

the GROUNDHOG

Vol. 5 Number 11 A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

February,
1988



Max Cash

"Not snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays
these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed
rounds."

Inscription on main Post Office, New York, N. Y.

Max Cash retired from the U. S. Postal Service on Feb. 3, 1988, after 36 years of continuous service. He has seen the rural mail route grow from 43 miles in length to 73 miles, and watched the landscape change almost as much as he has seen the seasons come and go.

Max began the mail route as an appointee of U. S. Representative Albert Rains. He was 27 years old, and was living with his wife Roberta and family in the house near Moon Lake that has been home for over 40 years. Max and Roberta had purchased the two acres for their home from a member of the Moon Lake Club, a group of people from Gadsden who owned 80 acres in and around Moon Lake upon which they built summer homes. Max's father, Albert, was caretaker for the club, and through his efforts the lot was obtained.

The Moon Lake Club consisted of two men, D. C. Wadsworth and Charlie Shepard. Later, Louie Shepard, brother to Charlie and a Mr. Akins bought into the group. Dr. Amos Gibson joined later, former lieutenant governor J. C. Inzer bought into the organization. Each member had a lot where he built his home — the rest of the land was owned by the group as a whole. Moon Lake provided fishing, and the pines and hardwoods covering the area provided scenic beauty and solitude.

Max's family grew with his mail route. Anita, Larry, Bruce, Philip, Susan, Neal (now deceased) and Ann made up the close-knit group in which each child was special and learned early the virtues of self-reliance, spirituality and education. "Our parents were always there for us,"

Continued on Page 4

Fear On The Mountain

It was standing room only on Jan. 28 when a group of concerned citizens met at the Mentone Town Hall to discuss ways to prevent Chattooga County from using abandoned strip mines located on Lookout Mountain for a dumping site. According to an article in **THE SUMMERVILLE NEWS**, Commissioner Harry Powell was quoted as saying the Lookout Mountain site was the one being favored over several others. An official with Georgia's EDP is also supposed to have said he favored The Lookout Mountain site.

The site is in Chattooga County just a few miles from the Alabama-Georgia line, and sits near the headwaters of Little River. The area has a shale and limestone foundation and it is feared that seepage from the landfill could pollute water far away from the initial site, thus endangering the water table and Little River.

Keeping Little River safe and unpolluted has been a struggle for several years. Problems that have threatened the integrity of the river have included: strip mining which caused run-off pollution, a proposed hydro-electric plant at DeSoto Falls, and the proposed downgrading two years ago by ADEM which would have resulted in the river being downgraded from a recreational river to a lesser classification.

A special panel of experts spoke about the issue at the meeting and answered questions. The panelists were: Dr. Doug Phillips, the Director of The Center of Environmental Research at Troy State University who has played an active part in the preservation of the canyon and river and produced the **Discover Alabama** series for public television and also helped produce a film about Little River Canyon; Jim Russell, Administrator of the DeKalb-Cherokee Health Departments; and Talmadge Butler, Manager of DeSoto State Park.

DeKalb County officials attended also. Among them were Jim Bradshaw, and Sid Holcomb of the DeKalb County Commission and Circuit Judge David Rains. Senator Lowell Barron and Congressman Ralph Burke arrived during the meeting.

Dr. Doug Phillips spoke of four elements to be considered: First, a few years ago the Alabama Department of Conservation started the Alabama Natural Diversity Inventory which collected data on plant, animal and natural features within the state that are so rare and unique that they deserve protection. This area is filled with a number of officially-recorded species that have been classified as worthy of preservation.

Second, over a year ago, the state ranked all the unique qualities of Alabama in order of our priorities in terms of which would be acted upon and this area ranked up at the top of the list. Many of the scientists who worked on the project ranked it the number one priority.

Third, Alabama is in the process of its first ever long-term planning process. It is called the Alabama Environmental Planning Council. Dr. Phillips is participating in the formulation of plans and policies and he feels the citizens of Alabama who are interested in the environment should make themselves heard. The Planning Council is operated as a function as a department of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. It is taking place now, and now is the time to contact the Council.

Fourth, the Governor has made much to do about the history of Alabama as a theme for the future. It is necessary to attract growth to the state. This is a state rich in history, and even though the Civil War and things like that are the first things to come to mind, there is another dimension. Alabama is second in the nation in richness of natural history, and Little River and Little River Canyon are the jewels that highlight this diverse natural history. The thinking among political leaders of the state is coming around to recognize that the history of the state is something they can count on to attract growth, and that the natural history is the most positive aspect of that attraction. We need to realize the kind of growth we need for the state at large, as its unique natural areas must be protected.

Dr. Phillips spoke of ways to handle growth and change and told the audience the battle would be won or lost depending upon the strategy used. He said there are

Continued on Page 7

The Trashing Of Dekalb

Summer's garments serve to hide a lot of the rest of the year's transgressions. But when the leaves and grasses and wildflowers fade away in the fall, a true measure of just what we are doing to our countryside is evident. The roadsides are thickly strewn with bottles, cans, papers, styrofoam containers, plastic diapers and other leftovers from a disposable society. To the tune of thousands of pounds a year, DeKalb residents are singing a trashy song.

During the last days of January, 1987, the DeKalb County Beautiful Committee met under the leadership of this year's chairman, Hobson Shirey, to set the course for a cleaner and more beautiful homeland. Opening the first forum with the most appropriate "America the Beautiful," Mr. Shirey suggested a positive educational and inspirational approach rather than a confrontational one.

Mary Summerville, a member of the program committee and former chairman of DeKalb County Beautiful, suggested including school children with a reward system for clean campuses. "We have to start by changing the way the children think about the environment," Mrs. Summerville was quoted as saying in **THE TIMES-JOURNAL**.

Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond, according to **THE TIMES**, suggested that the committee might sell a can-crushing device to help raise funds. He hopes to be able to present information about an Alcoa Aluminum recycling program at the next meeting. Mayor Hammond also agreed to seek sponsors for the purchase of 3,000 litter bags, the same number bought and distributed by the committee last year.

THE TIMES-JOURNAL reported Shirey as saying he wanted this year's efforts of DeKalb County Beautiful to tie into the Alabama Reunion, a two-year program that begins with instilling pride in Alabamians through preservation and beautification efforts.

Ruby's Back Home



Ruby Stalvey

One of Mentone's most well-known and loved citizen's has decided that the mountain is the place to be, and even though "I have many friends in the valley that I love dearly, my heart and my home are in Mentone."

Ruby Stalvey and husband, Russell, are moving their grocery store and filling station back to the centrally-located building next to Log Cabin Craft Village, formerly known as Ferguson's.

Ruby and Russell own a home just a few blocks from the store in Mentone, and the move will allow them to enjoy it more. Ruby Stalvey has been a businesswoman in Mentone for many years, and local citizens and out-of-towners alike had become accustomed to her smiling face and friendly manner. When she moved her store, it was as if something was missing from Mentone. Now she's back, and let **THE GROUNDHOG** be the first to welcome her home.

DeSoto State Park Promotional Video

DeSoto State Park has developed a 15 minute promotional video of the park and surrounding area. The video is the latest in a series of promotional activities undertaken by the park. It will be used at the country store and at the lodge to introduce park visitors to many attractions in the park and surrounding area.

The video, which was produced by WKAB-TV in Montgomery, takes the viewer on an informative tour of the park including DeSoto Falls and Little River Canyon. It includes some of the history of each area. Howard's Chapel, Mentone, and Fort Payne are also included. The final three minutes is a series of local, fall color scenes, filmed and set to music by award-winning photographer Bill Schaum of WSPA-TV in Montgomery.

Park Manager, Talmadge Butler said he hopes to begin showing the video at the country store within 30 days. He also hopes to use the video in public relations programs for civic and social clubs, schools, churches and other groups. Anyone interested in arranging a group showing should contact Talmadge Butler at 205/845-0051.

February:

MAPA Sixth Anniversary

The February second MAPA meeting was called to order promptly at 7 p.m. by Director Bill Riedesel in the Town Hall Meeting Room. He welcomed guests Kathy Dowbiggin, Mr. and Mrs. Bathurst, and 25 others.

Editor-in-Chief Mickey Strickland was applauded for her work on **THE GROUNDHOG**. Jean McGehee reported that Mayor Hammond will ask the state highway director for permission to install a bike trail. MAPA voted to sponsor the entrance fee for Tamara Hall in the Alabama Junior Miss pageant in Birmingham.

Sammy Cash reported that soon two ambulances will be stationed in Hammondville, available by phone 24 hours.

Mickey Strickland introduced Kathy Stiles Cooley, executive director of the Ruffner Mountain Nature Center in Birmingham. Mrs. Cooley showed a video and spoke of services and plans for the center.

This was the sixth anniversary of the organizational meeting of MAPA. A special cake and refreshments in a valentine motif were served by Frances Rosario, assisted by Virginia Bosworth.

Condensed from the minutes of
Jean McGehee, secretary

DeSoto

DeSoto State Park Restaurant is open for business. Greg Rice, Manager, has the welcome mat out and food on the table.

Profound Apologies



"Mack" Blalock with grandsons
Shawn and Robert

THE GROUNDHOG wishes to correct an error in the January edition. Mack Blalock was incorrectly named "James Floyd," and in reality his name was "Taylor Floyd." We apologize for any anxiety this may have caused his friends and family.

