

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 3 - NO. 4 - JULY 1985

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

ALABAMA

Talent That Deserves Fame And Fortune

Down in the valley from Mentone and only a few miles to the south in Fort Payne is situated the headquarters for ALABAMA. It is more than a musical group, it is a phenomenon. It embodies something that springs from the soil underneath us and the air around us, interrelated with people we know, enriching and reflecting our heritage.

Alabama is their home, especially Lookout Mountain, but the people of the valley and Sand Mountain are aware that Jeff Cook, Randy Owen, and Teddy Gentry emerged from our schools, farms, and byways and have remained part of us. Success and recognition have not estranged them from us. What they have done is from, in their own words, humble grass roots beginnings, hard work, discipline, and dedication.

In May the group ALABAMA won the Academy of Country Music Entertainer Award for the fourth consecutive time, Vocal Group of the Year for the fourth consecutive year, and Album of the Year for the fifth consecutive time. This brought to 11 the Academy of Country Music awards the band has won since 1982, one more than singer Kenny Rogers. It would be an exercise in redundancy to enumerate the other recognitions ALABAMA has received since reaching the pinnacle, beyond stating that record sales now exceed 15-million.

(Continued On Page 8)



Drawing By Jimmy Frazier

Mentone Has Received \$74,000 From June Jams . . . Page 1
1985 Crafts Festival Declared Huge Success . . . Page 6, 7

Stormy Council Meeting Elects Bill Russell

In a frequently stormy session on Monday evening, July 1, the Mentone Town Council elected former councilman William (Bill) Russell to replace Stanley Brown, who resigned to attend Duke Divinity School. In addition to Mayor Rob Hammond, Councilman Max Cash, Hobson Kirby, and Richard Meadows were in attendance.

Visitors present were Mauri Lawson (vacationing in Mentone), Art and Betty Harris, M. H. York, Bob and Ruby Daniel, Angelo Rosario, Charles and Jean McGehee.

After the mayor reported on the state of the water, police, streets, and finance committees (no new business, no action taken), he asked those present for remarks before the vote was taken to replace Mr. Brown.

Jean McGehee spoke in her own behalf, stating, "I represent no one nor no organization but my own conscience. If you really care about Mentone, you will seek to heal the wounds brought about by a division in town and vote for me."

The Rev. Mr. McGehee and Ruby Daniel spoke in favor of Mrs. McGehee. The former mentioned her "computer-like mind and memory and absolute fairness," while Mrs. Daniel stated that because of Mrs. McGehee's having been next highest vote getter and runner-up to Mr. Brown in the 1984 election, and because of her devotion to Mentone, she should be voted to the council.

Ms. Lawson, visiting in town, said that she "represented" the United Methodist Women and the League of Women Voters. Mayor Hammond assured her that Mentone has had a lady mayor, judge, and attorney, as well as council member. Mr. York also spoke in Mrs. McGehee's favor.

Mayor Hammond said that he had "already made a commitment to Bill Russell" after the May council meeting had been adjourned. Mrs. Daniel asked whether another election might be in order.

After reading the regulation from the **Handbook for Mayors and Councilmen**, which stated that councilmen elect a replacement one month after a resignation, Mayor Hammond said, "You don't need to set the criteria."

Mr. Meadows nominated and voted for Mrs. McGehee, with the mayor and Councilman Cash and Kirby voting for Mr. Russell.

Mayor Hammond announced that Mr. Russell will be sworn in before the next meeting. He then opened the floor for discussion.

Mrs. McGehee asked about the nature of secret commitments. Mrs. Daniel said that her husband had been through all sorts of dirty business when he was mayor fifteen years ago, having cleaned up corruption and filth at what is now both town parks, and at the old hotel.

A heated exchange ensued. Mr. Daniel asked, "Which way is this town going to go?"

Mayor Hammond said that he thought the present council had done a good job, improving the water system and providing adequate police protection. "If you don't want us, turn us out or reelect us," he said.

Councilman Kirby repeatedly stated, "If you don't like the town — move." Mr. Daniel spoke about trucks racing through town and of the general deplorable traffic conditions he had witnessed.

Mr. McGehee said, "The decision has been made. The power is in the hands of the council and the mayor. The question is: where and how are decisions made?"

Mayor Hammond said, "In Congress of the United States, everyone knows the outcome of votes before they are taken. The deals are made in the back rooms. It's the same in state legislatures. That's democracy. That's politics."

Mr. Kirby stated that he voted against Mrs. McGehee because of "her strong ties with MAPA, who is trying to commercialize the town."

In a loud exchange with Mr. and Mrs. Daniel, the mayor asked him, "Why didn't you run for mayor if you wanted the job?"

Mr. Meadows said that he had not spoken with anyone on the council about the replacement.

Mrs. Harris stated that she and her husband, in the real estate business, had had vulgar telephone calls and real estate signs defaced with filthy words and torn down. "The town needs business protection."

The mayor suggested she telephone the sheriff in Fort Payne, who can always reach Mr. Jones, town police chief.

After the adjournment, there were further exchanges, followed by hand shakes before those present departed.



Shown above is new Councilman Bill Russell, elected at the July town council meeting. Mr. Russell was born in Tompkinsville, Kentucky, and attended public schools there.

He came to Mentone 27 years ago. For 25 years he operated a service station and automobile repair shop at the site of the present Furgerson's Restaurant and Grocery.

Serving on the council "for six of seven months" during former Mayor Sam Barrett's tenure in office, Mr. Russell resigned because "people complained I was getting most of the business in town."

Married to the former Wanda Goss, he is father of a four year old daughter. Two years ago he opened a repair shop on the knoll behind Town Hall.

Lookout Mountain Parkway Project Moving Along



Representatives from three states met on June 19 at the Western Sizzlin in Fort Payne to discuss ideas and goals for the proposed Lookout Mountain Parkway which would extend from Noccalula Falls above Gadsden to Chattanooga. This hundred-mile stretch was described as being one of America's most spectacular drives, making possible the sight of five waterfalls, many Indian sights, an abundance of wildlife, and possible overlooks.

Plans include erection of signs, the printing of maps and brochures, board representatives from the states of Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee, and encouragement of residents along the drive to beautify their property. Other possibilities are the establishment of overlooks and restoration of Granny Dollar's home.

Alabama's 3.4 billion dollar tourism industry was a factor. Speakers pointed out that tourists most expect scenery, history, natural attractions, and recreation facilities, all of which the Parkway would offer. The project was approved by the Mentone Area Preservation Association at its June meeting.

The people there representing different organizations were: Joe Barnes, Tourism Coordinator of Noccalula Falls; Susan Greene and Rhonda Ward, also of Noccalula Falls; Roger Ellis, County Engineer, Etowah County Commission; Charles Moody, County Agent of Cherokee County; Bob Elmore, Executive Director of Convention Business Bureau, Chattanooga; Charlie Elmore, also of Chattanooga; Jackie Weaver, Canyonland Park; Richard Linsey, State Representative of District 9; Ralph Burke, State Representative of Fort Payne; Bill McDow, President of DeKalb County Tourist Association; Jack and Olive Jones, Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort, Mentone; and Donna Bukley representing the DeKalb County Tourist Association and The Mentone Area Preservation Association. Also present was Kenneth Pennington, Sequoyah Caverns. — D. B.

MAPA Installs Officers



Shown above are the officers of the Mentone Area Preservation Association who will serve the term 1985-86: Amelia Kirk Brooks, director; Shurleen Froehner, treasurer; Bill Riedesel, secretary; and Donna Bukley, associate director. As past director, Homer Crow will serve on the board. They were installed at a pot-luck supper during the July meeting.

MAPA Discusses Goals

Discussion of plans and adoption of goals for the upcoming year 1985-86 will be the agenda of the August 6 meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation at 7 p.m. at the Mentone Springs Hotel.

Presiding at her first meeting as director will be Amelia Kirk Brooks who encourages full participation. Afterward refreshments will be served by hostess Maggie Cordell. All Mentone citizens are welcome to attend, but only dues-paid members may vote on adoption of the new goals and other items of business.

