

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 3 - NO. 9 DECEMBER 1985 A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

A Hometown Bank And Its President

For fifty years citizens of Mentone, Valley Head, and Hammondville have enjoyed the convenience of a home town bank. The Citizens Bank has ample reason to celebrate. It is independent, locally owned, and has stayed in one family for the entire half century.

Since 1982 the bank's president has been the mild mannered, competent Guy Jones, son of one of the founders of the bank. "My entire career has been here, for over thirty-nine years," says Mr. Jones. "I'm proud that we haven't been swallowed up by a holding company. I value the relationships with the customers that are possible in a town like ours."

Guy Jones has seen many changes in banking during his tenure. Many larger banks are merging, as well as small ones, that are then owned by the holding companies. "No one knows the future of banking, really," he says. "The cost of living is so high today that it's hard for young people to accumulate money now." Another problem is the vacillation in interest rates.

Naturally computers have made a difference in banking practices. Information from The Citizens Bank is sent each afternoon to a Chattanooga data center and is back by the next morning, ready for business. And there wasn't a need for a drive-in window when the bank first opened its doors in 1935.

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Musical Mountain Christmas, Parade, Songs, Goodies

Mentone's Musical Mountain Christmas begins this Saturday, Dec. 14, at 4:00 p.m. with a parade beginning at the triangle and moving to Old Hotel Square. All citizens are invited to gather at the Post Office parking lot.

According to coordinator Angelo Rosario, the procession will be led by Police Chief Colquitt Jones in the patrol car, followed by representatives of the town council, ministers and their congregations. Also invited are the principal, teachers, students and parents of Moon Lake School.

At the end of the parade will be Santa Claus (Walter Sumner), riding in Dorothy Crow's Mentone Maggie, the unusual vehicle that has brightened so many local events. Everyone is urged to carry a flashlight (modern version of the candle).

As Santa presents gifts to the youngsters, each church group will be given opportunity to sing holiday songs. Music sheets will be distributed for carols that will be led by David Mays. It all ends with Santa leading the singing of "Jingle Bells."

In event of inclement weather, the gathering will be in the dining room of the Mentone Springs Hotel.

"This may be the beginning of something beautiful," says coordinator Rosario. "That an entire town can get together in good fellowship and give praise."

"Our Daily Bread"

For the second consecutive year St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain church is maintaining a food pantry for the community. Canned and dry goods are stacked at the church and there are also funds to help with produce, cheese, milk and meat. According to the Reverend Bob Blackwell, "The food pantry is for these times when the cupboard is bare or when the heat bill has taken all the grocery budget." The food pantry, "Our Daily Bread," is open to all the community. For assistance contact Mr. Blackwell at the church, 634-4476.

The Mayor's Report

In politics and I guess in life in general, it is impossible for everyone to agree on all things. The people of the United States are of many diverse backgrounds, races and ethnic groups. All have their own "special interests." Despite our diversity, our system of government has worked the best. The United States is still the leader of the free world, and the land of opportunity.

It is my hope that in Mentone, we can disagree on the issues, but remain friends and neighbors. Among the great messages of Christmas is "Peace on earth, good will toward men." From our family to yours, a sincere "Merry Christmas!" — Rob Hammond

Fire Department Seeks Additional Volunteers

The Mentone-area Fire Department is currently looking for volunteers. Anyone interested should call Marshall Pruitt, the acting fire chief, at 634-4274. If enough volunteers are recruited, the Mentone fire department will participate in an upcoming fire training program.

The finishing touches are being put on the new addition to the Fire Hall. With its completion, a new truck will be parked inside.



The Valley Head Promenaders Community Center nears completion. Mentone's Ovie Blalock, coordinator, thinks it will be ready shortly after the first of the year. The bad weather has not deterred the interior work — which is all done now but the ceiling. This includes completed wiring, plumbing, floors, doors and windows. Eventually an entrance room will be added to the front. Work is being done by volunteers, from funds for materials raised by the cloggers.

Cloudmont Ski Resort Begins New Season



THE AWESOME MACHINE

When Mentone temperatures descended to around 10 above the first week in December, Gary Jones of Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort turned on his snow machines and began making snow that he considers "better than real."

It was all in preparation for what Gary thinks will be the best of all seasons. One reason is that two new Highland snow machines have been installed and tested. Larger pumps are in place and 120 additional pairs of ski boots, skis, and poles have been purchased.

Cloudmont has two 1,000 foot slopes and two pony trails. Night skiing is facilitated because of floodlights. Six chalets and various other accommodations are available in the area for the skiers who come in from throughout the southeast to Alabama's only ski resort and the southernmost in the nation.

Last year 80 days of skiing were made available.



GARY JONES, MANAGER

5,000 skiers were accommodated, with approximately 20,000 spectators.

Operation of the Cloudmont Resort remains principally a Jones family staffing. Gary Jones is manager and coordinates snow-making, assisted in operating the machines by Chester Crider and Joe Adkins. Gary's new wife Cindy handles rentals of skis and other equipment.

Olive Jones is secretary and general coordinator; Nancy Jones, public relations and ticket office; Marsha Jones Hair, Stephanie Hunt, and Angela Jones, assisted by Freida Smith, handle the Cloudroom, chalet, and equipment rentals. Ski instructors are Doug Hair and Bo Clark.

The operation began in 1970 and has steadily expanded. Astrofurf skiing is available in summer. Personalized instruction is given to all ages. The big skiing weekends at Cloudmont represent brisk business volume during what

January Meeting Mentone Area Preservation Association

The Speaker

**Earl Simpson, DeSoto State Park
Manager**

Program arranged by Doyal Benefield

Presiding: Amelia Kirk-Brooks, Director

Refreshments follow — Everyone Welcome

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

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 1986 7:00 p.m.

Brow Briefs

Congratulations to the Moon Lake School lunchroom. Its November rating by the DeKalb Health Department was 98 — the highest in the county.

The name of Gail Worthey should be added to local persons with recipes in *The Fort Payne Times-Journal* Christmas collection.

Mayor Rob Hammond of Camp DeSoto attended the meeting of the National Conference of Christian Camps in Washington, D. C., the weekend of Nov. 30. Purely of coincidence, among the first persons he saw were Glenn Miller of Camp Ponderoso and Dick O'Ferrall of Alpine Camp.

Shala Barron should be proud indeed of being chosen "Best All-round" in the Who's Who of the Senior Class at Fort Payne High.

The Gourdis, those local creations of Shala's mother Sharon, continue in the limelight. Recently they were featured in an article in *The Chattanooga News-Free Press*. When Chattanooga's Channel 3 television crew came to do a story on the Gourdis, they also took a beautiful shot from Brow Park which was shown on the evening weather report.

Scott Tate, Jon Bain, and Jeff Bain are going great guns on the Valley Head basketball team.

The Reverend Drew Wolcott, minister of Pleasant View United Methodist Church and well-known for his dramatic readings, is portraying "The Reluctant Shepherd," Sunday, Dec. 18 at 7:00 p.m. at Walker's Chapel Methodist Church.

