

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 2 - NO. 3 - JUNE 1984

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

A Mentone Legacy,

Simmie Sherman Vernon

To introduce Simmie Sherman Vernon one must first learn about his father.

Robert Vernon was born in 1845, one of 14 children. At the age of 19 he built what is generally considered the first house in Mentone proper, the log cabin that now forms the central structure of St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Church.

He must have been a good builder because the cabin withstood the winds, snows, and rains of well over a century. Robert Vernon must have been a citizen of some substance because the road leading from Mentone to Valley Head was named Vernon's Gap.

As testimonial to his religious fervor, it was said of Robert Vernon that his prayers were so loud that he literally "held the mountain together."

At about the time he built the cabin, Robert married Polly Ann Peyton. To them were eventually born six children, five boys and a girl. One of the boys was Simmie Sherman, born on Nov. 6, 1869.

It is the descendants of Simmie Sherman Vernon who are planning a festive family reunion on June 23rd and 24th at the Mentone Springs Hotel. History smiles on this event because one hundred years ago, Simmie worked for Dr. Frank Caldwell in construction of this famous victorian structure. For his services as a carpenter, Simmie received fifty cents per hour.

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SIMMIE SHERMAN VERNON

Mentone's Camps - Million Dollar Business, Pages 1, 6, 7, 8
The Joneses — It's All in the Family, Page 5

the GROUNDHOG

Representative Ralph Burke Addresses MAPA Meeting

Featured speaker at the meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association at the Mentone Springs Hotel on Tuesday, June 5, at 7:00 o'clock is Ralph Burke, state representative from this district.

Burke, who is 23, was once referred to by a **Fort Payne Times-Journal** writer as looking "more like a page than a lawmaker." In April 1983 he graduated from Jacksonville State University and was ordained as a minister that same month.

He is a member of the faculty of the Valley Head High School, teaching and coaching.

In his remarks to MAPA, Representative Burke is expected to discuss the recently adjourned session of the Alabama legislature. Time will be provided for questions from the audience.

Homer Crow, MAPA director who will preside at the meeting, announces that at the July 3rd meeting, candidates for the offices of councilmen and mayor will be invited to speak and answer questions.

All Mentone citizens are invited to attend these meetings. Refreshments will be provided, coordinated by Mabel Crow Kirk.

St. Joseph's Church Welcomes New Minister

The Rev. Robert H. Blackwell arrived in Mentone June 1 to assume duties as priest at St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church. He succeeds the Rev. Graham Glover, founder of the church, who died this past February.

The new minister is a native of Decatur, Ala., and is 28 years of age. In 1978 he graduated from Auburn University with a B. A. degree in psychology. From 1978 to 1981 he lived in Tusculum, where he served as a Juvenile Probation officer for Colbert County.

While in Tusculum he was a member of Kiwanis, was president of the Humane Society, and was a board member of Safeplace, a shelter for battered women.

In May of this year he received a Master of Divinity Degree from Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Nashotah, Wis.

In 1978 he wed Mary Katherine (Kay) Loyd. They are parents of two children: Hunter, 3, and Elizabeth Ann, 8 months.

They will reside in the former residence of the G. J. Devines on 117 just east of town, which they are purchasing.

The new St. Joseph's minister remembers his first visits to Mentone when he was a child, when the family brought his grandmother, Esther Hunter, to Nippersink Lodge. "I was thrilled," he said, "to look out off the mountain as we drove up the parkway."

During this interim period, services at St. Joseph's have been conducted by the Rev. Oscar Hussell, presently Dean of Faculty at Columbia Seminary in Atlanta and former associate minister at Independent Presbyterian Church in Birmingham. The Hussells have a summer home in Mentone on Little River.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

Notice is hereby given on Tuesday, July 10, 1984, an election for the purpose of electing a Mayor and a Town Council; positions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are to be elected; at such election for the Town of Mentone, Ala., will be held, and that all registered and qualified voters of the state, who reside within the corporate limits of Mentone, Ala., and have resided therein for 30 days or more immediately preceding the day of such election, and who are qualified to vote in the county precinct which embraces and covers that part of the corporate limits of said town in which the elector resides, will be authorized to participate in said election.

The Polls will be opened at the Town Hall during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Central Daylight Savings Time.

Done this the 12th day of May, 1984.

Rob Hammond
MAYOR

Fire Hall Rummage Declared Big Success

The Rummage and Bake Sale at the Fire Hall Saturday, May 19, is totaling nearly \$2,000, according to Chairwoman Marty Griffin of the Fire Department Board.

\$1,500 came in from donations; \$150 from the bake sale; \$250 from rummage; and \$100 on the raffle of the \$100 bill. Mrs. Grace Howard, winner of the bill, returned \$50 to the Fire Department.

Summer Camps In Mentone, A Million Dollar Business

Summer camps in the Mentone Area are big business, according to information provided by Jim Russell, Administrator of the DeKalb County Health

Department. "The economic impact of camping is great in this county," Russell wrote in **Alabama's Health** in the September 1983 issue. "The camps are said to bring in close to a million dollars to the county. This year 9,235 campers have been involved in the camps."

According to Russell, DeKalb County has the largest concentration of camps in the United States. All of them are located on Lookout Mountain in the Mentone Area. The camps are Alpine, Comer Scout Reservation, DeSoto, Laney, Saddle Rock, Skyline and two religiously oriented camps, Ponderosa, and the Lookout Mountain Christian Conference Center.

Across the Georgia line but well within the Mentone geographic and trade area are Valley View, Woodmont, and Camp Juliette Low for Girl Scouts.

Mr. Russell's leadership and thoroughness of vision have contributed appreciably to the vitality of the Mentone camps. Early in the '60s, under his stimulus, the DeKalb County Health Department began a concentrated effort to improve the health and safety of the camps.

Badly in need of better kitchen facilities, water supplies, and sanitary facilities, the camps benefited by the establishment in DeKalb County of the first set of regulations for summer camps.

Each year Mr. Russell conducts a session prior to the opening of the camps to acquaint the owners and operators of the regulations, and to receive input from them. This year's Health Department meeting was held on April 17 at Saddle Rock with the following in attendance: Rob and Sam Hammond, Laney; Marty Griffin and Polly Cameron, Saddle Rock; Sue Henry, DeSoto; Susan Hooks and Edmond A. Cash, Skyline; Mickey Bobo, Comer; Glenn Miller, Ponderosa Bible Camp.

At the meeting Administrator Russell said, "Organized Camps in DeKalb County are big business and they have an excellent public health record as a result of cooperation and hard work between the camps and the health department."

Comer Boy Scout Reservation has won the National Gold Medal Award several times.



JAMES RUSSELL

Fort Payne Valedictorian



Congratulations to Dana Lynn Lusk, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lusk. Dana is valedictorian of the Fort Payne High School senior class this year. She is a niece of Sis Baty and Toots Baxter. Dana's plans for next year are still uncertain. She is teaching herself to play the piano and enjoys reading and writing. She was active on the Journalism staff at Fort Payne High School, was a member of the National Honor Society, and was active in the DECE Club.

ATTENTION!

All MAPA dues are renewable July 1st. Everyone who wishes to remain or become a voting member should mail in the form below or come to the meeting June 5 at 7 p.m. at the Mentone Springs Hotel.

Out-of-town members should fill in the form if they wish to continue receiving **The Groundhog** for another year.

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 1985.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Tuesday, June 5th Deadline For Mentone Municipal Offices

Deadline for candidates to file for the offices of mayor and town council positions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 is Tuesday, June 5, at 5:00 p.m. Election for all six offices is to be held July 10.

Qualifying fees are \$50 for mayor and \$30 for the council places. The present places on the council are held by 1, Jimmy Wright; 2, Max Cash; 3, Kenneth Crowe; 4, Hobson Kirby; 5, Lee Davenport. Rob Hammond is mayor.

