

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 4 - NO. 5 - AUGUST 1986

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Glenn Baty

A Mentone Original

A lot of good men have sat across a checkers board from Glenn Baty and learned a good deal more than checkers. He teaches humility, respect, a healthy dose of awe, and mixes it all with a keen sense of humor and an unending supply of stories. "It's a deep game, my friend," he'll drawl, "a very deep game. Want to try again?" This writer, who fancies himself a respectable checkers player, played six games with Glenn recently and never even came close to holding his own. Glenn Baty reminds one of a magician who seems to have no end to his supply of tricks, traps, and combinations. He just keeps taking your checkers until they're all gone.

But Glenn Baty is much more than a checkers champion. To paraphrase Winston Churchill, he's a champion, dressed up as a sawmill, disguised as a storyteller/banjo player, all rolled up into a gentleman. The Mentone area is fortunate to have some of the most interesting characters in the Southeast. And Glenn Baty is the Grand Marshal of the parade of characters. Our local color would indeed pale without him and his family.

The Baty family arrived in Mentone in 1900. "Grandpa Baty brought Grandma Ermine here for her health," Glenn related. "I can't say that the climate here cured her. But she didn't get any worse, that's for sure. Grandpa had been a farmer at Walnut Grove, Alabama. After moving to Mentone, he became involved in the community in any number of ways. He was even the Justice of the Peace. A lot of the old timers here were married by Grandpa."

Glenn was born on the 4th of June, 1917, the first of nine children. "And you know they're all living. Most of them settled in this general area," Glenn

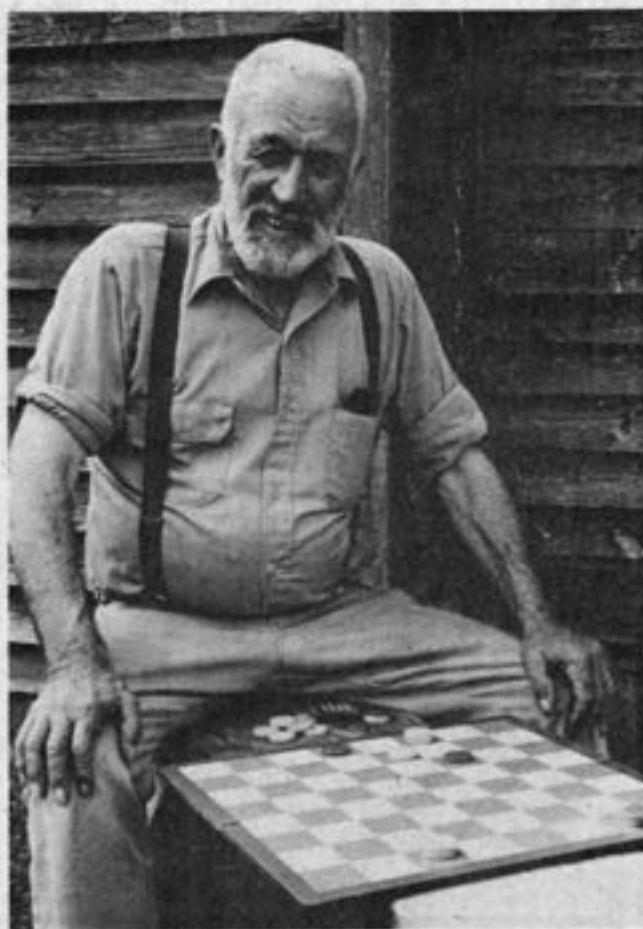


Photo and Text By Doc Long

stated. He attended Moon Lake School through the ninth grade. "It went up through 9th then," he said. "Then I went down to Valley Head where I graduated from high school. We walked to school every morning, practiced football during the fall, and walked back up the mountain to home. But we were bad to thumb a ride if one came along."

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October Colorfest Approaching

Though the Mentone October Colorfest is still more than two months away, plans are already underway. Angelo Rosario, once again Colorfest Chairman and coordinator, says that the Colorfest will open with an evening of storytelling on October 17th.

On the morning of the 18th the Groundhog Classic Run, a 4.2 mile race down scenic DeSoto Parkway, will begin at nine o'clock. Jean McGehee, with the help of her assistant Rainey Therrell, is coordinating the run. (See page 5 for details and an entry blank). The race will be followed by an award ceremony.

Plans for the Colorfest include a weekend of arts and crafts, exhibits, hay rides, boat rides, a costume contest, and much, much more. Tony Goggans will be part of the entertainment. There will be food and drinks available.

The festivities will culminate on Sunday, October 19th, with a marshmallow roast at the Mentone Inn. Everyone is invited.



A ride in the hay at last year's October Colorfest.

Did You Know?