Mack was named for his father and for Dr. Taylor, who had a practice in the area.



ABOUT THE GROUNDHOG

THE GROUNDHOG is not a newspaper, a newsletter or a tabloid — it is all of the above and more. It is the official publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association and is provided by them as a service to the community at large. When a member or an advertiser supports **THE GROUNDHOG** through the purchase of space in the paper or a membership in the organization, that person or business is contributing to the betterment of the whole area. First, in providing a free monthly publication to the citizens, and secondly, in support of MAPA's efforts to preserve the rich history and traditions of Mentone's past.

It has become necessary to increase the amount of copies printed dramatically over the years, and now requests from all over the country come to the yellow building in the center of hotel square in Mentone for copies of **THE GROUNDHOG**.

There are two ways in which citizens of the area can obtain the paper. The best way is to become a member of MAPA and to receive the publication each month. Another and very important way is to patronize the faithful and supportive businesses who advertise in **THE GROUNDHOG**. These establishments have free copies of the paper for you, and through your support of these people, you support the preservation of an ideal — that the past be a living part of the future, for in order to know where we are going, we must consider where we have been.

To receive your **GROUNDHOG** each month, send five dollars in check or money order to: MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, AL, 35984. This will guarantee your **GROUNDHOG** through June of 1988.

MAPA MEETING

March 1 — 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall

From The Editor

By Mickey Strickland

The Following Is A Response To "From The Editor" In The January Issue Of The Groundhog.

Dear GROUNDHOG readers, Mickey Strickland Editor and friends; also Rep. Reed et al.

There is a concentrated minority of dissenters concerning the display of the Confederate flag. By some of these dissenters the "Southern" flag is viewed as a thorn in the side of blacks to whom it is a horror symbol. Yet slavery was only one (though a major) issue in the War Between the States. Some Blacks were indeed persecuted, but most were treated in such a way that the Black people of the U. S. now participate in the American opportunity as much as they allow themselves to be: much like the rest of us no matter whether Hispanic, Korean, Black, Irish, Eurasian or of whatever heritage; reaping from this opportunity acc. to the portion of labor and intellect applied. Blacks now have "self-determination."

Many "horror" stories may be unearthed in the American (USA and other nations included) past: Are these dissenters on behalf of suppressed Blacks going to next 'boo' the flying of old glory because some Blacks were slaves under the American flag from 1776 until the Civil War? Or are we to next protest the flying of the Spanish or British Flags at our Capitol or White House (when heads of state visit) because those flags represent nations who occupied portions of our own nation at times past and suppressed our citizens and denied them due rights, even to imprisonment and the unjust use of the gallows at times? Where will these suppressions due to dredged up negative memories of the past end? Or where might they lead us to? Are we to next expect our cajun friends to protest the French Flag when it is displayed upon state and celebratory occasions because France abandoned their ancestors to the will of the English and caused them to be transported en-toto thousands of miles from their chosen Colonial home to the bayou's of the South where they now live?

I had ancestors who were on both sides in our Civil War, yet mostly on the Southern side. The Southern flag does not stand for suppression or slavery or horror. It stands for honor. If Blacks or others do not understand this then let them pause and contemplate for a moment: Men of all walks of life fought in the Civil War and for a variety of issues. Most people of the USA at the time knew slavery was on the way out as it was proved to be all over the Americas in the late 1800's. Southerners fought for issues concerning their own rights of political determination, some (such as my family) joined up when their country area was invaded and they feared the loss of their land or their rights to that which provided livelihood, in other words to push the "invading enemy" back and thus to reach a point where the differences would be settled by negotiation; a hyper-states rights issue as it were.

The devastation of many parts of the South by unnecessary destruction of civilian properties left the South a less hospitable place for Whites and Blacks and Indians alike and the Honor surrounding the Confederate's Flag(s) symbolizes that no such dishonors were perpetuated upon the North by the C.S.A. General Lee did not fight such a war as that and his type of honor is a distinguished heritage for all Southerners, Black or White or Indian, indeed a heritage for all Americans — and this honor is symbolized by the Stars and Bars and other Southern Flags. Perhaps a few wrong-thinking die-hards see the Confederate flag as suppressing the Blacks, but such people are fading away; they were never the important ones in our history anyway. We would hope that the Blacks who keep stirring up this slim minor view of the South would come to their senses and "bury the hatchet" so to speak. Little favor was done the Blacks when they were suddenly en masse given freedom without due preparation or education or other preparatory training urged by Jefferson and other leaders both North and South. It has taken us 100 years to get to the point now where Blacks are now alongside the rest of the others in the work place, schools, legislatures cultural and artistic activities, etc.

To now advocate (in the time nearing the 21st century) that the prime or only symbolism of the Confederate flags is slavery and suppression is advocacy with prejudiced blinders on; it is to patently ignore what the vast majority of the people who keep alive these symbolisms actually feel — and that is the feelings of honor, of reverence for those who died honorably and of the way real gentlemen and their ladies conducted themselves. No one in their right mind works to bring back slavery; we all want to grow further in this "American Experiment of Democracy," so why act as if past suppression is the over riding issue? Such acts don't make good sense, nor show good will in the present. Let the wounds of the past heal and let the women and men of good will advance us to the future.

Submitted in all due respect,

Jim Connor

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(205) 634-4718



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.

205-634-4198

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Our Town With Linda Brown

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone. At this time of the year our thoughts turn to those we love and those who love us. My grandmothers have been in my thoughts recently. I never knew one of them and the other I only knew when I was in elementary school. Why should I miss them when I hardly even knew them? I suppose it is that bond of kin that remains an unsolved mystery.

I have heard of several churches that are having Valentine parties and banquets. Again let me remind you that I will let the public know of any church and civic functions, but you have to let me know about them first.

I think that the meeting of citizens concerned about Little River was one of the most positive things to happen in Mentone recently. The cooperation in that meeting was great and everyone was of like opinion; we must prevent the polluting and damaging of Little River. If you didn't attend and have not heard about this, you may contact the city hall or me and we will place your name on the list for the next contact. By the way, we met in the newly refinished room at the city hall and it was fantastic! I am very proud of this new addition and hope that you are. Remember to use it when you need a meeting place. Contact the city hall for details.

The Rhododendron Garden Club will resume its meetings in March. If you are a member or would like to join, be sure that you know the date and place of the next meeting.

It seems that winter has turned us every way but loose. Today is cold and snowing. The temperature dropped about 30 degrees in two hours last night. Guess that must be one reason so many people are sick with colds and flu at this time of year. Stay in and take care of yourselves. Mentone can be rough in the winter.

Please let me know when your church or organization has something that needs publicity. I will be glad to put it in this column. That is the idea behind the writing of an article on our town, to help each other.

Linda Brown,
P. O. Box 207
(205) 634-4755

The Lookout

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

MOUNTAIN WATCH

BY CHARLES WHITE MCGEE

An Englishman named John Berger at the height of his career as a writer chose to live in a small village in the French alps. Like Thoreau, he sought simplicity as one of the deeper meanings of life. He immersed himself into the life of the villagers. He learned the value of labor in the fields and the woods. His writing assumed new dimensions.

One of his stories is about Marcel, 81 years of age, who cared for some 30 cows. During summer, he daily took his cows far up the mountain in order to save the grasses near the village for winter. His daily trek was 11 miles, comparable to two round-trip jaunts from Mentone to Valley Head.

Marcel was assisted by a shepherd dog. When one of the cows strayed, the old man uttered a strange, yodel-like call, the name of the particular wayward cow. Upon that signal, the dog herded the cow back to the group. Marcel made the daily journey back to the village for lunch.

In an interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES, Berger was asked about his feelings concerning change. "You cannot imagine the fatigue and the hardening," he said. "No one would wish that traditional peasant life continue exactly as it is. One would wish it to change. But change how? Is the answer simply progress? Does anyone still believe progress solves everything, eliminates all problems and contradictions?"

He delves more deeply into the nature of change. "The fact is that progress as it dawned in the enlightenment and developed in the 19th century, has not paid off on all its promises. . . . There persists the illusion that everything can be resolved — and the great tragedies have been a result of this impatience with contradiction." He finds it interesting that the peasant will live with contradiction, the dualisms of life and death, hope and despair. There is so much to be found in the nature of working, telling of stories, and the singing of songs.

It's a monumental two-ring circus, a constantly unfolding day-by-day extravaganza. What a strange way to select the most powerful man on earth. But aren't the presidential primaries a lot of fun? With the Iowa and New Hampshire primaries out of the way, the next big event will be Super Tuesday on March 8.

Super Tuesday will be somewhat different. Instead of one small state being flooded with candidates, staffs and media people, the entire South will be involved. So Dan Rather is not likely to put up television cameras and microphones at the Hitching Post, unless something entirely unforeseen occurs.

Just out of curiosity I went through THE GROUNDHOG files back to Super Tuesday 1984. Here is the way Mentone's Beat 21 box voted: Mondale 71, Hart 44, Glenn 18, Jackson 3. In the regular election on Nov. 7, Ronald Reagan led with 317 votes as opposed to Mondale's 171.