As **The GROUNDHOG** went to press those qualifying, according to Town Clerk Mrs. F. S. Bailey, in order of their qualification, were Place 3, Jean McGehee. Place 1, Ray Padgett.

June Groundhog Award



The June Groundhog Award goes to the home and farm of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jones. Mr. Jones was born and raised in the white house on the corner from his present home. He works for TVA and his wife teaches fourth grade at the Williams Avenue School in Fort Payne. Their son, Ronnie, and daughter, Amanda Shirey of Fort Payne, both graduated from Auburn; daughter, Trisha, is a student at Jacksonville University.

The Jones' home was chosen because of recent extensive improvements. A dam was put in and a lake built. The Joneses also built a barn. There has been extensive clearing in the general area. The family has plans for landscaping, also.

MAPA Minutes

The Mentone Area Preservation Association meeting was held at the Mentone Springs Hotel on May 1, 1984. Following reading of the minutes, the treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1,936.47. The **GROUNDHOG** balance as of May 1 was \$501.16.

The Rhododendron Festival Committee reported that flyers were out, Tony Goggans had taped a spot that was being heard on radio, and that Grace Howard had made crowns for the queens. Tickets for the quilt were being sold.

Randy Still reported that the Welcome Center computer was a dead issue for this year because not enough businesses wanted to participate. Membership announced that Odell Thompson, Iris Sisko, Jeannette Alexander, Elise Copeland, Jerome Cooper, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Steinberg, and Dennis Weaver were new members.

All goals from the past were discussed. It was moved and seconded that Charles McGehee write ALABAMA for help toward **The GROUNDHOG**. It was also moved and seconded that **The GROUNDHOG** be allowed to purchase from its funds a camera for \$150. Randy Still will purchase a case of coffee for use at meetings. He will be reimbursed.

— Digested from the minutes of Amelia Brooks, recording secretary.

Groundhog Finance Report

MAY ISSUE

INCOME:	
On hand	\$363.86
Ad sales	600.00
	\$963.86
DEBITS:	
Summerville News Co.	\$315.25
U. S. Post Office	57.45
Donna Bukley, sales commission	37.50
Jean McGehee, sales commission	52.50
	\$462.70
Balance on hand	\$501.16

The Groundhog

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

Charles White McGehee, Editor
Jean McGehee, Associate Editor
Eleanor Moerlins, Features
Donna Bukley, Advertising
Homer Crow, Director
Mabel Kirk, Associate Director
Amelia Brooks, Secretary
Shurlee Froehner, Treasurer

Brow Briefs

On May 21, Randy Still, owner of Cragmere Manna restaurant and MAPA member, presented "Mentone — Returning of a Resort" at the meeting of the Jacksonville, Ala., Heritage Association. Similar to MAPA, the Jacksonville organization strives to transmit the city's historical culture through preservation of historical sites, districts, and buildings. Randy presented slides of Mentone and spoke of current developments.

Cragmere Purchased By Randy Still Log Cabin Deli Now Property Of Weavers

Randy Still, operator of Cragmere Manna Restaurant since last April under a leasing arrangement, completed outright purchase of the building, equipment and property on Friday, May 18. Born in Geraldine, Ala., Randy has been interested in food since his mother taught him to cook while in the fourth grade and he won a baking contest for pecan pie and biscuits.

Although he has been involved in such activities as professional photographer and private investigator, his prime interest has been in food, from helping his father in the family garden to preparing political banquets, cooking on yachts for as many as 85 people, and preparing meals for large groups of singles at United Methodist Church in Chattanooga. He began operating Cragmere on Friday, May 13, 1983, which Randy declared a very lucky day for his life.

"During the past year I have come to love Mentone," says Randy. "I have the utmost confidence in both its future and that of Cragmere Manna Restaurant. Our future goals are to serve the best food possible, in the atmosphere which has become a Cragmere trademark, and at affordable prices."

The entrance at Cragmere has been changed to the front porch of the old Rhett Butler Room. The old Studio Tea Room has now become the Rhett Butler Room. The former entrance lobby is now the "Hello Ferrell" Dining Room, which originally was the dining room of the Ferrells. These new arrangements provide additional space, yet maintain the basic atmosphere. A new menu is forthcoming, which includes shish-kabob.

Ned Jackson, a former slave, and his wife Margrette, acquired in the late 1890's the log cabin whose hand-hewn log walls one sees while dining in

the Heritage Room. After the Jacksons several families have owned the Cragmere property.

It's truly a family operation: the new owners of the Log Cabin Deli are two couples who shared in the purchase and will combine in management and operation — Dennis and Betty Weaver and Dennis' parents, Porter and Wilma Weaver.

Dennis, a deputy sheriff for DeKalb County, was born in Henagar, attended Louisiana Tech, and was in the Air Force for four years, following which he was an Air Traffic coordinator for the FCC in Shreveport. Betty is a native of Fort Payne. The elder Weaver has been a business man in Henagar, involved in mechanics, tractors and tires. Wilma at one time operated a florist shop.

When asked by **The GROUNDHOG** how they happened to become interested in the Log Cabin Deli, Dennis and Betty, who have been married only a year, said: "We ate here while we were dating. It became our favorite spot because of the atmosphere and clientele."

The two couples will alternate in management, each being in charge three days. This relieves them of pressures and allows other pursuits.

Gail Crider, who has been cook for three years, remains on the staff. Other Log Cabin Deli employees are Steve Hartline, Lynn Brown, Ann Nixon, Michael Nixon, Tommy Chambers, Shelly Blalock and Carolyn Beason.

No immediate changes are planned in the menu. The bread will continue to be baked by a Polish baker in Hixson, Tenn. Takeouts are still emphasized. The parking lot should be expanded by a third in the near future. The restaurant may be enlarged later.

Built in 1975 by the Vine Christian Community as the Yellow Deli, it was operated from 1979 until recently by Barbara Boyd and Velendia Harris.



RANDY STILL



THE WEAVERS

VIEWPOINT

By Charles White McGehee

Randy Still's outright purchase of Cragmere and the new ownership by Dennis Weaver of the Log Cabin Deli point up the food situation in our area for the summer trade. The Lookout restaurant just across the Georgia line has recently been redecorated in extremely tasteful fashion.

To add variety and diversity to the fine breakfasts at Tiger's Inn in Valley Head and Rock Castle in Hammondville, there exists a need for a place to get a good breakfast in Mentone. Some of us insist that breakfast, properly emphasized, is the best meal of the day.

Alice Woolf particularly has demonstrated this for a number of years. She thinks it is important for the morale to tidy up, get out of the house, see people, and get started with a sound breakfast. What's best? I go usually with biscuit doused with white gravy, sausage and eggs either scrambled or fried. We use decaffeinated coffee at home. Eating out, the luxury of real, thick, hopefully chickory, coffee.

Food has long been a preoccupation with me. I waste a lot of time reading about food. When the Sunday *New York Times* arrives, one of the first things I turn to is the food page of Craig Claiborne. I like to go back through old *Southern Living* and similar magazines just to read the recipes and about recommended restaurants and inns.

Gone are the days when it was considered sissified for men to cook. More and more families where both spouses work are seeing male emergence in cooking. Recently in two conversations with males they casually informed me that they had just finished the family food shopping. Conversely, the old argument that most of the great cooks were men is to be debunked, a result of male dominance in which someone had to be boss in the restaurant kitchens and women were not yet accepted — long before the emergence of Julia Child.

Without doubt one of the most inspiring experiences of all my 40-odd Mentone years was the boat trip up Little River from the Falls, provided by Attorney Warren Coppedge as a feature of the Rhododendron Festival. It was an excursion into the inner beauty of Mentone.

On either bank of the river were stretches of rhododendrons in full bloom, untended by human hands, unseen by humans except by boat. We saw wild magnolias, mountain laurel, grandfather graybeard, and although the dogwood blossoms were gone, the leaves formed long patches of deep green.

