

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 1 - NO. 10 - JANUARY 1984 A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

A Place of Mystery, An Eternal Challenge



PHOTO BY DOC LONG

Do you know this place?

Do you know of the millions of years, the crashing and receding tides, the battering rains, and the incessant winds through which it evolved?

This is a secret place, not entirely inaccessible, which has its oval shapes, its womblike recesses. It has many stories to tell, many evolving mysteries to conceal.

Did you know that Mentone was once immersed in a mighty ocean? To our east was a range of mountains higher than the European Alps or the American Rockies. Across the centuries, many centuries, these lofty peaks were destroyed by the pounding processes of nature.

Where Mentone now stands, layers of sand, clay, and limestone emerged from the waves in undulating folds and sharp angles, fashioning the Appalachian range as we know it and Lookout Mountain as we live upon it.

The evolutionary processes of the receding ocean continued: the water moved across the rocks in

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the GROUNDHOG

January MAPA Speaker Is Mayor Rob Hammond

Mayor Rob Hammond will be speaker at the January meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association when it meets at Brownie's in the Hitching Post on the evening of Tuesday, January 3, at 7:00 o'clock.

After a few remarks concerning his administration as mayor since he succeeded Mayor Sam Barrett who resigned because of ill health, the floor will be opened to questions from the audience.

Homer Crow, director, will preside over a business session prior to the mayor's appearance. All citizens are invited to the meeting, but only MAPA's dues-paying members are allowed to vote on any issues that may arise.

At the business session reports will be given on the holiday festivities and plans will begin for 1984, including the possibility of a spring celebration.

Refreshments will be served.

Mayor Hammond was scheduled to address the November MAPA meeting but other plans caused cancellation.

Bobby Lee Cook Quoted In United Press Article

In a widely circulated United Press article of November 11, Bobby Lee Cook, who owns a home at Mentone, was referred to as a "Nationally renowned country lawyer" who said that defending unpopular clients ranks among an attorney's "highest" duties. It is the difference between this society and those countries which lie behind the iron curtain. It is the hallmark of our profession."

Attorney Cook practices in Summerville, Georgia, and has gained a wide reputation for handling unpopular cases. In the United Press article he also said that the use of emotional, prosaic arguments "to influence the passions and to titillate the fairness of a free people" is on the verge of a comeback in the law practice.

Ronnie And Gail Jones Outstanding Farm Family



Ronnie and Gail Jones of Mentone were recently awarded the title of Alabama Farm Bureau Federation's Outstanding Farm Family in Alabama in ceremonies at Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center during the Bureau's 62nd Annual Meeting. The Jones, who operate 920 acres of farmland in the Mentone area, were winners over ten finalists. Over 1,500 farmers from throughout the state participated in the three-day convention.

Ronnie, who is 29, is grandson of Hardy Jones and a nephew of Rufus Colquitt Jones, town policeman. At Auburn he received a degree in marketing and played as a linesman on the Tigers' football team. Gail who also attended Auburn, is a native of Goodwater, Alabama, and earned a degree in animal and dairy science. They have daughters Kristen, 18 months, and Candace, 8 months.

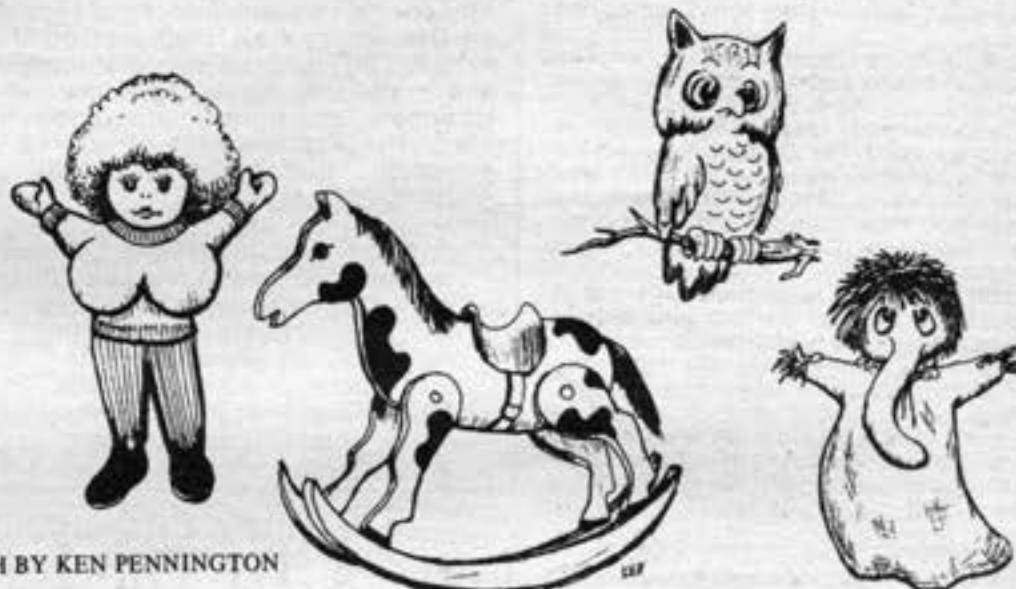
Their farmland is in two principal sections. One is behind the Bains place; the other is the old Renfro farm. This year they planted some 300 acres of corn, averaging 135 bushels per acre. They also cultivated 240 acres of soybeans and 50 acres of mullet. They plan to market 800 head of stocker cattle.

When contacted by THE GROUNDHOG, Ronnie, who attended Brainerd High in Chattanooga, said: "We didn't campaign for this honor but we're pleased and humble about it. It's based on where you started and where you've arrived. Farming has changed. It's now a year-round job occupation — no time off in the winter. It requires huge investments in equipment, and it's really a risk. There's no guaranteed success. It's a matter of enduring and surviving."

Ronnie and Gail's equipment includes five tractors and a combine. Earlier this year they were chosen the state's top young wheat and grain farmers.

The Jones hope that the American people, and particularly the politicians, will become less apathetic toward the plight of American farmers. Ronnie says that farmers are in a depressed state, receiving far less than they should for their share of the food they raise. "We're so much more fortunate than any other country on earth," he says, "but people don't realize the raw deal farmers are getting just now."

Cabbage Patch, Stand Aside: Mentone Artists Give Challenge!



SKETCH BY KEN PENNINGTON

The Cabbage Patch dolls have nothing on us here in Mentone — we have our very own resident creatures who can hold their own and even rival the homely adoption dolls. We insist that you know about these creatures — especially Dolly Parton Dolls, Gourdie's, Owls and the Emily Horses. Beginning at the Hitching Post, Avline Brown has an entire collection of dolls she has created. Mrs. Brown fashioned the popular engineer doll at the Chattanooga Choo Choo. She has dolls modeled after famous people in history, television personalities, and character dolls. Just now her best sellers include her Dolly Parton doll and her latest, Princess Di. She will make dolls to order. Avline has numerous dolls as well as other gift items and snacks at her shop, Brownie's in the Hitching Post.

Also in the Hitching Post is Sharon Barron's Gourdie's Patch. Sharon copyrighted and registered her gourd dolls and they have proven quite popular. Each doll is different. Sharon takes her ideas of the gourdie's features from their "noses," and she states that frequently customers choose gourdie's which resemble their features.

In addition to the gourdie's, Sharon has created other enchanting creatures. Her "Coulbees" are little bee-like gossamer winged animals that bear the legend: "Coulbees are for all those special people who still believe in their dreams of how life could be." Kissmases are delightful holiday ornamental pins.

Sharon has written a book, suitable for children and adults and illustrated by Ken Pennington, about her gourdie's. The book should be a smashing success. It bears the lesson that friends should be non-judgemental. (See page 7 for review.)

