

Volume 6 — Number 4

August — 1988

the GROUNDHOG

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association



the 12th
ANNUAL
MENTONE
CRAFTS
FESTIVAL

...for the
people



Story &
Photos
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MAPA MEETING

Tuesday, Sept 6, 1988

7 O'clock

Town Hall Meeting
Room

Everyone Welcome!

World's Largest Yard Sale

The 100-mile-long Lookout Mountain Parkway has joined the U. S. Highway 127 Corridor organization to make "The World's Largest Outdoor Sale Festival" even larger for 1988. Covering 450 miles through Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama, The World's Largest Outdoor Sale Festival stretches from Cincinnati, Ohio to Gadsden, Ala.

From Aug. 18 through Aug. 21, all along U. S. Rt. 127 from Cincinnati, Ohio to Chattanooga and on the Lookout Mountain Parkway from Chattanooga to Gadsden, Ala., the big sale will be sponsored by the 127 Corridor organization. The 1987 sale drew more than 15,000 cars carrying 30,000 people to the Highway 127 Corridor in search of antique cars, quilts, primitive furniture, many art and craft items, musical instruments, antiques, homemade foods and pets.

In this second annual sale festival, the citizens along the corridor are again being invited to come out to the highway and sell whatever they choose (except used clothing); and everybody has been invited to come, dicker prices, and trade and buy. And while they shop the sale, visitors are invited to visit the 350 or more other events and attractions along the corridor, which include Civil War battlefields, horse farms, riverboats and railroad festivals, golf, fishing, museums, shopping, music and country cooking. For more information, call 1-800-327-3945 or 1-800-255-8747, or write "450-Mile Sale," P. O. Box 1200, Jamestown, Tenn. 38556.

(The nonprofit corridor extends from Covington, Ky., through Owenton, then to Frankfort, Lawrenceburg, Harrodsburg and Danville. Then on south through Junction City, Hustonville, Liberty, Russell Springs, Jamestown, Albany and Jamestown, Tenn. After that will be found Crossville, Pikeville, Dunlap, Signal Mountain and Chattanooga. Then, continuing south onto the Lookout Mountain Parkway, the motorist will find Trenton, Mentone, Cloudland Canyon State Park, Fort Payne, and then Gadsden, Ala.)

Mentone Volunteer Fire Department Receives Funds



The Mentone Fire Department was presented with a check in July for \$1,000 by Representative Ralph Burke. The money comes from the State of Alabama Forestry Commission and was received largely through the efforts of Representative Burke and his position on the state legislature's Ways and Means Committee. The same amount was obtained for all the volunteer fire departments in the area, and was given for the important part they play in protecting life and property and woodlands. A perfect example was the fire situation on the brow several months ago which could have done irreparable damage without the dedication and tireless efforts of these citizens.

Rep. Burke: "These people provide a valuable service to the community and state and assist the state forestry department greatly, and I believe they should be in some way compensated. When the opportunity arose to speak on their behalf, I was glad to do so." The money will be used to purchase equipment.

Anyone wishing to make a donation of time or money contact Hershell Pruitt or Sammy Cash. Any gift will be greatly appreciated.

M.A.P.A. To Facilitate Bike Trail; Road Signs



Left to right are Ray Froehler, MAPA; Jerry Cooley, State Road Department; Milton Howard, Roy Matthews, MAPA; and Epp Meadows, Town Councilman.

The Mentone Town Council met on July 11, and water was still a topic for discussion. There was a proposal to look into cost of a new water tank to serve as an auxiliary to the existing one. Also, the council is going to check into the cost of a new well to further ease the water shortage situation in Mentone. In the matter of delinquent water bills, it was agreed that something had to be done. A warning will be sent to the delinquent accounts, then they will be turned over to the town's attorney for collection. There is a proposed ordinance to have in place a set of regulations concerning those who do not comply with mandatory water conservation which would include fines and ultimate cutting off of the water supply.

There is an Alabama state law which stipulates that each cat and dog must be vaccinated yearly against rabies



and to not comply is a misdemeanor punishable with fines imposed against the offending owners. The town council urges that everyone comply with this law, as it is in the best interest of the community.

Jack Jones, MAPA Director, attended the meeting to express his support of the town council and any civic programs they might have in which MAPA might participate. He got the council's support for street signs, with the expense to be born by both MAPA and the town of Mentone, pending an affirmative vote by MAPA. Also, the State of Alabama has responded to Mayor Rob Hammond's request on behalf of MAPA, to give permission for the construction of a bicycle path from the Hitching Post to the Post Office which would give people a safe place to walk on the main thoroughfare and bring the town closer together.

No Mentone Election

Incumbents Unopposed

Since no one stepped forth to run for the Mayor's office or any of the town council positions, no election will be held this year. Mayor Rob Hammond and the present Mentone Town Council which is made up of five positions held by Hobson Kirby, Bill Russell, Max Cash, Jim Johnson and Richard Meadows will continue the same programs and format that have served Mentone in the past. It was surprising to most citizens that no one tried for the positions, but it must be assumed that the people of Mentone are happy with the present governing body and the lack of participation is a show of support.

Scholarship For Alicia Huiet



Alicia Huiet, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Evans Huiet Jr. of Mentone received a Performing Arts Scholarship to Northeast State Junior College for the upcoming year 1988-1989. Alicia is majoring in Pre-Dentistry; when she finishes Northeast State Junior College she plans to attend the University of Alabama in Birmingham where she will obtain her degree in Dentistry-Orthodontistry.

While in high school she was active in many clubs and received numerous awards for her outstanding achievements. These included: Chorus for two years, DeKalb County Honor Chorus two years; she received superior ratings in Chorus solo and ensemble for solo, duets, trios, quartets, and ensembles, for two years in a row, Most Outstanding Chorus Member. In the Young Singers of Callanwolde for five years, she toured all over the United States and Mexico. While in YSC she received the highest honor given to anyone in the group, she was made Student Assistant to Dr. Stephen J. Ortlip. She also received superior and excellent ratings in Marching Band, Solo and Ensemble on the Flute, Who's Who Among High School Students for two years, DeKalb County Award of Excellence two years. She has been an active member of Student Government for five years, Most Outstanding Member of the month and year for two years, Purple and Gold Staff, Editor of the Purple and Gold newspaper for two years, and on the staff for three years, FHA chairman two years and member for three; FFA two years chairman, and one year treasurer. Also received Chapter Farmer Degree, vice-president of her class for two years, Drama Club two years; Musical "Sugar," Art Club secretary-treasurer two years, top magazine salesperson in the Senior class, Advocates one year, Yearbook Staff two years, SADD five years, Pep Club three years, Impact (Advanced Study Group) two years.

In 1986 and 1988 she was crowned Miss Rhododendron Queen. Miss Spring Fantasy second alternate, first alternate, and Best Interview and top 10 contestant in DeKalb County Junior Miss Pageant.

Come To The 1988

October Colorfest

On Lookout Mountain
MENTONE, ALABAMA

OCTOBER 15th AND 16th

— Plus —

Special Festivities On Friday Night,
The 14th To Start The Fun!

• CRAFTS • BOAT RIDES • FOOD • DRINKS • HAY RIDES
• STAGE COACH • BONFIRE

And The Famous

Groundhog Run

Beginning At The Hitching Post 4.2 Miles
Along Beautiful Lookout Mountain Parkway

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Friday, October 14th

Costume Contest (In Parking Lot Of Mentone Inn) 6:00 p.m.
Bonfire With Ghost Stories, Wiener & Marshmallow Roast 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 15th

Groundhog Run 9:00 a.m.
Race Winners Awards 10:30 a.m.
Boat Rides At DeSoto Falls 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Costume Parade At Hitching Post 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 16th

More Fun, Food & Frolic!

See You There!

For More Information Call The Hitching Post 834-4368

Sponsored By Mentone Area Preservation Association MAPA

From The Editor

By Mickey Strickland

Almost everyone has something to say about the problems of this country, but few have any real solutions. Yet, when we as citizens exercise our right to vote, we have for a time the power within our grasp to shape the policies and procedures that determine the kind of society that we want.

There has been a tremendous increase in drug addiction and alcohol abuse. For whatever reasons, the family unit is disintegrating; people are unhappy and disillusioned, and confusion and anger at the corruption in government and the desecration of the public trust has given rise to an apathy that threatens all aspects of our democratic society.

There are jobs available, but at such low wages that even with two people in the family working, thousands are being forced out of homes and into the streets. The minimum wage is a national shame, and a generation of families are raising "street kids" who are like pilgrims in an alien land where the ordinary rules of human dignity do not apply. Programs to the poor have been cut to the bone, while outlandish and unneeded weapon systems are being conceived and funded amid massive waste and theft. High rates of infant mortality are symptomatic of the ills that have infected our system, and to allow health care to be denied on a financial basis is cruel and unjust. There is death and despair in the shadow of plenty and we need to decide now if we are willing to sacrifice a whole segment of our population in order to over-fund wasteful programs that benefit the rich and powerful.

In an election year, more promises will be made than can ever be kept, and hopes will be raised and hopes will be dashed as the disadvantaged, the young, the elderly, the handicapped, the victims of war, will once again be pushed aside to satisfy the appetite of corporate greed and governmental indifference, graft and waste.

