

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 4 - NO. 3 - JUNE 1986

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Fourth Of July

Those Were The Days

Mentone folks planning their Fourth of July celebrations might be interested in knowing what happened here on that day around the turn of the century. Luther King, 91, remembers that everyone in town — year-round and summer people alike — gathered at Ed Mason's Moon Lake.

"Mr. Mason arranged for just about every kind of race you can think of," Luke King says. "There was horse racing, foot racing, Indian wrestling, sack races, swimming races — it was a general big day. There was everything you might think of to have a big time, and we did," he chuckles.

People came from miles around, walking, by horse and mule, in wagons and in buggies. King recalls Phillippes, Blalocks, Joneses, and Smiths. The horses and mules that were raced that day were for the most part working horses, having a holiday of their own.

Ice was cut from Moon Lake in the winter and packed in an ice house with straw, mostly for the festivities on the Fourth of July. Then ice cream and lemonade were the big treats. Most families brought baskets of food to share. As the years progressed into the '20's, crowds increased, with local entrepreneurs like the Joneses and Seab Davenport renting horses to the summer visitors.

Luther King and his sister Pluma, 88, live today with Luther's son Marvin. He is father also of Luther King, Jr., called "June," and of a daughter, Lois. He has lived all of his life on or near land where his present home is. He worked in timber, and he has a collection of ancient cross-cut saws used before he had



Luther King

chain saws.

He began his school days in the church house at Little River, finishing at Moon Lake when the school went through the junior high years. The most exciting time of his youth was in the summer when the mountain buzzed with an increased population and when there was cash flowing into the pockets

(Continued On Page 6)

Another Crafts Festival Is Ready Page 1

June Jam V May Be Biggest Ever Page 1

the GROUNDHOG

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June Jam 1986 Expects To Draw Biggest Crowd Ever

Mentone property owner Willie Nelson will be one of the all-star attractions at Alabama's June Jam V on June 14 in Fort Payne. Others who will precede the Alabama Band on the platforms prior to their appearance at 9 p.m. are Charlie Daniels, Mel Tillis, the Forrester Sisters, Gary Morris, Charlie Douglas, Mark Gray, John Schneider, Restless Heart, Jim Varney, Rhubarb Jones, and Ralph Emery as MC.

Coordinator Gaynelle Pitts told **The Groundhog** that advance ticket sales are 1/2 more than previous years, indicating a record crowd of fans from throughout the nation. Proceeds from the June Jams over the past four years have been approximately \$1.3 million, donated to such recipients as the Mentone Fire Department, Moon Lake School gymnasium, and the Mentone Rescue Squad.

The following Thursday, June 19th, Willie Nelson will be featured at the Riverbend Festival in Chattanooga.

At the June Jam MAPA members will man a booth selling boiled corn and fried pies. Members of the Moon Lake PTA will serve at different booths as needed. On behalf of the PTA Sam Whatley will provide wrecker service. Members of the Rescue Squad are scheduled for such functions as parking cars. Sixty percent of all proceeds go to the June Jam Fund. The DeKalb County Tourist Association will be selling Alabama Band posters.

Delay Is Announced On Cable TV

Cable TV for Mentone has arrived at a snag with notification by Bill Kidder that due to circumstances beyond his control he was forced to withdraw his application. He is informing his other competitor for the franchise, Boyce Dooley, of Summerville, Georgia, that he may enter into discussions.

Full text of Kidder's letter to Mayor Rob Hammond is as follows: Due to circumstances beyond my control, I am forced to withdraw my request for a cable TV franchise for the town of Mentone. I am informing Mr. Boyce Dooley of Summerville, Georgia, of the situation so that he may enter back into discussions with you. The courtesy shown to me by the mayor and council members will not soon be forgotten. I deeply regret the turn of events and hope its only effect is the temporary delay of cable service to the Mentone community.

On Wednesday Mayor Hammond stated that he and Mr. Dooley had been in conversation and that he "thinks we can work out something." They had ridden around town, surveyed possibilities, and are optimistic about prospects.

Council members expressed relief that recent rains had brought relief from the drought. Mayor Hammond said that as soon as he got into the car to participate in the Rhododendron Festival parade, the rains really came. Whereupon Councilman Max Cash said, "Maybe we should plan a parade every time there is a drought."

Councilmen stressed the importance of keeping the two water tanks checked and as full as possible during the heavy summer usage.

Announcement was made of Charles Furgerson's resignation as reader of water meters. Mayor Hammond announced purchase of six new stop signs. There was lengthy discussion of traffic problems along Highway 117, prompted by remarks of visitor Ray Froehner. A danger area is the stretch involving Moon Lake School and the Little River Bridge. There was also discussion of the proposed four-laning of the Old Valley Head Road. Mayor Hammond and council members have been invited to a meeting connected with the project. Citizens with views on this matter should call the mayor or one of the councilmen.

