THE MENTONE INN, operated as a Bed 'n' Breakfast. Built in the 1920's. Available for parties.

(d) THE HITCHING POST, once a place of festive dances, site of the post office and various stores; now houses a number of gift attractions. Browse here at your pleasure, ask questions about the area. Also has Crow's Nest Antiques, Gourdis and art objects; Back Door custom framing.

(e) THE LOG CABIN DELI, Excellent food. Closed Mondays.

(f) FURGERSON'S RESTAURANT AND GROCERY where you can get charcoal broiled burgers, ice cream, etc. See Ruby's Variety.

(g) ST. JOSEPH-ON-THE-MOUNTAIN CHURCH.

Its center unit is a log cabin thought to be originally the oldest residence in Mentone.

Time now to get in your car and head down DeSoto Parkway, checking points on the map.

(h) DESOTO FALLS, a natural landmark.

(i) CRAGSMERE MANNA RESTAURANT AND GARDENS, originally a log cabin residence of a former slave. If it's after 5 p.m. (and not Monday or Tuesday), a top-notch meal; suitable for parties.

(j) CLOUDMONT SKI & GOLF RESORT, southern-most ski resort in America. Grass skiing in summer. Much natural beauty, chalets for rent; nine holes.

(k) DESOTO STATE PARK RESORT, good restaurant, camping areas, swimming, various accommodations, etc. Hiking trails.

(l) HOWARD'S CH. PEL, a small structure built during the Depression by Col. Millard Howard, unique stone design, flowing from a huge boulder. His ashes are buried here. He was an author, movie producer, nominated for President, and did much for the development of Mentone.

Now return to your car and make the beautiful drive around highway 165 to 117, carefully consulting your map. If it's meal time turn right on 117 past the Georgia line to the Lookout, an excellent family restaurant (closed Sunday night and Monday).

Two Views of Mentone

Believing that free and open discussion is the key to progress and problem-solving, **The Groundhog** editors requested Mayor Rob Hammond and Director Amelia Brooks of the Mentone Area Preservation Association to submit statements about their views of the future direction of our town.



*by Rob Hammond,
Mayor of Mentone*

Some in Mentone view tourism with dollar signs in their eyes. They cite billion dollar figures for the state and say we ought to have a bigger piece of the tourism "pie" for Mentone. Others in Mentone view increased tourism as a threat to the peace, quiet, and natural beauty that have traditionally attracted residents and second home owners.

At present, Mentone's tourist economy, taking into account the amount of private capital invested to attract tourism, is thriving. All of our area inns, lodges, shops, and restaurants seem to be doing well. Right now our tourist industry is large enough to support these businesses, and is not so big as to detract from the natural beauty and the small town atmosphere that make Mentone a great place to live and visit.

Overpromoting tourism in the Mentone area could result in crowds that would destroy Mentone's best attributes — peace, quiet and natural beauty. Too much tourism would also eventually kill the second home industry — an industry that always has been important to the economy of Mentone. No one wants a retreat home where you cannot get away from the city and crowds.

When the number of people coming through the community increases each year, residents must be prepared to answer two questions: The first is "How many people do I want to share my home with?" The second is "Will I have any control over what kind of people come to my community?"

A tourist industry that requires random crowds passing through town to survive will threaten the quality of life for our residents. A limited tourist industry, based on a desire to help people enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty, peace, and quiet of our area, will ensure that the tourists coming here are attracted for the same reasons as the people who live here. In addition, anyone in the tourist business who keeps this in mind and offers quality goods or services will be successful and help the community keep all the things that make it great.



*By Amelia Kirk Brooks,
Director of MAPA*

Our city's founder, John Mason, was so happy after moving here that the family wanted other people to know about this place, and he advertised all over, calling attention to this special place. A Dr. Caldwell was also attracted to the area, and he built what was later to become the Mentone Springs Hotel. Over the years, these and many other enterprises have attracted both visitors and permanent residents alike. Thus our present day heritage was established on the basis of attracting others to come and share our beautiful mountain spot with us. The concept is, I believe, a form of tourism.

There really is not a good reason why our community cannot take advantage of its heritage and natural habitat by providing facilities and recreation for tourists from April through November. As Desoto State Park has learned, people like this area and are willing to come here and spend their money if we have something to offer. The park has also learned that it is not the tourists who leave debris along the highways. Their coming means revenue to our town to assist it in its needs. Fortunately there isn't a person among us who wishes to see Mentone destroyed by developers building large apartment or condominium complexes.

Most of us can remember when all of our roads were dirt, when we didn't have electricity or city water, and when there weren't any school buses. Today our community image would be enhanced if our town parks were maintained on a regular basis. We need public restrooms, a public telephone outside Town Hall, rustic street signs, a community center for our youth as well as for our senior citizens. We need a walkway or sidewalk so that our citizens can safely walk to the stores, a relief policeman for Chief Jones, who cannot possibly work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and certainly, but not least, a fire department which meets the minimum standards of the "Fire Suppression Rating Schedule."

Zoning needs to be established to keep trailers from being seen on the parkway and in the downtown area. Participation in special events, like the Rhododendron Festival, Crafts Festival, Fall Colorfest, and the Christmas celebration would be beneficial to all the townspeople. Access to Beauty Springs and Mineral Springs, with the OK from their owners, would be a big asset for the town.