Among last year's goals were the following:

- (1) Continuation of the triangle beautification at the Mentone Superette.
- (2) Attempts to have Old Hotel Square declared a state and national "historic district."
- (3) Full support of **The GROUNDHOG** publication.
- (4) Efforts to reconstruct the damaged rock wall alongside 117 down the mountain.
- (5) Cooperation with the Crafts Festival Committee, Town Council, and other groups to rebuild the public picnic shelter at Brow Park.

Other goals included promotion of quality seasonal events; a community center; divider stripes on area roads; enhancing the Mentone Springs site; a walkway to provide safe egress from Old Hotel Square toward the post office; Mentone recognition signs; and public restrooms.

Cable TV Progress

Have you returned the questionnaire about your views on Cable TV for Mentone? If not you may now call a local number — 634-4681, preferably evenings and weekends. Bill Kidder reports that to this point he has received 55 returns of which 60 percent are favorable. A higher return naturally must be forthcoming.

Our Gratitude

Over the past four years the following Mentone organizations have benefited as follows from June Jam gifts:

Come Scout Reservation	\$44,000
Moon Lake School	16,500
Volunteer Fire Department	6,500
Rescue Squad	7,000
TOTAL	\$74,000

POST OFFICE BULLETIN BOARD

Effective immediately, notices attached to the glass over the bulletin board will be removed. Please go to the desk and ask for the key — and return it!

MAPA Minutes

The Mentone Area Preservation Association met at the Mentone Springs Hotel on July 2, 1985. Following reading and approval of the minutes, the treasurer reported a balance of \$5,204.18 as of July 1. As of that same date **The GROUNDHOG** showed a balance of \$986.69.

Donna Bukley reported that the meeting about the Lookout Mountain Parkway indicated things were going well and that another meeting would be held soon involving people from Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

Director Homer Crow installed the following newly elected officers: Director, Amelia Brooks; Associate Director, Donna Bukley; Secretary, Bill Riedesel; Treasurer, Shurlee Froehler. Thirty-eight people were in attendance. Following adjournment, a pot luck supper was participated in by those present. — Adopted from the minutes of outgoing Secretary Amelia Brooks.

Groundhog Finance Report

MAY ISSUE

INCOME	
Balance on hand	\$1,041.34
Ad sales	785.00
	\$1,826.34
DEBITS	
U. S. Post Office	\$22.00
Donna Bukley	141.75
McGehees	100.00
U. S. Post Office	70.82
DeSoto Printing Co.	8.03
The Summerville News Co.	355.75
MAPA Donation	400.00
	\$1,098.35
Balance on hand	\$727.99

Groundhog Finance Report

JUNE ISSUE

INCOME	
Balance on hand	\$727.99
Ad sales	1,325.00
	\$2,052.99
DEBITS	
Donna Bukley	\$237.88
McGehees	100.00
Campbell Florist	26.75
U. S. Post Office	71.83
The Summerville News Co.	629.84
	\$1,066.30
Balance on hand	\$986.69

Complete Groundhogs?

Homer Crow, immediate past director of MAPA, is compiling complete sets of **The Groundhog** to make them available to collectors. He is looking for the following copies:

Vol. I, No. 1 (Ruby O'Rear on cover), No. 2 (Sammy Cash), No. 3 (Sam Barrett), No. 5 (Col. Howard), No. 6 (Linda Brown), No. 7 (Rob Hammond), No. 8 (Colquitt Jones), No. 10 (Caves by DeSoto Falls), No. 12 (Graham Glover).

Vol. II, No. 1 (Centennial Logo), No. 5 (Leonard Shigley), No. 11 (Bruce Bon Fleur), No. 12 (Bob Daniel).

Vol. III, No. 1 (Kathryn Jones).

If you or any member of your family, or friends, have any of these, please give them to Bernice Crow at the Hitching Post or mail them to MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone 35984.

Homer plans to place these complete or near-complete sets of **The GROUNDHOG** in binders and sell them for the benefit of MAPA.

Letters To The Editor

Please renew my membership for one year. **THE GROUNDHOG** is as close as I get to Mentone during the winter, and I really enjoy it.

Lucie Holland
Alexandria, Va.

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 1986.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

The Groundhog

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

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

Brow Briefs

Tamra Hall, twice winner of the elementary Rhododendron Queen contest, was recently chosen DeKalb County's Our Little Miss. In the state contest she was one of three girls chosen from 36 non-finalists for a special award.

At the Crafts Festival Mayfred Whatley, selling and demonstrating her pine needle weaving, was heard to say to a visitor, "Don't you just love Mentone? It's a special place and we love to share it with visitors."

One of the nicest features of the Crafts Festival was seeing groups of Saddle Rock counselors dressed in their Sunday whites on Sunday morning and afternoon.

Friends of Councilman Lee Davenport will be pleased to learn that he is now at home from the hospital. "Doing nicely and getting adjusted," according to Mrs. Davenport.

An excellent photographic essay was in the July 5 "KUDZU" of **The Birmingham Post-Herald** featuring the Cloudmont grass skiing program. It was pointed out that grass skiing is an excellent way for winter skiers to stay in shape. Gary Jones said that at least 10 skiers are required to make the opening of the resort possible. Reservations are necessary.

The American Legion is selling chances on a micro-wave oven. They realized \$119 on their rummage sale and are beginning work on the rest rooms in their building.

For Our Safety



Representative of the newly installed fire hydrants in Mentone is the one above, near the 117 bridge. Other fire hydrants in Mentone are located at Moon Lake School, Camp DeSoto, Mentone Superette, near Clydel's Beauty Shop, near Hobson Kirby's home, across from Rick Long's home below the tanks, at the pump station, near Lee Davenport's home, at the Hitching Post, two on the road behind the Hitching Post, near the Fire Hall, and opposite Moon Lake Baptist Church.

Not only does the installation of the seven new hydrants make residents safer, but insurance rates should be lower as a result of a new classification.

A WORD PORTRAIT

The moon is veiled in delicate clouds,
Stars are sprinkled like sequins
In the black velvet sky.
In the town square of Mentone, France,
Facing the ancient cathedral of St. Michel,
An audience listens spellbound
To the incantory sounds
Of a solitary violinist
Playing Bach.
— Eugenia Zukerman
NEW YORK TIMES 5-5-85

Mountain Watch

By Charles White McGehee

Our log cabin is situated on three acres inside the town of Mentone. What else could anyone want, both isolation and civilization? Best of all, to the north and south of us there is wooded area left to the uses of the innocent creatures of the earth. These past few days our own pair of pileated woodpeckers can be heard resoundingly with that heavy, rapid clonk-clonk, and seen in their red, white, and green splendor climbing up the side of a rotting pine in search of insects or worms. Lately we've seen a pair of large brown rabbits. The squirrels still tease our shepherd dog Caesar. The chipmunks don't seem to bother him. The moles haven't started digging around the garden area yet, but they will. At night the owls hoot eerily, and of late afternoons the turtle doves give that mournful coo. My birdwatching is limited, but it is routine to see brown thrushes, robins, cardinals, wrens and jays.

The Mentone Area Preservation Association and the community have truly benefited over the past two years by the leadership of Homer Crow as director. Despite a serious illness and constant duties as operator of businesses in Fort Payne and Gadsden, activities with St. Joseph's Church, and helping his wife Bernice with the Hitching Post, he has developed MAPA to a higher level of effectiveness. He will continue to be on the board and the editorial committee of **The GROUNDHOG**. He deserves the utmost of appreciation.

Despite its beauty and relative isolation, Mentone is ideally located because of its central location between such cities as Atlanta, Birmingham, Chattanooga and Huntsville — good restaurants, shopping centers, and medical facilities. The possibility of Cable TV, about which some of us are quite excited, reminds me also that with directional antenna, we at our house already have superb TV reception from the above-mentioned cities. What we lack is the availability of the many cable services that provide constant news, first-run movies, sports features. Because the Fort Payne Cable-TV has no plans for running a line to Mentone, the current project may be our last chance for a long, long time.

