

the GROUNDHOG

Volume 4 — No. 11 — Jan. 1990 A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

A WINNING COMBINATION: Moon Lake School And The Mentone Community

By Rebecca Terrell Rish



When, in 1911, the founding fathers of Moon Lake School, which is located on Lookout Mountain just off Hwy. 117 in Mentone, AL, began to see their dream become a reality as the first building was erected on land donated by Mr. Ed Mason, little did they know that they were also laying the foundation for another even more remarkable and enduring achievement.

This achievement, which is epitomized not only by the continued growth and success of Moon Lake School and its students, as well as by the slogan "The Best and Nothing Less," could also be labeled an intangible — the essence of which is its "spirit."

It is a spirit that is composed of ideals, visions and goals along with the dedication to make them a reality; inspiration, perspiration and cooperation in obtaining each objective; faith, pride and perseverance to endure when times are tough; and commitment — to excellence and to having that "never say die" attitude when confronted with each new challenge of preserving past heritage while seeking a higher, better quality of life in building for the future.

It is this remarkable spirit that is the basis of the winning combination so evident between Moon Lake School and the Mentone Area Community.

You even sense this special "something" as you approach the traditional, white, one story schoolhouse, which was erected in 1928 after the original burned, and now stands with pride as a symbol of past, present and future traditions and achievements.

Under the inspirational leadership of Mr. Charles O. Bell, Principal, the appx. 120 students from Kindergarten through 6th grade and the 13 faculty and staff members continuously strive for and achieve excellence, both academically and in a variety of extra curricular activities.

Mr. Bell, who has been active as a teacher as well as in a multitude of other areas at Moon Lake for 20 years and served as Principal for the past 8, is also currently the 6th grade teacher, local leader of the boys 4-H club, coach of the 3 school basketball teams known as the Moon Lake Tigers, coach for the T-Ball baseball team and involved with the summer baseball program. The Farm and Little League summer baseball team are known as the Mentone Tigers and their members consist of many Moon Lake students.

This daily one-to-one, hands-on experience enables him to be more aware of each child's needs, wants and achievements. Because of this in-depth knowledge, he is not only capable of being a more effective leader, but also one who is genuinely interested in, and in touch with, each and every child.

As he so sincerely says, "The Lord has blessed me and I am thankful to have had a part in the rich history and continued growth of this institution."

Mr. Bell gives credit for the success of Moon Lake to the devotion of his faculty and enthusiastic support of the parents and community when he states, "Moon Lake is an outstanding institution that gives the best to its students and the parents and community who are very supportive also give their best to and for the children." He continues, "The County Administration has also been extremely supportive, always helping in any and every way they can."

The children are motivated by this special Spirit from the very beginning when they enter kindergarten. Under the caring, enthusiastic leadership of Grace (Gay) Godbois, the foundation of self confidence, eagerness and excitement to learn, along with pride in achievement, is well

(Continued On Page 4)

Cloudmont Hosts Special Olympians

On Dec. 10, 1989, twenty members of the Alabama Special Olympics, together with their coaches, met at Cloudmont Ski Resort for training in Alpine and Nordic skiing. This is the second year that Gary and Cindy Jones, owners of Cloudmont, have offered the facility. Cloudmont has been designated the Official Ski Training Center of the Alabama Special Olympics. The ski resort donates time, training, services and equipment.

These athletes come from all over the state of Alabama — Montgomery, Mobile, Albertville, Jacksonville, Anniston, Birmingham, Montevallo, Talledega and Gadsden. Their coaches, and there are twenty of them — one for each athlete who competes — are volunteers who pay all of their own expenses for the program and often provide transportation for athletes as well.

Last year, eleven athletes took part in the Cloudmont training session which prepared them for the big competition in Boone, N. C., in January. Dr. Glen Roswal, Director of the program, praised Cloudmont for giving Alabama Special Olympians the opportunity to prepare for the event in which 10 Southeastern states compete. Dr. Roswal estimates that over 200 athletes will compete in Boone.

The competition in North Carolina is known as the Southeastern Regional Winter Games. The Sheridan Appalachian Inn is the official host for the games and each athlete has a sponsor who pays the \$350.00 it takes to cover expenses. The Special Olympics Program receives support in several different ways. One important one is the donation of time and services by organizations like Cloudmont and individuals like the coaches and helpers.

Others support the program financially through individual and group donations.



There are three elementary schools in Calhoun County whose faculty pools its resources to provide the expenses for one athlete per school. In another instance, a sorority gives one dollar per member and the sorority organization matches these funds to sponsor a child. The Fraternal Order of Eagles in Birmingham underwrites most of the expenses for the trip to Boone, and Bair's Ski Shop in Mountain Brook provides equipment and clothing to the competitors.

Dr. Roswal and his helpers go into the communities and seek sponsors as they tell churches and other groups of the benefits to the young people who participate, and of the gratification that comes to those who help them.

On Jan. 31, 1990, Cloudmont will host the first-ever Alabama Special Olympics Coaches Training School. The volunteers will be trained during the morning hours, then will spend the afternoon learning to teach these skills to the Special Olympians.

On Feb. 7, these coaches will return with app. 100 athletes who will receive both Alpine and Nordic training in early in the day and will compete for medals in the evening. The Cloudmont ski slope will be outfitted with regulation gates much like the athletes will face in the competition in Boone.

Holiday Cheer At Cragsmere

Cragsmere Manna never looked better or felt warmer than on the night of Tuesday, Dec. 3, when the Mentone Area Preservation Association hosted its annual Christmas banquet for members and friends.

Judy and Harry Weaver outdid themselves in preparation for the event which is considered one of the highlights of the holiday season.

Local merchants donated door prizes which were given to lucky guests whose names were drawn.