A good way to remember Mentone's local elections for mayor and council is that they coincide with the presidential elections every four years. I've been chided by friends for insisting that we not allow the presidential campaign to overshadow the local election.

It is indeed true that we are a small town, operating on a very small budget, not worthy of television coverage. But elections of local officials are important and can be conducted without emotional overtones or undertones.

The fact remains that the citizens of Mentone chose to become an incorporated community, recognizing that there are certain services and protective functions such a community deserves. Mentone office-holders operate mostly as a public service — receiving minimal salaries. To this date none have publicly announced whether they will or will not run. They are Mayor Rob Hammond and councilman Max Cash, Hobson Kirby, James Johnson, Bill Russell and Epp Meadows.

THOUGHTS: Seldom in Mentone's history has there been a more productive and meaningful meeting than the one recently in the new Town Hall Meeting Room dealing with the possible garbage dumping in old strip mining pits and subsequent pollution of Little River. The standing-room-only crowd consisted of regional political celebrities, the press, judges and concerned citizens. There was a unanimity, a warm pride and a determination. Care of Little River is a continuing problem. Next step is announcement of the committee to be formed by Mayor Rob Hammond, who presided at the meeting. As one voting citizen I am especially interested in the proposed bill to elect DeKalb County Commissioners by district. It will be productive and reassuring to have one commissioner representing not only county interests, but those of our portion of Lookout Mountain. As most of you have noticed, the Citizens Bank in Valley Head is being enlarged to include the old Bell Store. From the beginning I was impressed by the manner in which the facade is being blended together — the fine brickwork and good-taste and craftsmanship being applied. It was with much pride that I learned Dave Blalock, a Mentone builder, is the contractor for this important project. Our town is fortunate to have so many gifted builders. My good friend Bill Riedesel, Director of MAPA, is in process of entirely rebuilding a Pipe Super Cub airplane. We recently visited the work in progress in his workshop. The welding, reapplication of the fabric, and the mechanical details are all being done by this one man — for whom aviation is a profession, science and hobby. When the work is finished in the spring the plane will be essentially new. What a joy it is to know such a person who truly loves the art of flying and who has such an affirmative attitude toward life.



News From The Valley

By Eloise Brown

The U.M.W. of Valley Head Methodist Church met at the home of Elizabeth Coleman for their January meeting, with Laura Margaret Allison as co-hostess. The president, Mary Louise Holleman, presided. Adelaide Biddle led the program, "Varieties of Gifts" assisted by Laura Margaret Allison, Verna Livingston and Eloise Brown, who also gave the devotional. Others present were Janie Holleman, Frances Longshore, Mary Frances Tate, Patsy Hammond, Vesta Hawkins, Velma Hammond and Hazel Shankles.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Phillips and children, Craig, Robin and Lindsay of Butler, Ala., were recent guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Phillips.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Hulan of San Francisco, Calif., visited Mrs. Vesta Hawkins.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Allison on their golden wedding anniversary. They celebrated by visiting their children.

Mrs. Kathryn Hulan from Batesville, Miss., has been the guest of her sister-in-law, Mrs. Velma Hammond and other sister-in-laws, Mrs. Geneva Smith and Mrs. Vesta Hawkins.

Mrs. H. R. Blackburn has returned home, after being with her daughter, Miss Linda Blackburn, in Orange Park, Fla., while she had surgery. Mrs. Blackburn was accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Bill Gibson of Houston, Texas.

Mrs. Ruby Oakes of Jemison, Ala., is a guest of her sister, Mrs. Alba Brown.

Mrs. Dorothy Ashley has returned from a visit with her sister, Mrs. Richard Dunnington, and Mr. Dunnington, and other relatives in Melbourne, Fla.

I agree with Mickey Strickland in her editorial in the January issue of **THE GROUNDHOG** about the Confederate flag flying over our Capitol. I remember my deep feeling of shock when I first saw it there. That is no way to have peace and progress!

I was invited to the ceremony to invest the honor of Poet Laureate on Morton D. Prouty, Jr. of Florence, Ala., at the Governor's Office in Montgomery by Governor Guy Hunt. I wish I could have gone. Morton is a fine man and a prolific writer. He is now editor of the Alabama State Poetry Society Anthology. He will serve as Poet Laureate of the state of Alabama for four years. He well deserves the honor!

The View From Cloudland

By Janice Galloway Smith

Cloudland residents received the following statement at the onset of their recent water crisis. Our water source has been closed due to contamination. Water supply is very limited. Please use sparingly and for sanitary purposes only. Boil any used for drinking or cooking purposes.

The well situated at the foot of Lookout Mountain which has supplied Cloudland residents with their main source of water for the past 10 years has been closed indefinitely by the E.P.D. because of contamination. A large sink hole located near the well is a possible entry point for ground water and other debris that has appeared in water samples taken at the well site.

Without the aid of neighbors and friends during the recent water crisis people in this community would have been without water. Commissioner Harry Powell of Chattooga County organized a water brigade that filled the reservoir. A special thanks to Lyster, Menlo, Cloudland, Summerville, Teloga, Subigna and the Fort Oglethorpe Fire Departments, Headrick Construction Company and the county employees for the endless trips they made in our behalf to haul water. Community members Robert Williams, Clinton Hawkins and Gary Brown who are not on the Cloudland Water System donated their time and effort during this crisis. Hugh Hawkins, Jerry Galloway, Lamar Canada and Agnew Myers took time off from their regular jobs to be available as needed. Other community members donating their help include: Albert Palmour, Mark Griffith, Don Barron, Dick Tanner, Aubrey Galloway, Jason Smith, Beth Cavness, Burma Galloway and Janice Smith. The Georgia National Guard has supplied us with two water tanks containing drinking water. They are located at the Cloudland Fire Department Station two.

Several options are available at this time as a permanent solution but all are in the planning stage.

The regular monthly meeting of the Cloudland Fire Department was held Thursday, Feb. 11. In attendance were: Chief Jerry Galloway, Emmett Bain, Taylor Adams, Jason Smith, Robert Williams, Hugh Hawkins, Janice Smith, Clinton Hawkins and Burma Galloway.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church welcomes their new pastor, Howard Jack Green and family. Sunday School begins at 10 a.m., morning worship at 11 a.m., Sunday night services at 6 p.m. and Wednesday night at 7 p.m.

Bad Dog

By John Baty

During the early part of this century my uncle lived in the Cove Road community and farmed a piece of land. His mowing machine needed a part that was not available in Valley Head so he arose in the early hours of one Saturday morning, walked to Valley Head and caught the early train to Chattanooga. As he passed through Mentone about daybreak, he kept his eyes open for a certain biting dog that made its home around Mentone Springs Hotel. Uncle had been warned several times about the large black dog as it was said the animal had already bitten three people. He saw nothing of the dog that morning and passed through Mentone without incident. The trip to Chattanooga was uneventful and he returned to Valley Head on the late train to Birmingham.

As Uncle walked up the old dirt gap to Mentone, he developed quite a thirst from the exertion and walked down to the spring below the Hotel to get a drink. He was down on toes, knees and hands drinking from the spring when he got an ominous feeling that he was not alone. Whether it was premonition or perhaps a shadow cast by the moonlight in the spring he didn't recall, but something caused him to roll his eyes upward and look at the opposite bank. He found himself there in a six-point stance looking eyeball-to-eyeball with Mentone's biting dog.

Uncle recalled that what happened next was not premeditated but rather a sort of knee-jerk response that was totally spontaneous and almost instantaneous.

Like a good linebacker after a quarterback, he lunged across the spring at the dog, screaming with all the power of his lungs. As he landed on the opposite bank and tried to collect himself and see where he was bitten, he caught a movement from the corner of his eye, and saw a vague shape silhouetted against the moonlit sky some 50 yards up on the brow of the mountain. For just a moment it stood there then gave a short, intense WHOOFF! and disappeared from sight toward the Hotel.

Uncle said he had no reasonable explanation why he charged the dog, but he was thankful that it worked — at least for once.

And that is the way it happened at Mentone!

Landmarks 1987-88 Theatre Season

Season Ticket Prices - Adult \$30.00 - Student & Senior Citizens \$25.00 - Patrons \$75.00
Fort Payne Opera House

Saturday
February 27th 1988
7:30 P.M.



DAVID FENDRICK
Clarence Darrow

by David W. Bink
Clarence Darrow, legendary lawyer and champion of the underdog, powerfully serves the truth in this performance which includes actual courtroom transcripts.

Saturday
April 9th
2:30 P.M.



THE PIED PIPER OF HAMELIN

Birmingham Children's Theatre

Into troubled Hamelin steals a mysterious Pied Piper offering his musical charm to rid the town of its plague of rats. Birmingham Children's Theatre offers a colorful adaptation of Robert Browning's classic poem with a surprise production twist that will be vivid in the memory of every audience member.



Tuesday
April 12th
7:30 P.M.



Alone Together

TOWN & GOWN THEATER

The University of Alabama in Birmingham
ALONE TOGETHER delighted Broadway audiences with its comic dialogue and situations. When two middle-aged parents get all of their children out of the nest, they anticipate the fun of being "alone together". They are not alone for long. The playright had previously been represented on Broadway with UNDER THE YEM YEM TREE. Directed by Jimmy Matheis.