Perhaps you've noticed this column has a new name. Why? Simply because more and more the title "Viewpoint" appeared in other publications. It became monotonous. Titles are important. Faulkner said so. Many authors begin with a title. So out came the desk Thesaurus and a search for parallels for "Viewpoint." Soon there emerged the excellent "MountainView." Then I remembered a magazine and real estate company had upstaged me. Suddenly there emerged **MOUNTAIN WATCH**. It has a good ring to it, vigilant, yet lofty and poetic. Granted that it might be considered an Appalachian timepiece, it's here with us to stay for awhile, and no one else seems to be using it.

It is a very good feeling to be told that you have been given several extra years to your effective life. This has actually happened to a number of us. Now we are told that 75 instead of 65 is the proper age for retirement. It's all probably because we are eating better, exercising more, getting better medical attention, and are improving our outlook toward existence. This isn't completely helpful to those of us who have already retired — not knowing that we were jumping the gun. The 65 retirement age was allegedly set by a bunch of young Social Security lawyers in the FDR administration. At that time they may have been correct. The question now is what are we going to do with these extra productive years? At least we have plenty of time to think about it, and Mentone is a good environment for the thinking process.

One of the problems of a newspaper editor is that of confidentiality. People often say, "This is off the record" — Sometimes when it's not especially newsworthy. You have to cooperate or you will lose a news source. The truth of the matter is that you generally hear the information from another source. There are tricks, which we haven't used in **THE GROUNDHOG** yet, such as, "Sources close to Town Hall inform us..." This is a much more serious matter in the ministry. One of the most vital ministerial functions is in the role of counseling. The minister has taken a vow not to reveal information given in counseling — except when a human life is at stake. Numerous times in my ministry a lady would come to my study in anguish over her approaching divorce, saying, "Please don't breathe a word of this to anyone." A couple of days later my wife would sometimes say, "I heard at lunch today is getting a divorce."

Attention Summer People

In keeping with the recent Clean-up drive stressed by Mayor Rob Hammond and other area leaders, **THE GROUNDHOG** reminds summer residents that for only \$4.50 a month garbage pickup is available on a weekly basis. Call Downer's Solid Waste Disposal System (635-6379), or drop by Downer's where 117 crosses 11 in Hammondville. Arrangements can be on a month-to-month basis. Some weekend visitors take their garbage bags home for their usual service. Please do not drop your garbage at our parks or along the roadside.

Mountain Cookery

There was some question about whether these rambling thoughts belong in **Leftovers**, **Mountain Watch**, or the wastebasket. "Mountain Cookery" was the final decision. If you'll be patient, I'll get around to food eventually.

When we restored the Morgadanes cabin on the brow, it was a challenge for me to use as much of the old materials as possible, not especially for historical authenticity, but for my own idiosyncrasy. When a wall was torn down, every effort was made to use as much of it as possible for a newer wall. When Ron Godbois tore off the long side porch, I had the nails pulled out, the materials stacked for later use as a half front porch and a newer back porch which Jon Hawkins and Jeff Holleman neatly rebuilt.

All my life I've had problems throwing things away. While editing a weekly newspaper in Mississippi, I found it infuriating not to be able to use all the materials that came in the mail and over the desk: government releases, political handouts, propaganda for various causes. It was a struggle on press day to throw the huge stack of remnants in the huge wastebasket.

So it was as a radio editor and newscaster. The teletype in the newsroom poured out realms of endless materials, only a fraction of which could be read on the air. Here again a huge wastebasket was the recipient of my reluctant rejections. When I retired from the ministry, there were numerous files of sermon ideas and outlines. What a shame that so many of them ended in the wastebasket.

The biggest area of difficulty in this endless ritual of disposing of surplus or unneeded or outdated items is with food. I hasten to confess that I am no gourmet cook. I read cook books, talk gourmet language, but am actually a fastidious eater — mostly a vegetarian. My wisdom lies in cooking a handful of dishes I admit are superb: creamy soups, Chinese green pepper steaks, antipasto, and omelets, especially omelets. Once for a church dinner in Savannah I made seventy omelets in little over an hour.

When Jean is away for a day or so, I furiously try to clean out the refrigerator. It pleases me to read that the best of chefs find a challenge to utilize what is in season or in over-supply. When Jean was recently ill for three weeks and I did most of the food coordinating and cooking, my talents were taxed.

First the already cooked items in the refrigerator. To vary this I began using things from the freezer: finely pastried spinach pies; corn (some boiled on the cob); sweet potatoes; and squash croquettes. Next, the shelves of our jars of canned goods from last year which I vowed to diminish because new things would be coming in from the garden soon: succulent soup mix, crowder peas, pickles, pears, and string beans.

What finally stumped me was the shelves of bought canned goods: to name just a few — four jars of spaghetti mix, three blackeyed peas, two pinto beans, two great northern beans, two small pork and beans, apricots, peaches, etc., etc. Part of this was my fault because I insist that Jean stock ahead on bought canned goods in case the bomb drops or the market collapses as it did in 1929.

No more. I like Jean's idea of shopping once a month for the big things, and the joy of calling Blackburns' in emergencies, when they so graciously deliver. I'm almost cured of bothering Jean about this in the future — much.

The difficulty was principally variety. For instance, our frozen boiled corn was four in a carton. We'd eat two on Tuesday night, then have to remember to use the other two not later than Friday. I let two bananas spoil after watching for days to fit them into the menu at the right time.

Jean has been patient, and I have been cured — almost. There are still many bought cans on the shelf, glass jars with last year's garden produce, and a smattering of things in the freezer.

One of the joys of our marriage is that under regular circumstances when I ask, "What's for dinner?" it is not from boredom or empty conversation; it is from real expectation. She allows me to participate in decisions, pointing out new recipes. Food is such an important part of life it should be shared, relished, and even discussed to the utmost. — CWM.

Martha's Pickles

From the centennial issue, we reprint the world's greatest pickle recipe, now that the cucumbers are ripe:

MARTHA'S PICKLES

16 pounds of cucumbers

Make salt water strong enough to float an egg. Be sure and use pickling salt. Pour over whole cucumbers to cover and let stand six to seven days.

Remove from salt water and slice. Return to churn and cover with alum water. Use two packages of alum to water sufficient to cover sliced 16 pounds. Let stand six to seven hours (or overnight).

Drain and rinse thoroughly. Return to churn and cover with white vinegar. Let stand overnight. Drain and discard vinegar. (NOTE: Martha Hobson says this bothered Miss Ruby O'Rear, who was saving her vinegar until she figured out a way to use it!)

Return to churn, using alternate layers of cukes and sugar. Ten pounds of sugar required for full recipe of 16 pounds cucumbers. Scatter pickling spices if desired in the layers. Heavy sugar layer on top. Cover and let stand six to seven days. Improve with age.

The pickles do not have to be canned or frozen. They stay in their crock or glass jar all winter, right in the kitchen or dining room. You may vary the proportions and take overnight instead of the hours given.

Clean Up Day



Picking up trash on 117 for the county-wide Clean Up Day, April 27: James McCary, Brian Evans, James Evans, Christine Evans, the Rev. Bob Blackwell, Lynette McCary, and Mayor Rob Hammond.

Garden Club Speaker Is Mrs. Paul Whitehead

Featured speaker at the June meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club held at St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, was Mrs. Paul Whitehead.

Beginning with a quotation from Psalm 96, "... then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord," Mrs. Whitehead said that almost every tree in the Southern highlands is represented in Mentone and even in her beloved half acre.

She quoted Longfellow and Browning and her own mother who made her promise not to climb trees. She remarked on the personalities of trees and of the unusual shape of leaves, such as the sweet gum's leaves looking like fingers and the poplar's like a cup.