The buffet was beautifully done by Bonnie Barnett, owner of Cragsmere, and her competent staff. Christmas decorations made the historic structure glow with holiday cheer and it was evident that much thought and care had gone into preparation for MAPA's party which was considered by many to be the best ever.



Children's Mountain Christmas

The Christmas tree was lit, the table laid with refreshment, the boxes full of stockings and toys and Santa, together with his helpers and elves, waited expectantly for all the little smiling faces as they entered the Mentone Town Hall on Sunday, Dec. 10, to celebrate a Children's Mountain Christmas, the first of what is hoped will be an annual tradition.

The Mentone Area Preservation Association, with the approval of the Mentone Town Council and Mayor Max Cash, hosted the event. Judy and Harry Weaver, local business people, were in charge of the preparation for the occasion and with the able assistance of many helpers,

generous donations from businesses and a sizeable donation from MAPA, the party was deemed a success.

Mayor Cash was on hand with wife Roberta, daughter Susan Hooks and her children, Cassie and Kyle, to help celebrate and to visit Santa.

Each child who attended got to sit on Santa's knee and was given a hand-made stocking filled with goodies and a toy.

There were more mature members of the crowd who took the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap and to tell him what they wanted most for Christmas. Santa seemed delighted to be of help. (Pictures On Page 5)

The American Legion Post 215 would like to wish everyone a happy holiday and a wonderful new year. Special thanks goes to all the local businesses who offered support in the past year.

Commander Jesse Crow

Elephant's Tail Expands



Harry and Judy Weaver, owners of the popular shop in the White Elephant Galleries known as the Elephant's Tail, have seen such an increase in the demand for their beautiful, unique, handmade and lovingly collected items that they have taken two new locations, both in the Log Cabin Craft Village. The new shops will be simply called **Weavers** and will contain many new items and an expanded line of old favorites which range all the way from hand-crafted dollhouses and miniatures to original works of art by Judy and by Rebecca Rish.

Mentone Home Explodes



Photo By Darrell Norman — The Times Journal.

The holiday season ended with a blast for Mentone resident Fena Smith and her grandsons Clay Green and Chris Smith.

As the family lay sleeping, a propane gas heater in an adjoining building began to leak. At about 6:45 Friday morning (Continued On Page 2)

From the Editor....

People give at Christmas, and people take at Christmas, but what about the rest of the year?

It is hard to bubble over with holiday cheer while cold, hungry, homeless people sleep on frigid sidewalks and in flimsy cardboard boxes. To know that children shiver in the snow somehow makes it less beautiful and desirable. To see our veterans, some wearing their service jackets, huddle over street grates and our mental patients wander in confused silence somehow casts a pall over the notion that everybody is full of love and grace at Christmas.

Langston Hughes, famous contemporary poet and playwright, spoke this feeling of despair in his poem **Litany**:

Gather up
In the arms of your pity
The sick, the depraved,
The desperate, the tired,
All the scum
Of our weary city
Gather up
In the arms of your pity.
Gather up
In the arms of your love —
Those who expect
No love from above.

Somehow, somewhere our society has failed to care for its most vulnerable, its most precious. The lack of low cost housing and housing assistance has turned families into the streets. The shameful minimum wage has made beggars of those who want to support themselves and their families.

It is not enough to share their tears, we must demand from those who represent us a decent wage and affordable housing. We must make them hear us through our letters and our votes. The politicians are mere extensions of ourselves, and we have a right to demand that something be done.

Another Langston Hughes poem describes a **Kid in the Park**:

Lonely little question mark
on a bench in the park:
See the people passing by?
See the airplanes in the sky?
See the birds
flying home
before
dark?

Home's just around
the corner
there —
but not really
anywhere.

For all the lonely little question marks, for all the sick, dejected and hungry who seek solace in an uncaring land, we must make our voices heard and our wishes known so that by next Christmas, they can go home.

Letter Of Thanks

We would like to express our sincere thanks to all who participated in the Children's Christmas Party. We deeply appreciate Judy Weaver, Grace Howard, Ruth Bathurst, Stan and Kathy Lee Lawton for manning the stocking brigade.

Our heartfelt gratitude also goes out to H. P. Goss, Mrs. Katherine Bailey, Mayor Max Cash, Jim and June Gayford, Anita Chambers, Dow Clifton, Bill Patterson, and all who helped with the Santa crew.

The party would not have been a success, or even possible, without the generous contributions from the White Elephant Galleries, the Mentone Springs Hotel, the Log Cabin Craft Village, the Hitching Post complex, Ruby's Variety, Earthgrains Bakery Store in Fort Payne and Bob Steele, the Herb Man, Cloudland, Georgia.

Thanks to you all,
Harry Weaver
Associate Director — Mentone Area Preservation Assn.



Gail Crider and Tabitha Howard Show Their True Colors.

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 or 4185

THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

Editor Mickey Strickland
Associate Editor Helen Turner
Contributing Editors Linda Brown, Eloise Brown,
Nova Dean Kilgore, Bernise Crow, Vivian Nappler,
Howard Cash Marsh, Seth Banks, Bill Pilson and
John Baty.

Cindy Strickland Advertising Manager
(205) 634-4744

Trevor Strickland Circulation Assistant

MAPA OFFICERS

Director Lynn Bathurst
Associate Director Harry Weaver
Secretary Bernise Crow
Treasurer Harrell Jenkins
Immediate Past Director Jack Jones

The Lookout

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

Valley View

By Eloise Brown

Gladys Cobble, Jesse and Becky Stott and family spent Thanksgiving Day with Linda and Mickey Cobble and family in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Doris and Jim Carmichael have returned home from Nashville, Tenn. They reported that the Opryland Hotel was a beautiful sight to behold — so beautifully decorated.

Several of us from Valley Head attended the lovely miscellaneous tea shower for Mona Lackey, bride-elect of Charles Cartee in Fort Payne, Ala., Dec. 10. Hostesses were Barbara Palmer, Bootsie Yates and Martha Freeman.