While these goals sound like many, they are realistic and achievable if we work together.

Leftovers

By Jean McGehee

Going to the post office is fun because you never know when someone you never heard of may have left you a million dollars, or you may get a letter from a friend or relative, or best yet, from one of your sons. One has to take the endless catalogs and bills in order to sift for the real gold.

Caesar waits impatiently a little after 9 each weekday morning to go to the P. O. Although he sheds and gets the car dirty from having been in his own air conditioning under the house, Caesar is worth taking along — I can then leave the back gate open. He enjoys the opportunity to bark at other dogs and to greet people who know him, like Randy Still, Larry Smalley, and Sharon Barron, who even waved at him one day.

Eudora Welty, the Jackson, Mississippi, writer, has a famous humorous short story, "Why I Live at the P. O." While I have no desire to live there, going to the P. O. in the mornings is a most enjoyable part of my daily routine.

The absolute best part of going to the P. O. is seeing the upbeat morning people. Benny Goss, the postmaster, is invariably in a good mood, joking, friendly, helpful. If I'm a bit later, he's on his way to the Superette for his morning Coke. Eula Cash, cheerful and caring, raises the morale. Johnny Cooper is there, picking up his mail before he goes to his law office in Valley Head. Johnny is another one blessed with a good morning disposition. Eleanor Tate makes me feel good, too, and Martha Kirby and Mary Crow.

On a good morning I might get to see my neighbors, the Howards and the Nolands. Even in the country we don't get to see our neighbors every day once we swing into our busy retirement schedules. Other friends I see on a lucky morning are Herman Jones, Patricia Bryan, and Vivian Sherrod.

We could have the mail delivered, of course, but going to the P. O. is somewhat like Alice Woolf's having had breakfast out. It gets me dressed and out of the house, gets the mail, and I see wonderful people. Sometimes Charles goes along, too, and we have breakfast at the Tiger's Inn where Mrs. Foshee makes terrific biscuits and gravy. There are few better ways to start the day.

On the morning we phoned Sammy Cash to get the fire department news, Clara related that her "Martha Pickles" were in the vinegar stage. Ours were still in the alum water. By the time this is in print, both batches will be ready to sample. I could imagine all over Mentone those great pickles (that don't have to be canned or frozen) being prepared. When Jessie Whitehead first told me about them, I thought she was just bragging, but she was telling the truth. They are the best pickles ever.

One of the smartest things I ever did in my garden was to switch to raised beds four years ago. The space is only 29 x 37, small compared to most Mentone gardens, and yet we manage to eat out of it all year long and to give some produce away. The raised beds cut down on weeding since planting is thick and profuse; weeds don't have a chance. Another advantage was discovered during the recent heavy rains. No damage was done because the excess water simply ran off the raised beds. About two months ago I followed a suggestion I read in the Chattanooga Sunday paper and put newspapers topped by old sawdust from Baty's sawmill on the paths in my garden. The result has been practically no weeding at all. However, lately I have been bothered by pests. Usually it's moles who tunnel through the garden. This year it's brazen rabbits who have trouble getting through the wire fence when I surprise them. They come by twos and alone, too. One almost ran over my feet the other day and scared me cuckoo.

Colorfest-Groundhog Run Plans Get Underway

Plans are already underway for Mentone's October Colorfest on the weekend of October 18th, 19th and 20th. Chairman for the weekend is Angelo Rosario. Mr. Rosario accepted this position after having planned the successful parade for the Rhododendron Festival in May.

Events being scheduled include hayrides, pumpkin carving, special food, a Halloween costume contest, ghost story telling and bonfire, and live country music. More details will be in the September **Groundhog**.

The October Colorfest begins Friday evening with the bonfire and story telling. On Saturday morning at 9 a.m. there is a one mile fun run. This third annual Groundhog Classic will be directed by Rainy Therrell of Camp Saddle Rock. She will be assisted by Polly Cameron and Marty Griffin. The 4.2 mile run will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. Registration is \$7 until October 14th and \$8.50 the day of the race. There will be the usual T-shirts and awards given for entrants and winners in each sex and age division.

Crafts Fair

Sunny Mays (Mrs. David) was elected vice president of the Crafts Festival at its July 30th meeting, succeeding Stanley Brown. Richard Meadows, treasurer, reported a total of \$4,024 in gate receipts. President Linda Brown announced a clean-up day of September 28th. Dead trees and other debris will be removed from the festival site. Everyone is welcome to participate in this work day. The next meeting of the Crafts Festival will be on Monday, March 10, 1986, at the United Methodist Church.

Business News

Because Henry Barnett's Back Door Art Shop is on the rear of the Hitching Post, it misses some of the regular traffic. It needs to be said that Henry, a friend of Charles Counts, has some of Counts' pottery on sale; other choice objects; is a painter in his own right, and specializes in picture framing, vowing to one-half the prices at most art shops. However, Henry stresses quality in his affordable framing.

Randy Still at Cragmere reports record business at his restaurant down the parkway — even for some of the rainy nights.

Sam Sutton, local builder, has been given the responsible contract for restoring the Old Depot in Fort Payne, a project coordinated by Landmarks of DeKalb County.

Helena Furgerson announces that their restaurant is now opening at 11 a.m. She regrets that because of lack of volume, breakfast is no longer served; the usual menu continues in this attractive new air-conditioned restaurant. It is closed Tuesdays.