Tuscaloosa's
Heartland Harmonizers

The Fort Payne Audience loved their 1987 Spring Concert at the Fort Payne Opera House.

Saturday
April 16 P.M.
7:30 P.M.



Friday
April 29th
7:30 P.M.

CHATTANOOGA
SYMPHONY

POPS CONCERT
Conducted by Theodore Plute
Vocal Soloist: Kathy Knight

Burt Funeral Home, Inc.

We Specialize in pre-planned funerals

R. J. Burt Jr., Director

Lela Bell Pullen, Receptionist

Valley Head, Alabama

635-6247



SHARON BARRON
BROKER

SUSAN COLLINS
ASSOCIATE

81.74 ACRE FARM — \$700 an acre.

BROW LOTS — Starting at \$15,000.

43-ACRE CAMP ON LITTLE RIVER — Gym, fully equipped dining hall, three barracks w/double bunk beds including mattresses — Two apartment type buildings — infirmary w/20 beds, bathhouse, ¾ football field, volleyball court, rental house and office on ¼ mile waterfront, \$110,000.

DOUBLEWIDE TRAILER — With three bedrooms, two baths, living/dining combination, den, kitchen with island, deck and screened porch on 2½ acres.

This is a partial listing . . .

Continued From Cover

Susan Hooks, Director of Camp Skyline, reflected: "Daddy would always take us anywhere we wanted to go and participate in any activity as long as it would improve us. We did a lot of things together out of doors."

Max worked with his father who was a well-known carpenter and rock mason responsible for many lasting structures in and around Mentone. After he and Roberta married, he worked with a construction firm which employed her father as a superintendent. "I would see Mr. York riding by and putting mail in the boxes and saw the good part of a mail carrier's job, and it was a job I wanted to do," Max remembered when he first wanted to be a mail carrier. "Riding around the country in the daytime and it sunny and seeing the Spring, Summer and Fall, I didn't see the hard part, the winter work!"

Max began the route in a 1949 black Ford, and in those days dirt roads outnumbered paved ones. "There was always someone nearby to help me out if I got stuck or slid off in a ditch," Max told of the early trips around the mountain countryside, "and it was usually a tractor that pulled me out. Now, it's usually a four-wheeled drive. I got Sam Whately to help me this winter, but that is the first time I ever had to use a wrecker," he continued. "I could always count on help when I needed it."

His next vehicle was a brand-new Ford pickup — "about a '53. You didn't have all that much mail then," Max told of how things have changed. "I could carry all I had in the cab of the truck. I had probably two or three bundles of mail and three or four packages ordinarily. Now, we average 12 to 15 bundles of mail each day, and 4 to 6 'boxholders' a week." The "boxholder" mail is such a good way to advertise, that many more businesses are taking advantage of it. When Max began, there were 165 mail boxes which served 247 families. This year, the route has about 400 mailboxes and 440 families. In earlier times, if the mail route did not go to a family's house, they would get their mail in someone else's box who did live on the route.

Max has two route books which belonged to Mr. York who carried the mail for many years. There is no date on one of the books, but it is estimated it was kept sometime around the Depression era. It reads like a "who's who" of mountain families, and through it, we are able to gain insight into not only the mail service of the time, but the family units, friendships, deaths and moves of the rural people.

D. L. Jones had box number 1. W. W. Warren was marked out, and Mr. Perry took his place. Many people will remember names such as R. T. Sudderth, F. B. Freeman and John N. Crow. There was Dolph Young, Paul Crow and the J. L. Nail place became Miller's Store. Riverside Hotel, now a part of Camp Skyline, was box number 12. The Hurons got their mail there, then Mrs. Cay, John Walker, Willie Walker and Mrs. Robert Genovar all used the Riverside box. Mrs. N. J. Richey got her mail at C. C. Ansley's. The Mitchell family owned Riverdale Hotel at that time. R. E. Elenor, Roberta and Louise. Now, the resident family is Rob Hammond's for that is where Camp Laney was built.

There was a Powell's Store, and the family of Jess Kirby which included Emma, Mae, Joe, Frank, John Henry, Lela Belle, and Timie. John Lusk got his mail with them also. There was the family of J. B. Crow with Maggie, Erskine, Leonard, Beatrice, Mabel, Grace, Mary Lee and Edna Forest who shared the same box number, 36. In later years, Mabel was to marry Frank Kirk and the young couple also received their mail in that same box, but the number was changed to 40. The Kirks went away for many years to live and to rear a family before returning to the mountain to build a home and retire.

The names in the weathered book are like pieces of a hand-made quilt — each unique and yet a part of the whole pattern of life here. Win(d)ward Inn, Clara Moorman, Prop, the book reads, and W. P. Wester, 38, with Mary, Ollie, Arizona, Berta, B. C., S. O. and Estelle. There is mention of Montgomery Wright at the Millsaps and W. V. Wilson at Shortridge. Box 44 was the Shrader family: Erskin, Sadie, Agnes, Theodore, Pauline, Averil, Willard, Milford and Herbert.

There are notations that are mysterious such as "Smith, Sumpter, Sky Hook." There are entries of historical significance such as "Howard, Box 49, Riverpark or Alpine Club." This was the name of the community begun by Col. Milford Howard who devoted a good portion of his life to the development of the area at Alpine and to the betterment of the standard of living of many citizens. Probably his most lasting monument is Howard's Chapel, or as it is now known, the Sally Howard Memorial Chapel — near DeSoto State Park. Col. Howard had his ashes interred in a huge rock that is a part of the structure.

Listed also is the Cragmere Club, which was the former property of individuals who ran the gamut from a freed slave and his family to a state representative. Dr. Dowling, Dr. Berry and Dr. Elliot all received mail on the rural route, and Dr. Berry established a year-round residence.

There were names like Libby, Shigley, Millers, Gifford, Crow, Wester, Biddle, Strickland, Huron, Jones, Matheny, Lowman, Sudderth, McNew, Kirby, Smith, McCarty and Henry Mason. The names of all those who were served by the route are too numerous to mention, but the partial listing above gives an indication of the heritage of the people we know today, and a glimpse of the names who are no longer with us.

"One of the hardest times I ever had delivering the mail was in 1960 when we had that big ice storm which put us without power for 18 days," Max recounted some experiences during his years as Mentone's postal delivery man. "I went to a meeting of mail carriers years ago, and we were told that we were the nearest thing to a representative of the United States Government that most people would ever see, and for us to treat people right and to help them any way we could and let them have a good opinion of the United States government. If they needed a gallon of milk, take it to them. Times have changed now, but I remember picking up Mr. John York and giving him a ride with his 100 pound sack of feed and keeping an eye on things for others." Max told the story of Mr. Carlton Wheeler, an elderly gentleman who lived alone over near Latusage Lake. He asked Max to contact members to Mr. Wheeler's family if the mail was ever to be left in the box until the following day. He gave Max a list of phone numbers and five dollars to make the calls should it become necessary.

Sure enough, the mail accumulated over a weekend, and Max knew something must be wrong. He could hear noises from inside the rock house, but could not get the man to answer the door. Max immediately called his wife Roberta, who kept the numbers handy. Help was dispatched and Mr. Wheeler was taken to a hospital where he was diagnosed as having had a stroke.

"I have enjoyed the route," Max reminisced, "and I am going to miss throwing up my hand at people and miss seeing them and the whole community every day, six days a week for 33 years. I'll miss being able to see all of the countryside every day and as my home was in the middle of the route, I could come by for a warm dinner, and I have really enjoyed that."

Max intends to "enjoy retirement and to travel — to visit the children and to see part of the country." Max Cash has been such an important part of the life of our rural community that it's difficult to picture him not coming by each day to bring tidings from other places. From earliest times to the present, the coming of the mail was one of the most important parts of the day, and to see his familiar car and friendly greeting was something one could depend upon.

This loyal courier may have achieved the "swift completion of his appointed rounds," but there is no one who has ever lived on a Mentone Rural Route who will not remember his dedication and kindness, and who will not wish that this was not the end of an era.

March, 1988 Events In Georgia's Rome

March 1-27, 1988 — "1988 Salon of Fine Art Photography" — Chieftains Museum — Photographers from all over the southeast show H2O, vaporous, liquid, and solid. Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Sunday, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., free, 404/291-9494.

March 3, 1988 — Berry Singers and Concert Choir — Berry College Campus, Ford Auditorium, 8:00 p.m., free, 404/232-5374.

March 3-6, 1988 — "The Shopsmith" — Riverbend Mall — Woodworking display, 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., and Sunday, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., free, 404/295-4828.

March 5, 1988 — Viking Classic Road Race — Berry College Campus — 5K, 10K and 1 mile Wellness Run, TAC sanctioned and certified, 9:00 a.m., registration fee, no admission, 404/232-5374.

March 5, 1988 — "Book Fair" — Sponsored by the American Association of University Women — Riverbend Mall, great selection of used books, 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., free, 404/295-4828.

March 8, 1988 — Berry Jazz Ensemble — Berry College Campus, Ford Auditorium — 8:00 p.m., free, 404/232-5374.

March 12, 1988 — Miss Rome Pageant — Rome City Auditorium — A preliminary of the Miss Georgia pageant, 8:00 p.m., admission charged, 404/232-7585.