Essie Downer has returned home from a Birmingham hospital where she was treated for a broken shoulder suffered in a fall at her home. We are hoping for her a complete recovery.

Evelyn Phillips is home after treatment at Park Ridge Hospital. We are also praying for a quick recovery for her.

First Class Fire Control Technician Roy Jones and his wife, Bonnie, are visiting his parents, Jean and John Jones. He is stationed at San Diego, Calif., in the U. S. Navy.

Little Robert Barry Brown II celebrated his fourth birthday with family members at the home of his aunt, Cynthia Meadows.

Sincere sympathy is extended to Mildred and Taylor Laws as they each lost a brother recently.

It was a joy to have our former pastor, Ann Lohr Erikson and her husband, Jim, and darling baby son, Thomas, visit us recently. So sorry that her brother, David, died in Los Angeles while they were visiting her parents in Ballground, Ga.

The Sunshine Club met at Shoney's for their Christmas party. Members enjoying the lovely event were Billie Harper, Sue Cooper, Ruth Pickett, Gladys Stott, Vernitice Young, Lila Schlicher, Gladys Cobble, Jewel Palmer, Addie Hall, Geraldine Hawkins, Bess Bauerle and Eloise Brown. Gifts were exchanged and Secret Pals revealed.

Home Explodes (Continued From Page 1)

ning, the heater let forth with a sound heard around the mountain. It threw quilts and other belongings into nearby trees, broke windows from local businesses and homes, and damaged an auto sitting over 50 feet away.

The main house was heavily damaged, but luckily, no one was injured. The wood heater in the home was not in use due to the warm weather on Thursday, and that fact probably saved the family from serious injury or death. Had it been in use, the house would have probably burned in the explosion.

The blast was heard as far west as Sulphur Springs and to the east as far as the Georgia line.

MOUNTAIN WATCH

By Mickey Strickland

The day after Christmas, 1989, I found myself sitting in a dreary office feeling the usual post-holiday let down. It was still quite cold and the pretty dusting of snow had turned into a muddy mess.

Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed movement near a baseboard. Suddenly, a tiny head with large, rounded ears and a pointed nose with a whisper of whiskers protruded from the floor. It was a woods mouse who had come in from the cold.

He flipped out of his hiding place and peered into the room. The slightest movement made him whirl into the floor in a blur of brown mouse fur. I sat very still, silently watching him as he watched me. At last satisfied that I was no danger, he crept along the wall to an abandoned orange peel near the garbage can. He scurried with his treasure back to his private exit and dived through it after giving me one last cautionary glance.

I had armed myself with an empty cola can to throw against the wall to scare him away, but could not bring myself to disturb his solitary pursuit of sustenance. After all, it is his world; I am the interloper.

Each fall, I spend a lot of my time on the road weaving in and out among the woolly worms, trying to dodge as many as possible. In the spring, I dread driving at night because of the little frogs hopping on the asphalt. They are very hard to see, much less avoid.

I am lucky to know significant others who also deplore the useless destruction of living things and I would like to give a few of them honorable mention in this column.

— Joyce Blankenship, my sister-in-law, who stops on her way to and from work to chase snakes out of harm's way and who has been known to assist a turtle or two in the dangerous journey to the other side of the road.

— Kathy Stiles Cooley, now director of the Alabama Nature Conservancy and founder and past Director of the Ruffner Mountain Nature Center in Birmingham, Ala., who has always taken in injured animals and given them the most tender care; who at her wedding several years ago to Tony Cooley, who is devoted to nature also, said, "To give all of you an idea of how I feel about wildlife, Tony loves it, but I worship it."

— Talmadge Butler, manager of DeSoto State Park, who seemed to almost have a heart attack when he thought he had run over a squirrel and who keeps a seasonal eye on a certain trap door spider just to make sure everything is all right.

— Darrell Norman, News Editor of the Times-Journal in Fort Payne, Ala., who uses his pen and voice in defense of wild creatures and man to live in a clean, unspoiled environment and who speaks with reverence of the deer and other woodland visitors who frequent his mountain yard.

— Jean and Charles McGehee, noted authors and journalists, who find something sacred in the beat of each tiny wing and heart and who make sure the inhabitants of their garden are as well-fed as the people in the house.

— Charlotte Cox and her daughter Linda Strickland, former residents of Mentone now living near Atlanta, whose annual vet bills exceed their outlay for medical care for themselves because of stray and cast-off animals and whose back yard is filled with treats for birds, squirrels and other guests who come to feast year around.

— Ferne Fitzgerald, a resident of DeSoto Parkway, who has devoted a good portion of her life to the betterment of the lives of domestic animals and who has a sign in her yard warning motorists of feline residents who might be snoozing in the driveway.

— Linda Biddle, mountain resident who teaches at Valley Head Elementary School, who is better to her many animal friends than she is to herself. She never refuses a hungry, cold or hurting animal and she has a home and farm full to prove it.

— Bernise Crow, **Groundhog** columnist whose love of nature and sheer joy in living never ceases to amaze me.

There are many others who, in thought and deed, defend and love the creatures and world we all must share. They give unselfishly with no thought of reward other than the satisfaction of helping those who cannot protect themselves.

These special people know that from the tiny mouse in the office to the mighty rain forests, each living thing, each facet of nature, is an integral part of a symbiotic whole and when the last bell tolls for them, it tolls for us as well.

And, in the distance, they can hear the ringing.

New Staff Member At Groundhog



The **Groundhog** welcomes Rebecca Terrell Rish as a new staff member. Rebecca is an artist who recently moved to the mountain. Her work hangs in several shops in the area, including a cabin in the Log Cabin Craft Village. Rebecca wrote the cover story this month, "I have always loved to write," Rebecca said, "and welcome the opportunity to do more of it."