Only concerned and caring citizens can force the winds of change to blow into the dark recesses of poverty and neglect that pocket the countryside. But these changes will not come about as long as corporations, agencies and individuals are allowed to do as they please and are above the laws and moral codes that all people are supposed to live by in order to strive for a more equitable society.

It has long been the cop-out of the wealthy to blame the poor for being so — to force a man into the dirt and then blame him for holding out a grimy hand for charity. We have to decide if every human being deserves food, shelter, clothing and health care. As it stands now, we may all be created equal, but after that first breath of life, that is where the similarity ends. And we have no one to blame but ourselves. We are the government, yet we have become so apathetic and jaded to the needs of others that we are in danger of losing our individual and collective conscience. When moral indignation couched in proper action is a thing of the past, who then will speak for us?

Categorically, let us go forth and make ourselves heard in this election year. Let's demand better, more responsible government and require more than minimum wage jobs from the corporations who drain the lifeblood and energy from a whole underclass of people. Let's make business responsible for what it produces, the goods and the destruction to the environment — from fast food companies who spew out millions of pieces of plastic to companies whose chemical waste will pollute our lives and deform our children for generations to come. Let's stop subsidizing huge factory farms while the little farmer's life is sold on the auction block.

Let's demand that private business take more responsibility for the quality of life of its workers through provision of health care, child care and profit sharing. Every business in this nation should pay a percentage toward child care or provide on-site care so that parents do not have to be so far removed from the lives of their children.

DeKalb County has a model public health system which could serve as an example for other areas, but it is sadly underfunded. Some of our priorities must lie with basic health care for all who need it.

One of the most important areas of neglect is among the young. A well-rounded education should be of utmost importance. There should be a counselor for every 20 children and that counselor should have a degree in psychology or a related field and be empowered to make real changes in the lives of children before it is too late. A whole network of professionals should be ready to do whatever is necessary to prevent a child from dropping out of school. Problems should be addressed with compassion and understanding and money if needed.

Each and every school should have some sort of music appreciation as well as opportunities for any student who desires to participate in music in a group setting, and not just a band to enhance the football team, but an orchestra as well. There should be money to provide instructors, instruments, transportation, clothing, food — whatever is needed. It should begin with kindergarten. Art classes of some kind should be mandatory. There is a lot of beauty and hope to be had from arts and humanities, and these together with an appreciation of the natural world can bring light into often-dark lives.

The American table may be set and laden, but some do not have an invitation to attend or have the strength or knowledge or opportunity to fight to get one. It is our responsibility to take their hands and stand united to make sure each person gets at least to taste the fruits of human dignity. We are a nation for the people, by the people; with enormous wealth comes enormous responsibility and we must demand equal justice and opportunity for all.

The Groundhog

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Letters To The Editor

To whom it may concern —
Re: Bill Willingham

The first time I met this fine new citizen of Mentone, car trouble forced me to seek help. What he did went above and beyond the call of duty. No one could have been kinder or more solicitous. One never has to wonder where he is — for he is always on the job which he takes seriously and for this he is to be highly commended.

Marion Solomon

To The Editor:

Mentone, Ala., is not a very big place, but in one way at least, it is larger than most, and that is in friendliness, kindness and caringness of the folks that live here.

One of the caring folks I want to talk about is Bill — Mentone's finest and only policeman. I think how fortunate we are to have an officer who "fits" the community so well. He's kind, friendly, always available and helpful in many variable situations, which may include car troubles, sick relatives, sick friends, lost goods, lost people or stray dogs, and everyone in Mentone could probably add to the list. Tourists could probably add some more.

Also, a lot of motorists have begun to pay attention to the 35 mph speed limit signs at the city limits.

In addition to all of this, Bill is in the position of being in the middle of everything that goes on in Mentone. Sometimes he makes people happy (when they need help); sometimes he makes people angry (when they are drunk, speeding or otherwise breaking the law), but in both instances he is doing the job he is paid to do — being the law enforcement officer in Mentone.

So thank you, Bill, we're glad you're here!
Sincerely,
Lucy Mitchell

The Lookout

"Atop Lookout Mountain"
CLOUDLAND, GEORGIA
(404) 862-2515

MOUNTAIN WATCH

By Charles White McGehee

By Charles White McGehee

If it were not for Norville Hall I'm certain I would not be in Mentone today. It all began in 1945 when he appeared for an organ audition at radio station WSGN in Birmingham where I was continuity director at the time. We became friends. One day at dinner he said, "I'd like to introduce you to Shangri La."

"What do you mean?" I replied.

"I've leased a fabulous old hotel on Lookout Mountain in a little town called Mentone. Why don't you plan to spend your vacation there?"

This was the beginning of many visits, some of them out of season, when musician friends converged. Most of you have heard perhaps too many times the story of my marriage to Jean in front of the fireplace in the lobby in 1949. Shortly thereafter we bought a lot on the brow behind the hotel and determined to some day live here.

Before the marriage, I spent almost three months virtually alone in the annex with meals provided by the caretakers Farce and Myrtle Brown. It was a time of some serious writing and reevaluation of my life. The Browns lived in the hotel proper. I walked over from the annex for meals and heated games of dominoes.

Throughout the years our friendship with Norville continued. He drove us to West End Baptist Hospital the night our older son McGregor was born. He visited us in Boston and Jacksonville. We shared good food and good music. Sometimes we did not see each other for several months, but when he appeared on the scene it was as though no time had elapsed.

Norville was born in Livingston, Ala., and grew up in Birmingham, attending Phillips High School. He studied piano but when he served as usher in the Strand and Lowe's theatres as an usher, he developed interest in the pipe organ. In 1931 he was a student of Oria Allen.

At the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago he studied organ and piano under Dr. Frank Van Dusen. His first public appearances were in Chicago nightspots, skating rinks, and eventually churches. Returning to Birmingham he inherited the organ building business of Oria Allen.

He maintained the organs at radio station WAPI, Temple Emanuel and the Alabama Theatre. Gaining stature as one of the last of the genuine organ builders, in the years when electric organs were emerging on the scene, he doubled the organ at the University of Chattanooga Theatre to more than twice its size.

Norville once said that he thought he had built 60 pipe organs. With the help of a number of assistants, some of the instruments were a year and a half in the building. Clyde Phillips of Mentone and Dell Brown of Valley Head for a time were valued assistants.

Any history of the Mentone Springs Hotel must deal at length with this talented artist. As the years passed its rooms were filled with old organs, organ pipes, consoles and various related items. He had many plans for restoration, but his many dreams never came about. It was not until his estate sold the hotel to Ray and Sandra Padgett that genuine restoration began.

For several summers he enjoyed operating the hotel. He was a warm-hearted innkeeper, circulating among the guests from New Orleans, Atlanta, Birmingham and other points in the southeast. Always the optimist, he talked often of opening a class-one restaurant in Mentone. To this extent he began construction of a stone structure across the road from the hotel — where Kirby's store once was situated. Unfortunately this never came about.

A good conversationalist, his remarks were marked by a wry humor and that constant optimism. At every level of existence, he commented that everything was going to be all right. Politically and philosophically he was a conservative and we often argued, never losing our tempers. He liked the good life, eating in good restaurants, driving new cars.

Most of all he was a musician, who admired the great Albert Schweitzer, and who was never happier than when giving a concert on the big Wurlitzer at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham or at one of the many churches where he had completed the building or repairing of an instrument.

Of the art, now very much in decline, he once said of organ-building: "No schools teach the skill. Organ manufacturers today use electronic starters which give it a synthetic tone. I use pipe in all our organs."

In 1978 Norville was in Tory, Mich., where he had played for a convention. After the enjoyment of a good meal, he took his place at the organ and during the concert suffered a heart attack and immediately died at the age of 68.

If Norville Hall were alive today I'm certain he would be proud of developments in Mentone: the thriving restaurants — Cragmere, Log Cabin Deli and Suttons; the seasonal festivals; the restoration process at the Mentone Springs Hotel; the healthy attitude of our people. I can hear him saying, "Everything is going to be all right."



In Memoriam

George Evans Huie, III, 19, of Mentone, Ala., passed away Sunday, June 19, at his residence.

Survivors include: parents, George Evans Huie Jr. and Patricia Davenport Huie of Mentone; grandmother, Lottie Davenport, Mentone; sisters, Alicia Huie, Mentone, Garretta Huie, Mentone, and Monique Huie, Clarkston, Ga.

He was a 1986 graduate of Valley Head High School and a member of Moonlake Baptist Church. He attended Shorter College in Rome, Ga., and was a member of Phi Delta Tau.

Activities he participated in at Valley Head High School were: county marching contest rating 1 year; marching band 1 year; Future Farmers of America, 1 year; nursery/landscape team, 1 year; Who's Who Most School Spirit 1986; Senior Favorite 1986, Who's Who Most Rebellious 1986; senior variety show 1986.

Activities he participated in in DeKalb County, Ga., were: all-state chorus 1 year; DeKalb County honor chorus, 2 years; solo and ensemble superior rating, 2 years; musicals "Sugar" and "The Wiz"; Atlanta boy choir, 4 years; extensive tour of Italy meeting heads of state; chorus club, 2 years; drama club, 2 years; student government, 2 years; key club, 1 year; national outstanding college freshman, Shorter College, Rome, Ga.; musical scholarship to Shorter College.