There are blessings to be had from planting trees: people will rejoice years from now. Mrs. Whitehead mentioned that locust trees have pink blossoms on Sand Mountain and white ones on Lookout. She concluded with a parody of Joyce Kilmer's "Trees," author unknown:

I think that I shall never see
Aught lovely as a pulpwood tree.

A tree that grows through sunny noons
To furnish sporting page cartoons.

A tree whose girth will prove its age
Is ample for a want ad page.

A tree with grace toward heaven rising,
Men macerate for advertising.

A tree that lifts its arms and laughs,
To be made into paragraphs.

A tree that falls before the saw,
A five-star final in the raw.

Hostesses for the meeting were Bernise Crow, Mary Crow, and Betty Harris. Newly installed president Beverly Hoyt presided. Lynette McCary announced that more rhododendrons and dogwoods will be planted alongside town roadways in the fall. Already she and Charles Green from Cloudland Nursery have replaced and planted new rhododendrons on the parkway and in the brow park. Very few were lost because of weather conditions.

The July meeting was a picnic at Brow Park July 9th, to which husbands were invited.

Business News



Shown is the new Fort Payne Mini Storage across from the Fort Payne High School. Owners are Claud Burke and Don Mitchell, from Arab, and Sharon Barron from Mentone. There are 80 units in three sizes. There's a new shop open just east of the Log Cabin Deli — Mountain Memories. Collette Forester, who also deals in river properties, has antiques and handcrafts. Jack Jones at Lookout Mountain Properties points out that they are not real estate brokers but are selling interesting items of their own property: homes, brow and river tracts, wooded homesites, and acreage.

The Mayor's Report

The renovation work on the Mentone water system is all but complete. In this project a new tank was built to increase our storage capacity by 100,000 gallons. Old galvanized lines were replaced, and larger service lines were run. A new building was built to house the telemeter and other equipment. New fire hydrants were placed in strategic locations around town. The integrity of our system has been greatly improved.

The amount of our Community Development Block Grant was approximately \$226,000. Of this, \$191,000 was granted by the federal government, and \$35,000 was put in by the town of Mentone. Senator Lowell Barron worked especially hard in helping us obtain the funds, and we would also like to thank Governor Wallace and now Ft. Payne Mayor David Stout for their help. — Rob Hammond

What The Red Cross Does For Mentone

Did you know that on March 17th, the night of our forest fires, the Red Cross disaster volunteers were in Mentone giving food and beverage to the firefighters?

It also has been learned that in all our camps here in Mentone, Red Cross has conducted swimming lessons, waterfront safety classes, and CPR instruction, as well as an adapted aquatics class for the handicapped which is most successful.

Perhaps you've noticed the big bloodmobile unit parked in front of the fire house. Sam Cash has been in charge of the program for Mentone. As you probably know, the blood is made into plasma used by our hospitals. During the wars in Korea and Vietnam this plasma was used for our wounded men.

The goal in '84-'85 was 2325 pints. This was exceeded with 2379. Valley Head High School won first place in the Rotating Blood Plaque award in 1984-85. Edna Morgan was sponsor for the drive.

On May 10th Jimmy Cooper of Coopers Appliance in Valley Head donated a microwave oven valued at \$599 to raise funds for the Red Cross. Larry Gilbert of Fyffe was winner.

Would you consider helping us help by sending in your contribution of \$10 or \$25 or more to Red Cross, Grand Avenue South, Fort Payne, Alabama 35967? — Jean Gauld, 634-4730.

Leftovers

By Jean McGehee

Recently I was in the big cities of Birmingham and Atlanta. Since lately every time we try to go farther one of us gets sick, son Stuart said he figures Birmingham or Atlanta is about our speed.

I always think there must be a holiday or some celebration when I drive into a busy city after having existed in the paradise of Mentone for a few weeks. What a cultural shock!

But cities can be exciting and energizing, too. In Atlanta for Charles' theological school reunion dinner, I had a couple of hours to myself. I wandered around downtown, priding myself on not getting lost, and instead of eating at a gourmet place, I grabbed a cheeseburger at a Burger King.

Entering on one street, I came out on another and was face to face with a genuine HAPPENING. In Central City Park, an area paved with bricks in a circular fashion, were mime artists, dancers, actors, and music. The story was easy to pick up, even for a mountaineer like me: a bad character was intimidating a toy shop owner, his son, and a pretty girl friend.

I had fun sitting in the shade of a tree surrounded by a convenient bench, watching the good guys win. Especially I loved seeing all sorts of people on their lunch hour — all colors, classes, and kinds. I felt at one with the wonderful family of diverse humankind.

I thought, too, of Mentone and of a favorite verse I used to keep on my Florida kitchen bulletin board:

I will arise and go now, for always night and day
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;

While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,
I hear it in the deep heart's core.

This is from William Butler Yeats's "Lake Isle of Innisfree" and was tacked next to a legend from a Chinese fortune cookie: "Sweet mountain home in the future." Of course, instead of "lake water," I heard wind across the brow of the mountain.

The best part of going away is coming home. The closer we got to Mentone, the more people raised a hand in greeting or smiled familiarly. It bothered me when Jimmy Carter was President that Yankees never understood his frequent smiles.

Once I was in New York City for a scholastic press conference at Columbia University. A friend took my students and me on the correct subway route. Suddenly he turned to me and said, "Jean! Stop smiling! Down South it means you're friendly and happy, but up here people interpret a smile differently."

Aren't we glad we're in Mentone?

History Addition

For those who kept the centennial edition, especially the Calendar of Events for Mentone, please add the following important item:

1937: Death of Colonel Milford Howard, who the previous year had completed construction of Howard's Chapel and in other years had built Alpine Lodge; proposed and charted a Scenic Highway; and began a Master School for mountain young people.

June Jam

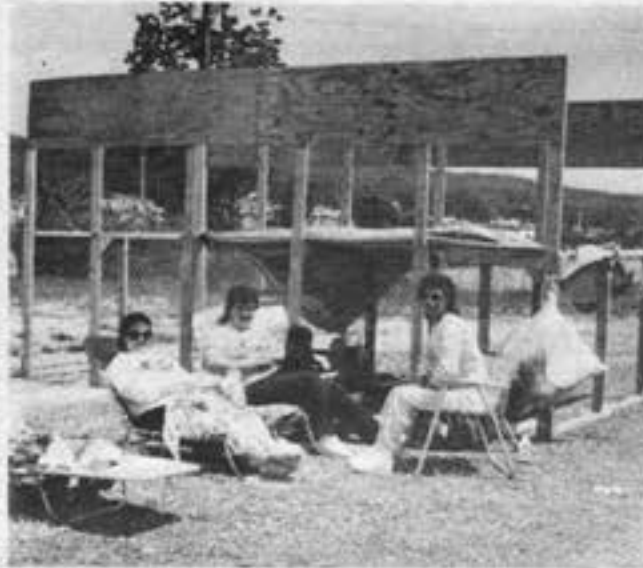
The Week Before

Governor Wallace Declared June 10-15 ALABAMA Appreciation Week

Wednesday

Mentone At The June Jam

As early as Monday morning people had taken their places in line, with the first ones being from Pennsylvania, Louisiana, and Maryland. On Saturday morning, June 15, at the 43-acre field north of Fort Payne High School, thousands of people were waiting in line when the gates opened around eight o'clock. Many of them had been camping on the spot anxiously waiting for the time to come. The June Jam began with cloggers and then the entertainers. This year there were two huge stages and much sound equipment which made the break between the bands much shorter. At 9:00 p.m. ALABAMA came on stage, just as scheduled. After their performance there was a huge fireworks display to wind things down. It is difficult to imagine how peaceful and orderly a crowd of 55,000 can be. They all seemed to get along and lend a hand when needed. Among the 1,000-plus volunteers there were security people, cooler checkers, first aid people, and those selling food and supplying water when needed. Those of all ages need to experience at least one June Jam. Get set for June 14, 1986. — Donna Bukley



The earliest to arrive: Kim Lettridge, Maryland; Le Ann Wright, Pennsylvania; Anita Fortenberry, Louisiana.