COUNTRY JOURNAL

By Bernise Crow

On a recent trip to Cancun, Mexico, we enjoyed a brief relief from one of our coldest weekends.

Cancun is one of the most beautiful places one can visit on a long weekend and still enjoy all the pleasures of the Caribbean Islands. Cancun is on the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, being closer to Florida than it is to Texas. The place has only been developed as a tourist area in the last ten years. As of now it is not overrun or over-commercialized. It does have a long row of beautiful hotels in the Spanish or Moorish style — about 140 of them. They all are soft pastel shades, from pink to peachy tones — some white. The decor inside is even more impressive, with tile floors (and some onyx)-polished to a lustrous sheen. All that we saw were immaculately clean. Rates are reasonable. The service is the best. Bags are carried for you, which is nice. Most places now leave the traveler to handle his own bags. All service personnel are most courteous and friendly.

We flew from Atlanta by Key Airlines, arranged by Discount Travel in Fort Payne through the Club America Plan. The whole plane load was using the same plan, which was nice. Everyone was in a good mood — glad to get away for a short time. We arrived at Cancun on Thursday at noon, and left Sunday at 3:30 p.m. It is only a 2½ hour flight from Atlanta.

We took our granddaughter, Lisa, with us, which made it even more enjoyable. She enjoyed soaking up the sun at the pool and at the beach. The beach was a little rough while we were there because of a tropical storm in the Caribbean, not too far away. The water is clear and beautiful, and the huge waves offered good surfing opportunity for many who enjoy this sport.

We went by bus to the Mayan Ruins one day, and this was very educational and fun. Homer kept the video camera running all day, recording most of the explanation given by the guide.

The Mayans established a high standard of culture in the very early years of civilization. The many structures have been studied for years and there are varying opinions about the use of them. One interesting apartment-looking building was thought by some to be used as a nunnery—a place to keep virgins for sacrifices to the gods. Studies are being done constantly by archaeologists. New discoveries of burial plots, with Mayan artifacts, reveal that a great deal of precious stones were used for masks and decorative purposes.

As with any place we have visited, we only get a glimpse of a culture that makes one want to return and study everything more thoroughly. The Mayans, of course, worshipped pagan gods — and worst of all, made human sacrifices to them at regular intervals. The big well at the ruins site we visited was very deep and wide with a cavernous opening. This was used for human sacrifices.

The Spanish converted the Mayans to Catholicism, and stopped the sacrifices. However, some of the Mayan beliefs are incorporated into the Catholic form of worship. The Mayans are still the dominant race in the Yucatan Province of Mexico. They are small in stature, with fine features — a bit different from the Mexicans we see on the border areas of the United States. We drove through many villages where the people live in primitive huts with thatched roofs, open spaces for doors, dirt floors, and no indoor plumbing. It looked very sad to me. But our guide said "don't worry about them, they are happy." Sometimes we want to change people too much, and destroy their culture altogether. At least they are in a warm climate, and do not have to worry about closing in to keep warm. I would like to see them have, at least, sanitary facilities.

I have just read a wonderful article in the October issue of National Geographic that tells a great deal about the Mayan people. They are mostly in the Guatemalan area — on up to Mexico.

One evening we attended a Mexican folk-style ballet at the Intercontinental Hotel; a dinner theater. This was most enjoyable. The musical presented the history of the country of Mexico in song and dance. The colorful costumes were splendid; some of the prettiest ones I have ever seen. I thought they were more beautiful than those worn by the performers in the Carnival in Rio. The Flamenco-style music was very well done. Some of the instruments were different from any we had seen. Music is an international language and can be enjoyed anywhere in the world regardless of language barriers. And some of the songs were done in English.

We decided this part of Mexico would be ideal for a winter haven. The breezes are soft and warm, the people are friendly, and the atmosphere one of relaxation.

We bought small items of onyx — a beautiful colored stone, which is plentiful there. We got silver jewelry for Christmas presents, which is inexpensive. And I got rugs, for wall hangings, in lovely shades of desert sands. It was a good trip for a long weekend. adios-Hasta Luego Amigos

Nose To The Grindstone?



YOU WORK HARD FOR YOUR MONEY—
... Make It Work For You!



Edward D. Jones & Co.

Member New York Stock Exchange, Inc.
Member Securities Investor Protection Corporation

David G. Brouwer

381 Grand Ave. No.

Fort Payne, AL

BONDS
STOCKS

845-4560

MUTUAL FUNDS
GOLD-SILVER

Join The Parkway Association

THE LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PARKWAY is an excellent concept for acquainting area visitors and the traveling public with the scenic beauty and essentially unchanged rural landscape of LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN between Chattanooga and Gaffney.

To make the scenic value of the PARKWAY more enhanced we need in the future: Scenic overlooks, beautification by owners, both private and business along the route. Highlight historic history along the route, enjoy the natural beauty of LITTLE RIVER, CANYON, WATER FALLS — ALONG THE WAY.

WE WELCOME YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

MAIL TO: JACK E. JONES, PRESIDENT
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PARKWAY ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 435, Mentone, AL 35984

I have checked my membership classification
and enclose check for dues.

Business	\$25
Compl.	\$15
Individual	\$10

Signature

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME

MAILING ADDRESS

PHONE NO. ()

Bruce's Foodland
HAS THE MOST
LUSCIOUS FRUITS
and Freshest Vegetables

Bruce's Foodland
wants to provide you
with the best!

Shan Bruce - Owner
2000 Gault Ave., N.
Fl. Payne, AL 35967

Member FDIC

HOW OFTEN
do you visit your
bank?

Several times a year? Once a month?
To make a deposit or draw a counter
check?

If you do not visit your bank very often
you are denying yourself a valuable privi-
lege. Our friendly counsel will be of
great assistance to you in your business
and personal affairs.