That tourism brings \$10-million dollars daily into the state of Alabama and that Little River Canyon is the second most popular attraction?

Summer Camps Thrive

The Sunday, July 27th edition of the **Chattanooga News Free Press** profiled the summer camps located on Lookout Mountain. Though it is apparent that the summer camps bring a large group of boys and girls with a wide variety of interests into the region, it is also clear that the summer camps bring more than just campers into the area: they bring money. The **Free Press** article stated that:

"They are the 10,000 boys and girls who each year come to any of the 13 summer camps that dot Lookout Mountain, pumping an estimated \$13 millions annually into the area economy."

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Town Council Meeting

Cable TV At Last?

Boyce Dooley, owner of Clear-Vu Cable, was present at the August Town Council meeting. He presented to the council an "application for franchise" for his Clear-Vu Cable TV Company. The application was reviewed by the Town Council, after which a short discussion followed. It was decided that the application appeared to be in order; passage of the application is expected very soon. Mr. Dooley said that, "if all goes as planned, cable TV should be available to the residents of Mentone within four months of the time my contract is approved."

Water Situation Unchanged

The water situation is unchanged. The water tank level remains at approximately 8 feet; Mayor Rob Hammond said that "though this is quite low, a cutoff like the one experienced in July is not expected."

The feasibility of forming a Water Board was discussed with no decision reached; it will be considered at a later date.

MAPA Reevaluates Goals

The subject of the August MAPA meeting was "Criticisms of MAPA." Several non-members turned out for the meeting and provided constructive criticisms during a lively discussion that touched upon a wide variety of subjects: Opinions were voiced and debated on such issues as how loud the music on the town square should be; what to do about a sense of alienation that seems to have developed in parts of the community toward MAPA; and MAPA's alleged promotion of Mentone as a tourist attraction. There were a number of disagreements, but it appeared that toward the end of the meeting it was agreed by all that it might be a good time for MAPA to reevaluate the goals that were originally drawn up in 1983. It was decided that this might be best accomplished if a committee were appointed, and on that committee were a group of people that possessed diverse views about what direction MAPA should move toward in the future. Members appointed to the Goals Committee were: Jack Jones, Harrell Jenkins, Heather Nicely, Grace Howard, and Sammy Cash. Over the next month these people will meet and discuss MAPA's old goals and provide suggestions for establishing new ones.

MAPA can only be effective as long as it has the support of the greater community, so it is hoped that all citizens will take part in the process of reevaluation by sending any suggestions and/or criticisms concerning the directions that MAPA has followed or will follow in the future. Address letters to: GOALS COMMITTEE, MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL 35984. — LYK

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 1987.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Mentone Area
Preservation Association

Amelia Brooks, Director

Speaker:

David Marion, Editor and
Owner, Sand Mtn. News

REFRESHMENTS AND SOCIAL TIME
FOLLOW

The Parlor
St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain
Church

Tuesday, Sept. 2, 1986 7:00 p.m.

Lookout Mountain/JFK Trail

By Danny K. Crownover



Danny Crownover and Carolyn Greer at Cherokee Rock Village.

The Lookout Mountain/JFK Trail is mainly a hiking trail that will extend from Noccalula Falls in Gadsden, to Chattanooga, Tennessee, which is a distance of over 120 miles. The trail is walkable from just outside the city limits of Gadsden to DeSoto State Park. Presently, the trail begins at the east ridge of Lookout Mountain on Glen Gap Road. Parking is unavailable here and the hiker is advised to be dropped at this point and be picked up at Cherokee Rock Village, 12.2 miles to the north.

Geographically, the trail between Glen Gap Road and Cherokee Rock Village can be divided into three different areas. At the southern five miles region is a lush vegetation area full of pines and hardwood. In the middle is Big Mountain where there is little soil and plenty of rocks. Northward, near the village, is Huff Gap which is almost three miles wide and contains similar plant life to that near Glen Gap.

At the southern part of Big Mountain is a rock village known as Sandrock House where aboriginal Indians were known to live at one time. There is a little spring below the rock village and a lookoff to the west. This is a splendid place to camp and see the sun set.

Throughout the trail there are overlooks; most of them face east. As one travels northward along the trail, the view of picturesque Weiss Lake gets closer and closer. From the east ridge one can see Mount Weisner, the second highest mountain in Alabama. Beyond Mount Weisner are the Talladega Mountains and state park. On a very clear day you can see the state's highest mountain, Mount Cheaha, to the south.

Most of these lookoffs are clothed with vegetation. You can look down for about a thousand feet and there is nothing but fresh air and a view. Owl's Hollow and Shinnel Ridge can be seen below, stretching north and south parallel to Lookout Mountain. The scenery is spectacular. Some of the overlooks are: Owl's Hollow Observation Point, Sandrock House, Powerline Overlook, Doyal's Lookoff, Big Mountain Overlook, Jack's Jumpoff, and Cherokee Rock Village.