Eastward down highway 117 from the Hitching Post is Sue Hamilton's Owl's Roost shop. Sue, a former art teacher, paints owls on all sorts of wooden jewelry — earrings, pins, necklaces, and bracelets. She also has created thumb print owl paintings and groupings of owl families perched on small tree branches. At one time Sue had a real live owl in a large cage beside her shop. Now she is assisted in marketing by her husband Alex. Sue's owl designs have sold well in shows all over the Southeast. The Hamiltons have antiques and other gift items in their shop.

Beyond the edge of town in the Lake LaHusage area is Marie Shadgett's Knotty Knotts shop. Here dwells another of Mentone's delightful creatures — the beautiful rocking horse that Marie and her husband Bill make. In an article in THE HUNTSVILLE TIMES, Marie is quoted as saying that the horses are the result of a suggestion made by the mother of a three year old girl named Emily. So the horses are named "Emily's horses."

Two sizes of the rocking horses are on display at Cragmere Manna restaurant and at the welcome center on I-59. Orders come in from all over the country. In addition to the rocking horses, the Shadgetts sell doll beds, tractors, cars, airplanes, ducks, crayon holders, jewelry boxes, and napkin holders, all made from pine and black walnut wood.

The Cabbage Patch dolls may be fads of the moment, but Mentone's creatures are created to last and to give years of enjoyment. And their artist-creators share something the Cabbage Patch dolls and their merchandisers don't — the privilege of living in Mentone!

Kennedy Memorial Trail Begins At DeSoto Falls

The Mentone area is the starting point of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Trail which was dedicated on November 11th at Nocalula Falls in Gadsden. The celebration of the scenic trail was coincident with the 20th anniversary of the death of President Kennedy.

This trail will run from DeSoto Falls, through Cherokee County, down to Nocalula Falls near Gadsden. Eventually it is hoped that it will connect with the Appalachian Trail, which reaches to upper Maine.

The project is a joint effort of the DeKalb County Tourist Association, the Gadsden Chamber of Commerce, and the Alabama Appalachian Association. Its 65-mile course includes Little River Canyon with many spectacular views, as well as DeSoto and three other waterfalls.

Senator Ted Kennedy, speaking for the family, called the trail a "timeless memorial." A \$5,000 federal grant is available for erecting signs along the right-of-way.

This project is reminiscent of one of the dreams of Colonel Milford Howard, which was discussed in a meeting at Hal Howe's hotel in 1924. The colonel himself staked the route from Mentone to Gadsden. It was abandoned because of lack of funds. As a scenic highway along the brow of Lookout Mountain, it now is largely the course of the DeSoto Parkway.

As additional details are available about the Kennedy Memorial Trail, they will be published in THE GROUNDHOG.

Present at the dedication in Gadsden was Amelia Brooks, owner-manager of the Mentone Inn, who is vice president of the DeKalb County Tourist Association, a co-sponsor of the trail.

January Groundhog Award



GROUNDHOG Award for January's outstanding structure goes to the Mentone United Methodist Church. After the original group was formed in 1891 with twelve charter members, land was given by Ed Mason, who owned a sawmill, sawed the lumber, and cut the shingles. He personally built the steeple and cut the cornerstone. Most of the building was done by G. W. Crowe, Jay Reese, T. F. Sproule, and J. W. Shigley. The logs were hauled from Reese's farm to the sawmill by wagons drawn by oxen.

Improvements over the years include a large Church School room that doubles as an extension of the sanctuary, a chapel and a fellowship hall with a kitchen and two bathrooms. Some adjoining land was purchased from the F. L. Ferrel estate and many improvements have been made by the congregation. The most recent investment is the application of vinyl siding and a latex covering of the tin roof. Present pastor is the Reverend Brian Wyatt.

from your director

By Homer Crow

As 1983 ends, I'd like to reflect on some of the accomplishments of MAPA and some of the goals we have set for ourselves.

MAPA has been growing at an unbelievable rate — we have reached our goal of 100 members by Jan. 1, 1984. With this number, we should have some stronger influence in asking our elected officials for help with other goals.

The first annual Groundhog Classic Run was a tremendous success and plans are already being laid for the next one.

Groundwork has been started toward getting the Desoto Parkway repaired and the stone wall guard along 117 on the side of the mountain repaired.

Cleo Smith has recently cleaned off the triangle flower bed, and we thank him for this. An estimate has been made to install a walk in the downtown area along highway 117. MAPA has made an offer to the town council to help rebuild the shelter at the brow park. Mentone has been placed on the exit signs along I-59 south.

There is still much work to be done on some of these projects; if you feel that you can contribute in any way, please contact any MAPA members.

One goal that takes preeminence in my mind is the construction or purchasing of some type of community building.

MAPA is working closely with the town council for the good of all of the community. If you aren't now a member of MAPA, please join with us. Have a happy and prosperous 1984!

Groundhog Finance Report

December Issue

INCOME

Ad Sales	\$780.00
Donations, Brownie's	1.50
Balance in account	504.57

\$1286.07

DEBITS

The Summerville News Co.	\$564.25
U. S. Post Office	54.70
Donna Bukley (sales)	55.25
Jean McGehee (sales)	60.75

\$734.95

Balance in account	\$551.12
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MAPA Minutes

The MAPA December meeting was held at Cragmere Manna Restaurant, December 6, following a delicious dinner served to 48 guests by Randy Still, owner-chef. Mrs. Maggie Cordell made six coconut pies for the MAPA dinner. Treasurer Ann Climer reported a balance on hand of \$2,407.06.

Director Homer Crow, who presided, reported a request from Mayor Rob Hammond for police services rendered by H. P. Goss during the Classic Run. \$60 was voted for two days' work at \$30 a day.

John Hilderbrand reported plans for the Wintery Wander-ful Christmas. Randy Still explained about the coupon booklets being sold, offering discounts at Mentone establishments for the months of December and January.

Amelia Brooks reported that the State Highway Department says it has no jurisdiction on setting a local speed limit, that it is a town and not a state function. Jean McGehee told of the visit of Ken Hammond, director of Economic Development for DeKalb county to the town council meeting (see story elsewhere).

According to Bruce Bon Fleur downtown Mentone improvements are being worked on with TVA designer-engineers. More meetings will be held and further studies made. At Amelia Brooks' suggestion, Christmas decorations were appropriated from the \$500 allocated by MAPA for the holiday festival. Sharon Barron advised use of PVC pipe, painted with red stripes, which can be used many years.

According to Randy Still, Cragmere will be open all winter. A New Year's Eve party will be held, with reservations for only 30 couples. Dinner, dancing, and breakfast will be provided.

At the January meeting at Brownie's, Randy will show slides of Mentone which he and Sandra Padgett developed. Planning and budgets for 1984 will be discussed. At the December meeting the following became new members: Charles and Helena Furgerson, Mildred Moerlins, Dorothy Reeder, John P. Furness, Jim Garrett, Russell and Ruby Stalvey.

Ruby O'Rear, Harrell Jenkins, and Marie Shadgett received door prizes as result of the drawings.

— Condensed from the minutes of Marie Shadgett, secretary.

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
Eleanor Moerlins, Features
Donna Bukley, Advertising
Homer Crow, Director
Mabel Kirk, Associate Director
Marie Shadgett, Secretary
Ann Climer, Treasurer

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

I had not been to Mentone in about one year until November 3, 1983. What a delightful surprise to see the many improvements since 1982! I was especially pleased to read THE GROUNDHOG. It is informative and interesting. You, your staff and contributing writers are to be complimented.

Caroline Cavanaugh, Administrative Director
Brookwood Medical Center
Birmingham, Alabama

Ruby Stalvey Celebrated As MAPA's 100th Member



Ruby Stalvey, owner-manager of Ruby's Variety, is the welcomed 100th member of the Mentone Preservation Association. MAPA members are exulting over achieving founder Bruce Bon Fleur's dream of having 100 members by the new year.