American Entertainment, of Mentone, will be hosting a creative writing contest from Dec. 10-Jan. 7. For details call Greg Purvis at 634-4518.

Town Council Meeting To Decide Cable-TV

There will be a special meeting of the town council on Monday, Dec. 16, to decide between the two cable TV proposals put before the council. Bill Kidder, of Cable TV, met with the council at its regular meeting on Dec. 3.

Mr. Kidder's company would serve only the immediate section of Mentone, from the water tanks to Libby's Meadowbrook Farm, and from the bridge to the edge of the mountain. His service would charge a basic fee of \$11 a month and offer twelve stations with three networks.

At the November council meeting Boyce Dooley of Clear-Vu Cable TV Company proposed a similar coverage but perhaps taking in more of the town's area.

Councilmen voted unanimously to appoint Steve Noles as town judge for a two year term. Mr. Noles is a graduate of Harvard and of Cumberland Law School. Court meets at Mentone on the third Monday of each month if cases warrant its being held.

Since the projected cost of the proposed neighborhood facility building has increased to \$200,000, councilmen voted an additional \$5,000 as the town's share of the project, making a total of \$20,000 to be given in cash or land. Letters from various organizations in town stating their possible use of the building are being addressed to Mayor Rob Hammond this week. The application is to be filed this month.

Further action taken by the council included voting to put chert on the road leading to the old dump site and to sell the old bottled water tank on the river to George Powell. — JDM

For The Needy

Remember!

If your circumstances are unfavorable, remember there are those in Mentone who care.

Canned goods are available at the United Methodist Church, gifts of members of the Rhododendron Garden Club. Members brought the canned goods to the December meeting. Linda Brown of the United Methodist Church is coordinating distribution (634-4755).

The "Our Daily Bread" pantry at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain church has available canned and dry goods, with funds to help with produce, cheese, milk and meat. Contact the Reverend Bob Blackwell (634-4478).

MAPA Minutes

The MAPA meeting was held at Cragmere Manna and was preceded by a Christmas dinner.

A letter requesting a tax number for MAPA has been sent to Montgomery. Angelo Rosario reported on the Musical Mountain Christmas plans. Motions were made and unanimously passed to give Angelo money for his expenses and to donate \$200 to the proposed new library at Moon Lake School.

The Jan. 7, 1986 meeting will be at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain church parlor at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be Earl Simpson (Manager) of DeSoto State Park. The meeting will be arranged by Doyal Benefield.

Adjournment was made by Director Brooks at 8:05 p.m. Group singing followed, led by Tony Goggans.

— Digested from the minutes of Bill Riedesel, secretary

Groundhog Finance Report

Income	
Balance on hand	\$847.81
Ad sales	485.00
Bookkeeping error	30.00
	\$1,362.81

Debits	
Greg Purvis, reporting	\$15.00
McGehees, expenses, editing	100.00
Donna Bukley, sales & delivery	102.75
Angelo Rosario, photos	20.00
U. S. Post Office	71.20
The Summerville News	403.59
	\$712.54

Balance on hand \$650.27

The Christmas Tree

Since Christmas is coming quickly (too quickly for most of us), the father of your family will probably venture out sooner or later and boldly chop down a huge evergreen tree with his trusty ax, dragging it through deep drifts of snow to set it with pride in a living room of Mentone. Or perhaps he'll just get in the truck and go buy one in Valley Head or Fort Payne. Or maybe you have a reusable plastic tree that you drag out every year. One way or another, most folks manage to get a Christmas tree sometime during the holiday season.

You might be wondering just how the practice of cutting and decorating Christmas trees got started. Actually it all started in England when Saint Boniface found a group of Celts making pagan sacrifices to an oak. Saint Boniface told the Celts that no more should they worship trees as gods, and that this fir tree was their new holy tree: a miracle from Christ. Thus Saint Boniface converted the Celts. Decorating the tree was a German tradition, stemming back to Martin Luther, who broke away from the Catholic Church and laid the foundation for Methodists and Baptists and decorated a huge fir tree in remembrance of Jesus.

All the history aside, let me warn you that before you start out to cut a tree, be sure that you have permission to cut if the tree is not on your property — and PLEASE remember not to get your tree close to a fire; it is very flammable. Have a very merry Christmas season! — Gregory P. Purvis

Rhododendron Garden Club

The Rhododendron Garden Club voted to give \$100 to the Moon Lake School Library at its November meeting held at the home of Virginia Bosworth. Co-hostesses were Theresa Bosworth and Frances Rosario.

Grace Howard gave the devotional to twenty-three members. President Beverly Hoyt announced and displayed a Club of Distinction Award and life memberships in the state organization to past presidents Linda Brown and Bobbie Hilderbrand.

The March meeting will be held at the new Fort Payne Library. Members are to bring canned goods and staples to the Christmas meeting at 10 o'clock at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. A covered dish luncheon will follow at noon.

Jean McGehee presented a program on the history of Thanksgiving, reading a description of the first celebration and one as it might have happened in Mentone in 1885.

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 (\$5) for voting membership for one through June 1986.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

The Groundhog

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

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

Tourist Association President



David Marion of Rainsville, publisher of *The Sand Mountain News*, is new president of the DeKalb County Tourist Association. Other officers for 1986 are Ron Ogletree, vice-president; Cathy Crow, treasurer; and Crystal McDow, secretary. From Mentone Amelia Brooks and Olive or Jack Jones of Mentone are members-at-large, along with Eddie Harrington. Mentone is represented on the Board of Directors by Dick O'Ferrall and Donna Bukley, who serve along with Charles Cook, Rita Adrian, Gaynelle Pitts, Pete Little, Ken Pennington, Tom Crowe, Dennis Weaver, Royce Stone, Henry Stringer, Billy McDow, Willie B. White, Marjorie Ferguson, Dianne Connell, William Crow, John Berry and Bill Ables.

President Marion is shown above at the open house of the Association Thursday, Dec. 5, during the Fort Payne Christmas parade.

Valley Head Woman's Club

The Valley Head Woman's Club is sponsoring a Christmas Concert to be given at Moon Lake Baptist Church on Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 2 o'clock, featuring the Northeast State Junior College Choir. Everyone is invited; a reception will follow.

The club held its regular monthly meeting at the home of Miss Peggy Tutwiler on Nov. 20. Co-hostesses were Mrs. Herbert Ephgraves, Mrs. Marshall W. Jackson, and Mrs. Jack Osterlund.

Mrs. Edwin Tuttle, program chairman, introduced Robert J. Sudderth, who spoke on "God's Country." Lookout Mountain from Chattanooga to Gadsden. He told about the mountain's streams, wild flowers, caves, waterfalls, Indian artifacts, and beauty.

A Christmas Gift

Can you think of a better Christmas present? A membership in the Mentone Area Preservation Association!

It indicates dedication to the preservation of the invaluable heritage of Mentone.

It provides monthly mailings of *The Groundhog*, especially appreciated by out-of-town lovers of this town.