IN MEMORIAM

George Evans Huie III

Two and one half years ago George Huie moved permanently to Mentone with his parents and sisters. He had often visited his grandparents, Lee and Lottie Davenport, and had seen his mother's birthplace in the cabin which is now a part of St. Joseph's On The Mountain Episcopal Church. The love he had for Mentone could not be easily explained, for nothing made him happier than being here in the open tranquility and beauty of our town. He would till the soil and work with plants in the yard, mow the grass and chop wood to make a warm fire and cherished each season as it changed.



Each day he wanted to watch the sun rise and set. In Mentone, he felt closer to God. He wanted others to know of God's love and greatness. George was a unique individual, for he loved all his fellow men. The people of Mentone were very dear to him and he greatly appreciated their friendship, loyalty and support during his illness. The Rescue Squad deserves a special vote of thanks for the use of a portable generator and many visits to check on George. Moon Lake Baptist Church, where George was a member, and all the area churches were very supportive.

George made a special request to his family that they would "be sure and thank everybody for all they've done for me." He wanted to be remembered as a guy who was grateful for life and who loved each minute of it.

Prepared with the assistance of George's mother, Patricia Huie.

From the Eulogy given by Rev. H. Bryan Allen of Shorter College

We at Shorter College didn't know George for very long. He did, however, make his impact on our lives and we'll certainly remember him for many years.

George enrolled in the Music Department at Shorter for the 1986-87 school year. He was a Music Education major with voice as his primary performance area. George grew up loving and appreciating music. His family listened to music at home and enjoyed it together. Mrs. Huie has always enjoyed singing, and at one time, according to her husband was an opera singer. His father, although not a musician himself, has always had a deep appreciation for all kinds of music. George's three sisters are all musically and vocally talented. George's four years as a member of the internationally famous Atlanta Boy Choir probably did a great deal to encourage a career in music. He said that he would like to spend his life conducting choirs — church, school, or both.

When George enrolled in the Music Department, he was awarded a \$500 scholarship for the 1986-87 academic year. He was a member of the superb Shorter College Chorale and was an eager first-year music student. He was also very active in school life, being a member of the Phi Delta Tau fraternity, where he was Best Pledge, and the freshman class. (I think he was voted "best rat" in that class, ratting being a traditional hazing for all freshmen).

There are some facts I remember about George that year at Shorter. However, the really indelible memories concern his zest for living, his spirit, his friendly attitude, his care and concern for others. Once a friend of his in his freshmen theory class lost his father and George was the first person to "be there" for comfort and support. He didn't make an issue of it, he was just there as a caring friend. There are many other instances when George was there to express his concern, to offer a helping hand, and to lend a listening ear. He was that kind of person!

When George came to see me one day, he told me about his illness, but he said he was going to stay in school. In fact, when I visited him at the Ronald McDonald House at Emory after the disease progressed considerably, he still said in his faltering speech, "I'll be back in school in January." His positive attitude concerning his life and the disease I'm sure prolonged his life considerably.

It was his COURAGE I remember the most. I think George understood that it's that internal part of man that supercedes and pre-empts the physical part of life. I think we can come together today to CELEBRATE George's life, his courage, his spirit, and his new and better life.

Our Town With Linda Brown

Time marches on! The Mentone Crafts Festival is over for another year, summer is over half gone and school will be starting soon. Speaking of the crafts festival, it was a great success this year. The crowd on Sunday was a little less but we think it was due to the heat. The weather was about the hottest that I remember on that particular weekend. The crafts were excellent. We had everything from an afghan of beautiful wool, to a zoo, carved of wood. Every medium was used: clay, wood, fabric, corn shucks, glass and paint, to name a few. Every item in one booth was of recycled material. It was very interesting. A pillow was made of a man's shirt, tie and vest; all openings were sewn together then stuffed. A lot of persons in the Mentone community were involved. I hope that every organization made a profit. The ones that I've heard from told me that they did. Every year we have calls from commercial people wanting to do the concessions. We intend to use local organizations as long as they can make money and are willing to do the work. Thanks to everyone for all of their help and cooperation. Now comes the best part, deciding how to use the profit to best benefit Mentone. The last meeting for this year will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 16, 7 p.m. in the Mentone Meeting Hall. Everyone is invited and if you have a suggestion as to how to make the festival better or how to use part of the money to make Mentone better, please come and share this with us.

I have been thinking lately about garbage and litter. Where does it all come from? When I was young I can remember that my grandmother didn't have trash. The food scraps were fed to the pigs. She roasted the leftover egg shells on the back of the wood stove and my job was to give them to the chickens. (This was supposed to make the eggs that the hens laid stronger). What little bit of paper she had was burned. Jars were recycled, not thrown away. She didn't have foil or plastic on a roll. Covers for containers were made of plates or saucers if there wasn't one to fit. I can't remember her having tin cans. Maybe I've forgotten that part. Can anyone help with the date that tin cans were first used? With just the two of us at home, Bobby and I usually average two sacks of garbage a week. I know that almost everyone in Mentone has about the same amount, as I see it out every Friday morning. Could we go back to the good ole days? Think about where all the garbage comes from and maybe as a nation we can realize what we are doing to our environment and clean up our act before it is too late.

What were your thoughts when you heard that no one signed to run against the incumbent city council? When I heard, I thought, "that's good, everyone is satisfied with the local government and has full confidence in the present administration." Then I thought, "No, that's bad, someone should have been interested enough in Mentone to think they could help make it a better place to live by serving on the town council." Someone should have signed up to run. Apathy can be a dangerous thing. I'm still bouncing between the two trains of thought. What did you think?

Even with the recent rains, we are not home-free on the water situation. Continue to conserve water; it's a good habit to cultivate as experts tell us that available water will be a major concern for years to come. One suggestion that I received was to cool the water in which vegetables were cooked and put it on your flowers. Think about how precious water is and it becomes easier to conserve.

Valley View With Eloise Brown

Wedding bells have rung for some in our valley! Dorothy Ashley and Charles Leveille were married July 18 at the wedding chapel in Gatlinburg. "Chuck" comes from Cleveland, TN.

Dr. Carole Fuller of Pisgah, and Dr. Carlos Zeller of Valley Head, were married June 9 in Mexico. Dr. Zeller is Head of the Science and Business Department at Northeast State Junior College. Dr. Carole Zeller plans to open a dental practice in Ider in August. She may be shocked (pleasantly, I hope) to learn she has relatives in Valley Head. Congratulations and Best Wishes for happiness and welcome Chuck and Carole to Valley Head!

Mrs. George King (Lynn) and her sister Fran Hawkins, entertained with a buffet dinner on Sunday evening at Lynn's home in Gadsden honoring their parents, Chad and Frank Hawkins on their golden wedding anniversary. Those attending from Valley Head were Mary Ellis, Tommy and Mrs. Johnson, and Brownie Tuttle. The Hawkinses will be remembered as teachers at Valley Head High School several years ago.

Jamie and Wade Mercer are guests of their grandmother, Venna Livingston, while their parents, Bruce and Marilyn Mercer, enjoy a vacation in Alaska.

Ginny and Ron Bradford and daughter Rebecca, of Chickamauga, Ga., were weekend guests of her parents, Evelyn and Robert Phillips.

The U.M.W. of Valley Head Methodist Church, met at the parsonage for their June meeting. Hostesses were Cindy Barrett and Frances Longshore. Velma Hammond gave the devotional and Eloise Brown began the Bible study "Act's for Our Time."

Alice Davenport is now at Mountain Manor Nursing Home in Fort Payne.

Sue and Foyle Cooper have returned from a month's tour (by car and air) of western and northern states and Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. James Wells and children Jamie and Christopher, were guests of his mother, Lila Schlicher. They, together with Betty Brown and Sue and Foyle Cooper, attended the Henagar reunion at Henagar on Saturday, July 16. Visiting with them also and attending the reunion, were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Henagar and Mr. and Mrs. Harrel Henagar from St. Johns, Ariz. All of these are descendants of Mose C. and George Henagar, a former pastor of Harmony Grove Church.

Eloise Brown attended the Genealogy meeting of the Tittle — Martin reunion at the Holiday Inn in Tiftona Friday, July 8, and the reunion Saturday, July 9, at the Dade Historical Society in New England. She is a descendant of John and Polly Tittle.

These reunions remind us how important it is for young people to listen more attentively to older people as they tell about their ancestors and by-gone-days. Some day you will realize how precious this knowledge is. You may want to ask an important question and it may be too late — no one left who can answer it — Please listen!

Officers Elected To MAPA



MAPA members enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner in the Town Hall Meeting Room at the July 5 annual meeting. Elections were held. New officers are Jack Jones, director; Ray Froehler, associate director; Frances Rosario, secretary; Bill Pilson, treasurer. The upcoming October Colorfest was discussed. Chairmen and heads of committees were selected.

— Condensed from the minutes of Frances Rosario, secretary

ANNOUNCING

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On The Home Front

With Bill Pilson



I became very aware of fire ants on top of Lookout Mountain the other day. I was loading some pipe into the back of a customer's truck when the little feller got me. I guess that I had made him mad by disturbing him while he was on my pipe. I had made a bunch of them mad. They had just started to build a new home next to where all of the pipe was lying. They sure were angry, thousands of them running all over the place. I did not really expect to find fire ants on top of the mountain. After last winter and this dry summer those little guys are tough, and their sting is even tougher.