There are several side trails along the route, some are well travelled and others are dense with summer foliage. Two trails, Bigfoot and Huff Gap Trails, lead down into Owl's Hollow by the abandoned railroad while others head west to nearby country roads.

Along the Birch Rock Hollow Trail is a waterfall that locals call "Little Niagara." When it is raining, this 25 feet high waterfall can be 500 feet long. Nearby is a cave once used by Indians and recently by a hermit.

The Lookout Mountain/JFK Trail is definitely one of the prettiest trails found in America. Though not complete, it is already bringing thousands of hikers to this area. Because many people are wanting to know about the trail, brochures are available from the Alabama Appalachian Association, by writing to me at 609 So. 4th St., Gadsden, AL 35901. Please remit a dollar to cover postage and cost of printing.

My Mountain Top Ride

I enjoyed nature's wild flowers
By the hours,
But I nearly killed my old car,
Going nearly straight up so far!
An order for a new generator, I must fill,
Before it will climb another hill.

— Gloria Hope

Where's Benny?



This is the smiling face you are seeing at the Mentone Post Office these days. And, you may be wondering (or have already asked): Where's Benny?

Benny is at the Valley Head Post Office. Now, you're wondering: What's he doing down there? Well, it's a confusing story but it goes like this. Mr. Russell Fischer, who was postmaster at Valley Head for close to 23 years, has retired. Benny Goss, postmaster of the Mentone Post Office, was given a temporary appointment to Valley Head until a permanent replacement for Mr. Fischer can be found (it may take up to 90 days). Shannon Rains (photo above), who has been a clerk at the Henagar Post Office for the past six years, is now at the Mentone Post Office. Shannon has filled in for the postmaster in Henagar for a week or two at a time but this is the longest promotion to postmaster she has ever had. When asked how she feels about being in Mentone, Shannon commented, "I'm excited, but nervous too." Although Benny's new job is a promotion, he still says that he "misses Mentone anyway."

Groundhog Finance Report

JULY ISSUE

Income:

Balance on hand	\$507.13
Ad Sales	820.00
Classified Ads	2.00
Donations, Hitching Post	24.53
	\$1,353.66

Debits:

McGehees	\$100.00
Greg Purvis	15.00
Angelo Rosario	25.00
U. S. Post Office	78.40
Summerville News Co.	339.50
Donna Bukley	127.50
	\$685.40

Balance on hand	\$668.26
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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.

Amelia Brooks, Director
Luther Y. Keith, Editor
Darlene C. Keith, Associate Editor
Contributing Editors:
Charles White McGehee
Desmond Disney
Donna Bukley, Associate Director
Bill Riedesel, Secretary
Polly Cameron, Treasurer
Gregory Purvis, Reporter

Quilt To Be Raffled During Colorfest



Maggie Cordell and Jean Elrod hold the Maple Leaf quilt to be raffled by MAPA during the October Colorfest. Pieced by Reba McKelvey and quilted by Maggie Cordell. It is done in autumn colors with each leaf different. Tickets will go on sale by Sept. 1 and may be purchased for \$1 at the Crow's Nest.

MAPA Minutes

After the meeting was called to order by Director Amelia Brooks, she proceeded to read a letter from Tom Bevil about trying to get the state to hard surface the rest of the new Lookout Mountain Parkway. The minutes from the last meeting were then read and corrected. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$8,396.65. The *Groundhog* Report showed a balance of \$668.26.

The June Jam corn and pie sales showed a net profit of \$95.11. Pies left over from the June Jam sale will be donated to schools if they want them.

A number of non-members were present at the meeting to give their opinions and criticisms. A discussion ensued on what directions MAPA has taken in the past and what course MAPA should follow in the future; as a result of this discussion a new Goals Committee was selected. (See "MAPA Reevaluates Goals" on page 1).

A motion was made and carried to begin a wall rebuilding fund separate from the MAPA treasury in order to receive donations earmarked for the wall project. — adapted from the minutes of Bill Riedesel, secretary.

The Hitching Post

CROWS' NEST ANTIQUES
Jean Elrod — Bernise Crow



Mountain Greenery

By Desmond Disney



Recently I was reading an article entitled "Sweltering in Southland, Crops and Livestock Fry." It looks as if our dry weather, already called this region's worst drought ever, will continue; everyone knows that an even drier month — September — is still two hot weeks away. Fortunately, Mentone has had some rain during the past several weeks and we are still somewhat green.

