

the GROUNDHOG

Newsletter of MAPA
Mentone Area Preservation Assn.
P. O. Box 50
Mentone, Alabama 35984



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FEBRUARY MAPA MEETING
Tuesday, February 1, 1983

MENTONE SPRINGS HOTEL
7:00 p. m.

This meeting has significance. On Groundhog Day of last year, the initial meeting was held at Cragmere to discuss Mentone's heritage and future. Thirty-seven people set in motion the groundwork for formation in April of the Mentone Area Preservation Association. At the February meeting we will review our goals and find that a remarkably high ratio have been achieved. Also an amendment to the by-laws will be proposed to set in motion a limit to the amount of money the executive committee (directors) may spend between meetings without full membership approval. We hope to see you there for these and other matters to be acted upon.

HOLIDAY WRAPUP: The Musical Mountain Christmas was an immense success. Events were well participated in. A good spirit prevailed, beginning with the covered dish supper at the MAPA meeting, where there were generous contributions to needy families. The Candy Cane Circuit of homes, churches, and historical places brought many visitors. Proceeds have been pro-rated to the hosts for their designated charities. Community Christmas tree coordinator Grace Howard thanked Judge Maddox for the trees, Homer Crow for the electrical connections, and help from the Climbers, John Morrison, Marie Shadgett, David Simms, Lee Boyd, and Milt Howard. Donations for the lights included \$5 from the Fire Department; \$50, MAPA; \$25, Garden Club; and \$50 from Camp Skyline. It was recommended that next year there be one tree instead of three, perhaps a live one at the Mentone Inn corner.

HALLELUJAH: Joy abounds! The traffic light has been installed at the Old Hotel Square intersection. Congratulations are in order to the committee composed of Sammy Cash, Lee Boyd, and Bernise Crow. They facilitated a major contribution to highway safety in Mentone.

OTHER GOALS ACCOMPLISHED:

Mrs. Mabel Kirk announced that the Garden Club planting of rhododendrons has occurred throughout Mentone. Healthy plants may be seen at well chosen spots. Mrs. Hilburn will donate more rhododendrons...The Superette triangle has shaped up nicely, according to Marie Shadgett. Thanks to Milton Shinbaum for the treated logs and three large stones; Hobson Kirby and Bob Baty for hauling the dirt; and the spreaders -- Ray Padgett, Cleo Smith, Duncan and Ken Perry, and Steven Weisner.

GOALS COMMITTEE SCORECARD: Accomplished-- non-profit status; traffic light; communication with City Council; Superette triangle; support of Garden Club rhododendrons project. Pending--Historical Commission Recognition and Endowment Grants; securing land for recreation and public uses; area map and information piece; Mentone directory; highway signs; covered bridge. The officers and committees deserve our hearty commendation for their progress.

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Hold the Press! Special item... Mentone on TV, Pm Magazine, Mon, Feb. 7th at 6:30 pm, a special feature on skiing at Cloudmont, And, again on Wed, Feb. 9th - a special focusing on Historic Mentone - also at 6:30 pm. Hosts Debbie & John do us up right!

IT IS NOT -- IT IS!

MAPA is not a Chamber of Commerce, although most of the business people in town are active members. It provides them with a means of planning events conducive to good business, community festivity, and common betterment.

MAPA is certainly not a political organization. Its status as a non-profit corporation discourages political activity by the group. MAPA is not a town council. Whatever we do must consider that the Mentone City Council is the governing body. It is a principal means through which we can give input to community activities and from which we derive guidance, information, and coordination. MAPA is not principally a social organization, although it has provided many of us a channel for developing friendships, making the acquaintance of persons whom otherwise we would not have had occasion to know.

MAPA is not a forum, although the discussions of the various projects that are proposed give means of expressing the pros and cons of issues. MAPA does not wish to make of this area another Helen, Georgia, or a Gatlinburg.

Several years ago the old depot at Valley Head was demolished. It was a landmark, possessed of many rich memories. When many of us first began coming to Mentone, it was our first sight upon arrival. This was a sad event, this demise of something so much a part of the past, the memories of the Gay Nineties, the more recent times when the railroad was the principal means of travel to this area. All over America these old depots are being saved, restored and converted into useful purposes.

If there had been a Valley Head Area Preservation Association, there is every possibility that the old depot would still be standing. But there was no channel through which to voice concerns or to gather information necessary to salvage this venerable building.

This is the best possible explanation of the need for the existence of MAPA. It is a collection of citizens who want a means of providing the best for the Mentone area, to serve as a forum and a catalyst for coordinating constructive progress. There is a momentum in Mentone. All citizens should be interested in determining that progress be in good taste and with proper judgement.

CWM

MENTONE MUSEUM: When John Morrison placed his collection of old Mentone photographs, cards, and other items for display at the Hitching Post, he may well have stimulated a museum where others might bring similar items. A bulletin board has been donated by Graham Glover. See Bernise Crow if you have something suitable.

NEWSLETTER FUTURE: At the last meeting optimism was expressed about an expanded format, possibly including items about Cloudland, Lahoussage, Valley Head, and Hammondville. Bruce Bon Fleur, director, has appointed a committee on arrangements. Expansion could begin with our April anniversary edition. One suggestion is a sell-swap-service section. Any profits would go to MAPA's goals. Charles McGehee, editor, suggests a deadline for each issue -- the 18th of each month. Call 634-3737.

DEVELOPMENTS: Marie and William Shadgett are developing an arts-crafts show on the first and third weekend of each month, May through October. These events at the Knotty Knots Center will feature well known area and local craftspeople... Anne and John Morrison have released brochures for their Lookout Mountain Christian Conference Center (formerly Lookout Boys Camp). It will be available for gatherings of many types. Facilities include 24 log cabins, a gym, dining hall, and bookstore. PLEASE INFORM THE GROUNDHOG OF ANY NEW PROJECTS.

MEMBERSHIP BONUS: In connection with our anniversary, new members may receive a pro-rated membership of \$7.50 for the period of February through July. An anonymous donor will give a fruit or ornamental tree (planted wherever desired in this area) to each new member. This is a real bargain. Full year's membership is \$18, payable in July. Couples may join together and share a vote.

TO MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, BOX 50

In support of the objectives of MAPA, which are "for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area," I (or we) enclose \$7.50 for voting membership for one. *Have June 1983.*

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____



Join in February
and receive a
free fruit or
ornamental tree!