Fire ants are similar in appearance to ordinary house and garden ants. They are about 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch long and reddish brown to black in color. Fire ants live in mounds 12-18 inches in height and are found in open, warm, grassy areas such as pastures, lawns and unused crop lands. They will move up to the top of the mound on warm days but move to the underground nest during extremely cold or hot dry weather. In warm weather fire ants are very aggressive when disturbed and will readily defend their mounds. As cooler weather comes on their activity will be reduced. If you have fire ants you may want to treat them before cold weather. Proper treatment of fire ant mounds can keep their population to a minimum. There are several ways of effective treatment to rid ourselves of these little pests. One of the following treatments may suit your needs.

1. Baits such as AMDRO, AFFIRM, LOGIC and PRO-DRONE are effective in warm weather when the ants are up in the top of the mound and feeding. These baits are very effective at terminating the queen.
 2. 1/2 cup 5 percent diazot granules sprinkled on or around the mound and watered in or 2 teaspoons of Orthene 75S sprinkled evenly over the mound. No water required.
 3. Drenching the mound with a water solution of Dursban, Diazot or Orthene, using a minimum of one gallon per mound. If toxicity is a major concern Sevin or Malathion will work but are usually less effective.
 4. For those who prefer not to use traditional pesticides, one — two gallons of near boiling water will give 60-70 percent control.
 5. Injectable aerosols give good results any time of the year and are very safe to use.
- These are a few ways to keep the fire ant population to a minimum so you have a way to get them before they get you.

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David Tucker— Mentone's New Mail Carrier

"I want the next person who takes the mail carrier's job to have a good feeling about taking up where I left off, to be proud of the job and the tradition, just as I am." David Tucker spoke of his new position as rural mail carrier at Mentone. "Mr. Max Cash would go the extra mile, such as taking packages down to the homes, especially for people who were elderly or sick even though that was not part of the job. That's the way I want to be, and feel if I can't give the service, I'm not doing the job."

David Tucker was born in Mentone, the son of Gordon Tucker and Marie Kirby. Marie is the daughter of the late Jeff and Melissa Earl Kirby whose family name is part of the unique history of this area. David's family moved to Valley Head when he was seven, and he attended school there. His parents now reside on the old Blackburn place at the foot of Sand Mountain.

"I am really glad to be back on this mountain," David said, "after almost six years as a carrier at Henagar. The lifestyle seems to more accurately reflect my own ideals, and as this is where I come from, I already know a lot of the names on the mailboxes and look forward to getting to know everyone."

David has nothing but praise for the people he works with at Mentone's Post Office: "We work together, and no one says 'that's not my job.' We just do what has to be done and there is not as much pressure as there might be in a larger city post office, but I don't think many people realize that the situation here is different from all others in Alabama, possibly in the Southeast. The volume of mail in the Post Office increases tremendously in the summer because of the camps, but because there is such a good working relationship between the staff and Benny Goss, the Postmaster, everything goes smoothly."

David is married to the former Marsha Freeman and they have two daughters: Carla, 15, and Sarah, 11. The family resides less than a mile from Valley Head on Battelle Road. Long before David obtained the job at Mentone, he and his family attended the Moon Lake Baptist Church where they are now members. "We joined the congregation for what I think are all the right reasons," David said, "for churches are people and the people at Moon Lake have loving hearts and made us feel at home."

David plays bass guitar for a contemporary gospel group called "Sons and Brothers." (Sons of God and brothers in Christ). They perform for youth retreats and such and just returned from an engagement in Pensacola, Fla. The other members of the group are: Devan Jackson, who is originally from Mentone; Billy Anderson, originally from Valley Head; and Michael Bynum from Attalla, Ala. "We enjoy performing, but we have a message for others so we take our music seriously."



DAVID TUCKER

"I feel very fortunate to have a job I can be proud of, and that I can enjoy," David told *The Groundhog*. "I worked for 10 years in a factory where I could not see the outside, and now to be riding around the beautiful countryside and getting to know a lot of good people is a blessing. I like being able to go home at night knowing I have done a service and been a part of one of this country's finest traditions."

Women And Alcohol

To make the safest choices concerning alcohol use, a woman needs to be informed; she needs to have the facts. The following information answers questions women most often ask about alcohol.

How much is too much? Alcohol is so widely used that we often forget a very important fact — it is a very powerful drug that should be handled with care. Like any drug that is taken to excess, too much alcohol is dangerous to your health, safety and emotional well-being. Large amounts of alcohol can interfere with your judgment, making you more prone to accidents, can increase feelings of depression and anxiety, and can damage your health. The body's reaction to alcohol varies with the individual. You react differently from your friends, and even your own reactions will vary from day to day. If you are tired, tense, in poor health, or haven't eaten recently, even one drink can hit you very hard.

Does alcohol affect men and women differently? Recent research suggests that women may become more intoxicated than men on the same amount of alcohol, even when body weights are the same. One explanation for this is that a woman generally has less body fluid and more body fat than does a man of the same weight. And since alcohol does not diffuse rapidly into body fat, the concentration of alcohol in a woman's blood will be higher, even if she drinks the same amount as a man.

What happens if you drink when you're taking another drug? When combined with drugs, including over-the-counter medications, alcohol can have a multiplying effect that is unpredictable and dangerous. Even drugs prescribed by doctors may be dangerous when mixed with alcohol. If you are taking drugs, even a simple cold remedy, sometimes just one drink will make you unexpectedly drowsy or will interfere with your ability to drive or operate machinery.

The potential danger increases when alcohol is mixed with certain drugs, such as the barbiturates used in many sleeping pills. This combination can result in coma or death. Medications containing estrogen, such as birth control pills or "hormone" pills, will affect how a woman's body reacts to alcohol. If you take medications containing estrogen, you may not recover as quickly from the effects of drinking. The best course of action is to check with your physician or pharmacist and to read the label before using alcohol with any other drug.

Vivian Napier
Certified Addictions Counselor
Council Coordinator on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Activities Building, Fort Payne, AL 35967
205-845-5924

Governor Hunt Meets With Mothers

Gov. Guy Hunt, meeting with women and children who are getting improved health care because of the July 1 expansion of the Medicaid program, pledged to push the Legislature for full funding of the Medicaid expansion program next year.

Gov. Hunt toured Dothan's Department of Human Resources office and met with four women, one of whom had two children, who are now eligible for Medicaid under the expansion ordered by Gov. Hunt on July 1. The women did not qualify for Medicaid, and therefore could not get health care services before July 1 because they are married. Gov. Hunt ordered the expansion in an effort to cut down on Alabama's infant mortality rate, which is one of the highest in the nation.

Gov. Hunt said he will seek about \$6 million from the Legislature in a special session later this summer to fully fund the program for the next fiscal year which begins Oct. 1.

"We have come a long way... and we are looking at the SOBRA program fully funded for next year. We do not have a state budget at this time. I think it has strong support in the Legislature. We will even be looking at new revenue sources to make sure that we can fund these vital programs that will be to the benefit of our people. I think that I can tell you that not only is the administration but the Legislature as far as I can tell, is probably almost unanimous in its desire to fund the program because it is so vital and so important," Gov. Hunt told the women.

"Most of our lives have been touched and we want to get on with the business... and we just wish you all the best. I know it makes you all feel good because we get a lot of calls from expectant moms and they are so much aware of the precious being they are carrying within them and want the best for them."

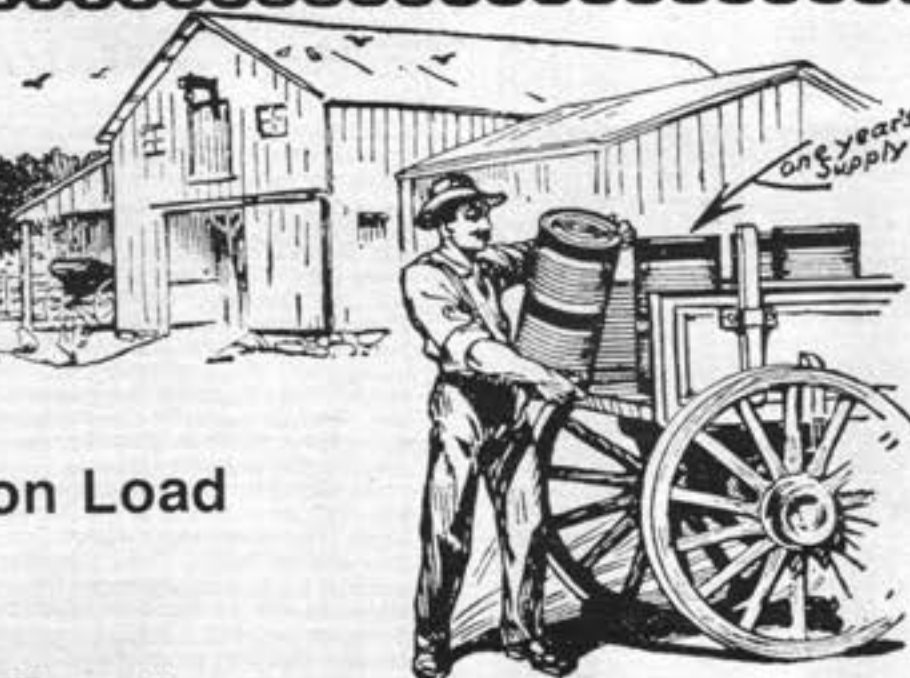
Gov. Hunt reminded the group that he and First Lady Helen Hunt who made the trip with the governor have a child who was permanently injured at birth. The governor said infant deaths are a terrible problem as are infant injuries, and that both problems should be eased by the expansion of the Medicaid program.