Because all memberships expire June 30, 1986, half-year memberships are available for \$5.00. Send check to Mentone Area Preservation Association, Box 50, Mentone, Alabama (35984).

Each person receiving this gift receives a card of notification with the donor's name included.

Mountain Watch

By Charles White McGehee

I am a godfather.

A combination of the changing tones of religion and the Mafia connotation have somewhat diminished the honor and luster the role of godfather once possessed. Yet I have reason to consider the title and responsibility somewhat more than a trivial pursuit.

On a Sunday in 1947 I stood before the altar of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Birmingham and assumed a vow of sponsorship and responsibility for the spiritual guidance of James David Walbert, Jr. David cried vehemently during the christening ceremony which caused his father to say afterward: "Charlie, your work is cut out for you. He seems to have a resistance to religion."

My godson's father is a prominent pianist in Birmingham. He and his wife Eileen, who met and married while she was a fur model in New York, were with us in our wedding in Mentone. We either visit them in Birmingham or they come here every few weeks. We have a rare compatibility in such important matters as music, food, and social justice.

What about David, my godchild?

Aside from his crying at the christening, I remember also that as a toddler he had a rare style of adroitly climbing backward down the stairs, like a crawfish. Like his father he pursued music, concentrating on the guitar.

One summer when a teenager, he and his sister Pam joined Jean and me and our sons for a long vacation in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. At that time David was perfecting his skills with a near-constant playing of "Malaguena." Pam is now married to Tony Montenegro, the well-known mime artist, and is a dedicated participant in the peace movement.

David became a versatile guitarist. From playing a concerto with a symphony orchestra in Mississippi and making a classical recording, he has played with a sophisticated popular group in New York and established himself as a teacher in Birmingham. Now father of a teenage daughter and a small son, he is married to Margot, a gorgeous German, whom he met on a visit to Europe.

In 1976 David and Margot were living temporarily in a small coastal town in Spain. While he was diligently practicing his guitar, Margot wandered about the village, making the acquaintance of Chris Haney and Scott Abbott. These two Canadian newspapermen were developing a new game.

"You've got to meet these fellows," Margot told her husband. Reluctantly he agreed to a get-together. The result? David won the very first game of *Trivial Pursuit* ever played. The lines were marked out on a piece of cardboard. The movable objects were sugar cubes. The questions were read from a notebook.

Seeking investors to finance this new project, the Canadians were offering packages of five shares for \$1,000. David made a down payment, but because of a shortage of funds upon his return to the United States, he did not complete the transaction.

This modest investment on the part of my godson would have been easily a million dollars.

The story does not end there.

Haney and Scott had found David possessed of an uncanny talent for phrasing the questions. There must be humor, and they must begin with such words as *who, what, where, which, how much or how many*. He is now part of the team, proving invaluable on the new game based on music, and on the Disney game soon to be released.

The younger Walberts now live on Longboat Key, near Sarasota, Florida. He makes extended trips on behalf of *Trivial Pursuit* to Canada and California. He is constantly in search of materials for new questions in the various categories.

While conducting an interview for *The Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, David Grimes explored their feelings about not parlaying a mere \$1,000 to a million. Margot said, "We don't like to think about it."

Where does David Walbert's godfather fit into this? On a recent visit with them in Birmingham, the godfather carefully refrained from spiritual advice. This was no time for homilies about materialism, treasures of the spirit, or "What if?" Nor did I conduct a catechism of religious pieties. David seems to be doing quite well, thank you. His pursuits are by no means confined to the trivialities.

Chapman Is Finalist



Rick Chapman, an honor student with the Home Study Council of the Gemological Institute in Santa Monica, has won a trip to Washington, D. C., in February. His status as a top finalist will make Rick and Betty guests at a Congressional reception. Congratulations!

Valley Head High News

The Honor Roll for the second six weeks' grading period at Valley Head High School is 12th Grade, Bonnie Blalock, Karen Prestwood (all A's); Shelly Blalock, Susanne Crabtree, Kim Langston, Stacey Smith, Lisa Strickland (all A's and B's). 11th Grade, Lisa Huskey, Joy Bain, Steve Campbell, Timi Johnson, Scott Tate (all A's and B's). 10th Grade, Lea Smith (all A's); Brevin Brown, Frankie Hall, Karen Bain, Leslie Bell, Holly Day (all A's and B's). 9th Grade, Laura Harrison, Jennifer Prestwood (all A's); Jennifer Sutton (all A's and B's). 8th Grade, Holly Brown (all A's); Angie Bell, Andrea Kirby (all A's and B's). 7th Grade, Krissy Worthey, Charles Pullen, Paul Blalock (all A's and B's).

The new members of the Junior Beta Club from Mentone are Holly Brown, Shannon Hurt, and Andrea Kirby.

Valley Head High School plans a band concert Friday, Dec. 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. There will be a P.T.A. meeting Monday, Dec. 9, at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium. The Kindergarten will present a program during this meeting.

Mr. L. A. Smith and a group of FFA members recently returned from national competition in Kansas City. The FFA will be selling poinsettias in the greenhouse soon.

Semester tests are scheduled for Dec. 19 and 20. The Christmas holidays are scheduled for Dec. 20-Jan. 7. Congratulations to the Honor Roll Students and the new members of the Junior Beta Club and happy holidays from Valley Head High School.

Little River Concern Caused By Mistake

Several days of extreme concern that prevailed in Mentone in mid-November were alleviated when announcement was made that the classification of the water in the West Fork of Little River would be changed by the Water Division of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

Following many inquiries and complaints, James McIndoe said that the proposal, which had been made public in a legal advertisement, was a mistake. Camps Ponderosa and Alpine derive their source of water from the river. Their purification plants would have been no longer feasible. The town of Mentone has not used water from the river for about ten years.

Rescue Squad Elects Officers

On Monday, Dec. 2, the DeSoto Rescue Squad met at Furgerson's Restaurant for its December meeting and a Christmas party. After dinner, compliments of Helena Furgerson, an election of the 1986 officers was held. The new positions are Captain, Pleas Cox; 1st Lieutenant, Bobby Brown; 2nd Lieutenant, Don Yates; Sergeant, Barbara Blalock; Secretary-Treasurer, Linda Brown; and Chaplain, Frank Purvis. The next meeting will be held on Jan. 6, 1986, with the new officers presiding.

Christmas At Cragsmere



Festive, bright, and musical was the third annual Christmas dinner of the Mentone Area Preservation Association on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at Cragsmere Manna Restaurant, site of its organization in 1982. Over 40 natives and newcomers of all ages enjoyed Country Gourmet Chef Randy Still's food, songs and group singing led by Tony Goggans, and fellowship befitting the season. In a brief business meeting presided over by Director Amelia Kirk-Brooks, MAPA voted



Perfect Attendance

Moon Lake students having perfect attendance for three months are Kindergarten, Grace Godbois, teacher: Krissy Brown, Teri Campbell, Ryan Drake, Starla Crowe, Brad Hale, Haley Hilliard, and Jennifer Smith.