There are several things you can do to reduce the stress of the heat and drought on yourself and your plants. If you must work outside, get an early start while the weather is still cool and try to finish by early afternoon. I've found that loose fitting cotton clothes — shorts (if my legs don't need protection) and sleeveless T-shirts — allow me to remain quite comfortable. Another good idea is to soak two bandanas in ice water, then tie one around your neck and the other around your forehead. Be sure to drink plenty of water and, if you must work in the sun, wear a hat and use a sun screen.

Like you, your plants also need protection; you can safeguard your plants with a good layer of mulch. Mulching around trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables reduces the evaporation of water. Mulch allows water to penetrate the soil and helps prevent evaporation of water back into the air. A recent study showed how a mulch can maintain an even soil moisture level: Soil under a mulch remained near a 30% moisture level during a nine week period while the unmulched soil fluctuated in moisture from a low of 5% to a high of 30% during the same period. Many flowers and shrubs are injured as a result of an uneven moisture supply. Dry periods often occur from July through September; therefore, a mulch is most important during these hot, dry summer months. Azaleas and rhododendrons, with their shallow root systems, especially benefit from the even soil moisture provided by a layer of mulch.

If you have a large group of trees or areas of bare soil and are having difficulty growing grass under them, put down a layer of mulch to help control weeds, hold moisture, and prevent soil erosion. In addition, applying mulch to the soil prevents crusting of the ground and adds organic matter to the soil.

Mulch should be only two to three inches deep after settling, and a variety of materials can be used: pine straw, bark, saw dust, leaves, grass clippings, straw, or wood chips. I use leaves, ground up by a mower; I spread about three to five inches (it will settle) under and around my trees and shrubs, being careful to keep it away from the trunks of the shrubs.

For long term weed control black plastic is frequently used as a mulch and then covered with some type of organic material, pine straw, bark, etc. I don't recommend this. Even if small holes are punched in the plastic every 12-24 inches with a pencil as recommended, I feel that too much water is lost by run-off. Also, pine straw and bark tend to wash off the slick surface of the plastic. If your budget allows, use weed barriers — they give far better results. Weed barriers are made of woven black polypropylene; weeds cannot grow through them, but the barriers do allow water and air to pass through. Furthermore, their rough texture tends to hold pine straw and bark better. Another alternative, and one I have used with success at Camp Laney, is to put a thin layer of newspaper down and then cover it with leaves or pine straw. The newspaper, like the weed barrier, allows air and water to pass through, yet it prevents weeds from growing. However, newspaper will not last long, so it must be replaced yearly.

A word of caution: Mulching can be overdone, especially in heavy soils. If the material is too deep, 6-12 inches after settling, it is possible for root injury to result from excessive soil moisture and poor aeration. Mulching is not recommended on soils that tend to stay wet and should not be piled too heavily against the trunks of young trees and shrubs. This may result in mice damage to the trunks during winter months.

For further information on mulching, check with the library or contact the extension service — and remember, come fall, instead of burning those leaves, grind them up and use them for mulch!

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Business News

White Elephant Gallery

A number of artists and craftsmen are now exhibiting their work in the White Elephant Gallery:

In the "Wicker Room" one finds beautiful antique wicker furniture refinished by Glenda Hamilton and Rose Wooten. Also on display in the "Wicker Room" is the work of Frank and Margie Purcell; the couple make birdhouses, feeders, and other wooden items.

Anne Murry is another artist running a shop within the Gallery. Named simply "Anne's," her shop sports a variety of handmade designs. Anne creates original soft-sculpture — her designs include "Valerie Mouse," "Rhonda Rabbit," "Lori Lamb," "Ester Elephant," "Granny M," and "Country Mouse," which she does in red and white for Christmas.

The White Elephant Gallery is open every day from 10-5.

Cragmere Manna will be closed Sept. 8-11 for vacation. It will reopen for business on Sept. 12.



Mentone Hardware Moves

The Mentone Hardware, owned by Ellis Clark, has moved to a new, larger building approximately one-half mile east of the Post Office on Highway 117. The Hardware will soon be carrying a complete line of feed and farm supplies and is now taking orders for special items. Anyone interested should call or go by.



Tony Goggans stands by his newly erected sign for Jingle Master.



ON July 24 Marty Griffin purchased Camp Saddle Rock — 32 acres with all buildings and equipment — from Jack Jones and family.

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Dear Friends

The opportunity to join the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) is yours. We have been excited and encouraged about the activities of MAPA during the past year and are about to embark on even new challenges.

The reasons for joining MAPA are numerous. They include:

- Approximately 12 meetings per year, one each month.
- Opportunity for community involvement and getting to know your neighbors better.
- Participation in encouraging controlled growth in the area, with emphasis on a quality environment for everyone to enjoy.
- Preservation of historical landmarks throughout the region.
- 12 issues of *The GROUNDHOG*, filled with information about regional activities and
- Low cost of \$10 per year, which is also tax deductible.