Events In Georgia's Rome

August 1988 — (Wednesdays and Saturdays) — Farmer John's Market, Midtown Transit Station, Downtown Rome, Fresh fruits and vegetables, 7 a.m.-11 a.m. No admission. 404/236-4520.

Aug. 1-31 — "National Costumes From Japan" — Chieftains Museum, Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 2-5 p.m. \$1 admission. 404/291-9494.

Aug. 30 — Poetry Night — Schroeder's Deli, Broad Street, A presentation of the Rome Area Council for the Arts. Literary Division, 7 p.m. Free. 404/295-2787.



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John Lindberg- A Matter Of Music



John Lindberg first discovered Mentone about seven years ago and has been making an annual pilgrimage ever since. "I was doing a music workshop in Huntsville and visited a very good friend in Guntersville who is band director there. His wife said, 'You know, John, you would love a little place up in the mountains called Mentone.' She found it on a map for me and I drove up here not knowing a soul. I checked into the Mentone Inn and happened to look across the street at the Mentone Springs Hotel. What a wonderful piece of architecture. The next morning after a delicious breakfast served by Amelia Brooks, I went over to the Hotel and got Sandra Padgett out of the shower and asked for a tour. She graciously consented, and I realized this town was to be part of my life."

John always makes time for Mentone, even though his life is very full. He is the primary percussionist on the kettle drum for the Virginia Symphony, as well as for the Virginia Opera. He is the opera's orchestra consultant also. He teaches part-time at Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, and at William and Mary College. "It is a great life," John told *The Groundhog*. "I have the wonderful opportunity to do a lot of interesting things. The thing about music or art or anything is that if you want to live a full life you cannot walk by and take special things for granted. I enjoy the out-of-doors-plants, birds, butterflies, and architecture, fine arts, music, literature — anything that makes life more precious."

John was born near Pittsburgh, Penn., in a little town known as Wilkensburg. His father was a steel worker, as had been many generations before him. In their ancestral home of Sweden his family was known for its ironworkers and artisans.

John's father survived the depression of the '30's by playing in a Dixieland band, and by the time John and his brother were born, it was planned that they too would pursue musical careers as a way out of the steel mills. John's brother played trumpet, and John was expected to also, as had their father before them. But John had other ideas — he loved the drums and an uncle realized this and gave him one. His father agreed to the new instrument as long as John always excelled, but if he ever failed in any way,

it was back to the trumpet. This gave John the incentive to do his best, and with the private lessons his father provided, he became a professional at an early age.

John's older brother played with the Junior Orchestra in Wilkensburg and one night the percussionist did badly and John's brother said, "My little brother is better than these guys." They sent for John and he began playing with the orchestra, which consisted of high school students, when he was only 11. In the ninth grade he made timpanist in the Pennsylvania All-State Orchestra and remained with them for four years. "I was lucky in high school," John laughed, "for I dated a banker's daughter who received tickets to the Pittsburgh Symphony, and through this opportunity was introduced to the genius of Steinburg. It was very inspiring."

In 1965 John was drafted and spent four years in Norfolk, Va., as instructor at the Armed Forces School of Music. The symphony in Norfolk was quite small at that time and the military allowed John to play with them in addition to his teaching duties. After the military, John stayed on with the orchestra, which became the Virginia Symphony. In 1973, a Virginia opera was formed and John became their principal percussionist, as well as orchestra consultant.

John has had various opportunities to go into different areas of music. He played a show with the Oak Ridge Boys and was seriously discussing going on the road with them. But he had a wife and small daughter and did not want to leave them. He tried jazz for awhile, but the symphony was his first love, and he was always fascinated by the classical works.

John loves all forms of music from "Gid Tanner and the Skillet Lickers" to Beethoven. He especially loves the folks music of this area which can be traced to its European roots in the reels and highland music of Scotland.

"It is very difficult for the arts and humanities today," John reflected. "They are so far removed from the everyday life of the people. Beginning with education, we should find out why the quality of American life is so poor today, why there is division and anger and unhappiness and misplaced priorities. Schools stress science and math and the importance of selecting a career and getting right on with it, so that a whole dimension of life is neglected. When the American public school system was born, it was to teach people to be literate, not to learn a vocation. There is time for that after high school. Children should be introduced to beauty and learning for their own sakes."

John continued: "We must teach children that happiness is something one establishes from the inside through a variety of experiences and learning. Have we become so concerned with survival that we have forgotten the things that make life worth living? Give the children creativity and beauty and self-expression and that will go out in everything they do."

John believes that life cannot stand still; there must be progress to insure a future, but one should be ready with vision and foresight to control the direction progress takes. "This is very true in the case of Mentone — the principal question being how to preserve what we have already but also allow room for keeping up. I feel that one responsibility of the state and federal governments should be to help restore and preserve those things that reflect our heritage, such as the Mentone Springs Hotel. And activities should fit into the lifestyle and feeling of a place. Wouldn't it be great to have a string band play upstairs at the Hitching Post with lemonade for sale and everyone having a good time? Sunday afternoon musicals at the hotel would be perfect for this community, as well as

workshops for arts and crafts." John would also like to see the transfer trucks slow down and observe the speed limit.

"People are always saying 'America has to get back to its basic values.' America never will until we start to have the quality that requires basic values. A great number of people do not have that quality in their lives now, what with a high-tech society that places the most value upon material goods and acquisition and leaves out the other dimensions of art and humanities. The whole of society would be enriched by a more well-rounded educational system. A whole new world is open to people, if they could but be educated to it. And from this education would come knowledge, not only of important things in life, but also about special, inner qualities and gifts. The sense of self-worth and confidence that comes through this learning about oneself in all dimensions can only enhance one's view of humanity, and society as a whole could not help but benefit."



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Governor Fights Contamination

Gov. Guy Hunt asked the federal government to stop the planned shipment of 47,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil from Texas to Alabama for burial.

In a letter to EPA Administrator Lee Thomas, Gov. Hunt asked that the shipment be stopped and that an investigation be launched into the decision to dump the hazardous waste in Alabama.

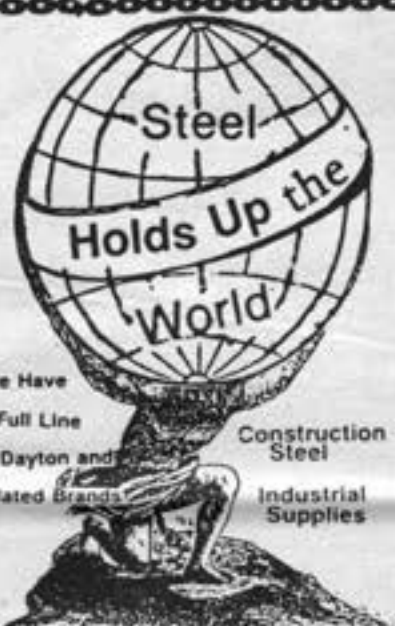
"We have serious questions as to whether the decision to dump this material in Alabama, rather than treating it on site in Texas, was made in accordance with the federal Superfund law and EPA rules," Gov. Hunt said at a State House news conference. "Alabama is not going to be the automatic dumping ground for the nation's hazardous waste."

"This matter concerns me greatly. I am disturbed by the prospect of dangerous wastes from other states being dumped in Alabama without warning and without a chance for our people to object," Gov. Hunt said. "I want answers, and I think the people of Alabama want some answers too."

Announcement of the proposed shipments from Geneva Industries, a Texas Superfund site, to the Chemical Waste Management facility at Emelle in Alabama surfaced last week. Reports indicate that the process of removing 22,500 cubic yards of contaminated soil at the 13-acre abandoned petrochemical plant located in South Houston will begin in July. Chemical Waste Management has secured the government contract for the cleanup, which includes transportation to the Sumter County site at Emelle for disposal.

According to Gov. Hunt, the delay is being requested to allow time for his staff and ADEM to secure certain documentation relative to the decision as to the method of cleanup.

These concerns include the following:



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The Superfund law under Section 121 specifically states that remedial actions which treat the waste thereby permanently and significantly reducing the volume, toxicity or mobility are to be preferred over actions not involving such treatment.

The law says, "The offsite transport and disposal of hazardous substances or contaminated materials without such treatment should be the least favored alternative remedial action where practicable treatment technologies are available."

It directs the government in assessing alternative remedial actions to, at a minimum, take into account "long-term uncertainties associated with land disposal... long-term maintenance cost... the potential threat to human health and the environment associated with evacuation, transportation and redispersion or containment."

Additionally, according to Gov. Hunt, conversations with EPA officials in Texas (Region VI), who were responsible for developing the clean-up plan, and a review of articles published in the "Houston Chronicle" have confirmed that EPA originally proposed on-site incineration using a mobile incinerator. Strong public opposition was raised



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ed to on-site incineration. News accounts state that more than 400 people attended an EPA-sponsored public meeting in May of 1986 regarding the clean-up plan. Subsequently, EPA opted to transport the material off-site for disposal.