Latest members are *Gerry Stephens, *Bud Fielder, *Sis Martin, *Charles and Helena Furgerson, Mildred Moerlins, Dorothy Reeder, *John Furness, *Jim Garrett, Russell and Ruby Stalvey, *Mr. and Mrs. William Clark Murphy. Asterisks indicate out-of-town members.

In commemoration of her honor, Ruby Stalvey's \$10 dues payment will be returned to her at the next MAPA meeting.

TO MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, BOX 50 in support of the objectives of MAPA, desiring to join with others in preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, I enclose \$10 for voting membership for one through June 1984.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

ViewPoint...

By Charles White McGehee

This is the 10th issue of THE GROUNDHOG. In two months we will be observing our first birthday and shortly thereafter — the second birthday of the formation of the Mentone Area Preservation Association. First and foremost, the object of this publication is to support the goals of MAPA.

Mentone's heritage, which we strive to preserve, is more than reviving old buildings and giving continuity to historical traditions; it is a dedication to people, their significance, their importance, their accomplishments.

Our spirits are constantly upheld by your compliments. Our objective is to make this a constantly improving publication. Because this is a monthly, we cannot give adequate coverage of such weekly news as weddings, personals, obituaries, and regular church events. Information about such events cannot meet THE GROUNDHOG deadline. Mentone is in the coverage area of the THE FORT PAYNE TIMES-JOURNAL, which has a definite interest in local matters.

Our staff contacts officers of local organizations that meet monthly. This keeps readers abreast of what these groups are doing. Of particular interest to us are the seasonal events: the Crafts Fair, October Color Festival, Christmas, and spring events.

What can you do to assist our volunteer staff in maintaining THE GROUNDHOG standards and improve its contents?

(1) Join MAPA. Work with the 100-plus persons who are now dues-paying members.

(2) Advertise your business regularly in our pages. In so doing you not only bring in new customers, the payment for your ad goes toward the goals of MAPA.

(3) Support those businesses which run ads in THE GROUNDHOG. They make THE GROUNDHOG possible. If advertising falls away, there will no longer be this publication.

(4) Take photos at your organizational events. We can use color shots. We return your photos. We cannot use them all. But photos brighten our pages.

(5) Send in recipes to Box 50 for the upcoming "GROUNDHOG MOUNTAIN COOKBOOK," which is being edited by Eleanor Moerlins. Tell your friends about submitting their recipes.

(6) L. A. Smith will answer your questions in his "MOUNTAIN GREENERY." He is an expert on Landscaping and gardening.

(7) Submit items in writing. Last-minute telephone calls to the editors are permissible, but there is less possibility of error if items are in writing. Keep us posted on what your group is doing.

(8) If you have something to sell or services to offer, advertise in our classified section. Call Marie Shadgett (643-4542). Your inexpensive ad will reach over 3,000 people.

(9) Thank Ann Climer and Marie Shadgett for their generous services in delivering THE GROUNDHOG to area businesses, particularly to our advertisers. (650 are immediately placed in Mentone area mailboxes via our mailing permit.)

(10) Encourage out-of-town relatives, or former Mentone residents, to join MAPA and receive THE GROUNDHOG.

Remember, this publication is a product of volunteers, working to improve communications in this wonderful town, in the belief that some wonderful things have been happening and we want them to continue throughout 1984 and for many years to come.

Leonard Shigley Elected American Legion Captain

Leonard Shigley was elected captain of the Rescue Squad in a meeting at the American Legion Hall annex on Thursday evening, December 8. Other officers elected are the following:

Don Yates, second lieutenant; Barbara Blalock, sergeant; Linda Brown, secretary-treasurer; Raymond Brown, chaplain.

Ovie Blalock was appointed program chairman and is expected to institute a new series of training programs. Captain Shigley stated that he expects a membership growth because of the new interest in this organization.

In the past, the Rescue Squad has been invaluable in assisting with lost persons, water accidents, and disasters in Northeast Alabama.

For Your Protection

To reach your Mentone policeman call 634-4467 (Home)

Weekday mornings 634-3705 (Town Hall)
Other times: 1-845-3801

One of the listings in the current Mentone telephone directory is inaccurate. Do not call the 634-4444 number.

Mountain Cookery

This month's recipes are from Marie Shadgett, MAPA secretary, a native of Canada who now makes her home in Mentone and with her husband operates Knotty Knots Arts and Crafts.

Our readers are urged to follow Marie's example and submit favorite recipes for inclusion in the upcoming "GROUNDHOG MOUNTAIN COOKBOOK" being edited by Eleanor Moerlins.

PRIME RIB ROAST OF BEEF WITH YORKSHIRE PUDDING

Yorkshire pudding is a savory pudding resembling popovers. English in origin, it was traditionally baked under the roast which was placed on a rack in the roasting pan. Here, it is baked separately.

1 5-pound rib roast (about 3 ribs)
salt and pepper.

Trim roast of excess fat. Bone roast, tie with string, and place on rack or use the ribs as the rack; place in open pan. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Place in 325 degrees oven, insert thermometer. Cook until temperature reaches 140 degrees F for rare (about 2 hours), 160 degrees F for medium (about 2 1/2 hours), 170 degrees F for well done (about 3 hours).

When done transfer to a warm platter; keep warm.

Turn oven to 400 degrees F. In medium bowl with wire whisk, beat eggs until foamy. Beat in milk and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Gradually beat in flour until batter is smooth. Spoon 2 tablespoons fat from roasting pan and divide among twelve 3-inch muffin cups. Tilt to coat evenly. Heat muffin pan in oven 5 minutes. Pour 2 1/2 tablespoons batter into each cup. Bake 30 minutes. Meanwhile, discard all fat from meat juices in roasting pan. Stir in one 14-ounce can of beef broth, stirring and scraping until browned bits are loosened; strain the mixture.

To serve, loosen Yorkshire pudding; arrange on platter with roast. Garnish with parsley or watercress. Serve with strained pan juices (Au-jus).

*Ingredients for Yorkshire Pudding:

3 large eggs
1 cup milk
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 cup all-purpose flour

FRUIT MINCEMEAT

1 1/2 cups (1/2 pound) beef suet, shredded
2 cups dried apricots, chopped
2 cups prunes, pitted and chopped
1 cup dates pitted and chopped
1 cup dried figs, chopped
1 cup dried currants
2 cups seedless raisins (white)
2 cups seedless raisins (dark)
6 cups (2 pounds) tart apples, peeled, cored and chopped
1/2 cup mixed candied lemon and orange peel
1 cup blanched almonds, sliced or chopped
1 cup dark brown sugar, firmly packed
1/4 cup honey
1 tablespoon cinnamon
Juice and grated rind of 1/2 lemon
Juice and grated rind of 1 orange
2 cups or more, Madeira (rum, sherry, or brandy can also be used)
I like brandy.

Hint: A sharp knife dipped in boiling water makes chopping any kind of fruit easier.

Combine all the chopped fruit with suet and mix well. Add candied lemon and orange peel, almond, sugar and honey; mix well. Add the juice and grated rind of lemon and orange and 2 cups of brandy (or your favorite); stir until well mixed. Cover and set aside in a cool place (not the refrigerator) for 48 hours, stirring every 6 to 8 hours. Dried fruit should become very plump and moist. If the mixture is too dry, add more brandy. Store in cool dark place. Yield: 5 to 6 quarts. Makes delicious pies and tarts.