Mentone Volunteers



Above are shown Randy Still and Bob Brooks (top) and Amelia Brooks and Donna Bukley of the Mentone Area Preservation Association who sold show books at the June Jam. Jack and Angela Jones and Annie Ellis also sold brochures. Also from Mentone Walter Sumner served as a clown. The Moon Lake PTA coordinated the pharmacy. Sam Whatley donated his services and wrecker on behalf of Moon Lake School and the Mentone Rescue Squad. Bob Dunaway's Comer Scouts were thanked by June Jam Coordinator Gaynelle Pitts for duties as runners and stretcher bearers. The outdoor theatre at Comer, built from June Jam funds, has been named ALABAMA. Jeff Cook was present at the dedication.



WFPA PARADE had 75 entries, starting with ALABAMA's big road bus and ending with their 18 wheeler. The parade began at the north end of town and went all the way to Third Street. Gault Avenue was lined with crowds of waving fans.

Friday

Thursday



LINING UP FOR TICKETS ON FRIDAY AT THE FAN CLUB.



RANDY OWEN at the VIP softball game Thursday night, sponsored by Quincy's and the Chamber of Commerce. There were 2,000 spectators, mostly screaming for ALABAMA.

THE CAROUSEL CLOGGERS at the dance.



The DeKalb County Tourist Association sponsored a dance featuring SILVER CREEK at the new National Guard Armory in Fort Payne.

Happenings

Photos By Bob Brooks
And Donna Bukley

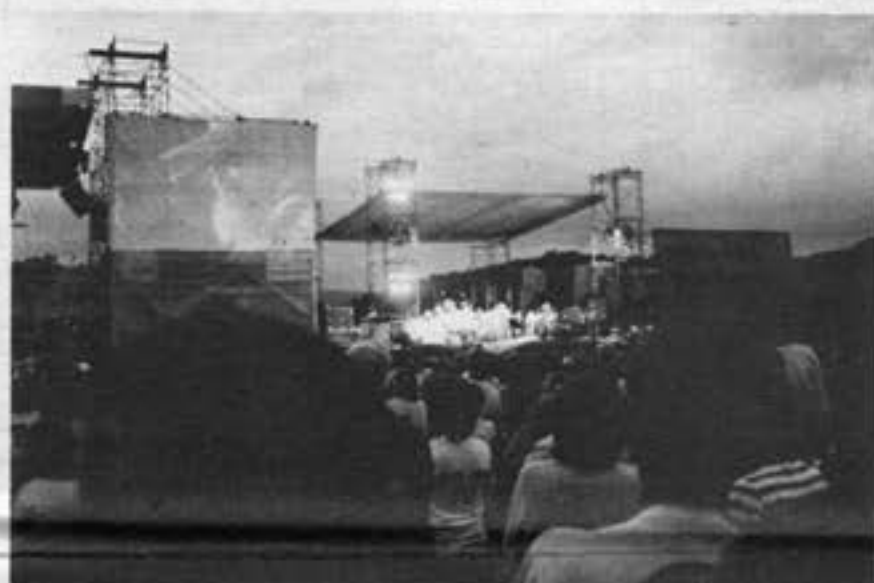
June Jam '85, June 15th



Jeff Cook



Teddy Gentry



The Charlie Daniels Band

ALABAMA, Left Below

Fireworks At The End



Moon Lake School Thanks June Jams



To the left is shown activity at the Moon Lake School as the Hammondville unit of the Alabama National Guard devoted its June drill toward preparation of the earthpad (foundation) for the gymnasium. When completed this 60-foot wide by 100-foot long structure will be used for physical education, assemblies, harvest festivals, and other activities. Next phase of the project awaits plans, specifications, and letting of bids from the DeKalb County Board of Education. Principal Charles Bell wants to express thanks for all the contributions to this point which have made the project possible, especially the Alabama Band, private contributions, and the Moon Lake Parent Teachers Association which conducts the May Day and Harvest Festivals. Individual contributions are tax deductible.



Crafts Festival IX - - A



Ready for the opening gate Sunday morning are Norma Williams of the Rhododendron Garden Club, security officer H. P. Goss, and Councilman Epp Meadows, husband of garden club member Jane.



Nancy Shelton, from Chattanooga, with silk ties and belts.



"The Herb Lady," Ruby Maddox with husband John from Marietta, Georgia. Ruby said they'd had a great year, with orders from the governor's mansion in Atlanta and workshops and consignments in abundance.

PAGE 6

We did it, Mentone! The 1985 Mentone Crafts Festival was a greater success than ever before! The attendance was about the same on both days. The paid attendance at the gate was \$4,092 at the admission price of \$2.00 for everyone over twelve years old. The rainy start Saturday morning did not seem to dampen the spirits of anyone. The exhibitors were in a very good mood and had their exhibits ready for viewing by 9:30 a.m. as scheduled. The aroma of coffee and hot biscuits and sausage (with or without mustard) filled the air, and in came the people with umbrellas and slickers in hand. The general feeling was one of joy and excitement.

Sunday dawned bright and beautiful, the exhibits were polished and cleaned, and everyone was ready for another day. The day started with a devotional led by the Rev. Bob Blackwell and singing of favorite hymns by everyone. About 11 a.m. the crowds of people began to appear again, and they were well rewarded for their efforts. The wares of the exhibitors were outstanding this year. Much comment was heard about the superb quality of every thing from Cabbage Patch doll clothing to tie-dye clothing for adults, from whimsical visors to beautiful oil paintings, from pot-porri to corn shuck flowers, from commode covers to king size quilts, and every other craft that you can imagine.

Many people demonstrated their talents at the same time they were displaying already made items. Some of these were Monroe Crowe, splitting shingles; Maggie Cordell, quilting; Mark Wright, carving with a chain saw; Robert Lee, blacksmithing; David Mays, pottery throwing; John Avery, rock tumbling; Mayfred Whatley, pine needle basket weaving; and D. Mayo, operating a grist mill.

The participation of area residents as exhibitors was very good. We had five exhibitors with Mentone addresses and ten from Valley Head or Fort Payne. This shows that there is much talent in this area, and we encourage anyone interested in being in the festival next year to contact us soon. Many organizations used the festival as a means of increasing their treasuries. They were Mentone Church of God, food booth on Saturday; Little River Cemetery Committee, food booth on Sunday; De-So-Toe Squares and Valley Promenaders sold home made ice cream; United Methodist Women held a bake sale; Rhododendron Garden Club sold plants; Centennial Committee sold plates; and the Lookout Fire Department sold drinks of all sorts. We encourage this and reserve the sale of all food to local non-profit groups.

Many groups and individuals helped in ways that enabled our festival to run smoothly. The fathers of Mentone Dixie Youth Baseball planned and executed our parking. The Rhododendron Garden Club tended



Darlene Clifton Keith of Mentone with her glazed earth-colored pottery, chatting with Theresa Disney Cox of Nippersink.



Laverne Pharr, of Marietta, Georgia, demonstrating her basket weaving techniques.

An Enjoyable Success!

the three gates; at least forty people helped with this task. Many were husbands of members who were drafted. Some local people who helped with the large task of cleaning and getting the park ready for the big days were Hobson Kirby, Cleo Smith, Herron Lance, Luke Lucas, H. P. Goss, William Crider, Raymond Brown, David Mays, Ovie Blalock, and Bob Brown.

Our entertainment program seems to be a main attraction. Those responsible for the great performances this year were Moon Lake Baptist Quartet, Dixie Land Cloggers, Little River Cloggers, Country Creek Cloggers, Dixie Land Rebel Cloggers, De-So-Toe Squares, Valley Promenaders, and a surprise appearance of "Oscar."