March 15, 1988 — New York Theater Ballet — Rome City Auditorium — A community concert presentation, 8:00 p.m., admission charged, 404/295-5576.

March 17-20, 1988 — "Harvey" — A presentation of the Rome Little Theater, DeSoto Theater, 8:00 p.m., admission charged, 404/295-2787.

March 23-27, 1988 — "Under Milkwood" — A presentation of the Shorter College Drama Department — Callaway Theater, Shorter College campus, 8:00 p.m. Admission charged, 404/291-2121.

March 26, 1988 — "A Choral Extravaganza" — Rome City Auditorium — A Rome Symphony Orchestra and Chorus presentation, 8:00 p.m., admission charged, 404/295-2787.

SUBMITTED BY: Greater Rome Convention and Visitors Bureau

P. O. Box 5823
Rome, Georgia 30161
404/295-5576

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1988 Naturalist Interpretive Program At DeSoto State Park

May-October Tentative Schedule

1988 NATURALIST INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM
DESOTO STATE PARK
MAY-OCTOBER TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
NATURE CENTER OPEN: Sunday-Wednesday: 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Thursday-Saturday: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
(The Nature Center at D.S.P. offers an array of samples from the rich wilderness that encompasses the boundaries of the park. There is a "touch and feel" center in the Discovery Place, and on display are items from the flora and fauna of the wilderness as well as invaluable artifacts from the native Americans that once interacted with this wilderness).

WEEKLY PROGRAM SCHEDULE (MAY-OCTOBER)

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY:

Nature Center open 1:00-5:00 p.m.

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY:

Nature Center open 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY:

Campfire Program: 8:00-9:00 p.m.

(Introduction to Park Program and Multi-Media Presentation).

SATURDAY:

Nature Center open: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Wildlife Observation Experience: 7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. (Early morning hike to observe **wildlife** as well as **plant life** on the Deep Woods trail).

DeSoto Falls Cave Exploration: 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. (Hike to basin of DeSoto Falls to observe Geological mystery and then up the bluff to the caves just like the native Americans did).

Campfire Program: 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

(Special speaker, Jr. Ranger Program, Story Time).

SUNDAY:

Worship alternative: 10:00 a.m. — Howard's Chapel.

Nature Center open: 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

MAY 6-7 AND MAY 13-14:

TOPIC: "WILDFLOWERS OF DESOTO STATE PARK"

(The rich flora of DeSoto, although not yet adequately catalogued, contains over 500 species of native or naturalized flowering plants. Join us for wilderness walks, slide presentations, and identification sessions).

MAY 20-21:

TOPIC: "MOUNTAIN LAUREL AND RHODODENDRON SPECIAL"

(In conjunction with the Mentone Rhododendron Festival, join us for walks and talks on this special flower).

MAY 27-28:

TOPIC: "WILDFLOWERS OF DESOTO STATE PARK"

(Same as May 6-7)

JUNE 3-4:

TOPIC: "GETTING A HANDLE ON NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY"

(Learn to shoot pictures of plants, animals and native scenes. Open to old and young alike, professional or amateur).

JUNE 10-11:

TOPIC: "JUNE JAM"

JUNE 17-18:

TOPIC: "FOREST ECOLOGY"

(Learn first-hand about life in the forest, and how living and nonliving things interact and change in the forest community).

JUNE 24-25:

TOPIC: "SNAKES AND OTHER REPTILES"

(To introduce you to the beauty and diversity of snakes to be found in the snake world at DeSoto. To gain an understanding and appreciation of snakes and their place in the natural world).

JULY 1-4:

TOPIC: "PATRIOTISM WEEKEND AT DESOTO"

(Activities for three days all centered around the theme of patriotism with speakers, flag making contests, 4th of July Parade, etc.).

JULY 8-9:

TOPIC: "TREES ARE TREMENDOUS"

(See the basic life cycle of a tree, and learn the importance of trees on the planet earth. Identify and become aware of the individuality and life of DeSoto trees).

JULY 15-16:

TOPIC: "LITTLE CREATURE LOOK ABOUT"

(Learn the role of insects and other creatures as they relate to their habitat, community, and people through first-hand discovery and observation).

JULY 22-23:

TOPIC: "GEOLOGY AT DESOTO STATE PARK"

(To understand how non-living factors are important parts of the environment through the study of geology at DeSoto Falls and Little River Canyon).

JULY 29-30:

TOPIC: "C.C.C. WEEKEND AT DESOTO"

(A celebration of the C.C.C. (Civilian Conservation Corp) and the heritage it shares. On-site demonstrations and observations of the work these men did in the 1930's).

AUGUST 5-6:

TOPIC: "INDIAN HISTORY OF DESOTO STATE PARK"

(Cherokee Indians share of their past with talks, dances and demonstrations).

AUGUST 12-13:

TOPIC: "INDIAN CRAFTS"

(Cherokee Indian crafts on display and how to make them).

AUGUST 19-20:

TOPIC: "INDIAN PLANTS"

(How Indians used wild plants for food, medicine and crafts).

AUGUST 26-27:

TOPIC: "MAN AND WATER"

(Find aquatic habitats and learn the importance of water. Why is Little River unique . . .).

SEPTEMBER 2-3:

TOPIC: "VEGETATION: DESOTO IS A PLANT'S PLACE"

(To learn and see overall variation in vegetation of DeSoto).

SEPTEMBER 9-10:

TOPIC: "HOWARD'S CHAPEL HISTORY"

(A demonstration of local history by historians and celebrations).

SEPTEMBER 16-17 AND 23-24:

TOPIC: "MIGRATION OF BIRDS"

(Learn and observe the changing picture of bird populations at DeSoto).

SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 1:

TOPIC: "TREES AND THE CHANGING SEASON"

(Learn how and why the leaves turn).

OCTOBER 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, AND 28-29:

TOPIC: "COLOR WEEKENDS AT DESOTO"

(Come see why and how the color changes through walks, talks, and slide shows).

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The Mentone Arts and Crafts Guild is a non-profit organization of artists and craftsmen and supporters of the Arts who have formed an alliance for the purpose of promoting the work of individuals in the Lookout Mountain Area.

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Crafts: Clay, fiber, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, paper, wood, miscellaneous (calligraphy, egg art, bread dough art, etc.)

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Instrument _____ Vocal _____ Theatre _____ Dance _____

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THE GROUNDHOG is beginning a new series, Old Times Letters. Many thanks to THE TIMES-JOURNAL in Fort Payne, Ala., for without their assistance and kindness it would not be possible.

Old Times Letters

Jan. 15, 1896 — From Mentone

Lewis Crow and his sister, who have been sick with the fever, are recovering.

Bro. James Reece preached at Mentone on the second Sunday to a good audience. Bro. Reece is well-liked by the people here.

The Sunday school in this place is in a prosperous condition and bids fair to become a permanent institution under the efficient management of Supt. T. N. Kirby.

Mr. Williams of Kentucky has purchased H. B. Gillett's place just south of the new church here. Mr. W.O.W. Paine has just sold 80 acres of railroad land to a northern gentleman, who is already here with his family. There are two men stopping by at Mr. John Mason's with a view of locating.

A Sabbath school was organized at Little River Church on the second Sunday. Mr. Erskin Davenport, from near Fort Payne, has the school at Little River for the ensuing year.

Mr. Alfred Young, who has been guarding convicts at Cole City, Ga., for some months, spent Christmas at home. He was accompanied back by his brother Henry, who is now in the same business.

Mr. Seaborn Fugatt, a well known resident of this place, has moved to McLemore's Cove and has settled on the farm of Mrs. Simmons.

Selah

Jan. 29, 1896 — From Mentone

Not much for the JOURNAL this week but will try to find a few items of interest.

Mr. Geo. W. Crow, of this place, will move to Gadsden this week, and Mr. Crow will take possession.

Mr. Long, a gentleman from Illinois, stopping at Mr. Jno. Mason's, is an accomplished musician, both instrumental and vocal, and entertained quite a number last Sunday.

Mr. Hooks, of Menlo, Ga., who repaired the Mason Bridge, is adding some machinery to the Rose Bros. sawmill for the benefit of the community.

Old Mrs. Wade has been removed to Cherokee County by her son, who will hereafter provide for her wants.

We hear that the new appointment for the M. E. Church at this place is Rev. Tedder, of Sand Mountain, and that he is a worthy and able preacher.

Mrs. Wm. Fugatt is at Whiteside, Tenn., assisting in the care of her son, James, who is very feeble.

We are glad to say that Rev. John S. Higgins, who has been afflicted for some years with rheumatism and poor health, is much improved and is nearly his former self again.

Mrs. Simmons, who has been stopping by her father's, W. B. Taylor's for the past six months in poor health, much improved.

Messrs. Jack and Lee Jones, of Tennessee, brothers of M.W.L. Jones are stopping with us and may become permanent citizens.

Dickey Doolittle gives a poor report of the financial condition of Sand Mountain. As to our community, we are better clothed, and housed than at any time in the past, and we think not any more in debt and fully as able to pay that as in any former time.

We think the silly twaddle about gold bugs, monopolies and money power, etc., only tends to make well-meaning people dissatisfied with their lot, and does our business men, who built our railroads and created our manufacturing, an injustice.