**THE CITIZENS BANK
OF VALLEY HEAD**
*Large enough to serve you
Small enough to
know you*

Steel
Holds Up the
World

We Have
a Full Line
of Dayton and
Related Brands

Construction
Steel
Industrial
Supplies

Mar-Mil Steel and Supply Co.
Rt. 11, South
Fl. Payne, Ala. 35967
845-1841

Your
Wife
don't have
to take in
Washing
to support
the family
NOW

Let
Brown's Cleaners
Do
This Awful Chore!
817 Gault Ave. In Fort Payne, AL.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

SKYLINE RANCH

Founded 1947
Everything
Is the
Best

On Top of Lookout Mountain
On The Banks of Little River
Madison, Alabama

We've
Got
It All!

ROUTE 1, P. O. BOX 381, MENTONE, ALABAMA 35984
© 1988 SKYLINE RANCH
© 1988 SKYLINE RANCH
Address _____ Tel. _____

(Continued From Front Cover)

established. Her love of each student and pride in Moon Lake is evident when she states, "The most remarkable aspect of Moon Lake is the student body. We have such good students and family back up at Moon Lake. I am fortunate in that I have the opportunity to see them during their first school experience. I can watch them grow and mature. I have always expressed the opinion that there is no substitute for a small school atmosphere for the very young child. It is this "family feeling" that does the most to foster a positive self-concept in children as a significant member of the group."

That the 1st grade teacher, Lisa Shrader, continues this excellent building process is evident by her statement, "The faculty and students at Moon Lake are very special people. Here, everyone knows everyone else. It's a lot like a family and the community is so involved with the school. This is a nice place to teach."

According to Darlene Gilbert, "Moon Lake School is the perfect place to begin a teaching career. The cooperation and friendliness of the faculty have helped me get off to an excellent start. I love teaching the 2nd grade because the students are interested and eager to learn."

The 3rd and 4th grade combination is taught on a permanent basis by Bill Berry. However, this year Mr. Berry is on a leave of absence to complete requirements for his Doctorate in Elementary Education and is being temporarily replaced by Christine Lehman who continues to instill that supportive, motivational spirit in the students.

Joyce Smith, who teaches the combined 4th and 5th grades, is by no means a new name around Moon Lake. She has been on the faculty for 19 years and during this period has left a wonderful, inspirational impression on all who've known her. Her accomplishments as the local leader of the girls 4-H club, for which she has received the outstanding leadership award several times, alone are too numerous to mention. However, in her modest way, she stated, "Over the years, until the award was discontinued the 4-H girls at Moon Lake have received 13 Best Club Awards. They have also gone on to participate in County, District, State and even the National 4-H Congress in Chicago, Ill. Suffice it to say, the many lives she has touched and changed for the better by her caring, positive, unselfish devotion, both in the classroom and in her many extra curricular activities, will remain an enduring achievement."

Juanita Smith, who serves as the Chapter I teacher, not only holds the honor of having been at Moon Lake longer than any other faculty member but also the distinctive and beloved title of Mrs. "Reading" Smith. Her genuine concern for others and her desire to contribute positively to improve the quality of their lives is overwhelmingly evident when you're around her. Not only do you feel warmed by her gracious smile, but her eyes seem to always be saying — I care, I'm here, I'll help. Everyone feels blessed to have her at Moon Lake and it's obvious her feelings are the same when she says, "My 21 years here have been more than a means of livelihood. Working as a teacher here has been a way of life to me. The children and their families are the type of people I enjoy claiming for best friends." Mrs. Smith is also fortunate to have Martha Browder as her Chapter I Aide. Together, they help ensure that each child will have a more positive, brighter future.

Every ship and captain needs a good first mate to keep things organized and flowing smoothly and there is no one more capable, efficient and devoted than Helen E. Sibert. Although her official title lists her as Bookkeeper/Secretary, that is a major understatement of her duty roster. You know you're in excellent hands with her in charge of the office, but she modestly gives credit to everyone else, especially Mr. Bell and the other faculty. She also said, "Moon Lake has had strong community support. Parents have always played an active role in keeping the school going."

In order to achieve, people must first be given the opportunity to learn. Years ago, for many mountain area students, this was often an impossibility because of the weather and the great distances from home to school. To-

day, however, thanks to the efficient County School Bus Program and the devoted attitude of bus driver, Don Ingram, to safely pick up and deliver his students come rain or come shine, no one is denied this important privilege.

No school day would be complete without the nutritious hot lunches funded by the federal government and prepared daily by the loving hands of Lunchroom Manager Delight Pruitt, and her Assistant, Cheryl Crane. Nor could they handle the masses at the check out line without Anita Meadows, the efficient lunchroom cashier.

As everyone knows, learning is rarely easy, but it would be an even more difficult task if the buildings and grounds were not properly, safely and efficiently maintained by the very capable Tim Gardner, Custodian. As he so enthusiastically states, "As a former student here at Moon Lake, I find it basically the same as when I left it. That is one of the reasons that I enjoy working here. Also, the faculty, several of whom are my former teachers, and staff are friendly and easy to work with."

During the 1986-87 school year, Moon Lake School scored No. 1 in DeKalb County on the Complete Battery of the Standard Achievement Tests (SAT's) and also was one of five DeKalb County Schools scoring better than the State average.

Throughout the years, a great number of former Moon Lake students have ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class and are also often listed as the Salutatorian and/or the Valedictorian.

Needless to say, many of them continue their formal education at a variety of colleges or receive some type of specialized training. Some even return to Moon Lake to serve on the faculty or staff.

No matter what their adult future holds for them, their beginning years at Moon Lake have prepared them well by giving them not only high academic training and goals, but just as importantly, a positive sense of self — of being loved, of encouragement and the courage to try — so that no matter what their vocation in life, it will be approached with a positive attitude, performed to the best of their ability and with pride. This tradition at Moon Lake continues from generation to generation.