The program book that was given to each adult at the gate is made possible by forty advertisers and fifty-five friends of the festival. The officers and others who attend the meetings all winter to plan the festival did a great job as usual. They are the ones who put their shoulder to the wheel and often do not get any credit and never any pay. They process the applications, publicize the event, plan and lay out the exhibitor sites, clean the park, wire the buildings, put up the signs, write the checks and make deposits, order the dumpster and toilets, contact advertisers and plan the program book, plan the entertainment, and a dozen other things that are necessary for a successful event. Some of these not already mentioned are Barbara Blalock, Richard Meadows, Sunny Mays, Linda Clark, and Maggie Cordell.

I have tried in this article to convey to everyone what can be done when people cooperate and work for a common goal. The festival is a good example of what can be accomplished when everyone works together. Mentone can be proud of this event. All profit shown has been and will be used to better the community in whatever way the executive committee sees fit. Last year's biggest project was to repour the cement slab (because of damage from the severe winter) and to put a shelter over it. We have some projects in mind for this year and are starting to work on them already.

I personally want to thank everyone who has helped in any way. The goal of the festival is to provide an outlet for the products of people's talents and skills, to help the community of Mentone, and to have a good time doing this. I think we have accomplished this for the last nine years and look forward to next year, our 10th Anniversary! Our meetings are open to everyone and we urge you to attend. Our next meeting will be July 30, at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church. Thanks again, Mentone! — Linda Brown

Mailing address: Mentone Crafts Festival
P. O. Box 103
Mentone, AL 35984

Some of the crowd watching cloggers and square dancers perform under the new shelter.



Silhouetted diners at the food pavilion, hosted Sunday by Chairman Dorothy Crow of the Little River Cemetery Committee.



Bo Hayes, Birmingham photographer, with his framed shots of Mentone scenes.



Charlene and Roy Kennett with their country pine furniture. They live in Valley Head.



A tired but elated President Linda Brown caught at the end of the day Sunday with her shoes off, stopping to chat with Rhododendron Garden Club member Virginia Bassage and Paula Benefield. The Benefields parked their camper-mobile home so that square dancers and cloggers could use it for a dressing room.

ALABAMA Continued

Lead singer-guitarist Randy Owen, handsome and personable, has one of the finest voices in the country music business. Just down DeSoto Parkway from Mentone he has a home and farm on Lookout Mountain, near the simple tin-roofed home of his parents. Nearby is the farm of bass-guitarist singer Teddy Gentry, whose home is in Fort Payne where he and his wife operate a kennel. These wealthy young cousins are known to be seen driving tractors and pickup trucks.

They were neighbors growing up in modest circumstances. Mrs. Mary Ellis down in Valley Head fondly speaks of having taught both of them. After they had been playing together for a time, they met a distant cousin, Jeff Cook, who had the advantage of owning a sound system and other equipment necessary for success as a group.

Jeff Cook is a jovial wisecracker, plays guitar (of which he owns 45), fiddle, keyboard, and various instruments — jumping about acrobatically during a concert. His new home on Lookout Mountain has been described as making Graceland look like a bungalow. His nearby Cook Sound Studio is of Nashville quality. Once a disc jockey at WFLA in Fort Payne, he has applied for a 10,000 watt radio station in Valley Head. He likes fishing, has a pontoon boat on Weiss Lake and a 25-foot ocean-going craft. His father, a strong musical influence on Jeff, operates an auto parts company in Fort Payne, and his mother continues as an employee at Harco Drugs.

Fourth member is Mark Herndon, drummer, son of a Marine Corps pilot in Springfield, Massachusetts. He attended military school in South Carolina. At 16 he became interested in the drums and received a civilian pilot's license. In Myrtle Beach his mother was desk clerk at the motel where the ALABAMA boys were staying. Learning they were looking for a drummer, she sent him to them. Unmarried, he is not a member of the corporation but an employee. Living modestly in a Fort Payne apartment, he is the only one of the group who does not sing and is not a cousin.

Most of us have had young men like Teddy Gentry come into our houses and lay carpet; joked with Jeff Cook types at the service station; seen a Randy Owen standing aside a truck with that far-away look in his eyes. Now wealthy and world-famous they are born and bred of our roots and are not ashamed of it. Although Jeff Cook had more comfortable beginnings in the city of Fort Payne, Randy Owen is vivid about his beginnings.

"Where I came from," he once said, "Teddy was right down the road. We grew up picking cotton and all the things a country person would do. Raising hogs, milking the cows, hauling hay, hauling cotton to the gin, picking corn. I'm talking about being a country farm boy, not someone who supposedly is country."

There was no indoor plumbing, no TV, and when the family got the first radio, it was a treasured experience. Hearing music was a privilege.

How it came about is a familiar story, but its central narrative bears repeating. Randy, Teddy, and Jeff began playing together in 1969. Daytime jobs preceded nighttime music. One nighters, gigs in honky tonks, stints at Canyonland. After winning a talent contest, three years into the struggle in a highly competitive field, the boys resigned their jobs and moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, in a small ocean-front bar, the Bowery, which was little more than a collection of ladderback chairs, small tables, cement floors, and waiters adept at manipulating huge trays of beer.

At that time the group was known as Wild Country. They sparked the evenings with informality and jokes, bantering with the crowd, sometimes going from table to table, retaining their casual dress which

is a trademark to this day. They played for tips, nothing more. In 1977 the group's name was changed to ALABAMA.

Also at this point they matched their growing talent with skills at organization which has been a major factor in their success and expansion of today. They formed a corporation, invested in themselves, produced low cost "road albums" which they sold at the Bowery and on the road during off time.

For seven long hot summers at Myrtle Beach the crowds increased in the carnival atmosphere of Ocean Boulevard, amid the wafting fragrance of hot-dogs and onion rings. Their style was taking shape. Mark Herndon joined them as drummer.

The early days were frustrating. Approaches to Nashville fell on deaf ears. Bands were risky, they were told. Finally in 1977 GRT Records recorded the ALABAMA composition "I Wanna Be With You Tonight." As the record began climbing the national charts, GRT went bankrupt. Frustrated, ALABAMA went back to the Bowery for two more years of struggle.

In 1979 the group financed and recorded a new single, "I Wanna Come Over" on the independent Limbo label. The band members and their wives wrote hundreds of letters plugging the record to radio stations throughout the nation. MJT Records of Dallas signed the band to a management-recording contract. "I Wanna Come Over" became a top 40 single on the country charts. On the same label followed "My Home's in Alabama," which became the group's theme soaring into *Billboard Magazine's* Top 20. The well-earned big breakthrough came in April 1980 when a recording contract was signed with RCA Records.

The resulting skyrocketing success of Alabama is a five-year saga. They really mean it when they sing "My Home's in Alabama." No longer spending summers in Myrtle Beach, they established their base in Fort Payne. When they go on the road, usually on weekends, they carry a crew of half-a-hundred: sound technicians, lighting experts, public relations people, drivers. A staff of some 25 remains at home facilitating headquarters duties. There is a public relations department of three, a secretary for each of the musicians. Business details are handled by Borders and Associates. There is a staff meeting each week. The astuteness shown in incorporating in the Bowery days could well be the subject of a *Wall Street Journal* article on business administration.

Center of activity and coordination is the ALABAMA Fan Club in South Fort Payne. There are also branches in Nashville and Myrtle Beach. This sprawling complex contains office facilities, a big warehouse that stores huge varieties of concession materials, and a museum where visitors pay an admission fee, can purchase a variety of mementos, and leisurely view the gifts and awards bestowed on the group. Press literature and photographs are on display and records may be purchased. Outside when the band is in town the tour fleet of buses and trailers may be seen. The Fan Club periodically publishes a free newspaper for its 250,000-plus world-wide members.

ALABAMA considers the June Jam its principal project. What is the June Jam? Is it a happening, an event, a music festival, a charity rally? It's a combination of all these things and perhaps more. In addition to ALABAMA, the June Jam has featured such stars as the Oak Ridge Boys, Glen Campbell, Janie Fricke, and the Charlie Daniels Band. In 1984 it drew 40,000 spectators from throughout the nation, an orderly crowd in sprawling 43-acre outdoor setting. It netted \$500,000 in 1984, all of which was donated to Northeast Alabama organizations and institutions. Mentone alone over the past four years has received \$74,000 in donations to the Moon Lake School, Fire Department, Comer Scout Reservation, and the Rescue Squad.