We turned around just beyond Camp Laney at the rotted pilings of the covered bridge, where once there existed the principal route from Mentone to the Georgia line.

Warren called our attention to a blue heron, a moccasin squirming from one bank to another, and informed us that on a previous cruise beavers were sighted.

Ray And Sandra Padgett Honored By Landmarks

During a meeting of Landmarks of DeKalb County at the Mentone Springs Hotel Tuesday evening, May 22, Ray and Sandra Padgett, owners of this historic landmark, were honored for the progress they have made in restoring this legendary structure. They were presented the Certificate of Certification of placement of the hotel on the National Register of Historic Places, from the Alabama Historic Society.

Landmarks of DeKalb itself was recently honored at the annual meeting of the Alabama Historical Association on April 27, receiving a special award given to local societies in recognition of outstanding accomplishments. The award recognized projects and programs, publications and the stimulation of interest in local and state history.

Membership in LANDMARKS may be secured by sending \$10 to P. O. Box 518, Fort Payne, Alabama 35967.

Letter From The Mayor

The town recently received a letter from the Fort Payne Water Board reminding us of our 3 million gallon a month limit. If we experience drought conditions this summer, the water supply to us could be curtailed. I urge all citizens to conserve water during the summer months. Here at camp we are checking out our wells and pumps in case we have to use them this summer.

Raymond Brown recently reported a possible water leak to Mrs. Bailey. After checking, we did have a leak on an eight inch main. The town does not own a backhoe, and Leroy Snider is our only full time water employee. When a break on a main occurs, we must have outside help to fix it. Several men took time out from their own work and busy schedules to help. In addition to Leroy, the town would like to thank Arthur Goss, Hobson Kirby, Junior Bell, and Colquitt Jones for helping us out "in a tight." Also many thanks to Raymond Brown for reporting the leak.

June 6 will be the 40th anniversary of D Day, the Allied invasion of France in World War II. The invasion signaled the beginning of the end for Hitler and Nazi Germany. On that day alone 1,465 Americans were killed, 3,184 were wounded and 1,928 were missing. None of us should ever forget the sacrifices these men, and other Americans in other wars, made for their country and the cause of freedom.

— Rob Hammond

THE RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL

It was the first big event of the Centennial, our 100th Birthday for the town and the Mentone Springs Hotel — the Rhododendron Festival and Run on

Saturday and Sunday, May 19-20. Much fun was had by many people. The three queens were radiant as they were crowned. The River Cruise provided by

Warren Coppedge was an excursion into enchantment. The runners were in good form. The food was good. All seemed to go well.



The three Rhododendron Queens were Tamra Hall, Elementary; Mona Lackey, Senior High; Melanie Martin, Junior High. Fifteen beautiful young ladies entered the contest.



The Rhododendron Run on Sunday, May 20th, was a family affair. Winner of the men's division was David Havron of Lupton City, Tenn., clocking in at 22.54. His mother, Nora Havron, was winner of the women's division at 32.26.



Tony Goggans emceed the two-day event and kept things moving with his music and his wit, constantly recognizing people and plugging local businesses.

Photos by

Richard Steinberg



Grace Howard, shown in centennial costume, won the Fire Department's \$100 bill and promptly returned half of it to them. Grace sold quilt tickets and made the beautiful pearl queens' crowns.



Here is the lovely Star of Texas quilt sewn and given by Maggie Cordell. Winner of the drawing was the lady from Mobile on the right.



Shown are the winners in each of the divisions of the Rhododendron Run with the three queens who presented the awards given by local merchants. Elementary Queen Tamra Hall ran in the race, along with 64 others, 55 of whom crossed the finish line.



In charge of selling the rhododendron plants from Lookout Mt. Nursery was Harrell Jenkins, assisted here by Bernise Crow.

A Mentone Legacy Simmie Sherman Vernon

(Continued From Page 1)

The cabin just across the road from the hotel continued to play a vital part in Simmie's life. This place where he was born became the place where he began his own family. He and Lucy Jane Payton were married on Feb. 13, 1890. Simmie's parents relinquished the cabin and moved to Lysterly, Ga.

Millard Filmore Vernon, the first child of Simmie and Lucy, was born in December of 1890. During the next twelve years four more children were born in the cabin: Lela Ann in 1893; Lou Rena in 1895; Leonard Daniel in 1898; and Virginia Ines in 1902.

Family records show that Simmie Vernon was instrumental in starting a church in Mentone sometime during 1893. Indications are that it was a derivation of the Holly Springs Baptist Church. In examining the records of the Holly Springs church, Mable Crow Kirk found that Robert Vernon was involved in a debating society which the church sponsored around 1876.

The church founded by Simmie met monthly. Male members of the congregation preached the sermons. Following his ordination on Sept. 21, 1895, Simmie became the regular preacher. There is no record that a building was ever erected. They continued meeting in the homes of worshippers.

They never passed a collection plate and were often referred to as "hardshelled Baptists." In all likelihood many of the services were held in the cabin which is now part of St. Joseph's. Church records show the male and female members listed separately. Many familiar Mentone names were on the roster: Cordell, Mason, Warren, Sizemore, Jones, Kirby and Clark.

Simmie's mother, Polly, died sometime around the turn of the century and is buried in the Jones Family Cemetery in Mentone. Around 1903 Robert went with Simmie and Lucy when they moved their family to Alden Bridge, La. Simmie supported his family by working on a sheep ranch. His father died Jan. 21, 1904.

In 1906 triplets were born to Simmie and Lucy in Alden Bridge. In 1907 they moved to Hinton, Okla., where another child was born who lived but a short time. Again the family

moved in 1911, this time to Mulberry, Okla., where Simmie worked as a sharecropper, carpenter and continued to preach.

He continued these occupations following their move in 1915 to a ranch on Snake Creek, five miles south of Bixby, Okla.

His activities as a Baptist minister brought no income. He sometimes walked as far as ten miles to perform a marriage ceremony or funeral service — never charging a cent.

The next move was in 1917 to Leonard, Okla., where they lived in a tent and Simmie sharecropped and worked at a nearby gasoline plant. About this time he purchased the first family automobile, a 1916 Ford, for \$200. For some reason he never mastered the art of driving.

Around 1918 the family moved to downtown Bixby, Okla., where Simmie continued his carpenter work. Lucy took in washing and served as a mid-wife, delivering babies for many of the families in the area. A garden, chickens, and a cow supplemented the groceries.

The next move, in 1923, was to Prairie Valley Farm west of Tulsa, then to Carbondale, a suburb of Tulsa, then to a chicken farm south of Tulsa. The depression years were spent on a farm on Turkey Mountain, southwest of Tulsa. By this time all of the children were married. Simmie continued his carpenter work, free preaching, farming the bottomlands and doing carpentry work.

Simmie Vernon died at his home on Turkey Mountain March 9, 1935. Lucy Jane, his widow, moved back to Tulsa where she died Feb. 7, 1960. They both are buried at Bixby.

At the family reunion at the Mentone Springs Hotel on June 23rd and 24th the ladies of St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain will cater a dinner for the Vernon relatives from throughout the nation. They will attend services on Sunday morning.

During the reunion, the desk of Simmie Sherman Vernon, on which he wrote many sermons and conducted much business, will be presented to St. Joseph's, the church built around the cabin which his father built, where he was born, and where his children were brought into this life.

It was bought for \$19.95 from Sears and Roebuck in 1915 with money the family earned by picking cotton.

Daisy Marie Hicks Sanders, provided materials from which this article was largely prepared.

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Meet The Joneses



Jack, Sandy, Olive around 1947.



Jack Jr.'s Daughters — Julie, Becky.