FOR THE HUNTERS VENISON CHILI

3 tablespoons salad oil
1 large onion chopped
2 cloves garlic, chopped
2 pounds ground venison
1 4-ounce can green chilies
1 10-ounce can of beef consommé
1 6-ounce can of tomato paste
1 14 1/2-ounce can stewed tomatoes
1 teaspoon oregano
2 teaspoons ground cumin
1 to 3 teaspoons chili powder, to taste
2 cans kidney beans

Heat oil in a Dutch oven or large skillet and sauté onion and garlic until golden, but not brown. Add crumbled venison and cook, stirring often until browned. Stir in chilies and the juices, consommé, tomato paste, tomatoes, chili powder, oregano and cumin, and bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Add beans and their liquid and stir to blend. Add more chili powder if desired. Simmer for at least 10 minutes; even better, refrigerate and then reheat the next day. Garnish if desired with shredded Monterey Jack or cheddar cheese, and green bell pepper or onion rings.

Did You Know?

That Mentone is situated on the widest stretch of Lookout Mountain — 9 miles. The narrowest portion is just south of Chattanooga; at the bottom end near Gadsden it is three miles wide.

Families Of Mentone

The Gosses seventh in a series

For almost a half century Gosses have been delivering mail in Mentone — grandfather, father, two sons. Two Goss brothers have also been in charge of Mentone's Water Works.

After Arthur Goss worked a rural mail route covering five counties in two states — 300 mail box stops — for twenty-eight years and three months, he retired seven years ago.

When their children were gone from home, Mr. Goss and his wife, the former Flora Edna McSpadden, went together on the mail route. Once over in Dade County, Georgia, his truck skidded off the road in icy weather. He left Mrs. Goss with the truck and walked four miles for help. Many times they got home well after dark.

Part of the time when he carried mail, Mr. Goss also maintained Mentone's water works. During the winter months, this was a day and night job. Since the place was not winterized, the motors had to be kept running to keep the pump going and the pipes from freezing. There was a small heater in the filter room, but the Gosses have memories of many cold nights at the water works.

There was one bad accident during the years Mr. Goss spent working for the town's water system. He had placed a suction line out into the river during a drought, but had to retrieve it because of a heavy rain. He was working with a grandson in the cold, when suddenly, Mr. Goss was "out like a light." He regained consciousness later in his home; the next day a doctor told him he had suffered a "cold stroke," similar to heat stroke.

Originally from the Crossville, Alabama, area the Gosses first lived below Fisher Community. For twelve years Alfred Pinckney Goss, Mr. Goss's father, carried mail here. Arthur Goss's mother's family lived near Dalton, Georgia.

Arthur Goss had five brothers and one sister. Virtually everyone in Mentone knows H. P., who also

supervised the water works. Brother Anison lives in LaFayette, Georgia. Granville lives here near Baty's Lumber Yard. His brother Sherman was killed in a grist mill accident. Other family members are brother Avery and sister Melindy Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Goss met as school children. They celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1979. For forty years they have lived in the same home. They raised eight children; twin sons died in infancy.

The oldest daughter Corinthia died in adolescence. Betty Sue Bell lives in Mentone and Rindy Lou Milligan is in Hammondville. The oldest son Clifford lives in Atlanta. Mary Flanagan lives in Mentone and Isaac Sherman is familiar to residents on the star route; he, too, is a mail carrier. Daughter Regina Prestwood is in Mentone and youngest son Benny is known to everyone in town as Mentone's postmaster.

Mr. Goss was asked where he got his nickname of Lightning. It seems that when he worked in the Hixson Post's grocery store in the '30's, Arthur Hixson and Fred Huron (who build the Riverside Hotel, part of Camp Skyline Ranch today) thought there were too many men answering to the name of Arthur. So Mr. Hixson told him that from then on, Arthur Goss would answer to the name of Lightning.

He "just picked up" his knowledge of motors, Mr. Goss says, beginning when he first fixed Clifford's scooter. Today he repairs mowers and garden tillers in the shop next to his home. He says, "Most people don't think about it, but if you turn over on a lawnmower, you're liable to get your fingers cut off." This is exactly what happened to Mr. Goss last year, but he hasn't let his accident slow him down very much.

The Goss home is filled with family pictures, indicative of the love and concern that has radiated throughout the community in service and friendliness.

From the Archives



Patricia Bryan, local resident, is shown standing in front of the old covered bridge in a photo taken around 1945. Her mother, Nancy Irwin, has a home at the Berry Patch on the property originally bought by Patricia's grandfather, Gordon Cecil. Prior to its destruction by flooding, the bridge crossed the river near Ruby O'Rear's home.

Fire Department News

The Christmas Turkey-Ham shoot was sponsored by the Mentone Fire Department Saturday, December 17th, at the ball field. Sammy Cash, captain, reports that approximately \$200 was raised through the charges of \$3 per shot for hams and \$2 for turkeys.

Mentone citizens are urged to bring all aluminum items, especially cans, to the fire hall for reprocessing to provide funds for the Fire Department.

There was only a small turnout for the Blood Mobile on Saturday, December 10th. Thirteen pints of blood were donated — six from Mentone and seven from surrounding areas. Robert R. Blewing of Fort Payne gave his 80th unit, which represented his total of 10 gallons to the Red Cross.

THE CITIZENS BANK

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL
OF OUR EMPLOYEES

large enough to serve you — small enough
to know you — member FDIC

Valley Head, Ala. 635-6453

CRAGSMERE MANNA

Restaurant and Gardens
Desoto Parkway, South, Near Mentone

New Year's Eve Party
Reservations Only
634-4677

Burt-Whitmire Funeral Home, Inc.

We Specialize in pre-planned funerals

R. J. Burt Jr., Director

Valley Head, Alabama
635-6247

Camp Alpine

Owner-directors Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carter O'Farrell, Jr., are spending the winter at Jackson, Mississippi, and may be reached by telephone. Mr. and Mrs. Luther Kirby are year-round caretakers.

Mr. Kirby, who with his wife lives in a residence near the lodge, reports that except for a three-day counselors' retreat over the New Year's holiday, the camp is inactive during the winter months. Repairs and improvements will be underway when weather grows warmer.

Alpine, originally built by Colonel Milford Howard, is a sprawling complex of 52 buildings located on a high cliff on the bank of Little River. There is a large recreational hall, gym, athletic field, camp library, and three basic living units. Phone: 634-4200.

Camp DeSoto

Because Camp DeSoto is not winterized, there are no special activities during the off-season months.

Director Sue Henry, a year-round resident of Mentone, spends the months of October through November recruiting campers. In April the staff members are recruited.

This year's off-season activities are concentrated on tearing down and rebuilding cabins — three this year.

There are also the natural general repairs and cleanup, including cleaning the lake.

Because the range of campers has been extended this year, more traveling has been involved for Sue. There will be a staff retreat in January involving 30 to 40 former members.

Phone, 634-3411.

Camp Juliette Low

Caretaker Tiny Brown lives year-round at Juliette Low. He has been busy throughout the winter thus far, building a new shower house, digging a new well, and repairing the dam.

Maureen Walker is secretary at the winter office in Marietta, Georgia. She states that they're taking applications for both campers and staff.

Juliette Low, the only camp for Girl Scouts founded personally by Juliette Low, is expecting an early listing in the National Historical Register. It accommodates 112 campers every two weeks and employs a staff of 35.

Phone, 404-428-0466.

Announcing a Very Special Publication

The Gourdie Book

by Sharon Barron

Illustrated by
Kenneth E. Pennington

\$4.95 per copy

Author/Creator Sharon Barron is offering a limited number of signed, First Edition copies. Available at "The Gourdie Patch" in the Hitching Post, or, Box 126, Mentone, AL 35984.

A MOUNTAINVIEW COMMUNICATION

Camp Laney

Because Camp Laney is not winterized except for the residence of owner-director and Mrs. Rob Hammond, there is little activity at the complex, except for the repairs, maintenance, and improvements which involve Caretaker Leroy Snyder. There are a few special groups in the early fall and late spring, depending on the weather.

August through November is travel time for Rob, involving approximately 35 slide presentations for recruiting campers for the summer of 1984. From December through May, much time and emphasis will be devoted to hiring a staff of 30.