Best Kept Secret

Titled "Mentone: The Best Kept Secret in Alabama," an article in the July 12 CHATTANOOGA NEWS-FREE PRESS by Karla Horner describes our many attractions, stating that "Mentone's history is as intriguing as the town's many architectural finds."

She further tells her readers: "No matter whether your passion is antique hunting or hiking, Mentone, Alabama, has something to offer everyone... It's a perfect choice for a one-day stop."

Parkway Meetings Underway

A group of people interested in the proposed Lookout Mountain Parkway met on Aug. 6, 1985, at the Town Hall in Collinsville, Alabama.

Much progress is being made toward the proposed parkway. It was said at this meeting that Alabama's part of the parkway is being cataloged and that they are waiting for a special session in the legislature. Georgia said that they could be set with their part within thirty days. Tennessee people stated that they might have opposition from local people and that the parkway should start at the interstate and include Ruby Falls, The Incline, and Point Park.

The group agreed that at the next meeting they would have a map and five board members from each state and a group of fifteen would represent each state. These fifteen would include the board members, state representatives, highway department people, and attraction owners.

The next meeting is scheduled for Aug. 20, 7:00 p.m. at the Rock City Restaurant in Tennessee. Alabama appointed their board of directors at this meeting, and they are Joe Barnes, Danny Crowover, Richard Linsey, Ken Pennington, and Jackie Weaver.

People present at the meeting were Bill McDow, Charles Moody, Donna Bukley, Jackie Weaver, Joe Barnes, Bob Elmore, Ann Belkov of Point Park; Bill Chapin, President of Rock City; Jerry Baker, Chamber of Commerce, Centre; Larry Moore, Dade County Commissioner; Henry Carter, Collinsville Town Council; and Danny Crowover, Vice President for Trails, Little River Advisory Council. — Donna Bukley

A History Of Mentone, Chapter 8 - Heyday to the Depression PART 1

By Zora Shay Strayhorn

During the heyday of Mentone after the turn of the century, thousands of tourists visited this area in the summer months. They came to escape the heat and to be rejuvenated in body and spirit. Some of the havens they frequented are still extant.

In 1884 Dr. J. Frank Caldwell of Pennsylvania was a boarding guest of the John Mason family and built the Mineral Springs Hotel between that year and 1887. On October 15, 1885, Alice Mason and Samuel O'Rear were married at the Mason home. A few nights later a magnificent ball was held in their honor by Dr. Caldwell in the ballroom of the hotel. On the grounds of the hotel was built a two-story gazebo.

The Mineral Springs Hotel sits majestically on the west brow of Lookout Mountain at Mentone overlooking the vast expanse of valleys and hills to the west with a brilliant view of sunsets. The architectural style is Queen Anne of the Victorian period, of frame construction with seven gables, turrets, dormer windows, and verandahs.

In 1890 the hotel was purchased by Charles Loring and became known as the Loring Springs Hotel. The hotel was a popular resort attracting guests from near and far-away states.

In 1915 the Mentone Springs Hotel and Realty Company renovated the hotel. There were 57 guest rooms with hot and cold running water and carbide lights. The American Plan cost guests from two to three dollars a day, meals included. There was an air of quiet elegance in the dining room; waiters were attired in black bow ties and red vests. They served exquisitely prepared meals from the vegetable gardens of the hotel's own farm, and the hotel became famous for its food. Live music was provided in the dining area.

In the same year, 1915, an annex was built with 26 rooms, each with a private bath. This building was later known as the Sunset Hotel and is in 1985 the White Elephant Galleries.

Trains of the Southern Railroad stopped in Valley Head, four miles down from Mentone in the valley. The Queen and Crescent Line of that railroad brought guests to Valley Head; a taxi carried them to the hotel. The season was from June to September.

Ladies in flower-printed voile dresses with large picture hats were escorted along the hotel's paths to visit the springs and to the gazebo on lazy summer afternoons to hear band music or to enjoy the spectacular sunsets.

1930's

Sometime in the 1930's Nina and "Hello" F. L. Ferrell managed the hotel. In 1921 the Alabama Baptist Convention began to use the hotel for its summer encampments. Eight Baptist leaders formed the Mentone Springs Company and allowed the Alabama Baptists to use the hotel for several weeks each year over a seven year period through 1931. The hotel at that time was also used by other guests and not exclusively by the Baptists. The effects of the Depression caused the Baptists to discontinue after 1931.

Also the devastating effect of the Depression was the cause of the hotel's being sold to Edward H. Moore in 1946 to cover debts. Two years before this, the hotel was leased to Norville Hall, who continued his lease until 1950 when it ceased to be used as a hotel. In 1950 there were four changes of ownership. In 1961 Mr. Hall purchased the hotel and used it as a private residence for himself and his mother and for his organ repair business until his death in 1979.

In September 1980 Ray and Sandra Padgett of Atlanta, Georgia, purchased the hotel and have been actively involved in restoring the building. The Padgetts received a listing on the Alabama Historical Register, and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places by the U. S. Department of the Interior on October 20, 1983.