"The fact that the concerns of Texas residents regarding removal options reportedly played such a key role in the final decision... to dig it up to bring to Alabama to be buried... and no input from Alabamians was solicited concerns me greatly," Hunt stated.

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Mentone Crafts Festival For The People

Stanley Brown, who is a native of Mentone currently attending Duke University in Durham, N. C., together with wife Christa and Becky Steele, also a Mentone resident, were concerned about certain needs the community had that could not be met by available financing. The year was 1977 and this dedicated trio wanted to do something special for Mentone. The idea for a celebration of arts and crafts indigenous to the southern Appalachian region was born, and from its infancy has been a supportive force for community good. The first Crafts Festival was financed with bake sales and yard sales and donations of time and energy from a small group of individuals.

The first committee list reads like a who's who of Mentone movers and shakers: Board of Directors — William Blackburn, Edith Lyday (now deceased), Patty Epgrave, Ethel Manifold and Oceola Hauge. The Secretary was Becky Steele; President, Stanley Brown; Vice-President, Bud Ellis; Treasurer, Christa Brown. Others who served were Johnnie Ellis, Eleanor Moerlins, Nancy Hunter, Willa Blackburn (now deceased), Millie Moerlins, Sue Hamilton, Pete Moerlins (deceased), Ann Wright, Linda Brown, Barbara Blalock, Edna Crowe (now deceased), Graham Glover (also deceased), Sammy Cash, Doyal Benefield, Alice Woolf, Doc and Kyle Long, Ruby O'Rear (now deceased), Frank Young, R. J. Sudderth (deceased), Harrell Jenkins, Gail Chambers, Dalene Jones, Zora Strayhorn, Lydia Speed, Peggy Johnson, Vickie Overman, Dorothy Bankson, Ruby Stalvey, Ovie Blalock, Dick Speed (now deceased), Bob Steele, Jimmy Jones, Bob Baty, Leonard Shigley and Guy Staub.

The Festival began with 22 exhibitors in 1977 and grew to 78 in 1988. 750 paid to attend the first one, and 3,200 paid this year. There was little profit that first year, but the committee was able to make a contribution to the DeSoto Rescue Squad and to the Moon Lake PTA. Linda Brown remembers that for the first few festivals the crafts people were invited to come to the site on Friday before the event and were provided supper by the committee. After a time, that became too much of a task, and the procedure was dropped.

The festival is listed as one of the top 20 attractions in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society which recognizes the importance of special events. The festival has been so honored for two years now, and it must be said that only one other attraction in Alabama made the list, and it is in Talladega.

One of the most unique characteristics of the festival is its setting. Located on the northern brow of Lookout Mountain less than a mile from downtown Mentone, the location is one of breathtaking beauty. One can see for miles over the farms and woodlands of the valley below. Many artists display their skills while giving demonstrations in the creation of their work. The tree-lined street which divides the festival site is roped off and the feeling is one of hometown hospitality.

The food sold at the festival is provided by local organizations such as the Mentone Fire Department. Hamburgers and hot dogs grilled on the spot with all the trimmings and homemade ice cream make up the most popular items on the menu. "We have been contacted by every known kind of commercial vendor wanting to provide the food for the festival," Linda Brown said, "but we want local organizations who will benefit the community to have an opportunity to make money. When we have to turn the food service over to commercial vendors, I don't think I could continue to be a part of it. I believe all aspects of the festival should do something positive for the community, and when that no longer is possible we will not be holding to the true reason for the festival in the first place."

When asked about the reasons for her dedication to the perpetuation of the Crafts Festival, Linda reflected: "I do it because of my love for Mentone. This gives me a chance to do things that I could not afford to do otherwise, especially for young people. Our donations are more or less geared to helping the young people in Mentone and Valley Head. So much more could be done — we need a youth center and special programs to support children and teenagers. There has not been enough commitment on the part of local citizens in this area, but I hope that is changing."

In "A Statement of Purpose for the Mentone Crafts Festival" are found the foundations for a truly altruistic organization: In recognition of the favorable location, the professional talent and the local interest toward producing a community-wide arts and crafts fair, we propose that the organization of such an event be based upon the following principles and purpose:

1. The dedication of the entire membership of the organization will be to present an arts and crafts show consisting of only the best quality works available, and the demonstration and display of the best of mountain craftspeople from the area.

2. It shall be the desire of the organization to provide for and to encourage the participation of the natives of this area in the display of their crafts foremost, but not to the exclusion of those artists and crafts people from outside the area.

3. This organization is committed to the use of any profits from the arts and crafts fair to be used toward the improvement of the social and recreational facilities of the mountain area as decided by the executive committee and the membership.

4. The desire of this organization shall be to work with local businesses and businessmen to encourage a more active trade in the arts and crafts and antiques in this area.

5. It shall be an ongoing project of this organization to work for and support efforts within the Mentone area which are in harmony with the natural beauty and the protection of the environment with which we are blessed.

Over the last 12 years, the Crafts Festival Committee has made substantial donations to the following organizations: DeSoto Rescue Squad, Moon Lake PTA, the Mentone Fire Department for purchase of a fire engine, Mentone Dixie Youth, Valley Head Dixie Youth, Rhododendron Garden Club for rhododendron plants along Hwy. 117, the entertainment shelter on the brow which was built entirely by the festival, Little River Cemetery Fund for Perpetual Care, Valley Head Band Boosters, DeKalb County SPCA, Moon Lake School for electricity to be wire into the new gym. They also helped furnish the Mentone Town Meeting Hall and sponsored a Dixie Youth team from Mentone in 1988.

In the words of Khalil Gibran in *The Prophet*, "You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. It is well to give when asked, but it is better to give when unasked, through understanding; and to the open-handed the search for one who shall receive is joy greater than giving."

The Mentone Crafts Festival is an example of what can be accomplished by caring individuals who come together for the common good. To these, concern is futile unless clothed in action and to help their community and to make a positive difference in the lives of others is thanks enough. This issue of *The Groundhog* is dedicated to all who have contributed to the success of The Crafts Festival over the years.





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F. F. Long *The Nature Of Art*



F. F. (Rick) Long and his wife Debra chose Mentone as they awaited the birth of their daughter Lora. They were traveling to art shows in a motor home and wintering in Florida when they decided that their child would need a permanent place to put down roots and grow. "Mentone is in a very good central location, and we love the countryside and the weather," Rick talked of their choice for a home. "It is a quiet place, and peaceful, where the energy is conducive to the kind of work I do."

Rick began his life in Philadelphia, Penn., and did not choose art in the beginning: "I always liked to work with my hands and often constructed models and made drawings of automobiles and houses, but did not paint seriously until I was in the last years of college." Rick began as a business major and continued that interest until he moved to Florida to finish his education. During the first year there, art became a motivating force in his life, and he changed his course of study to that subject. He was into etchings and print-making for a time and did some painting on canvas, but felt those mediums were not quite right for him.

Rick began to work on Mylar sheets, then plexiglas, painting in reverse to achieve a clear, crystal quality to his work that made it seem as if the painting were viewed through glass. "I wanted that crystal quality because of Aldous Huxley's essay, 'Visionary Experience — The Nature of Precious Stones.' This piece of literature affected Rick profoundly and opened the door to the development of the medium and to the evolution of his style. "In the essay, Huxley says that it is not their rarity that makes precious stones valuable, but that they have a crystalline, luminescent nature to them that triggers a subconscious memory to a past experience of a parallel universe that is crystalline and luminescent. This experience happens when we are very young, or very old or in the middle in a state of revelation. "I had these experiences when I was very young — profound experiences that others told me were the result of a very active imagination. I felt peculiar and different because I did not have any way to explain these happenings. In 'The Nature of Precious Stones' was an answer. Then I realized that one of the ways I could attract the information and teachers I needed was to paint the experiences and feelings I had, to communicate with others on a large scale and to proceed along this path of wonderment, and that is still what I am doing today."