Eventually the process of insulating and winterizing will make possible expanded activities in winter — retreats and other off-season activities.

Phone, 634-3561

Camp Saddle Rock

Caretaker Granville Goss is busy supervising the building of new furniture, remodeling the kitchen, insulating and sealing two of the large buildings, building a new project adventure course and riding ring — plus dredging and damming the river.

Director Marty Griffin has been busy since before Thanksgiving recruiting campers throughout the Southeast. Plans are underway for staff recruitment during the months of February and March. There will be week-long training sessions for staff workers and guest speakers.

Saddle Rock has structures to be used in early summer when church groups and band camps utilize the facility prior to the regular camping season.

At present Associate Director Polly Cameron is in the office at the camp on a daily basis.

Phone, 634-4608.

Camp Skyline Ranch

Directors Larry and Susan Cash Hooks live year round at Skyline. The camp facilities are not winterized, but some church groups plan to have retreats there in late spring and early fall. Camp Skyline representatives have been quite busy during recent weeks traveling throughout the Southeast. These public relations presentations involve slide show parties with refreshments and prizes.

Plans for 1984 include several new activities: computer programming, water slides, overnight fishing trips with fish fries. More property will be utilized, including the 40-acre privately owned Lizard Lake, for sailing and fish fries; Granny Dollar Lake for boating and sailing; and 75 acres on the West Fork of Little River for nature trips, hikes, and bird watching. A pre-camp planning session will be held during the holiday season.

Phone, 634-3201.

Rhododendron Garden Club

The Rhododendron Garden Club held its annual Christmas dinner at the Mentone Inn on Tuesday, December 13th. Hostesses were Grace Howard, Amelia Brooks, Dorothy Reeder, and Jean McGehee. Members brought covered dishes for the luncheon. The Inn was beautifully decorated throughout the public rooms.

Jane Meadows led the "Magical Music of Christmas" program. Mrs. Meadows told the history of several carols and sang a duet with Bernice Crow. Mrs. Crow also sang a solo; then the group was led in singing "The Twelve Days of Christmas" by Mrs. Meadows.

Several changes in the by-laws were enacted, bringing the clubs constitution up to date, including the stipulation that members attend five out of ten meetings annually to be considered active participants.

The Mentone club will not meet again until March 13, 1984, at the home of Lydia Speed.

Voter Registration

Voter registration will be held at the Fire Hall on Saturday, January 14th, from 9:00 to 12:00 a.m.

All unregistered voters are urged to be on hand and register.

This is of added significance because there will be an election of all local officers on August of 1984.

THE CAMPS

After Labor Day the camps in children's happy voices are no longer homes throughout the Southeast. The for our local establishments and employees are often referred to as the strongest and wondered what happens at the camps. Moerlins, who handles special features, secure some answers by contacting e.



SKETCH BY KEN PENNINGTON

Wintery Wander



Shown above is the Scottsboro Chorus which sang Handel's Wintery Wander-ful Christmas celebration Saturday afternoon at Santa Claus.

John Hilderbrand, Randy Still, and Amelia Brooks chaired Burt-Whitmore Funeral Home in Valley Head lent a tent for the Cane Circuit. Harrell Jenkins made the attractive candy business district.

Eleanor Moerlins and Alice Springer were in charge of the MAPA members fashioned and donated wreaths to sell.

Harold and Patti Willard transported the community brownies to everyone who helped the Willards.

Amelia Brooks, who planned the Candy Cane Circuit, at Methodist Church, Moonlake Baptist Church, the Hitching Post the Froehlers for opening their attractive log home.

Gary Jones arranged a grass skiing exhibition at Cloudmont in the weekend; all still have coupon books for specials through

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Sunday, 1-5

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

IN WINTER

The Mentone area are closed. The r heard; they have returned to their e camps each year provide business oymment for Mentone citizens. They sset for our economy. Have you ever after the children have gone? Eleanor es for THE GROUNDHOG, set out to ach of the camps. Here is her report:



r-Ful Christmas



l's "Messiah" on the steps of the Mentone Inn as part of noon, December 10th. Also pictured is Walter Sumner, the steering committee for this year's town festivities. Headquarters for Santa and for ticket sales for the Candy lines that were placed on poles throughout Mentone's wreaths in Santa's cabin beside Cameron Craft Cottage. ee and decorated it; Bernice Crow served coffee and d those who enjoyed the tour are grateful to the United st, the Mentone Springs Hotel, Cragmere Manna, and to nt on Saturday. All Mentone area merchants participated oughout the months of January and February.

Comer Scout Reservation

Comer's year-round ranger-caretaker is Mickey Bobo who works closely with Director Bob Dunaway. The facilities are closed and not utilized with the exception of the DeSoto Scout Trail.

This unusual trail, one of six, is certified as a National Historic Trail and has been featured in ALABAMA OUTDOORS and SOUTHERN LIVING several times. Throughout winter, as well as during the rest of the year, Scouts come to Camp Comer to hike on this trail.

In February, work begins on the 1984 program, with emphasis on the building of staff and the registering of Boy Scouts from throughout the Southeast.

Phone, 634-3455.

Lookout Mtn. Christian Conference Center

Directors Ann and John Morrison consider winter a good time for repairs, painting, brush clearing, fence repairs, furniture upholstering and general maintenance. They also are planning and preparing materials for the busy summer of 1984.

There are continuing activities, however. Various organizations and church groups have weekend retreats on a year-round basis. There are many visitors: past campers and counselors, couples, families, and individuals make use of the guest house which is winterized.

In October there was held the Annual Fall Conference. There was also the annual Christmas Party involving the Big Brothers and Sisters of Northeast Alabama.

Phone, 634-3471.

Ponderosa Bible Camp

Directors Linda and Glenn Miller and their two sons live year-round in an attractive home just outside the camp entrance. Their winter activities consist of the preparation of the programs, enlisting speakers, and the recruiting of campers.

A special fund has been established for the construction of a multi-purpose gym-chapel building which will be completely insulated. The completion of this building will enable the camp to have special groups and functions during the winter months. This

is a \$60,000 project, for which \$15,000 has already been raised.

Although the camp is now closed down tightly, it will possibly be opened as early as March for AEA groups.

Phone, 634-3795.

Valley View Ranch

Caretakers Doug and Marsha Hair live at Valley View year-round. Several of the buildings are winterized. A Boy Scout group from Marco Island, Florida, spent the Thanksgiving holidays — hiking, camping at Little River Canyon, and earning their horsemanship badges.

Presence of the caretakers is crucial because the camp raises quarterhorses, and the brood mares must be cared for because "babies" are due to arrive in March and April. The camp has 100 horses.

Director Nancy Jones has just returned from an extensive recruitment campaign throughout the Southeast. The Summer of 1984 is the 30th Anniversary of Valley View Ranch and of the Jones family at Mentone.

Phone, 404-862-2231.

Camp Woodmont

Jim and Jane Bennett, owner-directors, report that although their camp is closed for the winter, they are quite busy. Whatever time is left over from their duties as teachers at Community College near Atlanta is utilized for planning activities for 1984 and recruiting campers.

During September, October, April and May the camp is available to groups of all kinds for weekend retreats. On Saturday, December 17, all former Woodmont campers, counselors, and their friends attended a Christmas party at Lenox Square in Rich's Community Room. They saw camp pictures, sang camp songs, and played a few games.

The Bennetts opened their camp in 1981 and are proud of its growth. The 1984 plans call for two-week sessions, a one-week drama-dance camp, and special weight control and computer camps. It is on Star Route, Cloudland.

Phone, 404-284-5369.

Mountain Greenery

This month I'd like to talk a little about pruning. First of all, the rhododendrons: They seldom need pruning except to shape and control size. Pruning should be done shortly after blooming to prevent losing the bud for next season. In young plants and straggly old shrubs pruning can be done in early spring. To improve the growth on young plants, prune just above a bud to cause it to branch out instead of growing tall and spindly. Straggly old plants should be cut within three feet from the ground.