Perhaps this family heritage is one reason the community, led by the PTA, has always played such a supportive and active role in the continued growth and good health of Moon Lake — sort of a matter of "family pride." However, there is another reason that the PTA and community have had to play such a key part in the school's development.

Even though Moon Lake is academically approved under all County, State and Federal guidelines, the State of Alabama requires that each school have a land base of at least 5 acres in order to qualify as an "Approved Site." Although how much land a school has actually has nothing to do with the quality of education received, it does play an important role in the continued improvement and expansion of facilities and physical growth of the school. Unless an Alabama school meets the "Approved Site" guidelines, the State cannot furnish any money for capital improvements such as building additions, new buildings, classrooms, a library, an auditorium, etc.

Obviously, as the school has grown, so have its needs. In order for these to be met, the total amount of money needed for each project has had to come from the community.

Although there have been occasional large sums donated by a single individual or group of individuals, such as the very generous amount of \$17,000.00 given by the group "Alabama" toward the total of \$53,000.00 raised to build the gym, the majority of needed funds have been amassed by the efforts of many caring individuals — composed of students, faculty, parents and the general com-

munity. These achievements have occurred because of that special spirit so dominant and abundant throughout this school and community.

The 1989-90 PTA followed in this same winning tradition by raising appx. \$8,000.00 during this year's annual Harvest Festival. According to PTA President, Larry Gray, "The annual Harvest Festival is our major fund-raising event. People from all over DeKalb County and even more distant towns in Alabama, Georgia, and occasionally even Tennessee, look forward to attending. For some families this has become a yearly tradition."

"Several weeks prior to the festival", students participate in a poster contest sponsored by the PTA. The posters are displayed through the area to inform people of the specific date and time as well as the special events to look forward to. The classes each elect King and Queen candidates and the contestants from the class that raises the most money are proclaimed the winners and crowned at the Festival.

Mr. Gray continued, "Everyone works very hard to make this event successful. When the school needs volunteers or money, there is never a problem in gathering the support of the parents and community. I am also fortunate to have a dedicated slate of officers to assist me in all our endeavors."

The other 1989-90 PTA officers are: Vice-President, Sible Hopper; Secretary, Cheri Pless; and Treasurer, Anita Meadows. Together with Mr. Gray, the faculty, students and community, they continue to strive for and achieve "The Best and Nothing Less."

The most recent PTA project, an addition to the gym, which will house two more classrooms and a storage area, is expected to be completed within the next few months — sooner if possible. This will free the current half of the mobile unit that is being used as a classroom so it can join its other half and return to a full-time library and media center.

The other current major challenge facing the PTA is to raise the funds necessary to purchase the adjoining acreage so the school will meet the states 5 acre land base guideline and become eligible for capital improvement money. The school currently has appx. 2.3 acres and needs at least appx. 2.7 more to meet this requirement.

Mr. Gray stated, "The growth and needs of Moon Lake are rapidly increasing. It is essential that we acquire this land as soon as possible and we welcome support and donations from everyone."

Children literally are our greatest treasure and the key to the world's future. Therefore, a lifetime commitment to give them "The Best and Nothing Less" at each and every opportunity should be made by all generations. However, rarely does one see a group of parents, faculty and staff, as well as the entire community, stand endlessly and tirelessly behind this belief, at least not to the degree that has been, and continues to be, visible at Moon Lake School and within this beautiful mountain area.

From the past to the present, this spirit has been one of the main secrets of success for every student fortunate enough to attend Moon Lake as well as a great source of pride for them, the faculty and staff, parents and community as a whole. The motto of this spirit could be summed up as: The past is our heritage . . . the present is our responsibility . . . the future is our challenge. The proven togetherness of everyone in the belief and practice of this irreplaceable spirit.

(I wish to gratefully thank the following for their kindness in providing information pertinent to this article: The Moon Lake School faculty, staff and P.T.A. president, Christine Dersa, Zora Shay Strayhorn, Emily Smith, Dr. C. J. Wyatt, Tracy Pollard and Jimbo Mann).



For over 50 years, the tradition goes on. (From a 1930's newspaper ad).

Fort Payne, Alabama, Thursday July 21, 1930

MOON LAKE P. T. A.

Sponsors Ice Cream Supper

Thursday Night, August 7,

8 p. m.

Proceeds to be used to install a water system for the school

Everybody Come.



Mentone Hardware

WE NOW OFFER PARCEL SERVICE!

Open Seven Days A Week
Mon.-Thurs. 7-8
Fri.-Sat. 7-8
Sun. 1-8

Among The Many Items We Offer:

We Are A Dealer For Poulan Chain Saws And Weed eaters

- * Full Line Of Hardware *
- Fishing Tackle And Ammunition
- Pet And Veterinarian Supplies
- Well Pumps And Supplies
- Plumbing Supplies
- Electrical Supplies
- Glass Cutting
- * Farm Supplies *
- Feed And Fertilizer
- Videos, VCR Rental And Nintendo's
- Movie Specials!
- 3 For \$5.00 Tues. And Wed.
- * Canning Supplies
- * Stanley Tools
- * Keys Made
- * Nails Hwy. 117

Bargains By The Wagon Load

MENTONE, AL.
Phone 634-4848

Dependable

TV SERVICE

NCA Authorized Service Center

ZENITH

CALL US

GARY'S TV & APPLIANCE

104 - 6th St NW 845-1961 Fort Payne, AL



Roberta and Mayor Max Cash, Harry Weaver, MAPA Director Lynn Bathhurst and wife Ruth Bathhurst.



Sitting on Santa's Knee.



The Mentone Springs Hotel at Night.



Come Reminisc at the Old Hitching Post

- antiques • primitives
- glassware • hand-made quilts

We have Ben Hampton Plates: "Nancy Ward and Standing Proud," and Boehm Plates: Owl Series and Wild Bird Series.