Around 1873 a two-story building was erected near the present site of the Mentone Inn by H. B. (Harry) Gillette (also spelled Gillett). Harry was the son of Caroline Gillette Mason, the second Mrs. John Mason, who was from Vermont. She had married in New York and was a widow with three sons and one daughter when John Mason met her on one of his visits to Iowa, and they were married. Harry Gillette married a lady from Chattanooga, and they adopted a little girl. After John Mason's death in 1911, Caroline Gillette Mason had a stroke. Alice Mason O'Rear took care of her stepmother until all members of the Gillette family returned to their former home in Iowa.

A small store was erected by Ed Mason near the two-story building, and it was later acquired by Gillette. A post office, the first in Mentone, was in the store with Ed Mason as postmaster March 10, 1888, to April 27, 1891. Between 1891 and 1899 the property changed hands several times.

By 1899, the store and larger building, known by then as the Huron Boarding House, was owned and operated by the James Huron family until Mrs. Huron's death in July, 1920. James Huron was born March 17, 1848, in Gallia County, Ohio, and moved his wife and family to Mentone from Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1899. His son Fred built the Riverside Hotel at Mentone in 1915 and ran it until about 1926 when he sold it. Camp Skyline Ranch, established in 1947, bought the hotel as part of its complex.

Halbert Olie (Hal) Howe was born February 29, 1884, in Talmadge, Ohio. He married Elizabeth (Lizzie) Green in 1908, the daughter of John Stephen Green and Achsah Olivia Culberson Green; she died in July, 1929. He came to Alabama in 1907, was postmaster at the Lahusage 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 November 10, 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.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Potts of Florida bought the Mentone Inn in 1954, and they changed the name to DeSoto Lodge until 1977. That year Amelia Kirk Brooks purchased the place and named it the Mentone Inn. She sold to a Mr. and Mrs. Nesbitt in 1979, who called it Mountain View Inn, but the Brooks had to take repossession. It was leased to Ray Cox of Gadsden for a short time. Mr. Cox changed the name back to the Mentone Inn. Mr. and Mrs. Hoil (Bill) McCarty and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Franklin bought the property, but they, too, returned it to the Brooks. In 1985, Amelia Kirk Brooks (with the help of her husband Robert) owns and operates the inn. It is listed in the Alabama Register of Historical Places, and is located on Highway 117 across from the Mentone Springs Hotel.

Ned Jackson and his wife Margaret Davis were black. In 1898 they acquired property on DeSoto Parkway from W. N. Howell on which a log cabin was situated. Part of the 1985 Cragmere Manna restaurant has handhewn log walls from the original log cabin and is one of the oldest remaining structures on Lookout Mountain.

Ned Jackson was a former slave. He grew up in Virginia; in the late 1800's he moved to this area where he spent years helping to build railroads. He lived near Valley Head.

"Uncle" Ned and "Aunt" Margaret had five children, and to support their family they performed

many services for the community. Ned butchered and dressed animals; Margaret did laundry and was a midwife. They farmed. The family was respected and extremely well liked.

Sunday afternoons they had picnics at the "Jackson Place" where good food and friendship was enjoyed by their many friends of both races. In 1927 the Jackson family sold the property to N. B. (Nick) Davenport and his wife Jessie. They went into business partnership with P. G. (Pete) Snedecor, which resulted in a real estate promotional venture called the "Cragmere Club."

A clubhouse was constructed and the building expanded around the original dwelling to accommodate overnight guests. Recreational facilities were included and meals served. Guests were shown available mountain properties for sale as well as informed of land for sale in Florida. The Depression caused a swift and screaming halt to the Cragmere Club.

From 1931 to 1937 the house was occupied by George Gifford, a lumberman. His family consisted of his wife and seven children; they farmed the land.

Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Ferrell purchased Cragmere in 1937. "Hello" Ferrell was this district's representative in the Alabama State Legislature during the late 1950's.

The Ferrells were active in civic and church affairs. Nina Ferrell did hand weaving, was a good cook, and an enthusiastic gardener. Some flowers, trees, and shrubs around the grounds of Cragmere Manna are the original plants from Nina Ferrell's tender care. She conducted a "Studio Tea Room and Gift Shop" on the place. They built a new home on the brow before they sold to Jack and Olive Jones of Cloudmont Resort in 1969.

In 1981 Cragmere was sold to H. Bruce Bon Fleur of Daytona Beach, Florida. The new host and owner of Cragmere Manna restaurant in 1985 is Randy Still, "The Country Gourmet."

The history of Windward Inn on DeSoto Parkway dates to a land grant given to an Indian after the Civil War.

Around 1903 the family of Clara Moorman (born August 18, 1884, in Kentucky, the daughter of a Presbyterian minister) moved to Mentone and constructed a log cabin of rustic architecture. The family moved to Mentone because of the health of Clara Moorman's mother. The log cabin was an art studio overlooking the brow for Miss Moorman, a graduate of Wheaton College, who had attended Chicago Art Institute. She was an accomplished artist.

A horseback riding trail passed the place, and riders would alight and ask for a drink of water; the studio was converted to a small European-style inn and named "Windward." Three guest houses were added later, "Wake Robin," "Tree Top," and "Fallen Leaf." Miss Moorman employed two maids and two yard men, and Windward was a popular meeting place known for its delicious food.

A guest, Carl Carmer, wrote part of his book *Stars Fell on Alabama* while stopping at the inn. Miss Moorman operated Windward Inn for twenty years. In 1946 she discontinued overnight accommodations, but continued serving meals until the early 1950's.