Selah

Feb. 12, 1896 — From Mentone

The continued rainy weather has been a serious drawback to the men who are furnishing logs for the mills and shipping the lumber.

The health of our people is good with the exception of the old chronic cases. John Ellison has been suffering severely with his cancer lately, and also Mrs. Betty Crow, wife of Clark Crow, is very ill.

P. A. Olson of Minnesota, who recently purchased railroad lands here has given up (its) improvement for a time, has bought the homestead recently occupied by Glen Crow and had moved there on.

Charles Ferguson, of South Dakota has bought the Robert Wade place.

D. B. Young has bought the John Williams place.

Mr. Moneyhafter of Indiana, has bought Andy Young's farm.

It seems that the new law will not greatly improve our roads, while we think the boys of 18 years to men of 45 years ought not to build all of our roads; we think the law ought to be extended to men of 60 years or as long as able bodied, and with the exceptions such as overseers, apportioners and young men with physical certificates it looks unjust on those that have to work.

Selah

Feb. 5, 1896 — From Bankhead

Our community seems about through with lagrippe, at least we hope so.

Hog killing seems to be the order of the day and has been for some time. Lonnie Green killed four shoats last week, two of them weighing 250 pounds and the other two over 150 pounds each. They have killed a great many more and have more to kill. Our people seem to have plenty of meat, notwithstanding losing so many to cholera. Well, it is certainly a good thing to have our own hog and hominy. Our people are buying less every year and raising more at home, which is a good sign of coming prosperity.

Some places here where it is sheltered from frost, we can have vegetables from early 'til late. Mr. Mack Hardwick, who lives about two and a half miles east of this place, brought us some nice roasting ears the first week in November and said they were having plenty of nice fresh butter beans, green tomatoes, green peppers, etc., while the frost had struck our gardens long before that.

Miss Hattie Culberson of Valley Head, who has been with us for some time, teaching music, has returned home. Miss Hattie certainly plays well and we bespeak for her great success in her vocation.

Since I last wrote you I have made the acquaintance of some of the Dakota people who have located here. They seem to be well satisfied with the mountain. They disliked our school system, or rather our no school system. Our three months make pupils too much like the cat climbing out of the well — they fall back to very near the same place they previously began. But we aim to have a good five or six months this year if we can carry out our plans. At least we feel hopeful on the subject. Alabama needs a better school system and ought to have it. We have bright boys and girls who with good educational facilities, might become bright lights in this world and stars in the next. Speaking of this reminds me of a phrenologist who came around a few days ago and examined our heads, which took a good while. George, our little ten year old boy, said he didn't believe a word he said, for he said he had organs in his head and he didn't have any organs in his head, so he thinks phrenology a failure. But we know education is not a failure, unless they fail to get it, and then it is a failure. More good schools and more enlightened people. Good wishes to all.

E.J.S.

Feb. 26, 1896 — From Mentone

New items are meagre but will send what we have. Mrs. Betty Crow, wife of Clark Crow, died on the 22nd, inst., of consumption. She was true and faithful to her trust in every condition of life and passed away in the full triumph of a Christian faith.

Jotta Ellis is somewhat improved in health.

Our old citizen Thomas Brown's health is good as could be expected of a man his age. The family are occupying the large and commodious residence of Dr. Purden's. Dr. Melcher and family are boarding with them for the winter. The Purden family are residing at Cullman, Ala., where the doctor is practicing his profession.

The youngest son of C. N. Maxwell is here from Topsham, ME., making his father a visit, his father has not improved but is very feeble and emaciated, he and his brother Frank took in the Mardi Gras Carnival in Birmingham.

Recently born to Mr. and Mrs. Blevins Swader a boy, Miss Anne Roath of McLemore's Cove has been visiting friends here.

We now have five South Dakota families settled among us who are well satisfied and are highly respected by our people for their intelligence and general worth.

Selah

CRAFTS CORNER

By Helen Turner

A dear friend, knowing of my love for arts and crafts, gave me a wonderful book containing 19th century crafts. I am enjoying this book so much that I decided to share it with you, starting with this issue.

Each month I will reprint one or two articles that are appropriate for the season. Of course, you will need to substitute fabrics, paints, etc., that are available today.

MITTENS

Comfortable warm mittens are made of old gray flannel lined and bound with red. It is easy to cut your own pattern. Measure your hand just above your thumb. Get the length of your whole hand, the length from the base of the thumb to the end of the longest finger, and also the length of the thumb. Then by the aid of the accompanying diagram, you can cut out a pattern. Be careful and not get the thumb hole too large for the thumb you have made. This is a good way to make mittens for children and you can make very pretty ones for yourself of fine cloth lined with nice flannel and bound with fur.

(Year — 1870)



Fig. 2.—MITTEN PATTERN.

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Continued from Page 1

basically three ways to go about it. One is the method usually used in Alabama — "get together and raise hell." This has worked on some occasions, and is sometimes the only last-ditch thing you can do. In the long run, however, the most effective effort is for concerned people to get together and to work with the agencies responsible for the protection of the quality of life in our area and our state. There is a bill trying to get the attention of the state legislature that offers scenic river protection on a larger scale than we now have it. This is an area in which citizens can collaborate with the Alabama Department of Conservation.

On a large scale, economic leaders, environmental thinkers and landowners should form a coalition to plan strategies that will accomplish common goals, and cooperation is a must. Locally, to combat the proposed dumping site, Dr. Phillips offered this advice: That local citizens get together and form a committee which will formulate specific plans to achieve a common goal, in this case, the prevention of a dumping site on Lookout Mountain. Rob Hammonds is in charge of this, and those present at the meeting who wanted to be a part of the process signed their names and will be contacted as soon as more information is available and a definite threat is recognized, such as a formal petition by Chattooga County.

Jim Russell stated that Little River is classified as a public water supply and recreational waterway, which is the highest classification a stream can obtain in the state of Alabama. The protection of the river rests with two agencies — the Health Department and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. Mr. Russell further informed the group that water samples the Health Department has taken from Little River indicated that some of the bacteriological counts were less than in some county wells.

"If the EPA applies the same regulations to Chattooga County Georgia as it does to DeKalb County Alabama, there won't be a landfill on Lookout Mountain because the geologists in our state have turned down seven proposed sites in DeKalb — and a dumping site on Lookout Mountain, the EPA would not even consider. We have the same problem with sewerage on Lookout Mountain — the Limestone strata and the crevices in it act just like PVC pipe and it will run for miles." Mr. Russell addressed the issue of county zoning which would prevent certain types of environmental problems. He and Dr. Phillips stressed the need for statewide regulations and zoning which would prevent the state from becoming the dumping site of the nation. "Right now, Atlanta, Georgia is trying to purchase a dumping site in Cleburne County, Alabama," Mr. Russell said. "And we have had inquiries recently from states as far away as New York and Pennsylvania who are looking at sites in Alabama to haul solid waste to. We all know about the barge that went around the world, but this is not a joking matter for we are talking about the possibilities, if we are not real careful, of Alabama becoming a dumping site for other states."

Senator Barron pledged his full support in the prevention of a landfill on Lookout Mountain in the state of Alabama in DeKalb County. However, DeKalb County is not proposing a landfill, Chattooga County, Georgia is. After being made aware of Georgia's intentions, Sen. Barron rose to the occasion and promised "to take whatever measures we have to, even to a Federal lawsuit to stop the landfill." He further stated that laws had changed from years ago when a few politicians in South Alabama made millions by promotion of a hazardous waste dumping site in Emile, Alabama when they had an interest in the land being used. This is the largest hazardous waste dumping site in the world, and Sen. Barron promised that Alabama would not become the "cesspool of the United States" as long as he and other concerned public servants such as the Alabama Department of Environmental Management had anything to do with it. He praised the ADEM for their dedicated efforts in the state.

Talmadge Butler spoke of his responsibility in the area of conservation of the property of the State Park, which includes a portion of Little River and the Canyon. He said there was no planned development in the park, except for the taking out of diseased trees and such. "People come here because it is a quiet, natural area. It is in our best interest to preserve Little River Canyon and Little River as much as possible."

Everyone present at the meeting seemed in accord — the landfill must be stopped. Many pledged their support, including the Commissioners who attended the session. We must present a united front to challenge a common enemy — anything or anyone who would compromise the integrity of our environment and thus our quality of life. Anyone interested in this issue should make themselves heard, by their elected officials, by the agencies who represent us and by the ones who propose to change the face of Lookout Mountain forever.

Drunk Driving

250,000 people have died in alcohol-related accidents in the last 10 years.

Presently, 25,000 people are killed each year in alcohol-related accidents.

500 people are killed each week in alcohol-related accidents.

68 people are killed each day in alcohol-related accidents.

Our American life is lost every 21 minutes in alcohol-related auto crashes.

One million drunk driving collisions occur each year. Admittedly, the United States has one of the safest highway systems in the world due, in part, to design characteristics, guard rails, highway markings and signs. We have relatively few fatalities per-100 million miles driven. But the portion of our accidents involving alcohol is the highest in the world.

Over 50 percent of all fatal highway crashes involving two or more cars are alcohol-related.

Over 65 percent of all fatal single car crashes are alcohol-related.