634-4548

Bernise Crow & Jean Elrod
Hwy. 117, Mentone, Ala.



Baby Carriages and Cribbage
all Factory Wholesale Prices.
and the FREE CATALOGUE
showing many new styles of
baby carriages, cribs, and
other baby furniture. Send
for a FREE CATALOGUE. We
will send you a FREE CATALOGUE
and a FREE BABY CARTRIDGE
coupon. (This coupon is good for
a \$1.00 discount on any baby
carriage or crib purchased at
this company between 12/1/81
and 12/31/81.)

USED APPLIANCE CENTER



"Like New" Stoves, Refrigerators,
Washers, Dryers, Air Conditioners.

GUARANTEED Financing Available
908 Gault Avenue N.
Fort Payne, Alabama

We Have
a Full Line
of Dayton and
Related Brands

Construction
Steel
Industrial
Supplies

Mar-Mil Steel and Supply co.
Rt. 11, South
Fl. Payne, Ala. 35967
845-1841

"BUT REXEY, LANKIN",
I DO GIVE A DARN ABOUT DUNN
IN THE REXEY BUTLER ROOM!"
-AT
Mentone,
Alabama
-Sponsored
-Approved-
Restaurant
Friday - Saturday 5-9 Sunday Buffet 12-3

The White Elephant Galleries has
rooms full of crafts, antiques and
gifts at such low prices!

The White Elephant Galleries
634-4629
OPEN SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
On The Square in Mentone

QUALITY PHOTO

We wish to thank all our many
friends who allowed us to capture
those special moments. We look for-
ward to another year of helping you to
keep the best of times.

The Adams Family

845-5110 2201 Gault Ave., Ft. Payne, Ala.
One Hour Photo Finishing 845-5110

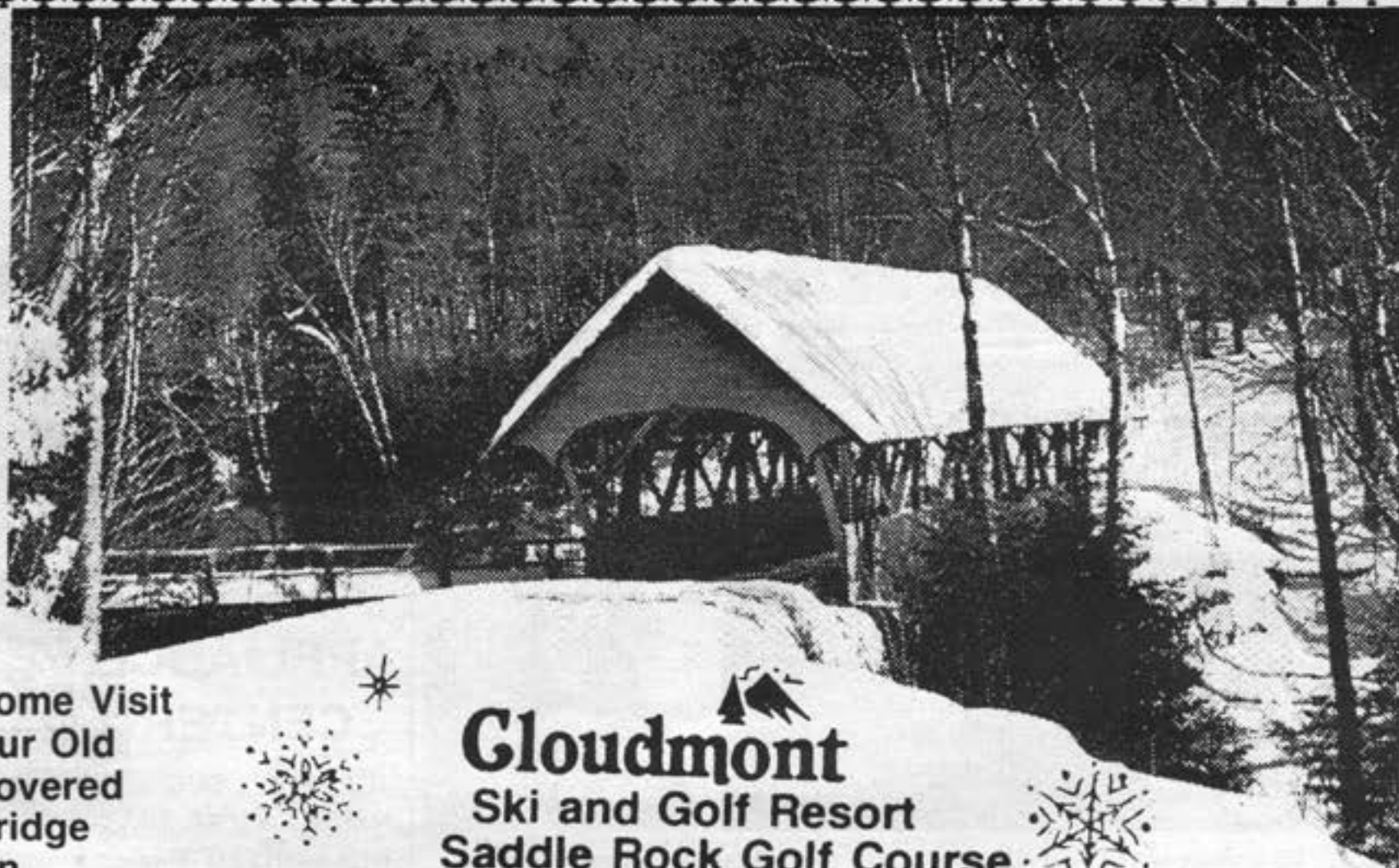


Valley Head, Alabama

TIME TO LAY IN SUPPLIES FOR THE WINTER
Come to Valley Head Hardware
For All Your Building and Repair Needs
Farm — Business — Home

**WE HAVE CONCRETE BLOCKS, SAND AND
ROAD TILE SECTIONS TOO**

Don't Forget Feed for Your Livestock!