Mr. and Mrs. William Moerlins purchased the property from Miss Moorman. Mr. Moerlins was a government safety engineer. Mrs. Moerlins, an award-winning potter, had taught art at the Birmingham Museum of Art and had given private lessons in her home. For several summers she conducted pottery session at Windward. They built a new home on the property overlooking the brow. The old rustic Windward Inn still stands on the property, sometimes used by guests and occasionally rented for short periods.



CRAGMERE MANNA

RESTAURANT

Sunday Buffet

\$5.50 12-3 CST

Wed. - Sat. 5-9

Reservations Accepted

634-4677

RICKETTS

ARTS & CRAFTS

HANDWOVEN BASKETS AND FOLK ART

Catch us at the Old Hotel on weekends or call 404-734-3156.

BARBARA & JERRY RICKETTS

RT. 3, BOX 172

SUMMERVILLE, GA

THE LOG CABIN

Restaurant and Deli is truly a family operated restaurant!

COUNTRY COOKING
ALL MEALS FRESHLY PREPARED,
HOMEMADE DESSERTS
Come visit the Weavers!
Open 11-9 Closed Mondays

Moe's Place

Hammondville

JEFF & PATTI JO MOSHER

✓ Picnic Supplies

Come And Try Our Meat Specials.

Open 7 Days: Mon.-Sat. 6-6

Sun. 10-2

Phone 635-6437

BATY

LUMBER CO.

Rough and Dressed Lumber

Mentone

634-4141

Bill Kidder

Cable TV Company

Anyone Wishing To Express
An Opinion Concerning
Cable TV Service In Mentone
May Do So By Calling
634-4861

Councilman Davenport

Continued



grandfather run taxis up the mountain from Valley Head — two model T's and later, model A's, plus a truck for the summer people's luggage. He worked in the Hitching Post when Low and Pierce owned it.

He met Lottie Cooper when he was picking up mail in the post office in Valley Head. They have been married for 55 years. For four years Lee served as mail carrier up the mountain to Cloudland, until 1931.

After their marriage, Lee and Lottie worked for Lee's cousin Will Davenport, who owned the Valley Head grocery store, and the Hitching Post after Fred Huron had purchased it from Low and Pierce. Later they rented Will's equipment and ran the Hitching Post for nine or ten years.

Their daughter Patricia was born in the log cabin that is now the center of St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Church. Mrs. Davenport remembers every aspect of that first home after her marriage — the wood stove, the dyed tow-sack curtains, and finally getting a bathroom installed.

For three years Lottie ran a tea room, across the road to the west of the Hitching Post. Arthur Hixson worked with them and owned the building for a while before moving to Atlanta. He had married one of Lottie's sisters, and the two couples with their growing families lived happily next door to one another in Atlanta.

Today the large wooden meat cooler, the original cash register, and other items dating from the Davenports' tenure at the Hitching Post, may still be seen there.

Mr. and Mrs. Davenport are proud of their youthful careers at the Hitching Post. They had successful dances on weekends, having Chili Childs' orchestra from Chattanooga and Hank Smith's band for square dancing. They both fondly remember one dance with 500 people, featuring Mack Thomas' group from Marietta. Although there were good times at their dances, they never sold liquor on the premises. Slot machines were legal then, and they were at the Hitching Post and in other places all over the county.

There is one element that clouds their memories of the past at the Hitching Post, however. During the Depression when times were hard, people couldn't pay their grocery bills, and some who could — or who can now — have never bothered to pay their past debts. The Davenports say they "went broke feeding people — we made money in the summer and lost it in the winter." They say that they have learned to live with this bitter memory, and that it is "just a part of our lives," and "we are none the worse for it."

During the 34 years that they lived in Atlanta, Lee Davenport was a meat and merchandising manager for Colonial Stores. For ten years he was sent to Richmond, Virginia, and then returned to Atlanta.

Any day now Dave Blalock will begin building a home next to the Davenports' for daughter Patricia Ann Hulet and her husband George, a retired engineer from Plantation Pipe Line Company. They have four children: Monique, a pre-med student at Emory; Garretta, at Berry College; and George Jr. and Alecia will attend Valley Head High School.

James (Jimmy) Lee Davenport is a vice president with Lanier Computer Company in Atlanta and Dallas. His wife, the former Charlotte Lowery, has her own interior decorating business in Atlanta. Their son Kevin Lee is studying computers at Georgia State.

Daughter Barbara Jane Cook and husband Dale live in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he is an official with International Harvester Company.

The Davenports have enjoyed camping for years all around this area and in Florida. The camper in their front yard is waiting until Lee finishes his recuperation from the strokes he recently suffered. His general health is good, his recovery is progressing rapidly, and he looks forward to the August town council meeting.

As is its custom, **The Groundhog** asked specific questions:

Groundhog: Why did the town incorporate in 1936?

Davenport: We wanted to build up the town. Fred Huron was the first mayor. We wanted to get water, to have it available. The old hotel had been using river water and needed good water. We didn't have any money, but we did have a policeman in the summer to keep law and order. The council met in the Hitching Post.

Groundhog: Many people were impressed by the thoroughness of your last campaign. Some said you called on them twice. How many people did you contact?

Davenport: I didn't have to work that hard. I got more telephone calls for support than I visited. I had people working for me that I didn't even know about.