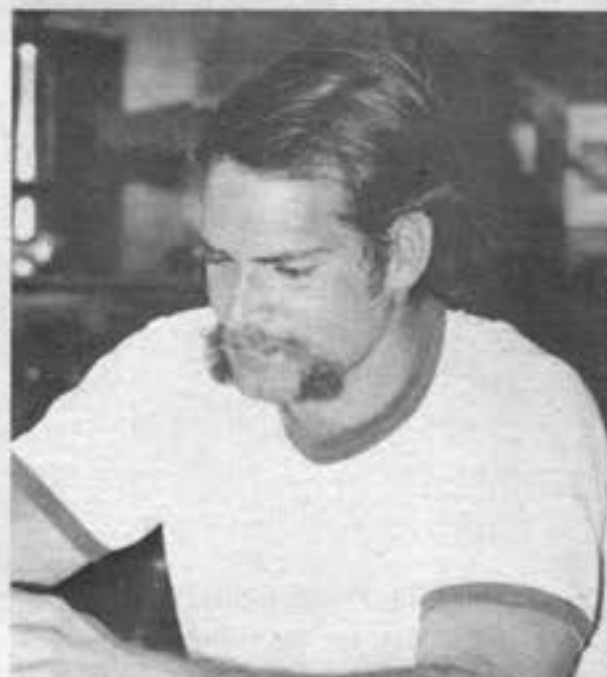
Lura, Kris, Oliver.



Chelsea, Maggie, Janis, Frank.



Doug, Marsha.



Gary.



Nancy.



Dougie.



Angela.

No family in modern times, or perhaps in all its history, has made a greater impact on the town of Mentone than that of Jack and Olive Jones.

At present the various members of the family operate the Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort and Chalets and Valley View Ranch. In one degree or another they were responsible for Saddle Rock and Cherokee camps, Cragmere Restaurant, Log Cabin Deli, Cameron Crafts, and Brow Park Lodge (where are now residences of the Meyers, Vernon, and Mullins families).

Jack and Olive Jones are a rare couple in the sense that they have known each other since they were eight years old as neighbors in Miami, Fla. At that youthful age Jack began attending Cloudmont Camp when it was operated by Abele-Sommers.

Olive's father built a cottage in Mentone in 1929. After completing Miami Senior High she attended business college and worked for the Census Bureau.

After completing high school Jack attended and graduated from the University of Florida. In 1942 he entered the Air Force and was instrumental in setting up the rehabilitation program at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colo. Later he was transferred to Kessler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Miss. After the war he organized the rehabilitation programs in the Veterans Administration hospitals in five Southeastern states. He was founder and first president of the National Rehabilitation Association.

The Joneses were married in 1940 and she traveled around with him to the various bases. Specific ties to Mentone began in 1947, when they purchased Cloudmont from Abele-Sommers. For a time Jack was a staff member at Cloudmont in summer and in winter at the Sommer's Country Day School for Boys in Miami.

Only two of the Joneses' six children are not engaged in the present activities of the family at Mentone. Daughter Angela is kitchen manager of Chart Seafood and Steak House at Coconut Grove, Fla., having transferred recently from Melbourne. She attended Fort Payne High, Northeastern for one year and graduated from Brevard Community College.

Oliver attended the University of Florida for two

years, then transferred to Auburn and graduated with a degree in veterinary medicine. As operator of the Sunrise Animal Clinic in Plantation, Fla., he at one time had the distinction of being the youngest licensed vet in Florida. He and his wife, Kris, have two daughters, Lura and Dena.

The year 1970 was one of deep anguish for the Joneses. Two of their sons died in tragic accidents. Michael was killed in a jeep accident in Florida. Jack Jr., was victim of the explosion of a snow-making machine. It was he who developed the idea of the ski resort at Cloudmont, to provide year-round activities.

Olive Jones states that this was a year of real evaluation and self-examination for the family. The ski project was almost cancelled. A family meeting was held, however, determinations were stated, and a new cohesion seemed to emerge.

Two of the Joneses' daughters are involved in ownership and operation of Valley View Ranch, just north of Cloudland, Ga.

Nancy attended Coral Gables High School and the University of Florida, receiving a degree in television and public relations. At UF she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta. In addition to her duties as co-owner and director of Valley View Ranch, she has coordinated properties and land sales for the family.

Marsha and her husband, Doug Hair, are co-owners of Valley View Ranch. She attended Santa Fe Junior College. She and Doug are parents of a son, Doug Jr. They are involved year round at Valley View, especially because of the care and raising of horses as well as maintenance of the Ranch.

Janis is married to Frank Carrier. They are parents of two daughters, Chelsea and Maggie. Frank is a builder. They live at Chelsea Gap Farms. Janis attended Santa Fe Junior College in Gainesville, Fla. During summers she is involved at Valley View as rodeo instructor; winters, at the ski run.

Gary is coordinator of the Cloudmont Ski Resort and Golf Course. Born in DeKalb Baptist Medical Center, he attended Valley Head High and Gadsden Junior College.

As resort manager, Gary coordinates the many aspects of the operation. During the winter season,

when the ski run and chalets are in full swing, the entire Mentone portion of the family is involved.

Mother Olive is secretary-bookkeeper, Father Jack handles public relations. Daughter Nancy is in charge of ticket sales. Daughter Marsha assists in public relations and other areas. Son-in-law Doug is the ski manager.

The Jones family maintains a confidence in Mentone. They are constantly in a state of advancement. After 50 years as a boy's camp, Cloudmont has been leased and operated by Marty Griffin as Saddle Rock for girls. This allows Jack time for developing property in Florida and producing a major movie which is almost ready for its premiere.

Confidence in the young people of Vine Christian Community resulted in constructing the cabin which was first the Yellow Deli restaurant, and now the Log Cabin Deli recently bought by the Weaver family. Cragmere, a Mentone landmark, was sold by the Joneses in 1981 to H. Bruce Bon Fleur, who developed Cragmere Manna Restaurant, now owned and operated by Randy Still.

In a complex spreading out from the Deli several small cabins are being built that represent a small mall, where crafts shops and similar projects may rent space or purchase space in a well-designed and conveniently placed location. To the right of the Log Cabin Deli, the building which the Joneses once operated as Mountain Properties, a new establishment, Cameron Crafts, is located.

As the focus, the family emphasis is still on Cloudmont, where the Ski Run and Golf Resort strive for year-round activity in Mentone, providing employment for citizens and activities for visitors. Chalets are available for rent all year-round. There are golf and grass-skiing in summer — and the increasing activity of the only ski run in Alabama, perhaps the southernmost in the nation.

The Joneses have constructively changed the face of Mentone, but constantly in adherence to the geographic, historical and cultural heritage which is the essence of our town.

It can safely be predicted that this family will never lose momentum.

Alpine Camp for Boys



Richard O'Ferrell, Director.

Richard O'Ferrell has been director of Alpine Camp since 1959. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and served for two years as a lieutenant junior grade in the United States Navy.

Alice, his wife and co-owner, is a graduate of Newcomb College in New Orleans and the University of Mississippi. She has had some nineteen years experience as camper, counselor, and director. The O'Ferrells have two daughters, Toy and Carter, and are natives of Jackson, Miss.

The facilities of Alpine were originally constructed by Colonel Milford Howard for use as a summer resort. It was next owned and operated as a girl's camp by Miss Alice MacVicar of Miami, Fla.

Experience on Dick's part as counselor and camper at Lookout Mountain Camp for eight years and by Alice at DeSoto Camp led to their ultimate decision to begin operation of Alpine. They were joined in the original stages in 1959 by Rufus Hyde of Dallas, Texas.

Focal point of Alpine is a rustic lodge located on 295 wooded acres on a huge cliff overlooking Little River. The entrance leads into a recreation hall with a large fireplace.

Above the recreation hall is a wide balcony where the camp library is located. Camp offices are in the left wing and a spacious porch overlooks the river. Rustic cabins in the wooded area each accommodate seven boys and a counselor.