First and second grades, Brenda Bobo, teacher: Emily Rutledge, Brian Blalock, Amy Crane, Ginger Gray, Cassidy Huggins, Heather Jackson, Renee Pruitt, Brian Smith, Nikki Smith, Brandon Taylor, Chris O. Smith, and Kerry Blalock.

Second and third grades, William Berry, teacher: Jonathan Baggett, Crystal Bettis, Timmy Brown, Shirley Collins, Nichole Cash, Lyndall Elkins, Holly Gardner, Josh Godbois, Jennifer Hale, Cheri Keith, Eric King, Joseph Lee, Flynt Purvis, Chris Smith and Cyle Springman.

Fourth and fifth grades, Joyce Smith, teacher: Heath Blalock, Heather Blansit, Bridgett Blalock, Duane Blalock, Sally Sharp, Junior Smith, Greg Wheat, Michael Flannigan, Kip Taylor, Carla King, Whitney Smith, Kelly Johnson and Stacie Worthey.

Fifth and sixth grades, Charles Bell, teacher: Shannon Blalock, Sam Whatley, Clay Green, Ivy Godbois, Allison Kirby, Laura Schoen, Spring Wimberly, Tiffany Coots, DeWayne Cash, Clark Smith, and Chris Stallings.

Students having perfect attendance for two months are Rene Brendle, Scotty Langston, Robby Collins, Cayla Bell, Lisa Drake, Josh Goss, Trevor Strickland, Terry Durham, Jason Goss, Nicky Langston, Melissa Worthey, Joe Combs, Shaun Wheat, April Langston, Marian Crane, Nathan Baggett, Shane Ingram, Jeremy Webb, and Jennifer Furgerson.

Those having perfect attendance for one month are Corey Ingram, Nathan Keith, Curt Miller, Lee Worthey, Adam Hilliard, Matthew Kilgore, Leah Sharp, Toby Manifold and Wendy Manifold.

4-H Girls Club

The Mentone 4-H Girls Club, at their last meeting, held competitions among themselves for creative safety posters and canned foods. They also participated in Thanksgiving crafts, and an upcoming project has been planned involving recycled items. The 4-Hers will also participate in Fairgrounds in Fort Payne. The 4-H club will not meet in the month of December, the next meeting being scheduled for Jan. 27, 1986.



unanimously to donate \$200 to the Moon Lake School Library. Shown above enjoying the festivities are top left, Mr. and Mrs. Doyal Benefield and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Riedesel. Lower left, Grace Howard and Maggie Cordell with Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Cash. Top right are Mr. and Mrs. Bob Daniel, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Disney, Mabel Kirk, and Mary Weigand. Lower right is the singing quintet composed of Randy Still, Tony Goggans, Bernise Crow, Dorothy Crow, and Jean Elrod.

Moon Lake School News

Calendar

Dec. 20 — Last day of school before holidays.
Jan. 6 — Teacher work day.
Jan. 7 — School resumes.
Jan. 14 — PTA executive meeting.

\$8,000 At Harvest

The annual Harvest Festival, held on Nov. 16, raised \$8,000. This money, collected from raffles, donations, and the food sales, will go toward the purchase of a gymnasium which Moon Lake School is planning to build.

Honor Roll

GROUNDHOG Advertisers in 1985:

We appreciate and salute them!

Without our advertisers THE GROUNDHOG could not continue. We urge our readers not only to patronize these progressive businesses, but to express appreciation to them for their community spirit.

Each month 3,000 GROUNDHOGS are printed. One is placed in each mailbox in Mentone (650 copies). Others are made available at area businesses, the Welcome Center, Alabama Fan Club, and other prominent places. Mailings go to 142 out-of-town MAPA members.

A GROUNDHOG ad is a month-long message. To place one, simply phone Donna Buckley, advertising manager, at 634-4678.

EVERY MONTH: Crow's Nest Antiques
The Citizen's Bank
Valley Head Hardware.

ELEVEN MONTHS: Brown's Cleaners
Batu Lumber Company

TEN MONTHS: Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort
The Mentone Inn.

NINE MONTHS: The White Elephant.

EIGHT MONTHS: DeSoto State Park Restaurant
Mountain View Real Estate and
Gourdies.

SEVEN MONTHS: Downer's
Cragsmere Manna Restaurant
Log Cabin Deli
The Lookout Restaurant
Stateline Country Store

REGULARLY EVERY OTHER MONTH: Cooper's Appliance, Morgan Drugs, Burt-Whitmire.

SIX MONTHS: Moe's Place, Mentone Hardware, Rocky Hill Dairy, Triangle Grocery, Nippersink.

FIVE MONTHS: Whatley's, Lookout Mountain Nursery, Lookout Mountain Properties, Tiger's Inn, Ruby's Variety.

FOUR MONTHS: Rock Castle Cafe, Cloudland Nursery, Purvis Construction Company, Furgerson's.

THREE MONTHS: Jim's Chevron, Fort Payne Mini-Storage, Edward D. Jones & Company.

TWO MONTHS: The Central Bank, Majestic TV Rentals, Mentone Superette, True Value Hardware, Westmoreland Tire Company.

ONE MONTH: Rickett's Arts & Crafts, Marjorie's, McGee's Texaco, Western Sizzlin, DeKalb Wholesale, Alabama Concrete Company, Sequoyah Caverns, Mountain Memories, Curtis Stricklin, Ken Pennington Prints, Prestwood Plumbing and Electricity, Art Harris Real Estate, Kean Photography, Builders Supply, Taco Quick, Kidder's Cable TV, Taylor's Trade Center, Empire Gas Company, Camp Ponderosa, Alpine Camp, Camp DeSoto, Saddle Rock Camp for Girls, Skyline Ranch Camp, Sysco Rome.

The Lookout

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

A Year In Review — Mentone In 1985

Improved water lines, new fire hydrants, flooding, and pot holes were principal news items during 1985 in Mentone. The plans for repairing and placing new water mains were announced in the January **Groundhog**.

Also in January, the Valley Head High School football team, with Mentone players Scott Tate, Joe Bain, Jeff Bain, Jeff Harrison, Jim Tate, Stacy Smith and Steve Campbell was featured after they won the state I-A championship.

The big news in February was the Feb. 11 snow. MAPA was three years old, and town employee Leroy Snider was praised for his outstanding work during the extremely cold weather in January.

There was reassuring news in March when plans to build a hydroelectric plant at DeSoto Falls were withdrawn because of concerted opposition from Mentone citizens. At the same time, an increase in water rates was announced. Charles McGee's death saddened citizens because of his involvement in the community.

Another fear arose in April, that our post office was on a list of those the Grace Commission in Congress suggested be closed to save monies and to decrease the national debt. Once again, Mentone residents wrote their representatives and senators, who were all opposed to the closing. All promised to vote against it when the proposal reached the floors of Congress. An untimely death affecting all of Mentone was that of Eddie Worthey, who had served as police chief for a time before his fatal illness.