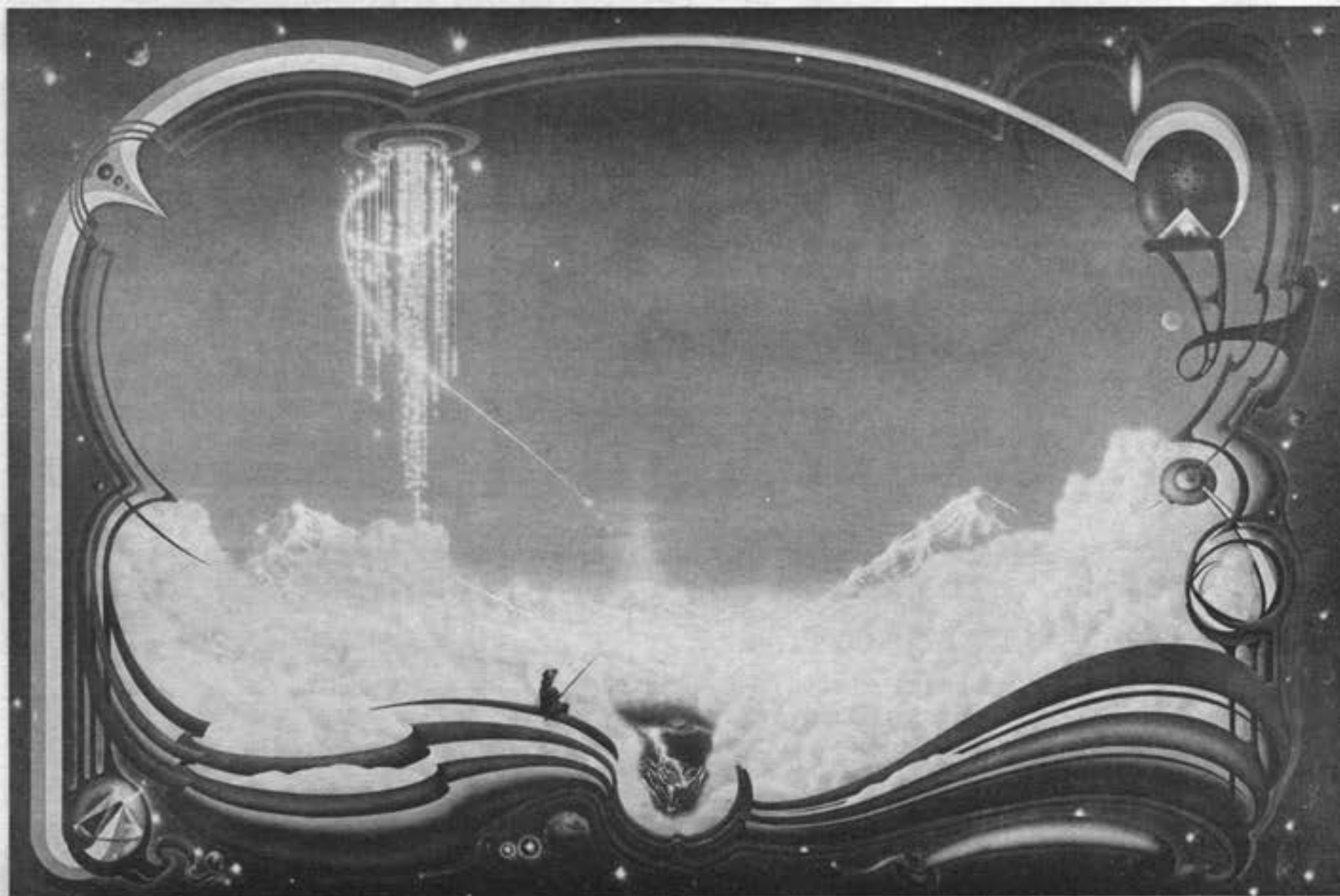
Rick chose his studio because of the constancy of northern light for daytime painting. It is the coolest room in the house and as he paints mostly at night, the quietest time. He begins the preliminary work around noon and by the time daughter Lora is in bed, he begins in earnest. He sets the stage with the fragrance of light incense, bright incandescent and fluorescent lights to achieve true colors and vibrant music such as jazz. "I clear my mind as much as possible before I begin. Pre-visualization muddles the piece and if the work is intellectualized it is not spontaneous." Rick paints in a self-designed waking state of meditation that he believes helps him to do the work that is spiritually inspired. He feels it goes beyond his imagination, and is a part of his process of growth and learning. "Art is not just for self-expression," Rick explained, "but is there to give insight to the viewer into himself, his place in the universe and into the order of all things. An exchange of energies is very critical for growth with all beings; it helps us to evolve spiritually. If you were to stare constantly at the same part of the mirror, that is all you would ever see. If you touch new people and information, that opens the world to you. I touch people with my art."

"Each painting and what I learn from it opens more doors that show the direction I should take. It seems a never-ending quest and is very fulfilling."

Hick does shows all over the country, but prefers the Midwest at this time, especially Chicago, to exhibit his art. He occasionally does shows in New York which are well received. Albany, New York, is where he met his wife, Debra, who is a talented, creative person in her own right. She prefers basketry and textiles at this time, and someday soon Rick hopes she will exhibit her work with his.

He did a magnificent series of mythical places that were reproduced on a set of collector plates. The plates are bright and glow with a certain mystical charm. He has a limited number of them for sale, as well as originals on plexiglas and copies of his more popular works. An F. F. Long original can run as high as \$8,500, or an excellent copy can be had for as little as \$25, and there are many variations in-between.

Rick Long is a special person — an artist who feels the very essence of the work itself and who uses the colors and vibrations of universal spirituality and love to create one-of-a-kind works of art. He is still growing and learning, and has realized the potential for edification, both for himself and others, and used it to reflect those deep, glowing places of light and memory that lie at the very soul of all of us. To possess one of his works is to capture the nature of precious stones: that clear, luminescence that grows from within. "I attempt to take the viewer to the foundations of reality — to transcend normal space and time and offer a window to the tremendous." Rick Long's art is, by nature, a precious thing that speaks volumes through color and imagery, and comes from the very heart of the artist.





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COUNTRY COOKIN'

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SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

- 1 large can sweet potatoes, mashed
- ¼ stick margarine
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- Dash of cinnamon to taste
- 1 cup milk
- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch

Dissolve cornstarch in a little cold milk, then mix all the remaining ingredients into cornstarch and pour into a casserole. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes in a 400-degree oven.

TOPPING

- 1 cup crushed corn flakes
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup coconut
- ½ cup crushed nuts

Mix over low heat until sugar dissolves. Spread over sweet potato mixture and return to oven. Bake 15 to 20 minutes longer.

APPLESAUCE PORK CHOPS

- 5 pork chops
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 6 lemon slices
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1½ cups applesauce
- 1¼ teaspoons cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg

Brown chops after trimming excess fat. Put in baking dish. Add salt, seasoned applesauce and lemon. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes covered. Uncover and bake for 10 more minutes.

TROPICAL PORK CHOPS

- 1 can sliced pineapple
- Pork chops
- Sweet potatoes
- Brown sugar

Place pineapple slices in pan. Slice sweet potatoes and place on top of the pineapple with a teaspoon of brown sugar on each. Place seasoned pork chops on top, and a strip of bacon on chops.

Cook in covered dish in 350-degree oven until tender. Remove cover cook 10 minutes more until meat is browned.

STUFFED PORK CHOPS

- 4 double rib pork chops
- ½ cup whole kernel corn
- ½ cup soft bread crumbs
- 3 tablespoons chopped onion
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ½ to ¾ teaspoons sage
- ½ cup hot water

Have butcher cut a pocket in each chop. Combine corn, crumbs, finely chopped onion, salt and sage. Mix well and fill pockets in chops with mixture. Fasten with toothpicks at fat side of chop to close pockets. (Slant toothpicks so chops will rest on bottom of pan and will brown nicely).

Brown stuffed chops in a little oil until nicely browned. Sprinkle with a little more sage. Add hot water, cover pan and simmer for 40 minutes, or until tender. Remove picks before serving. Serves 4.

TUNNEL OF FUDGE CAKE

- 1½ cups butter or margarine
- 1½ cups sugar
- 3½ cups or 1 package creamy Double Dutch frosting mix
- 2 cups chopped walnuts
- 6 eggs
- 2 cups flour

Cream butter in large mixer bowl at high speed. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually add sugar, continue beating at high speed until light and fluffy. By hand, stir in flour, frosting mix and walnuts until well blended. Pour batter into well greased and floured Bundt pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 60 to 65 minutes. Cool 2 hours before removing from pan. Cool completely before serving. Needs no frosting.

NEVER FAIL CHEESE CAKE

- 1 package Lemon Jell-O
- 1¼ cups hot water
- 1 large can evaporated milk (chilled)
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

CRUST

Make crust first and set to cool. 2 packages Graham crackers or vanilla wafers may be used.

- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1½ sticks melted butter

Method for Filling:

Mix Lemon Jell-O with 1¼ cups hot water, and set aside to cool and slightly thicken. Cream sugar and cream cheese together. Whip evaporated milk and add vanilla. Mix all ingredients together and pour into crust. Set in refrigerator over night for best results.

Crust Method:

Crumble the cracker, and mix together with the sugar and melted butter. Pat into a 9x13-inch pan.

Cherry pie filling may be used as a topping when cake is served.

STUFFED TOMATOES

- 6 ripe tomatoes
- 1 cup minced ham, chicken or beef
- ½ cup diced celery
- 1 teaspoon chopped onion
- ½ cup bread crumbs
- ½ cup tomatoes or thick cream
- 1 teaspoon salt

Scoop out inside of tomatoes. Combine other ingredients; fill tomato shells with mixture and bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees) 45 minutes.



How To Get A Groundhog To Your Home or Office

The Groundhog is the official publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association. It is provided by them as a service to the community at large. Dues are ten dollars per year which will insure the arrival of the Groundhog to your doorstep, come rain or shine. For your very own copies send ten dollars to: MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

* MAPA MEMBERS *

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Baseball

By John Baty

In the early days of this century, baseball was a sport that the residents of Mentone took seriously. Almost every community had a diamond and put on games. Then, as now, players came from a wide area of Lookout Mountain and this required considerable travel for the players.

On one particular Saturday a game was scheduled at Head River and one hardy participant lived at New Union. He arose early and carrying his bat, walked to Head River. There he found that the game had been moved to Valley Head and he was running late. With bat on shoulder he jogged from Head River to Valley Head taking the short cuts. As he ran onto the field they told him it was his time at bat. With hardly a pause to catch his breath, he walked to the plate and hit a homer.

Toward the end of the game the score stood tied at 2 and 2. A much feared slugger called "Big Nig" from Fort Payne was at bat, and men were on first and second. The local catcher walked to the mound where a long conference ensued. Finally a decision was reached and the umpire called for a pitch. Three balls followed — slow, outside. All were exactly alike.