The main reason is that MAPA needs you. The organization exists to serve the community, a community of which you are an important part.

Send your check to Greg Frith, MAPA Membership Chairman, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

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Mountain Watch

By Charles White McGehee

"When in doubt — don't!"

This adage has been consistently practiced during my progressive careers with newspapers, radio stations, and churches. Last month I wrote about how workers during our restoration of the Morgadanes cabin sometimes left tools in their late-afternoon haste, or innocently picked up one of mine. Point was, I usually came out best.

A case in point was a pocket knife, most likely left by that very fine plumber and electrician Alvis Prestwood. It had been in my desk drawer for about a dozen years. I had doubts that some of the workers might misunderstand. I ran the column anyway. Alvis called and wanted it made perfectly clear that he had taken none of my tools. Open message to Alvis or anyone else: I still insist I've gained more than I lost. Drop by anytime and look for lost items.

Alvis actually did me a favor. There are other tools I'd like to write about. At the time in my life when I did a lot of work around the house, even built some rough furniture, I had a skimpy workshop. I began buying better tools. When Jean's father died I inherited some choice items. Now, when I'm not doing much of the work myself I have just about anything one needs but a bench saw. Thus far, no worker has ever left a bench saw at our house.

The other tools I want to write about are my books. I've often referred to a shelf of books above the desk as my workshop. A writer's workshop obviously should include Roget's *Thesaurus*, Bartlett's *Quotations*, Webster's *Collegiate Dictionary* and a good set of encyclopedias. Early on my theological library was skimpy — just when I needed it most. Soon the necessities accrued: the multi-volume *Interpreter's Bible*, Fern's *Encyclopedia of Religion*, Hinsie and Campbell's *Psychiatric Dictionary*, Wilbur's ponderous history of Unitarianism, etc.

Just about the time of retirement, the library was complete with just about anything a fellow could need. So the time came to begin paring it down. The faithful old *Encyclopedia Americana* was given to the Moon Lake School Library, where I hope our local kids will be using it for years. The bulk of my theological library was given to a student at Harvard Divinity School. The young man is now minister of the Unitarian church at Louisville, Kentucky. I refer to him as my "designated scholar." There's a story behind that gift.

Harvard University was founded in 1636, the very first American college. Harvard was founded for the training of ministers, implemented when a retiring Puritan minister gave 500 books to form the library. My three years of graduate training for the ministry were at Tufts in Boston, a very fine Ivy league school.

But in my senior year the opportunity arose for me to take a course at Harvard. Partly it was to study for a semester under the eminent historian Conrad Wright. It cannot be ruled out, however, that the old Harvard magic was hovering above, that insinuated eminence that causes skeptics to say, "You can tell a Harvard man — but you can't tell him much." Yes, it did mean a great deal for me to know that I was walking along paths that once knew the footsteps of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

So it was that I loaded my 500-odd books into packing cases headed for my designated scholar, another gift of books in effect to the hallowed Harvard. I felt both a sense of history, and an occasional "How can I ever give that away, not that!" But now I am happy in the knowledge that they are used by my designated scholar in his sermon preparation, his counseling, and other aspects of his career.

Somehow it all seemed to draw together last year when my son Stuart received his doctorate in history from the University of Virginia and is now on the faculty of Bluefield College in Virginia.

When he was home on a visit, I took him out to the shop and accumulated a pragmatic box which included hammer, pliers, wrench, screwdrivers, drill, and a few other things necessary for repairs. Then into the trunk of his car, I supervised the loading of two boxes that included the *Harvard Classics*, a library in itself, and which will be of value to him, I am certain, throughout his career.

So the phone call from Alvis Prestwood was a clear reminder of two things: (1) When in doubt — don't. (2) When your toolbox is complete, it's time to slow down.

For years I've carried a black book around. It's not the kind you keep old girlfriend's names in. It's looseleaf, half the size of a sheet of typing paper. I learned about using such a book from a friend in Jacksonville, Florida, who was an Episcopal priest. In its indexed sections it includes blank pages for taking notes at meetings or during telephone conversations; addresses and telephone numbers; a calendar for appointments and meetings; and during the busy time of my ministry, sermon manuscripts and services. There it all was, compact, handy, often dispensing with use of a briefcase. It also gave a tone of authority — biblical-like. The original black book was made in 1963 by a Mexican leather craftsman when we spent the summer in Mexico. This one lasted until around 1973. The present one was made by John Bailey, a superb craftsman. This one will probably get me on in. What brought this on? Namely this. The other day I ran across a name I had jotted on the front note page. It was written there for a reason — a phone call to return, letter to write. Fortunately it was a man's name, nothing for Jean to be concerned about. Despite that I'm usually a meticulous person, this sometimes happens and it's infuriating.