Come Visit
Our Old
Covered
Bridge
On
Little
River.

Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort Saddle Rock Golf Course

(205) 634-3841

On DeSoto Parkway
Mentone, Alabama 35984

Lookout Mountain is the perfect playground and Cloudmont offers the ultimate way to enjoy it. Relax. Experience warm repose in an inspiring setting of natural beauty. Springtime mountain laurel. Summer wildflowers. Flaming red maple. Winter rocks and white water. Share with friends our beautiful four seasons, our clear skies and our crisp air.

★ 3 SNOW-MAKING MACHINES
★ 100 RENTAL SKIS, POLES & BOOTS
★ TEACHING AREA ("BUNNY HILL")



Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort Saddle Rock Golf Course

On DeSoto Parkway
Mentone, Alabama 35984

SLEEP INN

(205) 634-3841

When you finally call it a night, Cloudmont offers a variety of rental chalets along Little River or on the edge of Saddle Rock Golf Course. Spend a weekend in quiet mountain seclusion. The ski lodge is warm and inviting with its round fireplace. And don't forget, there's fishing, hiking, swimming and rappelling at Cloudmont to enjoy. Group lodging and catering can be arranged.

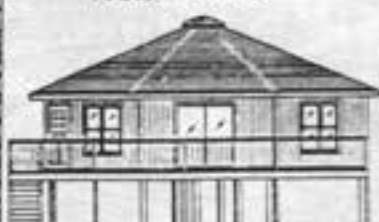
Join Us Where The Earth Meets The Sky

Log Cabin Craft Village

— Featuring —

- ★ The Woodmasters
- ★ Custom Designed Furniture
- ★ The Country Store
- ★ Old Pioneer Christmas Shoppee
- ★ The Canteen (Festivals Only)
- ★ Log Cabin Deli
- ★ The Groundhog Publication
- ★ Lookout Mountain Properties

"Let Us Help
Plan Your
New Home"



MODEL ON
SCENIC LOT
SOON

\$59,000⁰⁰

Jack Jones & Associates
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PARKWAY
MENTONE, ALABAMA 35984
Angela Jones, Associate

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PROPERTIES

NEW THIS MONTH . . .

3

ACRE TRACTS ON BANKS
OF LITTLE RIVER

NEAR MENTONE —
\$15,000 TERMS

3 ACRE BROW TRACTS —
\$15,000

A Place On The River Can Be Yours

Own Your Own Fishing Hole!

Nature's best "blue hole" — Up to 30 feet deep. Larger than an Olympic size pool. Lookout Mountain's favorite vacation spot. On 80 acres.

Lookout Mountain's best camp location — \$100,000

Canyon View Forest — 3 acre tracts, each adjoining 13,000 acre Little River Wildlife Management Area. Looks over Little River Canyon, the deepest gorge east of the Mississippi — \$15,000 terms.

Valley View Forest — Beautiful 5 acre brow tracts overlooking Pigeon Valley on east brow — \$8,000.

634-4873

We can deal on terms
or cash. J&J



Over The River And Through The Woods — Celebrating The Season

At The Friths

Early in the holiday season the Hanging Cottage, mountain home of Greg and Linda Frith, was full to the brim with guests who came to enjoy the hospitality of one of Mentone's loveliest structures.

Each year, the Frith's usher in the Mentone holiday social season with a gala party that has become well-known for great music, delicious food and warm company.

Tony Goggans, Mentone Troubadour, gave one of his best performances. Amelia Kirk, owner of the Mentone Inn, catered the affair and proved once again her talent in the culinary arts.



Maxine Baty, Darrell Norman and Dorma Hutcheson.



Zora Strayhorn and friends.



Foreground: Jennie and Frank Helderman and Trent Whitten.



Tony Goggans Entertains.



Amelia Kirk.

At Trent Whittens

Trent Whitten's Mentone Christmas party has become an annual event with friends from far and near converging on his rustic mountain home to celebrate the season.

The Whitten party of Dec. 17 was quite a family affair as Trent, his three lovely daughters, Bain, Heather and Caroline, his son Thomas and friend April Horton, spared no effort when it came to hospitality.

Among the many guests were Frank and Linda Purvis, home for Christmas from Frank's new position with **Habitat for Humanity**, an organization which provides dwellings for the homeless through donated time, labor and money.

The Whitten family's primary residence is in Albertville, Ala., where Trent owns an exclusive clothing store known as **Whittens** which has been in business since 1948. His mountain retreat at Mentone is a second home for getaway weekends and for entertaining friends and family.

Amelia Kirk, owner of the Mentone Inn, catered the party with festive dishes thoughtfully prepared and beautifully presented.



Greg and Linda Frith.

On The Square In Valley Head— At The Community Christmas Caroling



**Merry Christmas To All . . .
And To All A Good Night!**



AIRPORT ROAD
SYLVANIA RD. & I-59

Computer
Brake Service

Front Suspension
Rebuilding

VISA and Mastercard Accepted

**THE TRYING DEMANDS
OF COUNTRY TRAVEL**

Make Top Quality Tires
A Necessity!

FORT PAYNE WHOLESALE TIRE CO., INC.

Now Offers
the Best

205-845-2269

TIRES

Truck loads new and used tires and
retreads
Financing available with approved
applications

At the Best Price

Shock & Strut Installation Batteries
Custom Retreading Hunter Computer Balancing
and Hunter Allignment

No Matter What the Need . . .

We Have the Right Tires!

THE GROUNDHOG
c/o M.A.P.A.
P.O. Box 50
Mentone, AL 35984

JEAN & CHARLES MCGEEHEE 7/90
RT 1
MENTONE, AL 35984

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1
Mentone, AL 35984