Pruning fruit trees: They can be pruned from now

horizontally. If the limb gets heavily loaded with fruit, the limb will break easily.

B. Cut here because branches that cross compete for space, and trees with too much crossing of dense growth will produce small fruit, and often the tree gets diseased more easily because of poor circulation and less light.

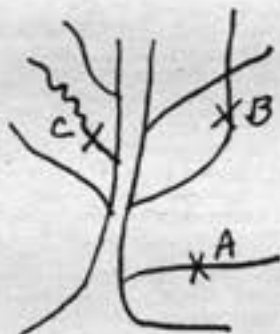
C. Diseased branches or dead branches of course need to be removed as well as low lying ones that may interfere with mowing.

Mulching: Prevention of freeze damage to ornamental plants and fruit trees can be aided by using a mulch around the plants to insulate the soil from the cold. Pine straw, leaves, or hay can be used. 4-8 inches is adequate after it settles. Newly planted stock is very susceptible to freeze kill if not properly cared for.

There were 880 boxes of fruit sold this year by the Agri-business class. Top salespeople were John Bain, 52 boxes, Brian Green, 59, and Mike Cortner, 61. Profits from fruit and poinsettia sales will be used to purchase a metal lathe for the machine shop at \$1500, with the balance going into the building fund for an addition for body and fender work. A special thank-you to the people of Mentone for your fruit purchases. Each student earns \$1.00 per box for sales over 5 boxes — an excellent way for students to earn some extra Christmas money.

—L. A. Smith, Agri-business teacher, VHHS

(In this regular feature Mr. Smith will be pleased to answer any questions submitted from readers or to include any views or experiences they have had in the areas of mountain greenery.)



to early spring. Apple trees are most common in our area. Older diseased trees will benefit from pruning, but younger trees need to be thinned as illustrated

A. Cut here because the limb is growing too

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A Place Of Mystery, An Eternal Challenge

(Continued From
Front Cover)

vicious torrents and tiny trickles. Nature continued its sculpting, leaving lofty cliffs and mysterious places, some of them unexplored to this day.

From the waters came configurations of vegetation; tiny creatures survived the implantations of ice; life emerged and humanity appeared on the scene.

The majesty of this process has been eloquently described in LOOKOUT: THE STORY OF A MOUNTAIN by Robert Brooks Walker and LOOKOUT by John Wilson.

One of the mysterious places is in the Mentone area indented in a cliff just below Desoto Falls, on the west bank of Little River.

What nature began, man obviously continued at some point in history. First there were prehistoric creatures of whom anthropologists have much still to learn. With crude tools they apparently enlarged the caves, knowing this was a place of refuge and security, especially in winter.

Chance are the early American Indians continued this fashioning of the cliff-side refuge. The caves are reached by way of a narrow path leading downward, about three feet wide. Such a path could have been easily defended against attack. The cave could be reached by no other access.

The four caves could accommodate a large number of people. Entering, one is a roomlike area, with arched top and walls that show evidence of ancient smoke. Passage has been carved into a second room, which leads to a third whose edge is the precipices which looks downward to the waters of Little River some 150 feet below. The fourth cave is reached only by crawling through to a spot where again one sees the dangerous downward slope.

Returning upward via the narrow path, one arrives at the perception that this is a peninsula formed by a bend in the river. Here one sees the remains of an ancient fort, most of whose rocks have been taken away for construction of houses in the area.

Such a fort, inconjunction with the caves, would have been a highly defensible position. What then is the background of this fort, which has been featured

in several editions of LANDMARKS, the publication of Landmarks of DeKalb County, and the December edition of FATE magazine?

In 1170, long before the arrival of Columbus, the fort is said to have been built by the Welsh explorer Madoc, who left Wales because of a blood feud over family claims to the Welsh throne. His 13 ships are said to have landed at Mobile Bay.

In 1701, when the French explorer d'Iberville arrived in the Mobile area, he saw a fort quite similar to the one at DeSoto Falls. In his attempt to establish a monarchy for himself in the New World, Madoc supposedly encountered strong opposition from the Indians in the Southeast. He seems to have moved northward and thence to the West. There are reports that because of intermarriage with Indians, Welsh dialect was later found among Indian tribes.

There are several such forts in Georgia and Tennessee, probably erected by Madoc's men as they moved northward. Speculations about the Madoc adventure are best left to such historians as Richard Deacon who wrote MADOC AND THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA (1967), Zella Armstrong's WHO DISCOVERED AMERICA, and BRAVE HIS SOUL by Ellen Pugh. In THE FORT PAYNE TIMES-JOURNAL of October 15, 1978 Dennis Bennetfield wrote an excellent story about the caves and on December 2, 1983, a front-page feature drew the various sources together.

Meanwhile, the mysteries abound amid the histories. Hernando Desoto, around 1540, came through this general area in search of gold, but most historians contend he did not visit the area now called DeSoto Falls. There is some evidence that the caves were haven for Cherokees who refused to be placed in the stockade at Fort Payne to be herded like cattle toward the West.

Who would be so unromantic as to deny the rumors that certain Mentone citizens have used the caves as trysting places?

Archeologists, historians, and future explorers will continue to ferret out the answers.

The sheer evidence, however, is that of the relentless impact of time in its processes, the powers innate in the winds and the waves and the rains, and the eventual arrival of people, with their lust for power, their ensuing conflicts, their upward struggle for workable civilization.

A new year is upon us. George Orwell's 1984 has arrived to confront us with its prophecies of the manipulations threatened by a technological society. We cannot yet know where current society stands in the relentless unfolding of the years which are counted in the millions.

What significance, what symbolism is to be found in the caves below DeSoto Falls? In Doc Long's photograph is to be seen a small pine emerging from a fissure in the stone ledge. A tiny seed somehow found its roostage, gained sustenance from the meager soil, grew upward toward the sunlight, found nurture from the wind and rain, gathering strength from the light of the sun.

This small, lonely pine may become a towering figure against the sky. Or it may fall victim to a disease, or to insects seeking their sustenance, or even to the fury of a chainsaw. This, however, can be said: long after that tree has returned to dust, those caves will still be there, graven in stone, a constant challenge to ongoing generations who in order to survive as a species must find a means of living together in peace, understanding, and justice.

A GIFT

Our Fire Department will be giving away 1984 calendars with a picture of the Fire House all during the month of January.



Arrival Of Bookmobile Is Big Local Event

One of the brightest events on the Mentone calendar is the arrival on alternate Wednesdays of the Bookmobile at the Town Hall building. The DeKalb County Library Bookmobile is driven and managed by Judy Dowlat. Judy was Title I aide at Moon Lake School for five years before she began working at the library two years ago. Judy's husband Roger is a graduate of Valley Head High School. The family lives in Fort Payne.

Looking far too young to be mother of Stan, a student at Northeast Alabama Junior College, and Sharon, a freshman at Fort Payne High School, Judy has been teased by some young men asking for copies of Playboy magazine. Her quick answer is that she doesn't have magazines on the Bookmobile, but she does have plenty of art books. "You can learn to draw your own!"

Judy says that she was a slow reader when she was a child, and she likes to introduce children to books on the Bookmobile. Most of all, she enjoys the challenge of meeting the variety of people who enter her mobile library. Most of the readers are regular customers, but there are always newcomers, discovering the convenience for the first time. Judy tries to make each person who comes aboard feel at ease and welcome to browse.

The only restriction on use of the Bookmobile is that customers must be residents of DeKalb County. At present there are no overdue fines charged by the Bookmobile. If this privilege is abused too much, however, fines may have to be levied.

Once a man quietly and seriously asked Judy whether she had any books detailing the making of white lightning. But usually her readers are like herself and members of her family — bookworms waiting to devour new selections.