Over 36 percent of all adult pedestrian accidents are alcohol-related.

Relatively few problem drinkers, about 7 percent of the driving population, account for over 66 percent of all alcohol-related fatal crashes.

It is estimated that one out of every two Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related accident in their lifetime.

Average drunk driver arrested on the highway has a .20 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level, double the level for presumed intoxication in most states; that's 15 drinks of 86 proof in four hours for a 180 lb. man or 11 beers in four hours.

Every year, 708,000 persons are injured in alcohol-related crashes; 74,000 of those people suffer serious injuries.

About 2,000 people are hurt each day in alcohol-related accidents.

Alcohol-related crashes are the leading cause of death for young Americans, between 16 and 24 years old.

Although persons between 16 and 24 years old comprise only 22 percent of the total licensed population and 24 percent of the total vehicle miles traveled in this country by all-aged licensed drivers, they cause 44 percent of all nighttime fatal alcohol-related crashes.



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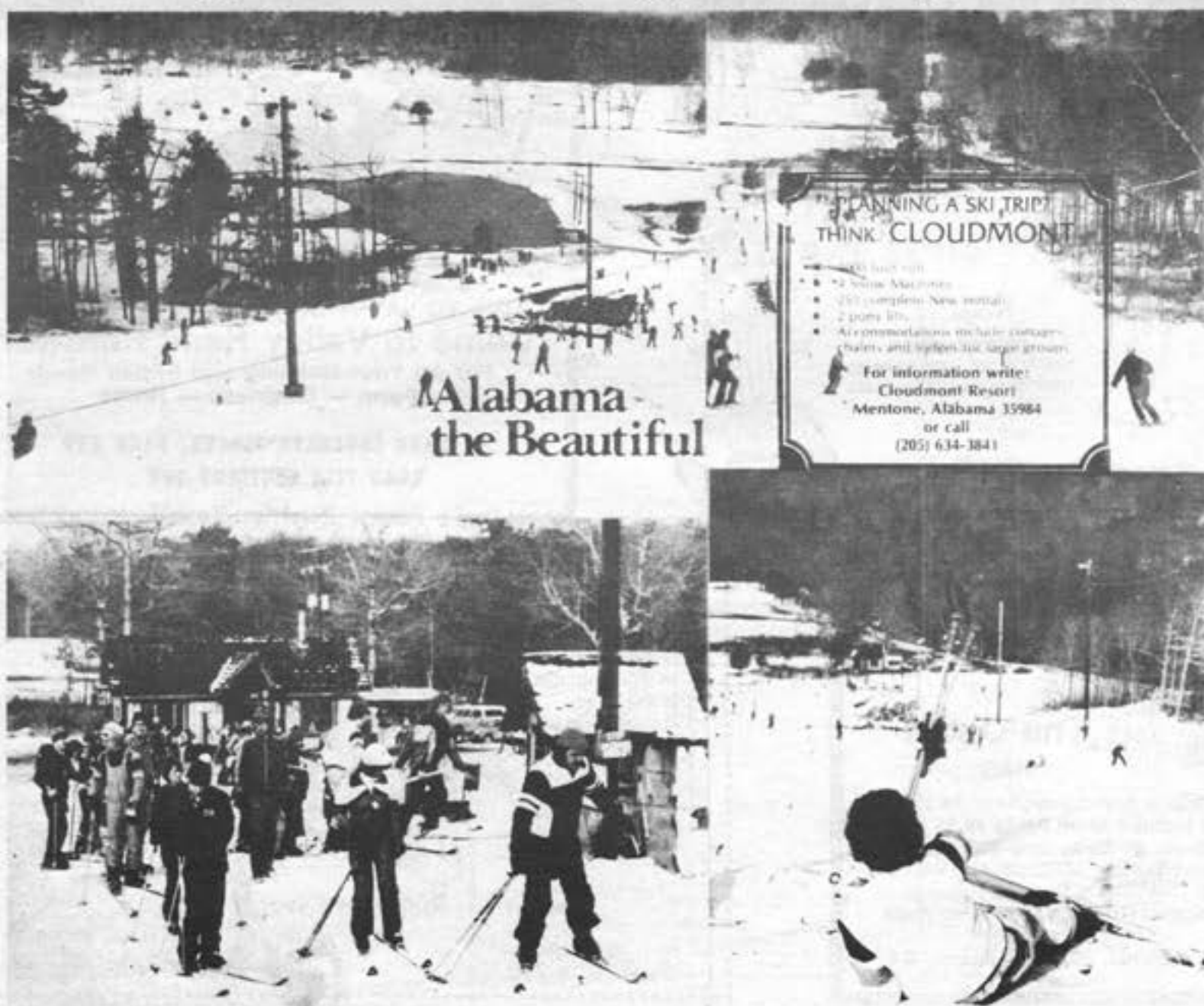
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COUNTRY JOURNAL

By Bernise Crow

We left Paris on a damp, cold day and headed for Valencia, Spain, on the train. This was my first experience of riding in a couchette-sleeper couch on a train.

The sleeping arrangement on this train was not as comfortable as one we had on the return trip. We left at 9:30 at night, and had a 600 mile trip ahead of us. There were many stops, and we didn't sleep a great deal, but rested and were refreshed by morning. We were awake at daybreak so we could see the countryside. Some were French farms before reaching the border of Spain at 9:30 a.m. at Portbeu.

We like a good breakfast, but all we could get there was coffee and a cold roll. We had about an hour to wait for the next train.

When we pulled out, it was like a giant panorama of beautiful changing scenery. All day, we enjoyed the wonderful view of the Mediterranean Sea on the left, the plains on our right, with tall rocky mountains in the background. On the sides of the steep mountains were grape vineyards — where it looked too steep for anyone to walk.

We passed groves of almonds and olive trees. Every turn we made brought a fresh new scene. We loved it! At times, there were beautiful stuccoed homes between us and the sea, and at some times we were right on the water it seemed. The sea is so blue and majestic. After reading about this area in history books for years, it was wonderful to view it with my own eyes.

Trees and plants and flowers are fascinating, and in a foreign country, one expects to see different species — and we did, but could not identify all of them. I could see the Leather-Leaf Viburnum growing wild, lovely blooming hibiscus, and some unusual cacti. It was much warmer in Spain, and palm trees were appearing now. It looked like the Florida Coast. Then about 200 miles north of Valencia, we come upon orange groves — miles and miles of them.

The trees were loaded with beautiful, bright Valencia oranges. Then I wished we were not on the train and could pick some of them.

On the high mountain peaks were century old huge castles. What a sight! They would cover several acres, having high rock fences around them. There again, one wonders how materials could be hauled to the tops of high mountain peaks for erecting these beautiful buildings. Most of it was done by hand and skill not known to modern builders. I had hoped to rent a car and drive up to one of them, but we didn't get to do that. There were too many things to do.

We were served an excellent meal on the train. We asked the porter about a full meal instead of cold sandwiches they were carrying around, and he said we could eat about 2:00 p.m. He came to get us about that time, and we were the only ones to go from our car! That was a surprise.

They must have served only those who requested a driver. There were only four other couples in the dining car. This was undoubtedly the best meal we had enjoyed since leaving the United States. We had ham and chicken with a sauce that was divine; potatoes, artichoke hearts, green peas and bread. It was very satisfying.

We got to Valencia at 4:20 p.m. — very tired, but not complaining. It was a fascinating trip.

We got a cab, and the driver could understand us, but spoke in broken English. We told him we wanted a good hotel on the beach. He said they were rated by stars No. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. He said No. 1 — no good, No. 2 — some good, No. 3 — some better, No. 4 — good, No. 5 — elite. So we said take us to a No. 4, which was a very nice modern hotel on the Mediterranean. Our room was very nice with a balcony where we could view the wonderful sunrises and sunsets. (Homer witnessed the sunrises, and I loved the sunsets). The management was good — everyone was friendly and helpful. The head porter was from England and we had fun talking to him. Our buffet breakfast here at Sidi Saler Sol Hotel was fabulous — everything one could possibly want for breakfast, and it was complimentary to guests. The dinners were excellent. Five-course meals, with a great pianist providing music. He played interesting old classics from the 40's, which suited our taste. We bought a tape from him for our son, Barry, who plays the piano. We had a shuttle bus, compliments of the hotel, and went into the city of Valencia two different days. We did a great deal of walking, so I wore my usual casual clothes and walking shoes. There were lovely old buildings everywhere, with unusual architecture. Many cultures have inhabited this area, and each of them left its influence. Because of Valencia's fine port, it became a crossroads of cultures. It is a City of Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque Monuments. The Romans founded Valencia in the Year 138 B. C. The irrigation system, later perfected by the Arabs, is attributed to them. Upon their pagan temples the Moslems built their Mosques, and from them the pleasure of living was inherited. The enthusiasm for fireworks and gun-powder, the love of music, fountains and gardens came from them.

When El Cid conquered the area, he named it Valencia. Later it fell under Arab power again, and then became Christian under Jaime I of Aragon. The minarets were substituted by bell towers and it became so beautiful that Victor Hugo called it "The City of Three Hundred Towers." Wealth and art came together under King Alfonso and Queen Maria. It reached an industrial height in the 18th century.