The camp is divided into three living units: The Canyon, for boys second through fifth grade; the Mountain, holding fifth, sixth and seventh grades; and Up Top, for those who have completed eighth and ninth grades.

The camp facilities constitute 52 buildings. The year-round custodian is Ron Godbois.

A full-time physician and resident nurse are maintained throughout the season. Enrollment is limited to 240 campers for the two four-week sessions. Age of the campers is seven through fifteen. Fifty college age counselors are employed from colleges throughout the southeast.

In order to provide the utmost of individual instruction, riding groups are kept small. Swimming instruction emphasizes the fundamental strokes. Rescue and Water Safety are taught eligible campers by certified American Red Cross lifesaving examiners.

On occasion cabin groups take breakfast canoe trips up Little River to High Rock. On two sports fields the boys play flag football, softball and soccer. The programs emphasize such minor sports as volleyball, whiffleball, slaughterball and kickball.

Other segments of interest are photography for older campers and tennis, where three clay courts and two all-weather courts are available for tennis instruction.

The open-air gym makes possible not only sports events but has a stage for shows, movies and skits. To stimulate competition the camp is divided into two Alpine tribes: the Mohawks and the Cherokees.

Other programs involve archery, riflery, overnight camping, rafting, rappelling, and interesting field trips to area sites.

Comer Scout Reservation



Robert Dunaway, Director.

Bob Dunaway, director of the Comer Scout Reservation, was born in Ashland in Clay County. He and his wife, Marilyn, an Anniston native, came to Comer in 1973. After four years they went to Anniston where they were associated with the Council office. The attraction of Mentone caused them to return in 1979. Their children are Cara, Jeff and Krista.

Assistant Camp Director is Mickey Bobo, camp ranger, who with his wife, Lynn, and their two children are year-round residents of Comer. Also on the staff is Roy Johnson who serves as business manager.

The Comer Scout Reservation is composed of some eleven counties called the Choccolocco Council. The Sequoyah District includes DeKalb and Cherokee counties. Comer has won the National Gold Medal Award for safety and sanitation several times.

The Reservation contains some 1,100 acres, including a 93 acre lake. It is divided into two camps: A. A. Michaels for tent camping and Allen C. Jacobs, twelve A-frame chalets for family camping. There are 13 troop camping sites.

A major emphasis in the summer camping program at Comer is on merit badges — particularly in rowing, swimming, archery, environmental science, wilderness survival, first aid, rifle, canoeing, cooking, motorboating, forestry, pioneering, soil and water conservation, leatherwork, basketry, woodcarving and God and country.

The Comer camping experience can well be part of a family's vacation time because scoutmasters, troop commissioners, and dads are all volunteer workers. Marilyn Dunaway conducts a separate program for wives and families of scoutmasters which is simultaneous with the scouting program.

Camp Comer is available all year for programs involving Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and similar groupings.

It was built for scouts by scouters and community volunteers. Each troop that comes to the encampment assumes responsibility for maintaining a neat campground.

Waterfront facilities include opportunities for boys to learn to swim, paddle a canoe, learn lifesaving, row a boat and in general learn a great deal about aquatics.

The rifle and archery ranges are under adult supervision.

The Axe Yard is available for instruction in sharpening, handling and cutting of both large and small timber. The Rope Yard provides instruction in the correct tying of knots and the use of ropes.

Fishing for fun is done at all times, provided two scouts and explorers go together, with permission of their troop. On the hiking trails, boys may just hike for the pleasure of it or to earn the Hiking Skill Award.

At the camp Trading Post such items are available as handicraft, souvenirs, camp T-shirts, candies, cold drinks and various similar items.

In the Handicraft Lodge scouts find outlet for the making of some 65 different articles from materials available at the site.

Camp DeSoto



Sue Henry, Director

Sue McLaurin Henry, director of Camp DeSoto, was raised in the Mississippi Delta. She received her AB degree from Mississippi State College for women and did graduate work at the University of North Carolina. The summer after her freshman year in college she came to Camp DeSoto as tennis instructor and cabin counselor.

Three years later she began assisting Mrs. Norma Bradshaw, who was one of the owners and directors at that time. She has continued to be on the staff since that time. For nineteen years she taught high school English in the winter and camped in the summer. In 1972 she went full time with Camp DeSoto and in 1980 moved to the mountain full time.

Director emeritus Norma Bradshaw, associated with DeSoto for 40 years, continues her interest in the camp. Assistant director Janet Shands attended the University at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and received her Masters in Education from Vanderbilt. Winters she teaches at Brentwood Academy in Nashville.

Camp DeSoto's forty-eight buildings are placed in a natural setting. The dining hall seats over 300 campers. The gym is the setting for basketball, kickball and other games. The stage, with dressing rooms on each side, is often in use for dramatic productions and on Sundays has a worshipful at-

WELCOME TO

Have a good, good season.

Happy voices will soon be heard across our mountain. The camps will be opening in a few days. Young people will be arriving from throughout the Southeast. The tempo of our town and our area moves to an upbeat. On these pages we introduce the

mosphere for church services.

Other gathering places for smaller groups include Hill High, a building beyond the play field, with room for meetings, a stage for performances, rehearsals, or other various activities and an enclosed lodge which houses the library and has a fireplace at one end.

All living quarters are frame buildings with screen around the top on all sides. A counselor lives in each of the cabins with the girls. The bath houses are spaced at convenient intervals along hut row, equipped with showers and flush toilets.

Enchanted Forest is the area for the youngest campers. The cabins are spacious, with ample room for play and plumbing.

DeSoto operates three distinct and separate camps within the one camp. Each girl goes to activities, shares meals, and lives in a cabin with girls within her own age group. Evenings each group occasionally has distinct activities for the group or shares in gatherings involving the entire camp.

The age groups are Junior, Intermediate and Senior. Juniors are below fifth grade; Intermediates sixth and seventh grade; Seniors, eighth, ninth and tenth grades.

For riding there are 26 horses with two rings, seven instructors and wooded trails on camp property. Four tennis instructors supervise four clay courts and two hard-surfaced courts. There is scheduled instruction in archery, riflery, swimming, canoeing and the usual team sports.

The DeSoto staff emphasizes living with nature, scheduling backpacking, breakfast and supper cookouts, rappelling and rock climbing. Excursions are arranged to Rock City, a Tennessee river boat trip, and white water rafting.

Camp Juliette Low



Cathy Holley, top row, director.

For the past seven years Cathy Bennett Holley has been director at Camp Juliette Low. She began as a camper from 1959 to 1963. During the summers of '64 and '65 she was in the Counselor-in-Training program at C.J.L. Following two years as a counselor she was absent for 9 years, then returned as waterfront director and became Camp Director in 1977.

During the school year Ms. Holley teaches French Horn in Columbia, S. C. After 13 years in Columbia, she assumes this fall the position of assistant band director for the school system of Newberry, S. C., her home town. In addition to children, her hobby is photography.

Camp Juliette Low was established in 1922 on ten acres of land just north of Cloudland, Ga. Juliette Low founded not only the camp but the Girl Scouts of America. It is a non-profit organization, owned and managed by a board of trustees.

Three hundred forty acres in expanse, the camp has a lake for canoeing and sailing instruction, swimming pool, craft house, two recreational lodges and an infirmary. Certified by the American Camping Association and licensed by the Girl Scouts of America, C.J.L. operates four two-week sessions each summer with approximately 100 campers each session. There are more than 30 staff members and the camper-counselor ratio is about 4-1.

Each camper structures her own morning

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UR CAMPERS!

quality adult leadership that provides guidance and growth for the campers. There is something unique and distinct about each of these camps; each emphasizes certain goals and characteristics. Assistance in gathering this information was provided by the various directors and Eleanor Moerlins.

schedule of activities, selecting from nine categories: tennis, archery, handicrafts, swimming, nature study, canoeing, sailing, gymnastics and Project Adventure.