In May citizens were appalled when 951 loads of chert were hauled to Sand Mountain by the National Guard to repair roads there, despite that most of the protests had come from Mentone. Some of the pot holes had grown to pond size.

The Lookout Mountain Parkway was proposed in June. This was to use existing roads along the entire length of

the mountain. A new roof was built by the Crafts Festival over the square dancing-shuffleboard slab at Brow Park.

The seven new fire hydrants were installed by July, and Bill Russell was chosen by councilmen to replace Stanley Brown.

Because of the second flood of the year, and since Lookout Mountain roads were being neglected, August saw the beginning of a movement to urge legislators to create a new county district. This would give equal attention to roads needing repair in each district. In August, also, there was groundbreaking for the new square dance building at the foot of the mountain in Valley Head.

September saw the first publication of town and water works budgets, which is recommended procedure for small towns as well as large cities.

In October a proposed neighborhood center grant was announced. Mayor Rob Hammond and Senator Lowell Barron believe this to be a feasible, possible, grant to Mentone.

Principal news in November and December is the possibility of cable TV coming to Mentone. Fire Chief Sammy Cash resigned after all debts had been paid off on the building and equipment.

The festivals during the year were especially well attended and exciting. Ann Cash was Rhododendron Queen, the Crafts Festival was larger and with quality exhibits, the October Colorfest was better than ever, and the entire town is expected to participate in the Musical Mountain Christmas parade and singing Dec. 14.

Groundhog covers are people or places chosen for their impact on the area. In 1985 these were Bobby Lee Cook, Bruce Bon Fleur, Bob Daniel, Kathryn Jones, Jimmy Berry, Bill Badham, ALABAMA Band, Lee Davenport, Dr. Quimby, Joyce Smith, Jim Carmichael and Guy Jones. Business news also dominated 1985. Ellis Clark open-

ed a hardware store in the Town Hall building. The Mentone Inn won a place on the Alabama Registry of Historical Places. Its owner-manager Amelia Kirk-Brooks appeared on the nationally televised **Wheel of Fortune** show.

Clydel's and Blackburn's Superette sported new roofs. Furgerson's built a large restaurant onto its grocery and along with Whatley's has installed a canopy over its gas pumps.

Cloudmont boomed with the cold weather skiing, and Jack Jones opened a real estate office on the corner across from the Hitching Post. Sharon Barron's Gourdiess continued to receive national recognition and orders from stores like J. C. Penney. Betty Harris opened a shop in The Hitching Post.

Alvis Prestwood and David Battles announced the beginning of their plumbing and electrical company in Mentone. Mr. and Mrs. James Young purchased the C and H Lumber Company and renamed it the Valley Head Hardware Company. Terry Day, of Menio, opened his State Line Country Store.

Ruby Stalvey moved her business to Valley Head, near the football field. Collette Forester opened her Mountain Memories shop.

Nippersink celebrated its 40th year in operation, and the area camps were praised for setting standards for the rest of the state camps. Doyal Benefield was honored by having the new Interpretive Center named for him at DeSoto State Park.

Cragmere Manna was cited as one of 210 best restaurants in **Eating Out in Alabama**. Owner-chef Randy Still has enlarged his Barn Room to seat 45.

And finally, the FCC gave its approval for the opening of a 5,000 watt radio station in Valley Head, managed by Tom Crowe, with his partner Jeff Cook.

Earth Alliance At Cloudmont



Above is shown an authentic tipi (teepee) with exact dimensions of originals. On racks are deerhide drums, drying.



A seminar in progress being conducted by the Iroquois initiate Amylee. Seminars were on such subjects as air, earth, woods and water. Photos by Angelo Rosario.

The weekend of December 6-8 at Cloudmont Ski Resort in Mentone was an enlightening and festive three days. A group of "Native Americans" composing an organization called SEA, Inc. (Southeast Earth Alliance), held seminars and true-to-life Indian ceremonies at the Ski Resort and Saddle Rock Camp for Girls.

During this weekend, over 200 people from over 15

states and Canada traveled to Mentone to hear such experts in Indian folklore and history as Mary Thunder Grimes, Jim Wolf, Buck Ghost Horse, Dan Goodpath, David Wingedstone, Ron Evans, Amylee, Wallace Black Elk, and Grace Spotted Eagle. Seminars were taught throughout the weekend on Native American Art, the Significance of Halley's Comet, Living with Nature, Healing and Cleansing. Craft displays and ceremonies were also performed at various times.

Throughout the area, people walked in genuine Indian raiment and carried Indian crafts and implements. Around noon Friday, Sharon Barron of the Gourdie Shop told a friend, "Ten 'Indians' just left my place!"

This annual celebration of The Sacred Earth People, who are deeply respectful of the teachings of the legendary Black Elk who once said, "The time will come, the ancient teachings say, when the sons and daughters of our oppressors will return to us and say, 'Teach us, so that we might survive; for we have almost ruined the earth.'"

The Mentone gathering is one of the largest ever held of this group. They are immediate followers of Sun Bear, who is author of several books on his beliefs.

Free Spirits

At first we were told they were Russians, then that they were Amish. As I approached what turned out indeed to be an Amish-made wagon parked at the Mentone Church of God, I wondered whether I'd be able to understand the couple traveling in it.

After I'd introduced myself, the young woman with long dark hair said perfectly plainly, "I'm Bernice Massey, and you must meet my husband James." They had traveled all the way from Atlanta on their way to Mississippi when their horse Tony had been frightened by Ed Jones' horses, who had been scared by a truck, according to Bernice. Mr. Jones kindly took their horse to care for until a new wagon shaft arrived. Theirs had been broken when Tony bolted.

Bernice is an artist and has been an artist-in-residence at the Cloudmont schools. Her field is visual arts, and just now her principal interest is basketry. She was working on a basket sculpture and was weaving a basket while she spoke to me. The materials for her basket work are picked from the roadsides. She dyes the grasses with natural plants, too. She was busily working to have items ready for a show in Birmingham and one in Georgia in February.

Husband James Massey is a carpenter by trade and worked for a buggy service in Atlanta. He has had a life-long interest in and experience with horses. While he was working in Ethridge and Lawrenceburg, Tenn., James met Amish people settled there. He was impressed with their farms, windmills, wagons and general lifestyle.

One day while the couple was driving along in a wagon, James said, "Let it be written on my tombstone that this man has never signed a piece of paper that he has owned any of Mother Earth." Bernice was so impressed with his respect of the environment that she readily agreed to his plan to live a nomadic life, close to nature.

After consciously choosing to live an alternate or optional lifestyle, they had their wagon built by an Amish carpenter. They studied and researched diet (they are strict vegetarians), clothing, cooking — from all over the world. They are each parents of two children who are living with parents from previous marriages. Their children are enthusiastic about their experiment.

The Masseys had attended church with their hosts, the Mentone Church of God and were delighted that the scriptural lesson was on Abram and Lot and the "toils of nomadic life." James said, "Civilization has been the ruin of many people. We're doing the most civilized thing, to live simply, close to Nature, respecting the earth."