No we did not go to a bull fight. That is not my "thing." We did enjoy the scenic attractions — the gardens were beautiful. We noticed everyone had a vegetable garden; and some people were turning ground with a horse drawn plow. We drove through rice fields between the city and our hotel.

We spent our last morning shopping. Some of the finest leather articles in the world come from Spain. There is a large English department store with interpreters for most languages. We did buy some jewelry for our daughters, Joyce and Doreen, for Christmas.

As with most places, we would like to return and see the things we missed.

On our journey back to Paris, we were not as fortunate. Our train was 1½ hours late, causing us to have another two-hour wait at Lyon, France — and we missed our flights home and had to take a later one. The Spanish people do not get excited about being late — Manana is fine for them. Perhaps we could slow a bit and make it just the same, without ulcers.

Hasta Luego, Amigos.

"THE LITTLE RED WAGON" (Adapted From the Song)

by Howard Cash Marsh

We had looked in all the usual places one might lose a wagon. The Western Flyer had been a gift for my son's seventh birthday, so when he came to me teary eyed, I tried my best to calm him with the assurance that we would find it.

We searched behind the woodshed, under the back porch, in the well house, and even down at the creek — although he had said he had not taken it there. I was perplexed — not only because it was not his usual habit to leave his toys lying around, but because I could not understand how it could just "turn up" missing.

Our nearest neighbor back then lived two miles away and a quick phone call eliminated the possibility of their kids having "borrowed" it. Thievery was totally out of the question — we knew everyone around and their character was above theft. So after several more look-arounds, I settled the matter by promising my son that if it didn't turn up by Fall, I would replace it. He seemed relieved; it was soon forgotten because his mother and I were teachers and spent our summer vacations traveling and camping.

We returned home late that summer and began the tasks of readying the house for re-occupancy and mowing the tall grass.

Halfway into the Fall my son came running into the house under full steam — his face beaming with excitement.

"Dad-Dad — come quick. I found the wagon. You won't believe it! I remember now — come quick — hurry!"

He had left the bright red wagon in the middle of the melon and pumpkin patch, and the tangled vines had all but obscured the once prized possession.

It had weathered — a little rusty — somewhat faded, but oh what a surprise, for right in the middle of it was the most enormous pumpkin I had ever seen. The whole wagon bed contoured the pumpkin like a loaf of bread with too much yeast escaping the confines of the pan.

We removed the vines and pushed and pulled the wagon from the garden. The thin tires bogged down in the soft dirt — the axles dragging all the way.

We had decided to enter the pumpkin, wagon and all, into the county fair, just days away. The problem was we had no truck, and there was no way it would have fit into the family station wagon, so we decided to harness the mule to the wagon.

You should have seen the stares — and I must admit it was quite a sight to behold — me leading the mule and my son sitting on his back — grinning from ear to ear — and in tow the pumpkin filled Western Flyer.

On the way home with a blue ribbon things got a little out of hand. A hornet (inadvertently or purposefully I'll never know) collided with the mule's right ear, and the commotion that followed is right hard to describe. It all happened so fast. Thankfully my boy was walking — the mule just went crazy. He bucked and kicked and if there's such a thing as mule gymnastics, he set records in every category. He went totally wild — the last we ever saw of him was a blur disappearing around the bend in the road — the wagon bouncing and making the worst racket I've ever heard.

Momma made a pumpkin pie out of some of the pieces we managed to salvage; and we got the wagon back. It still hangs on the wall of the shed . . . but that was many years ago.

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COUNTRY COOKIN'

WITH NOVA DEAN KILGORE

Nova requests that anyone who has recipes to contribute to her column, send them to her at P. O. Box 116, Valley Head, Ala. 35989.

DUMP CAKE

1 pound 5-oz. can crushed pineapple
1 box cake mix, white or yellow
1 1/2 sticks butter
1/2 cup chopped nuts
Pour pineapple over bottom of 13x9x2 inch pan. Spread dry cake mix over pineapple. Slice butter and lay evenly over cake mix. Sprinkle nuts all over. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 1 hour. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

MOLASSES CAKE

1 cup sugar
1 cup margarine
3 eggs
1 cup molasses
2 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon cloves
1/2 teaspoon ginger
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons soda
1 cup boiling water
Cream margarine and sugar, add beaten eggs and molasses. Add flour, spices and salt. Mix the soda in the hot water and add to mixture gradually. Beat well. Batter will be thin. Pour into a greased and floured pan, and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes or until done.

BLUEBERRY BUCKLE CAKE

1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup sugar
1/4 cup shortening
1 egg
1/2 cup milk
2 cups sifted flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
2 cups well drained blueberries
Mix all ingredients together except blueberries. Then fold in well drained blueberries and bake at 375 degrees for 40 to 50 minutes. When cake is done sprinkle crumb topping on.

TOPPING

1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup sifted flour
1/4 cup butter
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
Mix together well, and sprinkle on top of cake.

SOUTHERN NUT CAKE

2 1/2 cups shortening
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 eggs
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 cup milk
1/2 cup butter
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup chopped black walnuts
Cream shortening, butter and vanilla; add sugar and beat well. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each. Sift dry ingredients together; add alternately with milk to creamed mixture. Fold in nuts. Pour into a 13x9x2 inch pan. Bake in slow oven (325 degrees) for 40 to 45 minutes.

7-UP CAKE

1 box Lemon Supreme cake mix
1 box pineapple instant pudding
4 eggs
3/4 cup salad oil
1 bottle 7-Up
Mix well and pour into a greased and floured 9x13 inch cake pan. Bake in a 350 degree oven for about 40 minutes.

TOPPING

1 cup coconut
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 small can crushed pineapple
1 stick margarine
While cake is baking prepare topping by mixing all ingredients in a sauce pan and boiling over low heat until sugar dissolves. Cool slightly and pour over cake while it is still warm. About 10 minutes after baking is completed.

FRUIT PUDDING CAKE

1 cup sugar
1 cup flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
1 egg
1 can fruit cocktail and juice

TOPPING

1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup chopped nuts
Mix sugar, flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt together. Add well beaten egg, fruit and juice. Pour batter into a greased 9 inch baking pan. Sprinkle with topping, made by mixing brown sugar and nuts. Bake in a 300 degree oven for 40 to 45 minutes or 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes.

SOCK IT TO ME CAKE

Mix 2 tablespoons brown sugar with 2 teaspoons cinnamon and set aside.
1 package butter yellow cake mix
1/2 cup sugar
3/4 cup salad oil
4 eggs
1 small container sour cream
1 cup pecans
Add first three ingredients, then add eggs one at a time, beating well after each. Add sour cream and pecans. Pour 2/3 batter into well-greased tube pan, sprinkle with brown sugar and cinnamon mixture and add remaining batter. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 1 hour or until done.

COLD OVEN POUND CAKE

3 cups sugar
3 cups flour
1 cup butter or margarine
3/4 teaspoon baking powder
5 eggs
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon Mace or almond extract
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup milk
Grease and flour a 10-inch tube pan. Sift together and set aside in a bowl flour, salt and baking powder. In a large bowl beat the butter and sugar together until light and creamy. Add the eggs one at a time beating well after each addition. Add flavoring and the dry ingredients alternately with the milk. Beat at medium speed until well blended. Pour into pan. Place in a cold oven, then set oven to 325 degrees. Bake 1 to 1 1/2 hours.

STRAWBERRY CAKE

1 package white cake mix
1 package strawberry Jell-O
4 eggs
3/4 cup salad oil
1/2 cup milk
1/2 package frozen strawberries
Mix oil, strawberries, milk and Jell-O together, add cake mix. Beat eggs separately, and add to mixture. Pour into two layer pans or a loaf pan and bake for 25 to 30 minutes in a 350 degree oven.

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the GROUNDHOG

Vol. 5 Number 11 A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

February,
1988



Max Cash

"Not snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays
these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed
rounds."

Inscription on main Post Office, New York, N. Y.

Max Cash retired from the U. S. Postal Service on Feb. 3, 1988, after 36 years of continuous service. He has seen the rural mail route grow from 43 miles in length to 73 miles, and watched the landscape change almost as much as he has seen the seasons come and go.

Max began the mail route as an appointee of U. S. Representative Albert Rains. He was 27 years old, and was living with his wife Roberta and family in the house near Moon Lake that has been home for over 40 years. Max and Roberta had purchased the two acres for their home from a member of the Moon Lake Club, a group of people from Gadsden who owned 60 acres in and around Moon Lake upon which they built summer homes. Max's father, Albert, was caretaker for the club, and through his efforts the lot was obtained.

The Moon Lake Club consisted of two men, D. C. Wadsworth and Charlie Shepard. Later, Louie Shepard, brother to Charlie and a Mr. Akins bought into the group. Dr. Amos Gibson joined later, former lieutenant governor J. C. Inzer bought into the organization. Each member had a lot where he built his home — the rest of the land was owned by the group as a whole. Moon Lake provided fishing, and the pines and hardwoods covering the area provided scenic beauty and solitude.

Max's family grew with his mail route. Anita, Larry, Bruce, Philip, Susan, Neal (now deceased) and Ann made up the close-knit group in which each child was special and learned early the virtues of self-reliance, spirituality and education. "Our parents were always there for us."

Continued on Page 4