Additional experiences are offered in trail hiking, nature study, conservation, water hiking, music, games, folk dancing, dramatics, stable management, campfire programs, outdoor cooking, wood chopping, firebuilding, knot tying, lashing and overnight hikes.

The newest project activity at CJL is the ropes course by Project Adventure. Designed as an activity to challenge campers 13 years and older, the purpose of the course is to build trust in teamwork, self-confidence, and to learn the proper use of safety equipment. The lower level of instruction includes triangular tension traverse, trust fall, hickory jump, swinging log fidget ladder. Second phase, the high elements, includes the inclined log, two line bridge and cat walk.

Each girl receives approximately four hours of horseback instruction.

The Counselor-in-Training program is a two-year course designed to develop leadership, teaching skills and an understanding of children. Girls in the course must be 15 years or older and have completed the tenth grade. Fees are shared by the camp with the CIT trainees because of their unique contributions to the Camp.

Camp Juliette Low is attuned to the program of the Girl Scouts of America, emphasizing response to the impact of nature and ecology in today's world. It is dedicated to the need for teaching girls how to get along in a natural setting, to understand survival techniques in the woods and in the water, and to develop a life-long joy and concern for our environment.

Lookout Mtn. Christian Conf. Cen.



John and Anne Morrison, Directors

Anne and John Morrison, directors of Lookout Mountain Christian Conference Center, were born in Louisiana. They attended Tulane University, where they met and were married in 1960.

The Morrisons are parents of four children, two boys and two girls. In 1974 the Morrisons moved to Mentone to live permanently at the Lookout Mountain Christian Conference Center. The center has been operated by the Morrison family since 1927.

Running through the camp grounds is Little River, which is dammed up to provide a safe swimming area for entire families. The Center also provides canoes for races or quiet excursions down the river.

The open-air gymnasium provides space for vigorous indoor sports such as basketball, volleyball and running. Near the gym is ample space for softball games, and the field is also large enough for soccer, field hockey or just fun and games.

There are many wooded paths for hiking, birdwatching and exploring. The Center operates on the original site of a summer camp that began in 1928.

Central is the historic lodge with its library, its meeting place before a large fireplace, wide porches and sleeping space for up to fifteen people.

In pleasant temperatures the gym serves as a covered gathering for up to 200 people. The stone amphitheatre is capable of seating some 200 people for films and other presentations.

There are 24 log cabins, each sleeping eight peo-

ple — ideal for family retreats. Nearby is a bookstore and gift shop.

The dining hall seats up to 150 people, with kitchen facilities capable of serving more. There are also outdoor picnic areas suitable for one-day gatherings for those who bring their own food.

Facilities of the Lookout Mountain Christian Conference Center emphasize the hosting of various organizations and church groups.

It is available for retreats, outings, worship services, church board retreats and family gatherings of various categories.

Areas are provided for both structured worship and classes. The library contains a growing collection of reference works, inspirational books and tapes.

Anne and John state that business and professional people come to the Lookout Center to get away from the strain of competition and share their real needs and concerns; young couples bring their children for situations of sharing in this natural setting; church officers come as a group to refresh their insights and goals; students gather to ponder; and entire church congregations come together.

Camp Laney



Clifford, Fraker, Hammond, Directors

Rob Hammond, who also happens to be mayor of Mentone, has spent every summer here since 1961 at Camp Laney. He progressed from camper to junior counselor and counselor. He became owner-director in 1974 after the retirement of Coach Malcolm Laney, who founded the camp in 1959.

Rob received his elementary school education at LaGrange, Ga., moving later to Cartersville, where he graduated from high school. After graduation from Vanderbilt University with a major in political science and history, he taught for five years at the Darlington School in Rome, Ga. He is married to the former Sara Ann Neal of Cartersville. Rob and San and their son, Jordan (born last year) live at Camp Laney year round. San is dietician and bookkeeper.

John Clifford, program director, joined the staff in 1980, once played defensive back for the Florida Gators, and during winters teaches and coaches at Oak Hill High School, Gainesville, Fla. Tom Fraker, assistant program director, teaches and coaches at Berry College in Rome, Ga., and conducts teacher workshops for Project Adventure. Assisting the staff each year is Dr. Jerry Jennings, educational psychologist, also of Berry College.

Principal building at Laney is the lodge, which contains the dining room, dining hall and kitchen, camp offices, infirmary and nurse's quarters. There also is a gym, swimming pool, new twelve horse stable, riding ring, three asphalt tennis courts, athletic field and rifle and archery range.

Each of the twelve cabins has running water and flush toilets; a shower house, also with plumbing is centrally located.

Campers are divided into seven different activity groups by age and grade in school; each group has 20 to 25 boys. The groups follow a daily schedule which involves horseback, canoeing, Project Adventure, tennis, major sports, swimming — with archery and riflery every other day.

Cabin living is supervised by a minimum of two counselors in each cabin. Campers are never left alone at night or day. Camper-counselor ratio is approximately 5-1. At the morning cleanup, each cabin competes for the session honor camp award. During evenings the campers often go to various spots on the mountain for cookouts and other activities.

The Senior Program, limited to 25 boys who have finished the 7th grade, in addition to the regular program, go on backpacking trips, rappelling, and optional white water canoeing trips. Project Adventure involves knots and lashings, compassing, ropes courses and various other adventures.

Swimming is in accordance with the American Red Cross, with a swim meet for each group and various water games. Because of the location on Little River, canoeing is a popular activity. Basic strokes are taught, skiing is offered and the buddy system is in effect at all times.

In such major sports as track, softball, soccer and flag football competition is enhanced by division on to the Apache and Comanche tribes.

Ponderosa Bible Camp

Glenn Miller, director of Ponderosa Bible Camp, was born in Lancaster County, Penn., the fifth of six children. When he was one-and-a-half years of age the family moved to South Alabama, where his father was developer and director of a youth camp. This



Glenn and Linda Miller, Directors.

was the beginning of Glenn's background in camping.

He attended Southeast Bible College in Birmingham, where he met Linda Yerkes, who became his wife. As home missionaries for Children's Bible Mission they opened Ponderosa in 1976. They have two sons, Curtis, 5, and Kenneth, 3.

Other staff members are Miss Bess Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. James Evans, and Miss Elise Bailey.

In addition to directing the camp, the Millers' duties include maintenance, monthly public Bible School chapels, Bible correspondence lessons and scheduling and servicing camp rental groups.

Ponderosa is operated by the Children's Bible Mission with offices in Lakeland, Fla. Other divisions are located in Georgia, the Carolinas, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia. It is a non-denominational and non-profit home mission organization with a "doctrinal position of evangelical, conservative fundamentalism." CBM was begun in 1936.

Situated on an expanse of eighty acres north of Mentone near the Georgia line, Ponderosa embodies six camp cabins each of which serves 16 campers. There are some twelve buildings on the campgrounds, including a craft place, a staff house, an office building, a large dining room and kitchen, and a basement chapel.

There is a variety of daily activities which includes Bible classes, singing, volleyball, ping pong, swimming, camp fires, tournaments, fishing, boating, hiking, picnics, missionary pictures, canoeing, archery, basketball, crafts, rappelling, sightseeing trips, softball, preaching and good food.

A special fund has been established for the construction of a multi-purpose gym-chapel building which will be completely insulated. Completion of the building will enable the camp to have special groups and functions during the winter months. This is a \$60,000 project which is well underway.

Glenn Miller states that all activities are under the supervision of trained Christian counselors and staff. Campers live in the cabins with counselors. Trained first-aid personnel and trained lifeguards are on duty.

Saddle Rock Camp For Girls



Marty Griffin, Saddle Rock Director, was born and raised in Montgomery, Ala. After completing high school she attended and graduated from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Miss., where she received a bachelor of science degree. After this undergraduate work she went to the University of Georgia where she was awarded a master of education degree.