In contrast to the shelf of books atop my desk, there is a quartet of practicalities within easy reach at the head of the barnwood couch where I listen to a great deal of music, watch a lot of TV and spend a lot of time. They represent the most basic of basic honed-down workshops, and indicate certain changes of lifetime: Gladstone's *New York Times Complete Manual of Home Repair*; Scheuer's *Movies on TV* (1983 edition); Horton's *Dictionary of Modern Chess*; and Downes' *New York Philharmonic Guide to the Symphony*. No further comment about current interests.



Love and Work

If you see Helen Turner walking around in Mentone carrying an infant, it most likely will be one of her own creations — not a real "flesh and blood" baby, but so lifelike you may think it is. One man refused to let his wife buy one of Helen's toddlers because it was "too real." Although these ceramic and porcelain dolls are formed in commercially available molds, Helen changes each one while the clay is still wet so that an individuality emerges; she might bend the arms a little this way or the legs a little that way, change the facial expression, or maybe open its mouth a little and give it a few teeth. Each doll is hand-painted and glazed then fired. Some have hard bodies but Helen makes soft cloth bodies for most of them. Helen especially loves designing clothes for her dolls. Frequently she is forced to dress a just finished doll in store-bought clothing — but just so that it won't have to go naked until she has time to make the perfect outfit for it. Helen puts so much of herself into these "children" that she hates to lose them. She feels that each one is specially made for a particular person, and eventually that person will find their way to her and take the doll to a good home.

Helen has been making dolls in one form or another since she was about five years old. The first ones were from scraps of fabric left over from her own dolls made by her mother. Like her mother, Helen would cut two pieces of fabric, a front and back, sew them together by hand and then stuff them. After she started school Helen made a little "spending money" by braiding and wrapping dolls from crepe paper — mostly cheerleaders, brides and grooms — and selling them to the other children for ten cents each. Helen reminisces, "While I was still in grammar school I drew paper dolls and clothes for the high school kids. They waited in a line at recess for me to make theirs." If they brought the paper Helen did these for free; she was thrilled that these older kids loved her "dolls."

About seven years ago Helen started collecting

ceramic doll molds. She didn't use them then but knew that she would later; she was a patient woman who had a plan for the future. With 20 years experience in working with ceramics, Helen started reading books to learn how to put her doll molds to use. She fell in love with the idea of lace draping — a technique which involves dipping cloth lace into ceramic or porcelain slip (clay thinned to the consistency of a milkshake) and draping it around a greenware doll to fashion a dress — but could not find anyone with any knowledge of the process. She did finally locate a lace drape doll mold, "Julie," in Chattanooga and, with the aid of her doll books created her first lace drape doll (now in the possession of her mother). By this time Helen had already obtained an electric kiln and by making and selling lace drape dolls she made enough money to pay for it and buy a second kiln.

During this time the baby molds she had collected earlier weren't just catching dust; she was experimenting with them too. But Helen wasn't happy with the way they looked; she decided a few changes would give them more "life," and with a lot of work she has become better and better at giving them this quality. One of her most recent dolls was one with three faces whose head can be turned to display each one (a bonnet covers the other two). Helen didn't have a mold for a three-face doll but not wanting to let that stop her, she took one face mold, changed the expressions to happy, sad, and sleepy, and put them together to form one head. Helen says the next step in her doll-making is to completely create her own molds.

Helen Turner grew up in the Mentone area and has lived here all her life. You can meet Helen and see her dolls at "My Favorite Things" in Mentone.

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MENTONE GROUNDHOG CLASSIC RUN



Sponsored by the Mentone Area Preservation Association
Saturday, October 18
9:30 a.m.

4 miles, flat to gently rolling hills on DeSoto Parkway

ONE MILE FUN RUN at 9 a.m. Pre-registered entrants are guaranteed a T-shirt (to be mailed to late registrants). Times called but no records will be kept.

Awards: Specially designed T-shirts to all pre-registered runners with late registrants having theirs mailed. Medallions to top three finishers in each division.

Splits: Called at half way mark. Water available on course.

Especially scenic course, beginning at historic Old Hotel Square and continuing down DeSoto Parkway at height of autumnal foliage splendor. Circles back at turn-off to DeSoto Falls. The Groundhog Classic caps off the Fall Colorfest.

Mentone is located on Lookout Mountain, halfway between Chattanooga and Gadsden on Highway 117. There are exits on I-59 north and south. Follow 117 through Hammondville, Valley Head, and up the mountain. From the east, Mentone can be reached through LaFayette, Summerville, Georgia; through Menlo to Cloudland to Mentone.

The race is in its fourth year, and all proceeds go to the goals of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, which is dedicated to preserving and protecting the natural heritage, environment, and other unique qualities of Mentone.