Impressed with the natural beauty of Mentone, James warned that "some rich Arabian" could come in, buy up land, and begin erecting condominiums on the brow. "We are meant to be lovers of the land, not users," he smiled. "We have to cherish the land and plan for its use."

If all goes well on the initial trip to Mississippi, Bernice and James hope to cross the country to California in their compact wagon with Tony and with ample time to enjoy their closeness to nature each step of the way. — JDM



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A History Of Mentone, Chapter 10, The Churches

By Zora Shay Strayhorn

The churches of Mentone are important threads in the tapestry of its history. Much of their background has genesis in the Bankhead community and the old Moon Lake School. There is a strong family orientation in some of the developments. Loyalty, cohesion, and individuality are paramount. The materials for these ensuing histories were provided by devoted members of the churches as for which the author is extremely grateful.

LITTLE RIVER CHURCH

Built around 1894, the Little River Church is located about two miles northeast of Mentone. Before the Civil War, as people moved into the Little River vicinity, the New Hope Baptist Church of Christ was organized. This was between 1850 and 1859 and was associated with the Cherokee Baptist Association. Meeting monthly at first in private homes, they began sessions at the Kirby Field House.

In 1861 the name was changed from New Hope to Lookout. Owned by the Kirby family, the Field House burned. Money was raised for the construction of a new church of logs, with wooden benches. People within a radius of four miles used the building as a church and school.

A discussion on June 1, 1861 considered dissolving and reestablishing at Holly Springs. But in July of that year it was decided not to make the change. In August M. J. Kingston gave land for a new church which was built. There are no records of services between October 1861 until August 5, 1865, probably because of the Civil War. Services were resumed and continued until 1880.

The Baptist Presbytery, with approval of the church members, dissolved the church on July 3, 1880. By unanimous vote, the building was given to Mrs. M. J. Kingston. Church letters were issued by the clerk to 52 men and 69 women. On the following day, the Baptist Presbytery reorganized the church. Articles of faith from the Cherokee Baptist Association were read, membership extended, and fourteen persons joined. The name chosen was Little River Church. The Mountain Baptist Association was organized "to promote brotherly love."

Members of the reorganized church met monthly in private homes until a building was erected in 1884. Ellison Casey deeded an acre of land and water rights which included land of the former church.

Between 1890 and 1892 the building burned. The present Little River Church was built around 1895 on the site and is now an organized church with a few members. A Little River Cemetery Association gives perpetual care to the grounds and the building. The trustees are Britt Kirby, Hershel Pruitt, and Raymond Brown. Memorial services are held once a year, with other services at various times of the year.

ST. JOSEPH'S ON-THE-MOUNTAIN EPISCOPAL

In the center of St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Church is a log cabin built by Robert Vernon when he was nineteen. His son Simmie Sherman Vernon, born in the cabin, became an ordained minister and organized a church, a derivation of the Holly Springs Baptist Church. The cabin was moved a short distance around 1880 to the present location just across from the Mentone Springs Hotel.

In 1965 Frank Machen moved from Sand Mountain to Mentone. He was ordained as an Episcopal minister late in life, serving three rural churches over fifteen years. Retired, almost blind and exhausted, he and his wife Weston set aside a room and placed a shingle "St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain" outside their home near the post office.

The Machens cultivated people with no church affiliation, developing a small, loyal congregation. The Reverend Frank Machen died in 1971.

On October 3, 1971 the Reverend Graham Glover held worship services in a tiny red building near the Hatching Post which he borrowed from his aunt, Anna Graham. Graham Glover, Mrs. Machen and members of the congregation constructed the present building, searching out old buildings about the same age as the cabin, using these authentic materials to complete the church. On Sept. 1, 1974, holy communion was served in the present building.

St. Luke's of Scottsboro donated from their original building the stained glass window behind the altar. It was handpainted over a hundred years ago in France. The 19th Century front doors were also a gift from St. Luke's. The long dark pews in the chancel area are from the Episcopal Church in Tuskegee, Ala. George Washington Carver had developed the stain and personally did the hand-rubbing. The other century-old pews are from a Methodist Church in Silver Creek, Georgia.

Following purchase of the land and completion of the building, Graham Glover became full-time rector at St. Joseph's. He died in 1984 and is buried in a cemetery on Cove Road overlooking Taylor's Ford. He was succeeded by the Reverend Robert H. Blackwell.

The church doors are always open. Travelers and tourists are welcome to come in and rest.

MENTONE CHURCH OF GOD

The Mentone Church of God is another of those local churches that began at the Bankhead school. It was organized in 1915 by W. S. Gentry, the Alabama Overseer for the Church of God. Charter members were Minnie Ivens, Anne Brown, Morgan and Mattie Crow, Nettie Crow, Lee Crow, Mrs. John O'Rear, Kate Culbertson and Maybelle Brown (Cox).

Worship services were held at different days and hours from the other churches, in order to avoid conflict. The Bankhead School building burned in 1939. About 12 members met under an oak tree and decided to build a structure of their own. The land was given by Minnie and Frank Ivens. Many participated in building the white frame church on Hwy. 117 about three and one-half miles south of Mentone.

Minnie Ivens and her family were from Chattanooga. She was a sister of Lula Mae Bain. It was in 1918 that Lula Mae Bain and Edd Lester Bain as a young couple came from Cedar Bluff, Alabama, to Mentone in order to be with her sister, Minnie Ivens.

"Gramma Bain" or "Sister Bain" as she was affectionately called, was the pillar of the Mentone Church of God. More than any other person she financed it by selling produce from the porch of the home she and her husband maintained on Highway 117. The small farm she and her husband tended was productive. She asked donations from their customers. One pocket of her apron was for the church. She was pint-sized, soft-spoken, the mother of nine children, gentle and devoted to her church.

In 1973 a new church was built on the north side of highway 117, a short distance from where the old church stood.

The headquarters of the Church of God is in Cleveland, Tennessee. It maintains Lee College in Cleveland, an orphanage in Sevierville, Tennessee, another in North Carolina, and a Bible School in Fresno, California.

Maybelle Cox is the oldest living charter member of the church in 1985. The others who had met with her under the oak tree for the decision to rebuild the burned church were Lula Mae Bain, Dewey Bain, Sally Smith, and Virgie Brown.

Pastors since the new church was built in 1973 are the Reverends Terry Wigley, John Tidale, Douglas Salisbury, Harry Carey, John Whitaker, Joey Kirby, and Roger Stanford.

MENTONE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

Before 1900 a white, one-room frame school building stood alongside the old highway in Bankhead on land owned by Marion O'Rear. Because he was of no religious persuasion, it was stipulated that religious services could be held, but that it was to be an open or union church. This became the center of religious activity. There was a union Sunday School and a yearly revival, but no regular minister was available.

Many of the early churches in the Mentone area had their roots here. When Moon Lake School was built and the school consolidated, the old school building was used as a community center for religious activity.