A major purpose of this cover story has not especially been to point out how famous ALABAMA

is, but more to proclaim to the people of DeKalb County how good they are. Preparation has involved the joy of listening to six albums, over half-a-hundred songs. Although the editor's son McGregor was awarded in 1984 a Massachusetts Country Music Association Award in recognition of his songwriting, singing, and bass playing in the Boston area, no boast to musical expertise is claimed in this field. The question is often asked, however — what stands out, what endures, what transcends ALABAMA's current phenomenal popularity?

First, and principally, the singing. It is consistently excellent in quality and heartfelt depth. When they sing "Play Me Some Mountain Music. Like My Grandpa and Grandma Used to Play," one senses the musical beginnings of Randy and Teddy in a country church on Lookout Mountain; or the struggling days in Anniston when they and Jeff Cook moved all their beds into one room where they lived, so that they might practice harmony as they sang themselves to sleep.

Is there a message? Definitely, but not overbearing. "Words at 20 Paces" is a moving anthem for peace — peace among individuals and nations. "Changes Comin' On" eloquently describes the post-sixties, an era of history's greatest changes, "when people are singing different songs and searching for the place they belong."

When heard on jukeboxes through America "Forty Hour Work Week" must draw a constant response as it praises the truck-drivers, waitresses, miners, steel-workers and other laborers, ending with "Hello, America. Thank you for your time."

Is there poetry? Obviously ALABAMA admires the Beatles, whose lyrics a literary critic once compared to the poetry of Shelley. Throughout ALABAMA's repertoire there are such memorable phrases as "See the Embers, Feel the Flames." Both in the songs they have written and in those they choose, one senses that the major emphasis, however, is in the music rather than the words.

What stays in one's mind after hearing all the recorded ALABAMA music? Clearly the love songs, their authenticity, their imagery: "There's An Old Flame Burning in Your Eyes," "She Put the Sad in All His Songs, She Put the Blues in His Guitar," "Lady Down on Love," and "By the Dark of the Moon, There's a Fire in the Night."

Sometimes the lines between ALABAMA and Mentone are direct and personal. This spring, The GROUNDHOG editors were enlarging a dormer. In the yard a gentle, skillful carpenter was devotedly measuring and sawing a board. He asked, "You probably know my daughter Janet, Jimmy Cooper's wife?"

"Yes, we know her well." Then a connection arose. Janet had told us that she was related to two of the band members. "This means then, that you are related to the cousins in ALABAMA."

He said: "Teddy Gentry is my nephew. Randy Owen is a cousin." His pride in his daughter exceeded any braggadocio about the fame of his famous relatives. This man was J. E. Eller, usually known as "Son," a carpenter with Dave Blalock's Construction Company. It was later learned that Mr. Eller's father Burt was a strong influence on Teddy Gentry. He is known to his relatives, especially to Teddy, as Paw Paw.

We like that at one point they sing about a "chubby old Groundhog." We like that they have maintained the privacy of their families. We like to see their faces on regional TV stations urging us to support the cause of Retarded Citizens, Big Brothers and Sisters, Muscular Dystrophy Victims, Special Olympics, and the PTA. We like hearing their music in the dentist's office, shopping centers, and truck stops. In the rarefied atmosphere of world-wide fame, it is impossible for us to forget that their home, like ours, is Alabama.

(The cover drawing is by Mentone-born artist Jimmy Frazier. Copies of this limited print are available at the Alabama Fan Club in Fort Payne.)

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MENTONE, ALABAMA

IMPORTANT!

In response to questions about the availability of Policeman Colquitt Jones for emergencies, Mayor Rob Hammond states that if he is not available at his home number 634-4467, call the DeKalb Sheriff's number 1-845-3801

The sheriff's radio can usually contact Policeman Jones. If not, deputies cars can be sent for emergencies.

A History Of Mentone, Chapter 7 — The Turn Of The Century

By Zora Shay Strayhorn

At the turn of the century, Mentone was becoming popular as a summer resort, and although there was no electricity nor fans, the cool mountain breezes were a refreshing relief from the heat of the cities. Residents had wells to bring up water by pail; outdoor plumbing, wood stoves to cook on, and wash boards to clean their clothes.

There was good fellowship and happy times recalled by many who remember dancing upstairs at the Hitching Post and at the Mineral Springs Hotel. Mentone was a magnet that drew people to the supposed life-giving, health-restoring curative waters and the vigorous climate.

In 1902 three men arrived in the Mentone area: Lamb, Hubbard, and Russell Sage, a wealthy banker. They owned and promoted a coal mining operation. Combining the three names, the community was named Lahusage; it was approximately four miles east of Mentone, south of Alabama Highway 117.

Houses were constructed for about one hundred families and wells were dug. There was a commissary, a building used for school and church services, two-storyed. The upper story was used as a Masonic Hall. A doctor's office was built with Dr. M. T. Floyd serving as company doctor.

A hotel for executives of the mine was managed by Mac Hardwick. He married Lillie May, sister of Anna Belle May, wife of Constantine "Cos" Brown. Wiley Evans was superintendent of the mine and father-in-law of Henry A. Renfro who ran the commissary and was postmaster Oct. 4, 1904, until John T. Bradley assumed the position November 1, 1909. The post office was discontinued to Bankhead April 15, 1911, and changed to Nightingale July 11, 1911.

There was a "dinky line" that carried coal from underground pits to Five Points in Cherokee County a few miles east where the coal was dumped into a shoot that slid down the east side of Lookout Mountain into cars of the Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia Railroad (TAG).

Coal was there, but it was expensive to mine; the mine closed around 1916.

A partnership of a Dr. Channey and a man named Chapman, both from Lindale, Georgia, bought the land and sold the houses to individuals who demolished them and carried them away. Dr. Channey was an outdoorsman who liked to hunt and fish, and it was generally believed that he planned to keep the land for his private use.

Around 1920 a 180 room hotel was planned at Lake Lahusage when H. H. Pounds from Florida with a group of investors started construction on the east fork of Little River near the mining community of Lahusage. Their company was called the Lookout Mountain Development Company and bought 7,000 acres in the area.

In 1924 a stone dam was constructed across the river forming a beautiful lake. The dam broke in November 1924 after heavy rains. W. Blevens "Bleve" Strickland was foreman of the rock work and a Mr. Hall was engineer of the project. It was soon rebuilt.

Strickland was married to a daughter of William Houston Key and Merica Jane Blansit Key; they owned a farm near the mining community of Lahusage. He was a rock mason, a miner, and a carpenter. He built many dams along Little River and constructed cabins and dormitories for summer camps.

The crash of 1929 caused the end of the project and the land was returned to its original owners. The hotel was nearly completed and was used for a while by the government for veterans of World War I to convalesce. It was also used to house boys of the Civilian

Conservation Corps who were on a government project building DeSoto State Park.

In 1884 Cutler Avenue, the old public highway as it was called, ran across the top of the mountain through Mentone, starting behind the Hitching Post (which was not built until about the year 1900 by Guy Burgess and called the Mentone Store). The old public highway went past the two homes of the former Shigley girls to the United Methodist Church which was built in 1884 and called the Mentone Methodist Episcopal Church.

A block or so beyond the church on the south side was the home of Charles Cole ("C. C.") Brown born June 5, 1853, in Georgia, married Sarah Eveline Shinhalder July 1, 1877; and settled in Mentone October 1901. They built a colonial-type two storyed home with eleven rooms. It was known as "Brown's Hotel" because of many guests; it was the center of social activities for their son Roscoe and seven daughters. Ministers were especially welcomed guests. Maud, a daughter, was a dedicated school teacher. Small cottages on both sides of Cutler Avenue were rented to "summer folks." Across the street from the main house one cottage was used for dining rooms during the summer. Another cottage was reserved for domestic help. There was no electricity nor running water, but people were glad to come for the cool air. "C. C." Brown had good business acumen because he bought land on both sides of Cutler Avenue from the Methodist Church east to Huron Street.