Groundhog: What do you like best about serving on the council?

Davenport: That's hard to answer. I like serving the people who elected me.

Groundhog: How do you see Mentone in the future?

Davenport: Just like it is now — a sweet, modest little country town. No Gattlinburg — the reason we moved back here was for the quiet and pleasantness that is Mentone today.

Groundhog: How do you see your own future?

Davenport: We've had a good life and a lot of fun and intend to have more.

Council

(Continued From Page 1)

in the territory from the DeSoto Park entrance, up Alpine Road, to Lake Lahusage, to the Georgia line, and north along the brow road to the Georgia line.

Mr. Cooper said that this annexation would take in not too many more people, but should broaden the tax base.

Both Councilmen Cash and Hobson Kirby said that Mr. Cooper must have talked with different residents of the proposed area to be annexed than they had. "What do we have to offer them?" asked Mr. Kirby. "It seems to me that all we'd be offering them is higher taxes."

"We already have the lowest taxes of anybody," replied Mr. Cooper. He stated that the most he thought taxes would be increased would be \$25 per year.

Bernise Crow, a visitor, said that she would like a vote in Mentone. "We need a united effort," she stated.

"I've talked to several people," said Councilman Bill Russell. "They want it left like the old Mentone."

Mr. Cash said he feared that some would oppose it "in any way." Mayor Hammond said that the Alpine community is not interested at all in annexation. Councilman Lee Davenport stated that even with a supposed addition of \$6,000 in taxes, there would be "no way" the town of Mentone could take care of the roads that would revert to it from the county.

Mayor Hammond said, "It doesn't have to be all or nothing." There may be some compromise of territory that could be facilitated.

Councilman Richard Meadows said, "Leave it up to the people; majority rules." Visitor Homer Crow stated that Valley Head or Fort Payne could come up and annex the areas surrounding Mentone. Mr. Daniel said there was nothing to keep them from annexing all of Mentone.

The mayor suggested a straw ballot coupon in **The Groundhog** about zoning and annexation. Mr. Cooper said that spot zoning would fail in the courts — "There must be a unified plan."

Mr. Cash suggested that those present buy up land, "Anything that sells for \$500 or less an acre," he said. "If you don't like it, buy it. I'm doing that right now."

Visitor Ray Froehner told the councilmen that they have a responsibility to represent all of the people and to protect the entire community.

The mayor welcomed new councilman Bill Russell and warmly greeted Mr. Davenport after his recent illness. Councilmen agreed to pay \$100 for an ad in the Valley Head High School football program.

Other than those visitors already mentioned present were Angelo Rosario, Betty Harris and Jean McGehee for **The Groundhog**. Since the next council meeting falls on Labor Day, the mayor announced the September town council meeting will be held one week later on September 9th. — J.D.M.



—General Carpentry
& Remodeling—

CURTIS STRICKLIN

QUALITY WORK AT REASONABLE PRICES

(205) 635-6394

ROCK CASTLE CAFE

We Serve Complete Breakfasts, Short Orders,
Plate Lunches Every Day But Saturday.

5:30-8 Monday Through Friday,
Saturday 6-3, Closed Sundays

Hammondville, Ala.

635-6898

MORGAN DRUGS

PRESCRIPTIONS —
COSMETICS

Donald R. Morgan
Valley Head, Alabama 35989
635-6812

The Hitching Post CROWS' NEST ANTIQUES

Jean Elrod — Bernise Crow



Rocky Hill

ENJOY

All-Jersey

Queen of
Quality



MILK

Butter, Cheese, Ice Cream, Milk
16 Flavors Of Dip Ice Cream

All Types Of Cheeses—
Mild Cheddar, Sharp Cheddar, Jersey Jack.

Open 1 To 6, 7 Days A Week.

Located Between Fisher Crossroads And
DeSoto State Park.

Rocky Hill Jersey Farm

Rt. 1, Box 216

845-1605

COME GOLF WITH US AT
Saddle Rock Golf Course
ATOP LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Located at

Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort



off DeSoto Parkway

3 miles south of

MENTONE, ALABAMA 35984

On Little River

Chalet Reservations or Information

(205) 634-3841

DOWNER'S SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

Residential and Commercial

Route 1, Valley Head, Ala.

635-6379

Burt-Whitmire Funeral Home, Inc.