Every other Wednesday finds the Bookmobile at Mentone from 9:30 until 10:30. Then Judy drives to Valley Head, Hammondville, and Sulphur Springs. Those other Wednesday she's off to Peek's Corner, Tenbroeck, Grove Oak, Geraldine, and Skirum. She follows a similar schedule on Tuesday and Thursdays, going to places such as Gann, Chestnut Grove, Rodentown, and Green's Chapel. All in all, the Bookmobile goes to thirty-two small communities throughout the county.

In her two years of driving the large van-truck Judy has been involved in only one minor accident. A young pastor crunched her rear bumper when he hit the Bookmobile from behind. Judy enjoys getting out of the library in Fort Payne, driving through the countryside, and especially meeting readers each week. Mentone is fortunate to be included on her itinerary.

Economic Director Hammond Advises About Projects

At the December 5 meeting of the Mentone town council, Ken Hammond, Director of Economic Development for DeKalb County, stated that the number one priority for Mentone improvements now should be the pavement of the brow road. He suggested letters from the town to the county and state road commissioners be sent immediately. There should be no local cost involved.

Mr. Hammond also stated that the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation should be able to help secure a new shelter for the brow park. Local organizations such as Maps and the Crafts Festival have already stated their willingness to provide 25% of the cost.

Repeatedly, Mr. Hammond stated, "Keep those projects coming. Plan ahead. Get your plans drawn up, preferably by an engineer, and then get your estimated costs." He also said that now, in December and January, is the best time to meet with representatives and senators since the regular session of the legislature starts in February. Now is the time to get appointments in Montgomery.

While street repair is low in state priority, it is not impossible to achieve aid in this area if proper advance planning is made. Councilman Max Cash stated, "We would like our own water plant and not be tied up with Fort Payne." Again, Mr. Hammond said to get plans updated and secure estimated costs.

DeKalb, along with Lawrence County, is dependent upon tourism for jobs. If new projects create jobs, such as recreation building, and even craft and hobby shops, then financing is available.

Turning toward MAPA director Homer Crow who was present at the council meeting, Mr. Hammond suggested that MAPA seek funds from Governor Wallace's discretionary fund for the sidewalks from the hotel square area to at least the post office. Again, he said that MAPA should take its plans and estimated costs (four copies each) and meet with the governor and our legislators as soon as possible.

Also, Mr. Hammond told Mr. Crow not to give up on MAPA's dream of a community building. This should be applied for year after year, with amended applications, until aid is secured.

Mr. Hammond ended his presentation by reviewing Urban Development Action Grants, a TVA program termed SOCC, and the Small Business Administration, all three of which organizations lend money at low interest rates for development.

Town Council Kicks Off Water Improvement Project

Implementation of Mentone's water improvement program officially got underway at the December 5th town council meeting when Mayor Rob Hammond passed around the contract to be signed by members of the council. The \$10,000 contract was between the town of Mentone and Public Systems, Inc., which will handle the administrative work involved in the Community Development Block Grant.

All decisions by the council were unanimous. Rules were suspended while the councilmen and the mayor voted to continue their salaries on the present level for another year. Council members receive \$10 per month, and the mayor \$100 for services rendered.

Terry Bush, who has filled the unexpired term of attorney Pat Tate as municipal judge, was voted into a two year term. She will receive \$50 each evening cases are tried for Mentone. The town averages one hearing for each quarter.

Low pressure cut-out switches have been installed on both pumps where water is received from the Fort Payne system. This is to keep the pumps from burning up in case of pressure failure.

Mayor Hammond reported that a state law prevents solicitations and road blocks on highway 117. The council passed a \$25 yearly tax on each video game machine installed in Mentone.

Councilmen voted to pay for a full page ad already run in a VHHS football program. This was evidently contracted for during the change of administration. The contract with Downer's Solid Waste Disposal Company was renewed. The town pays \$54.50 each month to keep rates down on garbage picked up within the town limits.

Mayor Hammond asked that MAPA share in paying the extra policeman entailed by the October Color Festival. Leroy Snyder was commended for his good job with the water works and for building a cage for the garbage can in the park adjacent to the Town Hall building.

Visitor Jim Cameron requested a license to sell flea market goods in the town park. Mayor Hammond stated that he would check with attorney Pat Tate to see whether this was allowed for private use.

Finally, an ordinance for public dancing, which had been discussed a year ago, was passed. This will require a permit and a site approved by the fire marshal and one with adequate parking. It would also require the presence of a policeman for safety reasons. This ordinance will be posted at the Town Hall, the Fire Hall, and the Post Office for five days as required by law.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



The White Elephant Galleries
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Calendar

Monday, Jan. 2 — 6 p.m. — Town Council meets at Town Hall. Rob Hammond, Mayor.

Tuesday, Jan. 3 — 7 p.m. — MAPA meets at Brownie's in the Hitching Post. Homer Crow, Director. Mayor Rob Hammond, speaker.

7 p.m. — Rescue Squad meets at American Legion Hall Annex. Leonard Shigley, Captain.

Wednesday, Jan. 4 — 9:30 to 10:30 — Bookmobile comes to Town Hall.

Thursday, Jan. 5 — 7 p.m. — Volunteer Fire Dept. Meets at Fire Hall. Sam Cash, Chief.

Saturday, Jan. 14 — 9 to 12 — VOTER REGISTRATION at the Fire Hall.

Wednesday, Jan. 18 — 9:30 to 10:30 — Bookmobile come to Town Hall.

Thursday, Jan. 19 — 7 p.m. — Volunteer Fire Dept. meets at Fire Hall.

Tuesday, Jan. 24 — Deadline For February GROUNDHOG ads and copy.

What is The Groundhog?

It is not a newspaper.

It is not a magazine.

It is not a newsletter.

The Groundhog is a monthly publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association which is dedicated to the preservation and protection of the heritage and special qualities of life in the Mentone area. Any profits from this publication are applied to the goals of this organization.

Because there is no daily or weekly newspaper in the Mentone, Cloudland, Valley Head, and Hammondville area, we feel that The Groundhog offers a special opportunity for business organizations to reach potential clients. Each month 3,000 copies are distributed. Of these 650 go into the mailboxes of the Mentone postal area. The remaining copies are placed for distribution in the establishments of those advertising or potentially advertising in The Groundhog.

Advertisers in this publication are not only assured of a thorough coverage, they know that the proceeds from their advertising dollars go to the cause of a non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of this area.

If you would like to know more complete details about our advertising arrangements, or to place an advertisement in the next issue, call:

Or write: The Groundhog, Box 50, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

JANUARY SPECIALS

Mentone business people have cooperated in a gesture toward all citizens. At each of the cooperating businesses you can purchase a coupon book for \$5.00 which provides these bargains during the month of January:

GRANN'S . . . 1/3 off on each \$100 purchase
CAMERON CRAFT . . . 20% off
GOURDIES . . . 10% off
BROWNIES . . . 10% off
KNOTTY KNOTS . . . 10% off
FURGERSON'S . . . \$1.09 2 liter drinks; \$1.69 6 pack
McGEE'S . . . 50% off on a \$50 fireworks purchase
RED BARN . . . 10% off on all purchases
CRAGSMERE MANNA . . . \$3.00 off one meal
CROW'S NEST . . . 10% reduction
WHITE ELEPHANT . . . 20% reduction
RUBY'S . . . 15% off
SUPERETTE . . . 10c off on large potato chips and free balloon
CLOUDMONT . . . 10% reduction on skiing

These coupon books were developed by Randy Still of Cragsmere Manna and John Hilderbrand of Cameron Craft as part of the activities of the holiday committee. These business people who subscribed to the coupons have been supporters of THE GROUNDHOG. Next time you visit any of these establishments — pick up a coupon book. It will save you money.