The family of Constantine "Cos" Brown was no relation to the "C. C." Brown family, but they were good friends.

"Uncle Warner" a former slave on the Daugherty plantation at McLemore's Cove, Georgia, in his old age came to Mentone to cook for "summer folks." The Daugherty Plantation was the home of Thomas Truly Brown and Louise (Lucy) Rodgers Brown. The mother of Thomas Truly Brown was a Daugherty; a Daugherty cousin married a Routh. After the Civil War, "Uncle Warner" was given a parcel of land.

The children of "Cos" Brown on meeting Uncle Warner in Mentone would be asked: "I want you to tell me about my folks out west." Uncle was a small man with a crop of snow-white hair. At the old plantation in Georgia at his home he had a room reserved exclusively for his white friends.

At the corner of Huron Street and Cutler Avenue was the home of the Fred Jones family. Continuing on Cutler Avenue on the north side of the street was property purchased in 1906 by Dr. L. A. Mallicoat from a Mr. Day. A home was built for Dr. Mallicoat's father and mother-in-law Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Routh after the death of his wife, Annie Routh. The summer home was built by Mr. Day. Mrs. Routh was heard to remark that she recalled living on the Daugherty Plantation and that there were so many slaves that if she dropped a handkerchief, there was someone to pick it up.

Dr. Mallicoat was a graduate of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, who practiced medicine in Menlo, Georgia, and was the company doctor at Trion, Georgia. His second marriage was to Gertrude Green in 1919.

"Uncle Warner" would stay in Mentone with the Routh family, and when he got homesick would walk back to his home in McLemore's Cove.

Dr. Mallicoat sold a small parcel of land to Eli Shortridge in 1911 for a summer place. Mr. Routh and Fred Jones built the house.

Continuing on the old public highway the road crossed the covered bridge past the Wesleyan Methodist Church to the Bankhead community along side of the Bankhead school.

The old Bankhead School which also served as a church was situated alongside Cutler Avenue about three and a half miles from the heart of town. The old road more or less paralleled the present Alabama Highway 117, but meandered along in an erratic easterly direction.

The log cabin which served as the Bankhead School was situated on property owned by John Stephen Green, south of the road. Miss Nettie Seymore was teacher. The old road came near the community later known as the Coots community. The Coots family first came to the mountain in 1921.

A short distance north of the road was John Stephen Green's home. He married Achsah Olivia Culberson, who had come to the Bankhead-Nightingale community in the 1880s. The Bankhead post office was in their home, and Achsah Green served as postmistress from February 13, 1889 to March 30, 1900 when the post office was discontinued.

The old public road continued to the Nightingale area where the Bankhead post office was reestablished in a building serving as country store and post office. It was near the home of John V. Smith who served as postmaster from February 18, 1903 until the name was changed to Nightingale July 11, 1911.

John Smith's wife, Emma J. Smith, affectionately known as Miss Emma J., became postmistress until November 8, 1913 when the office was closed. Emma J. was sister of Anna May, wife of Constantine Brown.

One early arrival in Mentone was Horatio Libby from Portland, Maine, who homesteaded brow property in 1880. The Meadowbrook Farm of Ralph Libby, son of Horatio Libby, was purchased from Cyrus Pittman Orr in 1917 who with his wife Lillian and seven daughters had summered at Jericho, as it was then called. It was at Meadowbrook Farm that bullets have been found dating Union soldiers' camping there.

The section of Mentone now known as the Berry Patch (originally belonging to the Eldridge Jones family) was bought from a Mr. Cosby of Cosby-Hodges Milling Company of Birmingham, Alabama. Buyer was Gordon T. Cecil and Dr. W. T. Berry. The property was comprised of thirty-three acres and was purchased between 1920 and 1925.

Mrs. Berry was the former Rebecca Gertrude Cecil of Columbus, Tennessee, and it was her brother Gordon T. Cecil and her husband Dr. Berry who purchased the land. Dr. Berry was a physician in Birmingham and he and his wife had nine children.

When school was out for the summer the family lived in Mentone until school resumed in the fall. Summer kitchens could accommodate about forty people at one time. In the early years domestic help was brought from Birmingham, but later local people were employed. Because of the large family all had responsibilities and chores. When the daily work was finished, there was great fun swimming at the big rock on Little River as well as croquet and ball games.

Gordon Cecil married Elizabeth Bethea Johnson in 1930. Three rooms in the main house at Berry Patch date to the time of the Civil War, to Eldridge Jones' home. The cedar trees in the yard are over one hundred years old; about eleven family homes have been built, and there is a private cemetery on the grounds.

Betty and Henry Johnson came to the Head River Community, Georgia, on Lookout Mountain from Gwinett County, Georgia, before the Civil War. They had nine children; he was a farmer.

When the Civil War broke out, all the men left, and Betty took care of nine small children.

One child, Texas Frances Orleans Johnson, married Jessie Johnson (no relation) and lived on a farm at the upper end of Cove Road above the Blalock settlement.

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Baptist Medical Center: 845-3150
Rescue Squad: 634-4864, 634-4166
Highway Patrol: 845-5109
Mentone Police
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.: 634-4444
After 11:00 a.m.: 634-4467
DeKalb Sheriff: 845-3801
Valley Head Police: 635-6814
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,
635-6111
Valley Head:
635-6111.

SCHOOLS

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

TOWN COUNCIL OF MENTONE

Rob Hammond, Mayor
Max Cash
Lee Davenport
Hobson Kirby
Stanley Brown, Richard Meadows
Catherine Bailey, Town Clerk
Leroy Snyder, Water Department
Colquitt Jones, Police

THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

The Rev. Billy R. Boozer, pastor
Sunday School: 10 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

2813 Gault Ave. North, Fort Payne
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.
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MENTONE CHURCH OF GOD

The Rev. Roger Stanford, 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: 634-4587.

MENTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Rev. Ann Q. Lohr, minister
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Service: 11 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. Robert Blackwell, minister
Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.
Sunday Worship: 11:00 A. M.
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 P. M.
Telephone: 634-4476

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.

HOWARD'S CHAPEL

The Reverend Jeffrey Fuller,
minister
Tourists and visitors welcome.

Sponsored by Fort Payne Baptist
Church. (No services January-
February).

10:30 a.m. — 1-845-2015

CAMP ALPINE: Richard O'Ferrall,
director; camp for boys; 634-4200.
June 1-Aug. 11.

COMER SCOUT RESERVATION:
Bob Dunaway, director; Boy Scout
camps June 17-July 14. 634-3445.

CAMP DESOTO: Sue Henry, direc-
tor; camp for girls. June 19-Aug. 15.
634-3411.

CAMP JULIETTE LOW: Kathy Holly,
director; Girl Scout Camp in
Cloudland, Georgia. June 17-Aug.
11. 404-428-0446.

CAMP LANEY: Rob Hammond,
director; camp for boys; June
16-Aug. 11. 634-3561.

**LOOKOUT MT. CHRISTIAN CON-
FERENCE CENTER:** Anne and John
Morrison, directors; 634-3471.

BOYS' CAMP: July 13-Aug. 3. Free
Day Camp, Aug. 5-9.

PONDEROSA BIBLE CAMP: Chris-
tian youth camp. Glenn Miller, direc-
tor, 634-3795, June 16-Aug. 11.

CAMP SADDLE ROCK: Marty Grif-
fin, director; girls' camp; June
16-Aug. 11. 634-4608.

CAMP SKYLINE RANCH: Susan C.
Hooks, director; girls' camp; June
16-Aug. 11. 634-3201.

VALLEY VIEW RANCH: Nancy
Jones, director, Cloudland, Georgia;
June 17-Aug. 11. 404-862-2231. Girls.

CAMP WOODMONT: Jane Bennett,
director; boys' and girls' camp.
404-284-5369, June 17-Aug. 5.



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