Detach and mail or bring to:

The Mentone Groundhog Classic
Box 439
Mentone, AL 35984

Entry fee of \$6 per run must accompany each application. \$7.50 after October 15. Make checks payable to MAPA (Mentone Area Preservation Association).

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Age as of Oct. 30, 1986 _____

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(If under 18, signature of parent or guardian is required).

Shirt Size S M L XL

Division:

() Men	() Women
() 14 & under	() 14 and under
() 15-19	() 15-19
() 20-29	() 20-29
() 30-39	() 30-39
() 40 & over	() 40 & over

() Fun Run
() Groundhog Classic

NO ONE MAY ENTER THIS EVENT WITHOUT SIGNING THIS OFFICIAL WAIVER: In consideration of accepting this entry, I the above-signed, intending to be legally bound, hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators waive and release any and all claims for losses and damages I may have against MAPA and all other parties and their representatives, successors, and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me in said event. I attest and verify that I am physically fit. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all foregoing to use photos, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose whatsoever.



Our beautiful sister city, Mentone, France. We have the mountains, she has the sea.

Our Town

By Greg Purvis

Several members of the Fort Payne High School journalism class under the supervision of Cherry Groat attended a yearbook seminar at Auburn University August 4-6. Attending from Mentone were Gregory Purvis and David Lusk. Also in attendance were Cindy Peil and Sharon Dowlat (editors), Lynn Burgess, Carrie Hixon, Amy Hunter, Yvette Vezertis, Lori Clowers, Alan Ledbetter, Jim Scott, Candy Smith, and Sheila Baker. The group won two awards for their achievements.

Pleas Cox, captain of DeSoto Rescue Squad, gave the following advice taken from a report by the Pediatrics Emergency Newsletter: "Coaches in the area should take special precautions to see that their players don't become overheated; they should receive generous amounts of water to prevent heat exhaustion and stroke." Cox also advises that salt tablets not be used, following the latest medical advice on the subject.

According to Marshall Pruitt, Mentone Fire Department chief, there was only one fire reported in the area in the last month. That fire involved a small car parked near the Moon Lake area. The fire damaged only the seats of the

vehicle and was put out about five minutes after the arrival of the Fire Department. Pruitt says the cause of the fire is still unknown.

"The campground improvements have been finished," says DeSoto State Park manager Talmadge Butler. Each camping area has been cleaned, leveled, and spread over with gravel. The pool was closed in early August to clean the filter and cleanse the components. Butler says the nature seminars the park has been conducting have gone very well. A total of 938 persons in 35 programs have attended, including Corner Scout Reservation and various tourist groups.

The summer always seems to go by in a flash, and this one is no exception. Not long ago we were out of school and awaiting the June Jam in Fort Payne. Then, before we knew it, July 4 had crept up on us and we were too busy with picnics and firecrackers to care about the passing of time. But now it is August once again — and while the days are still blistering hot, the nights bring the promise of a cool fall and freezing winter. The schools will be open before we know it.

Mountain Cookery

By Darlene Clifton Keith

When I was growing up my grandmother always had a half-gallon of buttermilk "making" by the stove top. My family drank it with meals or with leftover cornbread crumbled into it as a snack. I know that buttermilk is great for your digestive system, but I have never learned to like the sour taste. I usually keep buttermilk in the refrigerator, but only to use in the baking of bread; baking, however, kills the culture that makes it so beneficial.

A few weeks ago I discovered a great new way to drink buttermilk when a friend mentioned to me that she liked it with peaches and honey. This led me to think about fruit drinks I had made in the blender with sweet milk, so I decided to experiment.

I poured about a cup of buttermilk in my blender, then added a frozen banana and one third cup unsweetened crushed pineapple. The result was a wonderful drink, slightly sweet yet tangy. I have since then tried a variety of fruit combinations — all were superb. The frozen bananas give this buttermilk-fruit shake a thick, creamy texture. (If, however, you choose to omit the frozen bananas, you may use ice cubes added one or two at a time until thick).

If you've never frozen bananas, it's simple: Peel very ripe bananas and wrap separately in plastic freezer wrap. They are also great to eat as popsicles or may be thawed to use in banana bread.

Bigwood Chapel Park



Bigwood Chapel Park will be opened in June, 1987. It is located within the peaceful surroundings of Mentone and promises a unique new concept in relaxation and recreation. The theme of the park is the Chapel. The Chapel is dedicated in memory of those who have died of cancer and its related diseases.

Members will enjoy picnics in woods where every picnic table has been placed and designed with its natural surroundings in mind. Trails through the park offer a time for leisure and a chance to enjoy nature and the beauty of the mountain. A naturally designed playground for children is available for the young at heart.