The Church of God of Prophecy was organized in 1915 by W. S. Gentry, in the old Bankhead school building. Charter members were Minnie Ivens, Virgil and Dora Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Eller, Kate Culbertson, Mrs. John (Maggie) O'Rear, Sam and Maude Cash, Sr., Joe Nelson, Lee Crow, Anna Brown, Jim Cohen, Morgan and Mattie Crow, and Nettie Crow (Smith). Nettie Smith, oldest living charter member in 1985, was fourteen when she joined the church.

The old Bankhead building burned in 1939. The congregation then moved into a store building donated by Dan Smith, located just off the present Alabama Highway 117. It was on the north side, about three miles east of Mentone.

The generous member Dan Smith had moved from Collinsville to Mentone around 1916. With his wife Lula May and their children, he farmed until around 1928, at which time he began the grocery store which he donated to the church when the old Bankhead building burned.

A new building was constructed a short distance down the road, called the Old Sawmill Church. The congregation worshipped there until the present building was constructed in 1968 in Mentone.

MENTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

When the United Methodist Church in Mentone was organized around 1892, it was called the Mentone Methodist Episcopal Church North. In 1938 several Methodist churches formed the Methodist Church. Again in 1968 a merger changed the name to the United Methodist Church.

The Reverend J. W. Reece organized the church, probably in early 1892. At that time Sunday School was held at the home of Henry Gillette, near the present site of Mentone Inn. Mr. Reece preached there Sunday afternoons. Early church records were destroyed by fire, but it is believed the charter members were Ed Mason, George Washington Crowe, Mary King Crowe, Mary King, Harry Gillette, Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Sproule, the Reverend John Nelson Shigley, Mr. and Mrs. Jay Reece, Lily Reece, and Annie Reece.

A hand-written deed in the church shows that Ed Mason deeded land on Cutler Avenue for the church. He not only paid for and built the foundation and the tower; he owned a sawmill near the covered bridge, to which other church members brought logs from their land to the mill to be cut at no cost. In a cooperative effort, various members paid for building materials and built the church.

Charter member George Washington Crowe came from Tennessee and married Mary King. Charter member John Nelson Shigley, a retired Methodist minister, was from Marquette, Michigan. His wife Eleanor died in 1883 and her funeral was the first held in the church. Charter member Mary King was the mother of Luke and Pluma King and Mary King Crowe. Henry Gillette was son of Caroline Gillette Mason, the second Mrs. John Mason. The Sproules were early settlers from Ireland. Lily and Annie Reece were aunts of Leonard Reece. Members of the family of Roscoe Brown (son of C. C.) have remained active in the church. Catherine Brown Bailey, Raymond, Carrie Ruth Brown Kirby, Gerald, Carlton and Sara Brown Harris.

The Crowes have remained active. Grandchildren recall going to clean the church with grandmother Mary King Crowe, who always knelt for prayer before leaving, making certain a bouquet of flowers was placed on the altar for the Sunday services. In the cornerstone the members placed a Bible, a Discipline, silver coins, and a list of charter members. Four sons of Finn and Belle Keith Crowe became ordained Methodist ministers: Finn, Jr., Charles, Floyd, and Edmond.

Most likely the first fulltime minister was John Paul Gilbreath. A parsonage was eventually built near the church. Because of the Methodist policy of steady rotation of ministers, a variety of clergy have served in Mentone. During the time of the Centennial, the minister was the Reverend Ann Q. Lohr.

SALLY HOWARD MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Sally Lanford of Fort Payne was a beautiful, brown-eyed blonde of fifteen when Colonel Milford Wilson Howard of Georgia arrived in 1880. He came to Fort Payne to study in the law office of attorney L. A. Dobb. At age nineteen Milford Howard was admitted to the Alabama State Bar, one of the youngest ever admitted. The honorary title "Colonel" was applied to southern lawyers at that time.

Sally Lanford and Milford Howard were married in 1885. She became mother of their children and his strongest supporter. A true dreamer, he had early interests which centered about building a factory for the canning of salmon. The Alaska investments proved a failure. He returned to the Mentone area to make his mark on its development.

When Sally Howard died in California, she was buried at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale at the Wee Kirk O' the Heather, a reproduction of the Annie Laurie Church in Scotland. Inwardly he yearned to reproduce the Glendale Chapel as a memorial to her in Alabama. In the last year of Milford Howard's life, in failing health, he set about building the Sally Howard Memorial Chapel on an elevated spot near DeSoto State Park. It was winter. The ground was wet and sometime frozen, as he stood to oversee the workmen. All of his remaining funds were utilized. Help was provided by the young men of the Civilian Conservation Corps and residents of the mountain. It was necessary to compromise for clear windows instead of stained glass, and a simple wooden cross for the large electric cross he had wanted.

Stones from Little River formed the pulpit. On a large beam above the pulpit are words from Sally's last letter: GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN AS GOOD TO ME AS I WOULD LET HIM BE. Above is his own word IMMORTALITY. The chapel was dedicated June 27, 1937. Milford Howard's ashes are entombed there. He died in California Dec. 28, 1937.

In September 1973 the Chapel was deeded to the DeKalb Baptist Association. In March 1984 the First Baptist Church of Fort Payne assumed the ministry of the chapel services. They are conducted each Sunday morning, March through December, at 10:30 a.m. and are especially participated in by summer visitors.

MOON LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

Sometime after 1911 when the old two-story Moon Lake School was built on land given by Ed Mason, two church groups met together as a Union Sunday School. One was to become the Moon Lake Baptist Church, also known as the Moon Lake Missionary Baptist Church; the other was the Wesleyan Methodist.

The Reverends L. K. Weaver and W. B. Riddle in 1923 organized the Moon Lake Sunday School, with Ollie Murdock as superintendent and Willie Perkins as secretary-treasurer. R. T. Ellison stimulated the building of a church house and a committee was formed. Martha Berry, founder of Berry School, donated land adjoining the school.

Immediately the men came together with saws, axes, horses and wagons, some to clear the land, others with timber cut from their own land, to be dressed by W. C. Perkins' sawmill near the old covered bridge. Rocks were gathered for the foundation. Work continued through the winter months. The ladies prepared food for the workers and raised money for books and a piano. On April 13, 1924 the Church School moved into the new church. The first sermon was preached by the Reverend Alexander of Valley Head. The next Sunday there was dinner on the grounds, dedication talks and singing.

On May 17, 1924 the church was organized. "In August a revival increased membership. A BYPU and WMU were organized. Fourth Sundays were the preaching days. In December 1927 a fire destroyed the building. Invitations were extended by the Wesleyan Methodist and Mentone Methodist to use their facilities. The invitations were accepted.

By July 1928 another church had been erected. As participation remained active, a fire again destroyed the building in November 1933. This was the middle of the Depression. Unable to rebuild, the congregation was scattered for fourteen years. In September 1947 there was a tent revival on the church lot for three weeks. With determination, a new church was built and the first services were conducted in the present building on Feb. 15, 1948. The Reverend Herbert Buckles was pastor. A revival again brought members and by 1950 full-time services were begun.