Book Reviews

THE "GOURDIE" BOOK. By Sharon Barron. With illustrations by Kenneth E. Pennington. 96 pages. \$4.95. A Mountainview Communication. Mentone, AL 35984.

Obviously in the ranks of such classics as "The Velveteen Rabbit," "Charlotte's Web," and "Ferdinand the Bull" is this creative publication which should find its place on library shelves, bedside tables, and children's nurseries to be reread long after the Cabbage Patch has faded into the horizon.

This read-aloud book is ageless in the sense that it is "for all ages and stages." For children it is a tale to be relished, reread and enjoyed. For adults its spontaneous style and flowing meter is pleasurable, yet it carries a significant message.

What is the message? Above all, it is a call and a challenge for a non-judgemental attitude. Everyone is unique, yet everyone has the same feelings.

"Despite your outward appearance, you have the same feelings inside. You all laugh — and you all cry — so why worry about what you are on the outside, or how you are dressed? It really doesn't matter."

Let it be hastily said, however, that the message is not belabored to any detriment of the joy involved in the story, which is simply one of growth and acceptance.

A delightful little old lady who lives alone creates the gourdies to save them from the fate of being birds' nests. The resultant creatures must learn to accept themselves, one another, and the human beings who become their owners. In growing up they must leave their creator and learn to survive on their own merits.

Of equal significance to the refreshing writing style of Sharon Barron are the drawings of Alabama artist Ken Pennington, whose talent asserts itself as part of the story line and the underlying substance.

Alabama Generosity

Various Mentone institutions benefited to a tune of \$15,500 from the generous appropriations from the 1983 June Jam of the nationally-known musical group "Alabama." They are as follows:

Moon Lake Elementary School: \$10,000 toward construction of a gym; the Rescue Squad, \$3,500; the Fire Department, \$2,000. (The nearby Comer Scout Reservation received \$20,000 for piers, family cabins, and maintenance.)

CLASSIFIED

Call Marie Shadgett 634-4542 to place your ad in next month's Groundhog. Special introductory rates: up to 25 words, \$1; 10 cents for each additional word.

Modern frame home, daylight basement, 2,000 sq. ft. heated; 2 1/2 baths, 2 large rock fireplaces with heatilators; large workshop 22 x 24 easily converted into apt.; woodshed, B-Q shed, double carport, small guest cottage, garden tool shed, large garden, rock steps to dock, 2 wells, 3 gated entrances, many extras.

Suitable for group or club. 634-4542. No brokers. 700' of SHORELINE.

2 1/2 acres fenced on 117; 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, large utility room easily converted to third bedroom; large living room, den. \$45,000. 634-3737.

Remember Cragsmere Manna's New Year's Eve Party: prime rib, breakfast, live music! 634-4677

MENTONE SUPERETTE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

5 A.M. TO 6 P.M. MON. THRU FRI.
SAT., 6 TO 6 634-3111

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BUILDING**

1 Queen Anne wide wing chair, as is, \$100.00
1 Empire kitchen table, carved legs, \$100.00
1 Queen Anne arm chair, wood arms, \$100.00
2 solid oak Mission chairs with cushions, \$100.00
and much, much more to choose from at special prices.

No phone calls — will not be open on bad wintery days during January & February.



DIRECTORY

Ambulance: 845-3200
 Baptist Medical Center: 845-3150
 Rescue Squad: 634-4635;
 634-4140; 634-4166
 Highway Patrol: 845-5109
 Mentone Police
 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. . . . 634-3705
 After 11:00 a.m. 634-4467
 DeKalb Sheriff: 845-3801
 Valley Head Police: 635-8814
 Hammondville Police: 635-6374
 Forest Rangers: 1-845-1331
 or 1-800-392-5679
 Poison Information Center:
 1-800-292-6678

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Mentone:
 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. . . . 634-3705
 After 11:00 a.m. 634-3745, 634-4507
 634-4446, 634-4274
 Valley Head: 635-6111

SCHOOLS

Moon Lake: 634-4133
 Valley Head High School: 635-6228

CITY COUNCIL OF MENTONE

Rob Hammond, Mayor
 Max Cash
 Lee Davenport Jimmy Wright
 Hobson Kirby
 Kenneth Crowe
 Catherine Bailey, City Clerk
 H. P. Goss, Water Department
 Colquitt Jones, Police

THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROHECY

The Rev. Billy R. Boozer, pastor
 Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.
 Sunday Services: 11:00 A. M., 7 P. M.
 Thursday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 P. M.
 Telephone: 635-6365

VALLEY HEAD PRESBYTERIAN

The Rev. Jerry Davis, minister
 Services: 1st, 3rd Sunday, 9:30 A.M.
 Telephone: 635-6283

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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 Masses 5 p.m. Sat., 10:00 A. M. Sun.
 Telephone: 845-4774

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (Traditional Episcopal)

The Rev. Edward P. Whatley Jr.,
 Rector
 First, Second, Third Sunday.
 Communion Fourth Sunday.
 11:00 A.M. Telephone: 634-3375

MENTONE CHURCH OF GOD

The Rev. Joey Kirby, minister
 Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.
 Preaching Hour: 11:00 A.M.
 Sunday Evening Service: 6:00 P.M.
 Wednesday Training Hour: 6:30 P.M.
 Telephone: 634-4418

MOON LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rev. William Steele, minister
 Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.
 Sunday Services: 11:00 A.M., 7:00
 P.M.
 Sunday Training Union: 6:00 P.M.
 Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 6:30
 P.M. Telephone: 634-4427

MENTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Rev. Brian Wyatt, minister
 Sunday School: 9 A.M.
 Sunday Service: 10 A.M.
 Sunday Bible Study Group: 6:00 P.M.
 Telephone: 635-6561

MENTONE WESLEYAN CHURCH

The Rev. A. C. Clemens, minister
 Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.
 Sunday Worship: 10:50 A.M., 6:00
 P.M.
 Wednesday Evening Service: 7:00
 P.M. Telephone: 634-4210

ST. JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Graham Glover, minister
 Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.
 Sunday Worship: 11:00 A.M.
 Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 P.M.
 Telephone: 634-4210

MENTONE REVIVAL CENTER

The Rev. Dewey Oswalt, minister
 Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.
 Worship Service: 11:00 A. M., 6 P. M.
 Wed. Prayer Meeting: 6:30 P. M.

CAMP SADDLE ROCK: Marty Griffin, director; Girls' Summer Camp; June 19, July 17, July 31. 634-4608.

CAMP WOODMONT: Jane Bennett, director; Boys' and Girls' Summer Camp; June 26, July 10, July 24. 404-284-5389.

CAMP SKYLINE RANCH: Susan C. Hooks, director. Girls' summer camp. June 16-29; July 1-26; July 29-Aug. 11. 634-3201.

CAMP ALPINE: Richard O'Ferrall, director; Camp for boys; June 13 and July 11. 634-4200.

CAMP DeSOTO: Sue Henry, director; Camp for girls; June 14, July 14. 634-3411.

CAMP LANEY: Rob Hammond, director; Camp for boys; June 18, July 2, July 17, July 31. 634-3561.

LOOKOUT MT. CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER: Anne and John Morrison, directors; 24 cabins, gym, lodge, amphitheatre, dining hall; non-profit. 634-3471.

PONDEROSA BIBLE CAMP: Glenn Miller, director; Christian Youth Camp, June 13 through July 30. 634-3795.

CAMP JULIETTE LOW: Kathy Holly, director; Girl Scout Camp in Cloudland, Ga., four two-week sessions from June 19 to Aug. 13. (404) 428-0446.

COMER SCOUT RESERVATION: Bob Dunaway, director; Boy Scout Camps June 12-July 16. 634-3445.

VALLEY VIEW RANCH: Nancy Jones, director; Cloudland, Ga., three sessions from June 19 to Aug. 14. 404-862-2231

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