We Specialize in pre-planned funerals

R. J. Burt Jr., Director

Leila Bell Pullen, Receptionist

Valley Head, Alabama

635-6247

Out-of-Town MAPA Members

Glenda K. Barnes, Birmingham
Doyal Benefield, Ft. Payne
Bruce Bennett, Nokesville, VA
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Boatwright, Chattanooga
Isaac J. Bohannon, Ft. Payne
Joe B. Brown, Ft. Payne
Bruce Bon Fleur, Chattanooga
Mr./Mrs. W. P. Camp — Flintstone, Ga.
Mrs. Edwin C. Cole, Birmingham
G. Gregg Cooper, Columbus, SC
Elsie C. Copeland, Hixson, TN
Mary Warren Cosand, Belvedere, NC
Mr. & Mrs. B. F. Cox, Pinetop, AZ
Grace Crow — Durham, NC
Mozelle Crow, Valley Head
Chester Crow, Oak Ridge, TN
Lester Crow, Clinton, TN
Mr. & Mrs. W. C. Crowe, Clinton, TN
Margret Cunningham, Reynoldsburg, OH
Mr. William J. R. Cyr, Ft. Payne
Mrs. James Ferry, Birmingham
Mr. & Mrs. Bud Fielder, Melbourne, FL
Capt. & Mrs. Jean Fitzgerald, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Joann L. Florence, Eclectic, AL
Margie Floyd, Ft. Payne
Mrs. Dudley Frome, Anniston
John N. Furniss, Memphis
Shirley Gray, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Mrs. Earl Gray, Oxford, Miss.
Dr. A. L. Halsten, Charleston, SC
Charles H. Hall, Bradon, FL
L. G. Hammonds, Bradenton, FL
Mr. & Mrs. Porter Harvey, Guntersville
N. B. Haston, Ft. Payne
Mrs. George Hauge, Spanish Port, AL
Mrs. Charles L. Hicks Jr., Birmingham
Colleen D. Hilderbrand, Dothan
Lucile S. Holland, Alexandria, VA
Jean Houston, Riverdale, GA
Lora Brown Hulan, Valley Head
Sanford Ivens, Rossville, GA
James R. Johnson Jr., San Antonio
Bart Kennedy, Montgomery
Marty Kerby, Chattanooga
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Kuykendall, Ft. Payne
Mrs. James G. Lastinger, Lakeland, FL
R. T. Lawless, St. Petersburg, FL
Billie S. Lemley, Oneonta
Madeline W. Lewis, Cordele, GA
Dr. J. Allen Lowman, Birmingham
James R. Lyday, Cincinnati

Mrs. R. B. McGehee, Jackson
Mrs. H. H. Martin, Ft. Payne
Martha McPherson, Ft. Payne
Mrs. P. S. Merkel, Ft. Payne
Dr. John R. Montgomery, Huntsville
W. D. Mullins, Greensboro, NC
Terence H. Murphree, Fulshear, TX
Mrs. Phyllis Murphy, Scottsboro
Herbert Neher, New Meadows, ID
Mrs. Inez O'Rear, Chattanooga
Harriette H. Pentz, Centerville, GA
James L. Pentz III, Gordon, GA
Jeffrey H. Pentz, Watkinsville, GA
Jim Phillips, Miami
Mrs. Cleveland Porter, Selma
Hugh Reed Jr., Centre, AL
Mrs. Mary M. Rempe, Hallandale, FL
Guy Salord, Birmingham
Mr. & Mrs. C.M.T. Sawyer, Ft. Payne
Martha Schamburger, Huntsville
Mr. & Mrs. Harold L. Scott, Birmingham
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Shadgett, Ontario, Canada
Mrs. Eunice Shigley, Gadsden
Charlotte Siener, Birmingham
Mrs. Thomas E. Sisson, New Orleans
Floelle C. Smith, Montgomery
Chester Stephens Jr., Selma
Gerry U. Stephens, Chattanooga
Sarah H. Studstill, Tucker, GA
Sarah Doxey Tate, Tupelo
Judge Paul Thomas, Ft. Payne

Treadway, Birmingham
Nicole Vernon, Birmingham
James D. Walker, Huntsville
Seaborn Walker, Mt. Dora, FL
Mrs. George H. Watson, Birmingham
Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Whitehouse, Terrace Park, OH
Trent Whitten, Albertville
Mr. P. Garland Wood, Jackson
Mrs. J. Springer Wood, Charlotte, NC
Mrs. Don Woodward, Guntersville
Mrs. Sibyl H. Wright, Maitland, FL

RCA

Whirlpool

**COOPER
APPLIANCE CO.**

Box 132
VALLEY HEAD, AL. 35989

"WE SERVICE WHAT WE SELL"

JACK COOPER
JIM COOPER

Phone 635-6874

TRIANGLE GAS & GROCERY

fast, friendly service

Notary
2-Liter Pepsi 99c
Check Out Our
3/99c Sale.



Order Your
Special Cuts
of Meats Here!

Mon. through Sat. 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Sun. 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Complete Line of Picnic Supplies
Valley Head, Alabama 635-6164

Antiques, Gifts, Arts, Crafts
Thurs., Fri., Sat., 10-5 — Sun. 1-5



The White Elephant Galleries
634-4529

DeSoto State Park

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Sunday Buffet



845-5380

- * Two Salad Bars
- * Homemade Bread
- * Homemade Desserts
- * Expanded Buffet

NIPPERSINK LODGE

ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
MENTONE, ALABAMA

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED



*Bed 'N'
Breakfast*

Catering Only:
Bridge Groups, Luncheons,
Dinners, Receptions, Picnic Baskets.

Reservations: or Write P.O. Box 284
205-634-4836 Mentone, AL 35984
Amelia Kirk-Brooks, Owner

THE CITIZENS BANK

*Large Enough to Serve You—
Small Enough to Know You.*

Member FDIC

Valley Head, Ala. 635-6453

Paul Purvis

Frank Purvis

PURVIS CONSTRUCTION CO.

Custom Design - Log Homes

P. O. Box 244
MENTONE, ALABAMA 35984
Phones 205-634-4884 or 634-4518

VALLEY HEAD HARDWARE Gilman Paint

Located In
C & H Lumber Co. Building

Owners:
Mr. & Mrs. James C. Young

★★★★★

Open 8 to 5 Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.,
8 to 12 Thurs., & Sat.