Many improvements have been added: an educational and fellowship building, baptistry, padded pews, carpeted aisles, steeple and paved parking lot. There is now a library, amplification system, and vestibule.

The following ministers have served since 1924: The Reverends L. K. Weaver, W. B. Riddle, W. S. Matley, Herbert Buckles, J. A. Faile, B. C. Clark, W. L. Jennings, Bill Penley, Henry Mangun, I. A. Benfield, Aubrey Johnson, Gary Kendrick, James Tidwell, T. C. Nelson, George King, John Richey and William Steele.

MENTONE WESLEYAN CHURCH

The Wesleyan Church in Mentone was originally known as the Wesleyan Methodist Church. In 1966 the Wesleyan Methodist and the Pilgrim Holiness churches consolidated to become known as the Wesleyan Church.

In the summer of 1912 the French family arrived in Mentone with two sons, William and Robert, and a daughter Frances. They conducted a tent meeting near the hall owned by Ed Mason at Moon Lake. The French family were good musicians and preachers and they organized the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The church was painted brown and was known as "the little brown church in the wildwoods."

Henry Frank Shigley and wife Rebecca Melissa Keith Shigley and as many of their twelve children who were old enough at that time became charter members: Elizabeth (Reece), AnnaBelle (Warren), Ernest Shigley, Frances Ethel (Adams), Stella (Sik), Edna (Jones), Roan (Smith), Nona (Williams), Ruby (Daniel), Clarence, and Margaret (Crowe). Many of the Shigley and Kirby families were charter members.

Other charter members were Jimmie Brown and Eva Ruth Brown (Armentraut) who donated the land for the church building.

In 1885 the oldest living charter member was Ethel Shigley Adams. Early members were Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kirby and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Cash.

The Rev. H. A. Johnson was the first resident pastor. His son James H. Johnson retired in 1985 from teaching Sunday School and was in his thirty-ninth year as treasurer of the church.

Ministers who served the church were the Rev. William French, Mrs. Kate Shaffer, and the Reverends Anderson, H. A. Johnson, Snipes, E. L. Shigley, George Vernon, Dodge, Eugene Smith, Barns, Charles Crowe.

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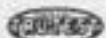
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GARLAND G. SIEG
MANAGER



A Hometown Bank And Its President



(Continued From
Front Cover)

There had been an earlier bank in Valley Head, but it failed during the Depression. In 1935, Guy's father Ernest Jones and Anderson Maxwell owned and operated Maxwell & Jones, a general merchandise store, located in the adjacent building where Cooper's Valley Mills is situated today.

The two store owners decided to partition off one corner of their store building for a bank. They were granted a state charter and opened for business in August 1935.

"During the early years of operation there was no fast growth since money was still scarce," says Mr. Jones. "During these years farming was the main occupation in this area (with cotton being the main crop), and most of our customers were farmers." During World War II, growth remained slow because people invested in War Bonds.

During the war Mr. Maxwell retired and sold his interest in the bank. The two owners also sold the store, and Ernest Jones became president of the bank until his death in 1947, leaving his three sons in charge.

Tom Jones served as president until his retirement in 1961. Both of his brothers are now deceased, and Guy Jones is president with his nephews Tom Jr. and Buz being associated with the bank, also. Buz's sister, Karen

Campbell, is with an investment firm in Montgomery. C. E. Bell, who formerly operated a grocery adjacent to the present bank building, is a charter stockholder and still serves on the board of directors of The Citizens Bank.

The bank moved into its present facility in 1969 and now has total assets of \$15 million, including some 3 1/2 million dollars in loans. During the years the bank has survived being robbed twice. Both times the culprits were caught and sentenced. Depositors were not affected by the robberies.

Guy Jones was born in Valley Head, but spent a large portion of his childhood in Mentone, where his father built the home now occupied by Colquitt Jones, Mentone's police chief. Mr. Guy Jones is married to Grace Huron, whose uncle was Mentone's second mayor. Their children are Gordon, who lives in Atlanta and has two children, Marissa and Zachary, and Gail Hamilton, of Fort Payne, whose daughter is Amanda.

In addition to the convenience of the drive-in window, the bank is open for two hours late Friday afternoon, largely to help people who are employed out of town, such as those who work in Chattanooga.

Employees as well as the Jones family are loyal to the bank. Nova Dean Kilgore has worked there for some twenty-one years, and Debbie Padgett for ten years. Other employees are Jackie Crowe, Pam Edgeworth, Sheryl Lewis, and Karen Millican. George Sauer works as guard, sometimes with the aid of M. H. York.

The Groundhog asked Mr. Jones what he thought about the future of the Valley Head-Mentone area. "Two or three years ago there was a lot of unemployment," he replied. "Things are looking better now, especially as far as employment is concerned. There's good industry at Fort Payne, and unless something unforeseen occurs, I think things will continue to be good."

Mayor William Crow of Valley Head believes that the bank provides a big service to the entire community, including Sand Mountain. "The Citizens Bank brings customers into town. Guy Jones has a record of community involvement, having served on the Water Board and in various roles in the Baptist Church. You can count on his always being in the bank during its business hours. He's an asset to Valley Head."



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from

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Leftovers

By Jean McGehee

For four days over Thanksgiving, we went to see our son Stuart and his wife Pamela in Bluefield, Virginia. Although we had a lovely Thanksgiving dinner in a restaurant complete with a fire burning in a stone fireplace, I soon discovered the principal drawback to eating out on a holiday — no leftovers. No cold dressing, turkey or ham slivers, and especially no desserts to nibble on later.

Driving back from Virginia we stopped for coffee at a truck stop somewhere between Bristol and Knoxville. There were framed photos of country music stars all around the restaurant. We were immediate celebrities because of Mentone's proximity to Fort Payne's ALABAMA group. The cashier has an aunt living in Fort Payne, and she couldn't understand why we hadn't spoken to Randy when we were in the same doctors' waiting room.

Judge Paul Thomas says that Billy McDow, immediate past president of the DeKalb Tourist Association, estimated that ALABAMA has given the county over \$40 million in free tourist advertisement in the last five years. No wonder we respect their privacy when they're home.

From *The Gift of the Ordinary* (Beacon Press) comes this prayer by Max Coots. I think it's just as appropriate (and funny) for Christmas:

LET US GIVE THANKS

Let us give thanks for a county of people:
For children who are our second planting, and though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and fondly remember where their roots are.

Let us give thanks:
For generous friends with hearts and smiles as bright as their blossoms;
For feisty friends as tart as apples;
For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers, keep reminding us that we've had them;
For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible;
For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn, and the others, as plain as potatoes and as good for you;
For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes, and serious friends, as complex as cauliflowers and as intricate as onions;
For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endearing as zucchini, and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you throughout the winter;
For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening-time, and young friends coming on as fast as radishes;
For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts, and witherings;
And, finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, and who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter;
For all these we give thanks.

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