The park was established to provide schools and other organizations an alternative to traditional fund-raising methods. Inquiries may be addressed to Cash/Wright, Inc. of Alabama, 21 Cherokee Hills, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.



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— Anonymous

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Glenn Baty

(Continued From Cover)

"When we didn't have football practice I usually stopped at the Mentone Store, now the Hitching Post, to play checkers. I learned checkers from my Daddy. At the store we usually played for a nickel a game. I always tried to win enough to pay for my haircuts. Bill Wright used to be the barber then. If he didn't have any customers he'd play with me. I usually made enough to pay for my haircuts. But haircuts were only a quarter then," Glenn added.

Glenn and Pearl were married in 1940. Sons Robert and Jimmy have added two sons each to the Baty family and two grandchildren each — all boys — and two great-grandsons. "There's not much chance Mentone will have a shortage of Batys in the future," Glenn said with one of his special smile/wink/legslap combinations. "My great-grandfather fought with a Georgia unit during the Civil War. We've always lived in the South."

When the *Groundhog* asked about his reputation as a storyteller, Glenn shook his head. "I don't know how that got started." Across the table Pearl coughed gently as if to say, "I'd never know," and shook her head. "Did I ever tell you about the time the British checkers team, they call it draughts you know, came to challenge us in America?" And he was off on yet another story.

Asked about his banjo playing, Glenn scurried off into another room and returned soon with his banjo. "Here! You try it. How do you like the ring?" Pretty soon he had it cradled on his lap like a favorite grandchild, playing *Darktown Strutters Ball*. He moved easily into *Sally Goodwin* — at the end declaring, "That's one Colquitt likes," referring to Mentone's Police Chief. After that came a banjo solo of *Leather Britches*. "We used to play all over this mountain! Mack Blalock, Colquitt Jones, James Roe Lyday, Mack Bryan, and several others. Some of us played for dances and all sorts of gatherings. Why I can recall when James Bryan was just a little tow-headed kid — not much bigger than his son Addison — his daddy would bring him along and let him play with us. That boy can sure play the fiddle today." And that led into yet another story involving Glenn's mother's definition of a proper lady and the difference between a violinist and a fiddle player.

On the subject of occupation: "Sawmilling is all I've done. Grandpa bought the property where the mill is located and I started the mill there in 1948. Before that I worked for the Valley Head Lumber Company — sawmilling for them. Bob runs our mill now. Jimmy and I work the timber."

"Now before you get too deep into this business of checkers — you should get this right. Checkers tournaments are divided into three levels. You have the minors, the majors, and the masters. I play in the majors — the middle level group. Sometimes, in a local tournament, I'll be put in the masters group. But I'm considered an average player in the majors — I win about as many games as I lose. Now let me show you this end game combination." And off he goes with another five or six move combination where the outcome is terminal for his opponent. "I really love the game. But we don't travel to as many tournaments as we used to. It's unusual that we go more than a hundred miles to play."

Regarding the growth of Mentone: "I don't live in the town and I really haven't given a lot of thought to the subject. But I'll say this; I hope it changes for the best. Everyone wants to move to the country — and they're doing it. Country is hard to find these days. We used to be way out in the country. Now it's more like living in a suburb of Mentone. Some folks call this part Batyville. Letters come addressed to Baty Road."

"Why, I remember when we first got electricity — we called it getting lights then — that was about 1950 or '51." And Glenn launched off on another anecdote about getting electricity in the country and the first electric fan he bought for Pearl shortly after they got lights. Seems that Jimmy let the cat out of the bag before the surprise fan could be presented.

"There was a time when we didn't have many jobs. We had no money in our pockets and had to walk where we wanted to go. It's hard to imagine kids today actually walking to Valley Head and back to get an education. Times are better now — well at least they're different — I hope it's better."

At Glenn's table you will find a pouch of *Redman* chewing tobacco and an empty *Folgers* can. Pearl's bottomless coffee pot, a checker board, a banjo, a sense of family (there are a lot of four-letter Batys in England), and an oral tradition of the stories and anecdotes of the area. If you don't know Glenn Baty — you don't know Mentone.

To Our Merchants

There are basic reasons why you should advertise regularly in this publication:

(1) Business volume is dependent on conveying your message to potential customers. Each month 3,500 copies of *The Groundhog* are printed. One is placed in the mailbox of every resident of the Mentone area. It is distributed at numerous outlets in the DeKalb area — often picked up by tourists. It is mailed to over 200 persons outside the Mentone area.

(2) *The Groundhog* is not a profit-making operation. Any proceeds above expenses go to the activities of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, of which it is an arm. MAPA is dedicated to "preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area."

Darlene C. Keith is the associate editor and advertising coordinator. She may be reached at 634-4891.

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