The rules may have been more vague then or lacked teeth in enforcement, but when the last ball came, exactly as before, Big Nig took a half-step across the plate and drove the ball completely out of sight. The last anyone remembered seeing of it was when it cleared the big sycamore just left of center field.

The runs were permitted and thus ended the game 5-2. Some said they never found the ball, while others claimed to have found it and it had not a trace of a cover on it.

The account of this game has had many tellings down through several generations, and as I told it is how I heard it happened around Mentone.



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COUNTRY JOURNAL

By Bernise Crow

Sunshine and shadows — light and dark — it takes some of both to make a life. Like the poem about the weaving of a beautiful tapestry, there must be some dark threads to make the bright ones shine even more. None of us want the dark times when we are heavy in heart and depressed in spirit, but they do come and we are made better because of having survived these trying times. We appreciate simple every day pleasures, after having survived the pain of surgery. The sun seems brighter, the green of the trees fresher, the song of the bird sweeter. Food never tasted so good as it does after we have been deprived of it for a few days.

Thank God for the rain we have had recently. Our trees, shrubs, gardens and animals were suffering for lack of moisture. Now, miraculously the grass is greener, the trees look waxed and polished with the dust washed from them. It's as if nature did some housecleaning and fluffed up the pillows, dusted the furnishings, and gave a fresh breath of cool air to everyone.

Blackberries are surprisingly plentiful and good in most places. Jelly-making fills my early mornings, and what pride I feel when the nice jars are wiped clean and placed on the shelves of the pantry. It's a good feeling to have them to share with children, grandchildren and friends. Any good thing is better when shared. Now we also have fun picking ripe tomatoes — beautiful, luscious, sweet tomatoes, especially tasty after eating shipped ones with no flavor. The granddaughters, Lisa and Jennifer Crow, enjoy eating ham sandwiches with fresh tomatoes and lettuce.

Our blueberries are not quite as full as usual, but they are good with a bowl of cereal in the mornings. I hope to make some jam also. Plums are ripe, apple trees are

laden, and the grapes are so heavy on the vines, the wire holding them is sagging. Jennifer and Lisa said "Uh-oh, you know what we will be doing in about two weeks." We encouraged them to pick them last year and they said it was a hot job. But they like the good grape butter grandmother makes.

Day camp time at Lookout Mountain Christian Conference Center is a wonderful time for our girls. This is a five-day camp given as a special treat, free of charge, to young people in the Mentone area. They especially love riding horses and swimming in the river. This will be the fourth year Jennifer and Lisa have attended the camp. They say it is the highlight of their summer vacation. They are old enough now to help with the smaller children. A big "thank you" to John and Ann Morrison for providing this wholesome entertainment for our community children.

A very special guest at the Hatching Post last week was a lovely lady from Atlanta, who is a puppeteer. She walked into our shop and threw up both hands and exclaimed, "Ooh, I'm in Heaven!" That made my day. She had a good visit and we hope to have her and her group do a show for us at the October Colorfest.

A bit of local humor: I was talking to T. Lyday recently, and we were discussing the antics of a mutual friend — Dennis Smith. Dennis asked T. one day, "How come you are the ugliest man on the mountain and you married the prettiest girl in the area?" T. replied, "I may be ugly, but I'm not blind!"

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Cherokees Of Northeast Alabama Hold Pow-Wow



Pow-wow literally means "gathering place," and that is just what the beautiful Nockalula Falls Park in Gadsden, Ala., served as over the weekend of July 29, 30 and 31. The Cherokees of Northeast Alabama were the hosts for a gathering of representatives from many tribes who came to visit with friends, plan strategy for the coming year, and to dance the traditional dances of their elders.

There are two basic types of pow-wows — the contest and the benefit. The benefit pow-wow is a fund-raiser for worthy projects and people. The contest pow-wow is held to give Native American dancers the opportunity to compete with one another and to display their skills and regalia.

There is a pow-wow held somewhere every weekend. It takes six months or more to put one together and chief Travis Staggs works year 'round on the one he sponsors. He is the principle chief; Jim Pelt is Chief, Mike Staggs is head man dancer and Mallene Lawless is the head lady dancer for the tribe. Carolyn Rowell is tribal secretary.

Cheyenne, Choctaw, Cherokee, Arapaho and Creek were represented at the Nockalula Pow-Wow, and some traveled many miles to attend the gathering. All regalia is made by the dancers themselves, and can cost thousands of dollars. Each outfit takes about 25 to 40 hours to complete, with the tail bustle alone costing \$150.00. The dance reflects the heritage of the Native American, and at each pow-wow faith in the wisdom of their forefathers is reaffirmed. There is a trend afoot to bring all the tribes together as a cohesive political force in order to bring about changes in the system's attitude and treatment of Native Americans.

The gatherings also give Native Americans the opportunity to display their crafts and to sell them to people who value those examples of the artwork of a culture that founded civilization on this continent.

Marsha Snow is the Senior Princess for 1988-89 and her sister Gwen Snow is the Junior Princess. Marsha will represent Alabama in the Miss Indian world contest in April of next year. This is the only time sisters have ever captured the titles simultaneously.

There are two styles of dance — fancy dancing and traditional dancing. The traditional dance has slow, measured movements and is the original style of Native American dance. It is generally the most respected style and only certain individuals may have the honor of dancing this style. They convey family stories, battles and tribal lore through the movements. Fancy dancing is faster paced with lots of bright colors. Most dancers attend 15 to 20 pow-wows a year and practice several hours a week. The youngest dancer is two, and the oldest is 41.

These pow-wows serve to give Native Americans an opportunity to band together to combat the problems that face their culture — the attempts to assimilate them into a society that has for a long time looked upon them as less than human; (a society that has in its greed, trampled upon one of the world's oldest cultures); the indifference in the face of need; and the denial of a whole race of people to be allowed to live in their traditional ways in harmony and equality with the people whose ancestors stole their land and who now steal their dignity. Their only hope of change and salvation is through strength in unity and through the continued training of the young in the ways of the old.

The beauty and the relevance of the Native American lifestyle will continue to live, and to grow, and because of the efforts of people like Travis Staggs, others will be given the opportunity to right old wrongs and to learn from one of the most sacred and wisest cultures ever to exist.



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Herman Ledbetter Celebrates Birthday

Herman Ledbetter, long-time Mentone resident, turned 90 years of age on April 13 and celebrated it on Sunday before the event. Sharing the momentous occasion were his son, Calvin; daughter-in-law, Orene; granddaughter, Sharon; her husband, Joe Cox; and their children, Joey and Sherry. Also present were granddaughter, Diane; and her husband, Donnie Blansit; and family and friend, Rodney Matthews.

Upon being wished a happy birthday by granddaughter Diane, Mr. Ledbetter replied, "Birthday, My Food!" Ninety years is quite an accomplishment, but I guess it's best not to be reminded!



All Alabama Counties Declared Disaster Areas

In response to a request by Gov. Hunt for aid for drought-stricken farmers, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng Tuesday declared all 67 counties of Alabama as drought disaster areas. The declaration means farmers can apply for low interest loans through the Farmers Home Administration to cover crop losses retroactive to April 1.

"This is indeed a welcome and timely response from Washington," Gov. Hunt said. "The recent rains and the swift action by President Reagan's administration have lifted the spirits of Alabama farmers."

Gov. Hunt declared a drought emergency in Alabama July 1 and wrote a letter to Lyng asking for the disaster declaration. In the letter, Gov. Hunt said the drought has caused "widespread crop damage to corn, cotton, peanuts, soybeans, grain sorghum, hay and pasture crops."

Some estimates are that as much as 50 percent of Alabama's cotton and corn crops will be lost, and significant damage has occurred to other crops.

Gov. Hunt also sent a telegram to President Reagan seeking support for Alabama's call for drought assistance.

The Governor's Drought Task Force is continuing its assessment of crop damage, dropping water levels and other consequences of the drought. Gov. Hunt also has ordered preparation of a statewide water management plan to allow Alabama's considerable water resources to be better used in crisis situations.

"Alabama farmers cannot continue to survive if they lose a crop ever two or three years because of the weather," Gov. Hunt said. "The long-range solution to this problem lies in a comprehensive program of water management that will make sure that our precious water resources are not wasted, and that our people have water to drink and water to raise their crops."



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The View From Cloudland

1954 Five Point School



The little one-room school house is a cornerstone in the foundation of American education, and its decline has been sadly noted by parents and educators alike. One of the best examples of this type of institution was Five Points School in Cloudland, Georgia. I was privileged to attend there, as were many members of North Georgia communities of Cloudland, Summerville and Menlo. All of those with whom I have spoken remember the school with fondness and nostalgia. Ms. Zora Strayhorn, Mentone historian, was a teacher at the school and she, along with the others who chose to serve in the rural often rugged and primitive areas of our country, are to be commended and remembered for their dedication and inspiration.

Zora Strayhorn graciously provided these photographs taken at Five Point School while she served as teacher in the one-room schoolhouse. Mrs. Sammy Cash was also a teacher at the school.



Mrs. Strayhorn with Doris Lorene Maynard.



A group of students cleaning up.



Virginia Jo Johnson and Nadine Maynard Espy.



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