After completing her college training Marty taught physical education at the high school level for three years in Columbus. For the next eighteen years she was involved with Camp Skyline Ranch, serving as director and lessee for the past ten years.

Marty began her camping experience as an archery, gymnastics, and tennis counselor, moving on to evening program director, business director and director. Last year she leased Camp Cloudmont, founded in 1924 and purchased in 1947 by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jones.

Marty is active in Mentone civic affairs. She is chairwoman of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Department and is a member of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Plans for Saddle Rock this upcoming year involve some sixteen different activities, ranging from dancing to riding. Each camper will take five activities a day, divided by age groups and skill levels.

An important feature of Saddle Rock is Ravine Lake, which is ideally suited for swimming, canoeing and other water sports. The camp complex has over thirty buildings, grouped on sloping ground. The cabins are equipped with plumbing, electricity, running water, showers and closet space.

The dining hall has a huge fireplace in which fires can be lighted on cool mornings and evenings. The gymnasium is massive, facilitating two basketball games at a time, and a stage where shows and programs are mounted.

Saddle Rock also consists of an archery range, seven craft shops, stables, athletic field, six clay tennis courts, badminton courts, Project Adventure, volleyball courts, campfire circles, riding rings and hiking trails. Canoeing facilities are at Ravine Lake, several hundred yards below DeSoto Falls, where there is also swimming, water skiing and water ballet.

During the season special trips are planned to the

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Saddle Rock Continued

Falls, DeSoto State Park, Six Flags Over Georgia, and various other points of interest.

Polly Cameron, assistant director, attended Ole Miss and Sanford University and was on the Skyline staff from 1968 to '83. Ellen Roberts, program director, attended Mississippi University for Women, the University for Women in Birmingham, and is presently working on her Ph.D. in Greensboro, N. C., Assistant Program Director Karen Wilson holds a bachelor of science degree from Nicholas State University in Louisiana and teaches physical education and science at the elementary level.

Skyline Ranch

Camp for Girls and Boys



Susan and Larry Hooks, Directors.

Susan and Larry Hooks, directors of Skyline Ranch Camp, begin the year with the arrival of a potential new camper, Cassie Elizabeth. Susan has been associated with Skyline for nine years: six years on the staff and three years through family ownership. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Central Wesleyan College, Central, S. C.

Larry Hooks has been associated with Skyline for three years, also through family ownership of the camp. After receiving his bachelor of arts degree in physical education from Central Wesleyan College, he earned his Masters Degree in Administration and Supervision from Clemson University, Clemson, S. C.

Larry is an important factor in Skyline's plans for expanding its facilities to include a camp for boys. As coordinator of this new Skyline expansion, Larry announces that boys will be accepted for the third session, July 29-Aug. 11.

Anna B. Palmer, Director of Program, holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from Peabody College and a Master of Education in Administration and Supervision from West Georgia College. Skyline was founded in 1947 by Mrs. Eloise Hart Temple who operated it for 25 years. She maintains a residence at the edge of the campus.

The three major activities at Skyline are riding, swimming and tennis. Other sports with regular instruction are canoeing, lifesaving, badminton, archery, twirling, tumbling, sailing, computers, dancing music, dramatics, nature, crafts, hikes and overnights. Canoe trips and several sightseeing excursions are scheduled regularly.

Skyline is divided into five age groups for living arrangements and competition. All competition is kept on an age basis. There are 17 cabins for the campers in an area known as Hut Row, spaced adequately, with adequate plumbing and closet space. The senior division is accessible by a steel bridge across Little River.

Skyline Lodge is 130 feet long, overlooking Little River. The camp library, showroom, and practice pianos are located here. The Round House, built of native rock, overlooks Little River Falls and is used for counselors and staff meetings. Upstairs in the Arts Building is used for dance instruction and downstairs for arts and crafts.

The gymnasium, constantly in use, has a stage and two dressing rooms at one end, making it available for mounting shows, with a movie screen at the opposite end. The gym is used for gymnastics and drama during the day and evening programs at night. Other buildings are the Deli-Deli, a small log cabin, and the Skyline stable.

Outlying attractions of Skyline are Lizard Lope, 40 acres of beautiful water in Cherokee County where sailing, swimming, fishing and fish fries are staged; Granny Dollar Lake, a fishing site; The Lower Forty, a wild area on Little River where birdwatching, hikes and camping are scheduled; and Eagles Cliff, north of Mentone, 22 acres on the brow of the mountain, now the property of Skyline and utilized for rappelling and camping.

Valley View Ranch



Nancy Jones, Director.

Director of Valley View Girl's Camp is Nancy Jones. Born in Meridian, Miss., while in grades one through eight she divided the time between Valley Head School and St. Teresas in Miami, where her family spent winters. Her high school education was at Immaculate Conception in Miami and Coral Gables Senior High.

From the University of Florida she received a B. S. degree in advertising and public relations. Her parents are Jack and Olive Jones, developers of Cloudmont. "I learned horsemanship and camping from my father," says Nancy, "and business from my mother." The Joneses founded Valley View in 1954.

During her growing-up years she attended Camp Alpine and Juliette Low Girl's Scout Camp, where she began her early insights into girls' camps. She has been director of Valley View since 1970.

In 1974 Nancy, her sister, Marsha, and her husband, Doug Hair, purchased Valley View from the family. Nancy is recruiter and director. Janis and Angela are riding instructors. Doug and Marsha live at the Ranch year-round, raising quarterhorses and caring for the animals.

Girls live in lodges which are equipped with plumbing and electricity. Over 25 buildings are embodied in the complex, grouped for convenience and view. There is a foreman's home, four riding rings, a lighted horse show arena, six stables for 150 horses, the Chuck Wagon which is a dining lodge, tack rooms for 150 saddles, tennis court, riflery range, archery range, three lakes, recreation building, infirmary, ranch house and office, tractors, trucks, wagons and other equipment.

The overall theme is horsemanship. The Pony Club has activities for beginners through advanced ponies and riders. They learn to care for, curry, bridle, saddle, ride and cool out their mounts.

The Junior Camp is for ages six through nine, who live in Yearling Hall. Each cares for a pony. Stock Seat is Western Equitation. Each camper is assigned a horse or pony for her stay, or she can bring her own horse. Training at all levels is offered for horse and rider: equitation, pleasure, problem clinics, trail classes, reining patterns and bareback equitation.

The Hunt Club involves specially advanced horses. The cross-country course has over one mile of jumps in Sizemore Pasture. Classes are arranged by ability.

For over 30 years Valley View has been involved in riding and showing Quarter, Morgan and Arabian horses.

Social life is emphasized. On Sundays after camp inspection, vespers and fried chicken, the ranchers visit a nearby boys camp or play host for Country Fair, Water Show, Rodeo, Derby Day, Field Day and the July 4th celebration. Each event is followed by a picnic, social or campfire.

Camp Woodmont



The Bennett Family, Directors.

Jim and Jane Bennett, owners and directors of Camp Woodmont, are teachers at DeKalb Community College near Atlanta. Jim has college degrees from the University of Mississippi and Georgia State University. Jane's college degrees are from Georgia State University and the University of Georgia.

"After years of dreaming and planning," says Jim, "we built the camp in 1981 and dedicated it to the ideal of providing a place where parents can send their children to have fun in summer while learning new skills, enjoying new friends and experiencing the thrill of becoming more mature, more caring individuals."

The Bennetts' three children, Tyran, Alyson and Melanie (pictured above) assist in the operation of Woodmont.

Woodmont is a camp for boys and girls, ages 7-16. Located just north of Cloudland, it accepts up to 80 campers for sessions of one to five weeks.