635-6151

MountainView real estate

Call 634-4767 / 4776
or come by

—Sharon Barron— P.O. Box 123
Mentone, AL 35984

We are located across from the Log Cabin
Deli (Hitching Post Building).



- * Hercules Tires
- * Ammo
- * Picnic Supplies



Whatley's Store and Service

ALL GALLONS OF MILK \$2.19
2-LITER COKE 99c
3-LITER PEPSI \$1.49

GET YOUR FIREWORKS HERE!

SAM AND TOOTS WHATLEY AL HWY. 117 EAST
DAY OR NIGHT RT. 1 BOX 111
205/634-4168 MENTONE, AL 35984



DIRECTORY

MENTONE POLICE

634-4444 — 7-11 a.m. Monday through Friday (Town Hall).
634-4467 — All other times (Chief Colquitt Jones).
1-845-3801 — Sheriff's radio — constant contact.

MENTONE FIRE DEPARTMENT

634-4444 — 7-11 a.m. Monday-Friday (Town Hall).
All other times — 634-3745, 634-4446, 634-4600, and 634-4274.
Ambulance: 845-3200
Baptist Medical Center: 845-3150
Rescue Squad: 634-4864, 634-4166
Highway Patrol: 845-5109
Forest Rangers: 1-845-1331
Poison Information Center: 1-800-292-6678

SCHOOLS

Moon Lake: 634-4133
Valley Head High School: 635-6228.

TOWN COUNCIL OF MENTONE

Rob Hammond, Mayor
Max Cash
Lee Davenport
Hobson Kirby
Bill Russell, Richard Meadows
Catherine Bailey, Town Clerk
Leroy Snyder, Water Department
Colquitt Jones, Police

THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

The Rev. Billy R. Boozer, pastor
Sunday School: 10 A. M.
Sunday Services: 11:00 A. M., 7 P. M.
Thursday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 P. M.
Telephone: 635-6365

VALLEY HEAD PRESBYTERIAN

The Rev. Jerry Davis, minister
Services: 1st, 3rd Sunday, 9:30 A. M.
Telephone: 635-6283

CATHOLIC CHURCH

2813 Gault Ave. North, Fort Payne
Masses 5 p.m. Sat., 10:00 A. M. Sun.
Telephone: 845-4774

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (Traditional Episcopal)

The Rev. Edward P. Whatley Jr., Rector

First, Second, Third Sunday. Communion Fourth Sunday.
11:00 A. M. Telephone: 634-3375

MENTONE CHURCH OF GOD

The Rev. Roger Stanford, minister
Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.
Preaching Hour: 11:00 A. M.
Sunday Evening Service: 6:00 P. M.
Wednesday Training Hour: 6:30 P. M.
Telephone: 634-4418

MOON LAKE BAPTIST Church

The Rev. William Steele, minister
Sunday School: 9:45 A. M.
Sunday Services: 11:00 A. M., 7:00 P. M.
Sunday Training Union: 6:00 P. M.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 6:30 P. M. Telephone 634-4587.

MENTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Rev. Ann Q. Lohr, minister
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Service: 11 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study Group: 6:00 P. M.
Telephone: 635-6561

MENTONE WESLEYAN CHURCH

The Rev. A. C. Clemens, minister
Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.
Sunday Worship: 10:50 A. M., 6:00 P. M.
Wednesday Evening Service: 7:00 P. M.
Telephone: 634-4210

ST. JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Robert Blackwell, minister
Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.
Sunday Worship: 11:00 A. M.
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 P. M.
Telephone: 634-4476

MENTONE REVIVAL CENTER

The Rev. Dewey Oswalt, minister
Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.
Worship Service: 11:00 A. M., 6 P. M.
Wed. Prayer Meeting: 6:30 P. M.

HOWARD'S CHAPEL

The Reverend Jeffrey Fuller, minister
Tourists and visitors welcome.

Sponsored by Fort Payne Baptist Church. (No services January-February).

10:30 a.m. — 1-845-2015

CAMP ALPINE: Richard O'Ferrall, director; camp for boys; 634-4200. June 1-Aug. 11.

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

CAMP DESOTO: Sue Henry, director; camp for girls. June 19-Aug. 15. 634-3411.

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

CAMP LANEY: Rob Hammond, director; camp for boys; June 16-Aug. 11. 634-3561.

LOOKOUT MT. CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER: Anne and John Morrison, directors; 634-3471.

BOYS' CAMP: July 13-Aug. 3. Free Day Camp, Aug. 5-9.

PONDEROSA BIBLE CAMP: Christian youth camp. Glenn Miller, director, 634-3795, June 16-Aug. 11.

CAMP SADDLE ROCK: Marty Griffin, director; girls' camp; June 16-Aug. 11. 634-4608.

CAMP SKYLINE RANCH: Susan C. Hooks, director; girls' camp; June 16-Aug. 11. 634-3201.

VALLEY VIEW RANCH: Nancy Jones, director, Cloudland, Georgia; June 17-Aug. 11. 404-852-2231. Girls.

CAMP WOODMONT: Jane Bennett, director; boys' and girls' camp. 404-284-5369, June 17-Aug. 5.



THE GROUNDHOG
c/o M.A.P.A.
P.O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1
Mentone, AL 35984

CAR-RT SORT
Postal Customer
Mentone, AL 35984