The program is centered around four basic areas: arts and crafts, sports and games, aquatics and nature lore. Campers may choose from among the following activities: canoeing, fishing, gymnastics, karate, arts and crafts, softball, soccer, archery, volleyball, badminton, swimming, games, hiking, skating, drama, golf, horseshoes, pingpong, basketball, dancing, first aid and horseback riding (which was added this past season).

Evenings the campers get together for singing camp songs, skits, talent shows, campfire programs, folk dancing and team competition.

Facilities at Woodmont center around a large dining hall/lodge for meals, games and nighttime fun. The cabins sleep up to eight campers and one or two counselors. There is a large central bathhouse, a swimming pool, an open-air pavilion for outdoor activities and games, a football-size athletic field, hiking trails, play areas and a small lake for fishing and canoeing.

Six or eight campers are usually assigned to each cabin according to sex and age, along with a counselor. Each camper is assigned a bunk bed and a shelf for personal effects.

A special Counselor-In-Training program is offered for selected campers. They are assigned special leadership responsibilities and specific duties in the cabins. They also serve as instructional aides in activities of their choice.

Special one-week camps are offered at Camp Woodmont for campers who have specific interest in drama-dance, cheerleading, soccer and clogging. There are Family Camps and a festive Labor Day Weekend.

The Family Camps make it possible for entire families to utilize the facilities and programs of Woodmont.

"The camp is dedicated," says Jim and Jane Bennett, "to providing a place where parents can be sure their children will have fun in a beautiful outdoor setting learning new skills and making new friends which will help them grow physically, mentally, socially and morally."

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Things begin to happen when the campers arrive in June. There are happier sounds, more basic activity and our businesses are more active.

What is the effect of the camps upon the town during the summer? The GROUNDHOG posed this question to some local persons and here are their replies:

Mrs. F. S. Bailey, Town Clerk: "I notice much more activity. Our businesses are more involved. The camps give work to people all year round, but it is especially good that so much employment is given the young people out of school — as waiters, waitresses and in many other jobs."

Benny Goss, Postmaster: "Mail volume quadruples. When the camps open there are more people, more activity, more excitement."

William Blackburn, Grocer: "The camps bring us quite a bit more business; we enjoy the children."

Mrs. Will Blackburn: "We get to meet different people; they tell us what a beautiful place this is."

Mayor Rob Hammond, who is owner director of Camp Laney, was most eloquent of all when he said:

How does the town change when camp opens? All the building, cleaning and repairing will temporarily stop at the camps. There will be an increase in traffic on opening and closing weekends. Sometimes you will be able to hear children playing, and the different bells ringing for them to change activities. Some weekends Nippersink and the Mentone Inn will be full of visiting parents. Just about any night at the Deli you will find staff members from the different camps. Many citizens will start their summer jobs at camps. Occasionally you will see "the trucks" transporting the children to different parts of the mountain. One thing you probably will not see — the camp directors!

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Crafts Festival Committee Coordinates New Brow Shelter

President Linda Brown and the Crafts Festival committee voted unanimously to instigate plans to replace the existing shelter at the town's brow park with a new one. Plans call for treated posts and possibly for a concrete floor. The Crafts Festival will be assisted by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, which has already voted to underwrite one-fourth of the cost of the new shelter. It is hoped that other local organizations and the town itself will assist in the construction of the needed facility.

Nineteen board members, committee members, and other workers met in the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church May 10 to complete plans for the eighth annual Crafts Festival, to be held in the town's brow park July 7 and 8.

Mrs. Brown reported that the Crafts Festival Committee has purchased five rhododendrons that have been planted in the newly cleared area at the park. By May 10 46 paid applications out of a potential 65 had been received.

Ferne Fitzgerald, garden club member, will be in charge of the gates this year. Lydia Speed will direct the garden club sale of plants both days.

Gay Godbois will once again be in charge of advertising. She will be assisted by Doyle and Pauline Benefield. Mr. Benefield will also arrange for old-timey craft demonstrations. Mrs. Brown stated that the national magazine *Woman's Day* as well as *Southern Living* will have notice of Mentone's Crafts Festival.

Jo Ann Bain is chairwoman in charge of food. This year she plans to have cold sandwiches available, and also sausage and biscuits and coffee early on both mornings of the festival. Ice cream, drinks, bake sales, and full meals will again be available, courtesy

of local organizations.

Little Leaguers will park cars and assist in traffic. Milton Howard, Luke Lucas and Hobson Kirby will arrange for extra parking behind the White Elephant, whose owners have kindly consented to have some pines cut and a culvert installed to facilitate parking. Mr. Howard will be assisted by Stanley, Raymond and Linda Brown in erecting the signs for the event.

Bobby Brown will have the banner installed over highway 117 and an electric outlet box near the new shelter.

H. P. Goss, Luke Lucas, Stan Brown, Bobby Brown and Colquitt Jones will be in charge of clean-up after the weekend.

Possibly the most exciting assignment goes to Ovie and Barbara Blalock. Theirs is the entertainment

committee, and they have arranged for square dancing and clogging, and for a special treat — Silver Creek will be playing both days.

The festival committee voted to abstain from presenting ribbons and awards on the advice of David Mays, who stated that it is a divisive factor, despite his having just received a "Best in Show" award in Guntersville.

Sue Lucas is the Crafts Festival centennial advisor. The cover for this year's program will depict the centennial theme. Committee members will dress in costume. Balloons will be available for children, along with the sun visors offered last year. The next meeting of the committee will be June 14, the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. Interested citizens are invited to attend.

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Garden Club Plants 224 Rhododendrons

The Rhododendron Garden Club of Mentone met at the home of Hulda Merkel for its regular May meeting. Other hostesses were Mickie Cooper and Betty Johnson. Vivian Sherrod gave the devotional. Summer members Estelle Noland and Virginia Bassage were welcomed.

Theresa Bosworth reported that she and Ruby Daniel, Mabel Kirk and Alice Springer had replanted the area in front of the Welcome Center. President Helen Hill and Alice Woolf filled three planters at Mountain Manor Nursing Home and took two hanging baskets. Linda Brown will care for these plants.

Lynette McCary stated that since last fall a year ago, 180 rhododendrons have been planted along 117 and the north end of DeSoto Parkway. This includes 30 that were purchased by the Wright and Sheffield families. Recently 44 were planted in the brow park area.

Lydia Speed reminded members to begin potting for the Crafts Festival. Hanging baskets are popular and flowering plants sell well. She requested members to identify and jot down something about each plant. Herbs are welcome, too, Mrs. Speed said.

The group voted to give a life membership in the state organization each year, honoring past presidents of the local club. A unanimous vote gave \$100 toward the new DeKalb County Library building.

Vice President Betty Johnson introduced the speaker, guest of Mildred Linder. Margaret Persons is a past president of the Blanche Dean Chapter of the Alabama Wildflower Society. She knows Mentone well, having stayed here since Hal Howe operated what is now the Mentone Inn. Mrs. Persons showed slides of wildflowers native to this area.

There are some 3,000 species of wildflowers in the Southeast. About 1,000 of these are in northern Alabama. Beginning in the fall with the witchhazel and the flowering quince, Mrs. Persons showed and

discussed wildflowers, most of which bloom in the spring.

Slides were shown of the natural crocus, shad bush, spring beauty, false anemone, trailing arbutus, Dutchman's breeches, foam flower, shooting star, trout lily, dog-toothed violet, bloodroot, May apple, the trilliums, ferns, Virginia blue-bells, euonymus, chickweed and yellow jasmine.

Also shown were the wild geranium, iris, jack-in-the-pulpit, trumpet honeysuckle, the woodbines (which Ruby O'Rear says are yellow on the brow because of the lime and pink farther away), Indian pipes, pipsissewa, mountain laurel, azalea, rhododendron, tulip poplar, oak leaf hydrangea (which is quite expensive in some parts of the U. S.), spider lily and lady slipper.

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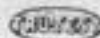
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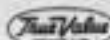
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