All council members were present. New member Jim Johnson was sworn in prior to the meeting. Having served 12 years in previous years, Mr. Johnson expressed gratitude for having been chosen to succeed the late Lee Davenport.

Bennett Browder was a visitor. — CWM

Last Notice

Important reminder!

Memberships in the Mentone Area Preservation Association expire June 30, 1986. For out-of-town members this is a reminder that unless your dues have been received by that date, you will no longer receive **THE GROUNDHOG**. For local members — you cannot vote on the new officers and other issues until your payment has been received. Box 50, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

Crafts Festival Weekend Of July 5-6



BARBARA BLALOCK, CRAFTS FESTIVAL SECRETARY & OVIE BLALOCK, ENTERTAINMENT CHAIRMAN

Rounding out Fourth of July celebrations in Mentone is the tenth annual Mentone Crafts Festival, to be held at Brow Park July 5 and 6. President Linda Brown and secretary Barbara Blalock are glad to have so many former exhibitors returning again.

Bill Amos, a potter from Rome, Georgia, has entered the festival for all ten of its years, as has Jimmy Griggs, the Fort Payne beekeeper. Frances Hinson, of Fort Payne, a weaver, has missed only one year. John and Esther Avery, of Chattanooga, have been here for seven previous years, exhibiting rock tumbling and selling their jewelry. From Pelham, Alabama, Ann Campbell, exhibiting her stitchery, has been in the show for seven years. Several more exhibitors have been four, five and six year veterans of the fair.

Other officers of the festival are Sunny Mays, vice president, who is in charge of advertising and publicity, and Richard Meadows, Mentone councilman, treasurer. Ovie Blalock is in charge of entertainment both days.

An added feature this year will be the Thunder Mountain Expirations with Mentone members Mack and Lula Blalock, Casey Jones, E. L. Harris, Champ Windam, and Ruby Jones are also in the group. There will be square dancing and clogging by the Valley Promenaders, the Desoto Squares, the Country Creek Cloggers, and the Little River Cloggers. These groups will serve homemade ice cream both days.

The Mentone Church of God will have food, and the fire department will have its drinks trailer.

Valley Head, Hammondville, and Mentone Little League fathers will be in charge of parking facilities. Luke Lucas will be assisted in his security duties by a uniformed policeman from Valley Head.

Once again the gates will be staffed by the Rhododendron Garden Club ladies and their spouses. Bobby Brown will facilitate the electrical hook-ups. The 75 exhibitors and demonstrators will have their places assigned by Barbara Blalock.

JULY MEETING

Mentone Area
Preservation Association

Speaker: Bob Elmore

Executive Director — Chattanooga Visitors and Convention Bureau Election and installation of officers, and a potluck supper. Bring your favorite dish.

Presiding: Amelia Kirk Brooks, Director

Everyone Welcome

Refreshments and Social time follow

The Parlor

St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Church

Tuesday, July 2, 1986 7:00 p.m.

Fire Protection

Mentone residents have received a sticker with the names and phone numbers of the volunteer firemen. The sticker was enclosed in a report to the citizens from Chairwoman Marty Griffin of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District. She urges everyone to place these brilliant red stickers on their telephones.

"This past year," she says, "We have managed to pay off our mortgage at the Bank of Fyffe and our debt on the pump repairs from last year. With the help of matching funds from the State Forestry Commission we purchased a radio for the truck." This radio enables the firemen to talk with No. 28 fire control located in the Police Department at Powell, along with other volunteer fire departments who have radio units, and the DeKalb County Forest Ranger.

"The board has also approved purchase of two 'beepers.' Volunteers in Mentone will receive immediate notification of fires in our own area from a base station in Powell. Many of you," reminds Chairwoman Griffin, "will remember that several years ago we asked for donations toward a communication system. Until now we have been unable to find a system that we could afford. The beepers were purchased with money from these donations. This system will be particularly helpful in contacting forest fires in our area."

Brownlow Praises Mentone Attractions

"The economy of the entire country has changed over the years from agricultural, to manufacturing, to service oriented businesses. Tourism is now a competitive part of service-oriented industry."

These remarks were made during the June 2 meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association by Jenny Brownlow, executive director of the Alabama Mountain Lakes Association.

"Some \$764,000,000 was spent in the sixteen-county area represented by our organization. Because of the terrorism abroad, more people will be spending their vacations in this country. It is our hope that Alabama businesses will profit from this increase in summer visitors to our area."

The speaker was especially complimentary of the attractions of the Mentone vicinity, pointing to DeSoto Falls, the State Park, Cragsmere Manna, a bed and breakfast, ski and golf course, and all the camps and other attractions.

In response to a question about the possible threat of tourism to the natural environment, she said that tourism is a reusable industry. "Visitors come, use the facilities, go away to return again."

Ken Pennington is a former president of Alabama Mountain Lakes Association. Its purpose is to publicize the more than seventy attractions for tourists in this area.

How We Voted

In principal races of local interest in the June 3 primary the following are recorded: GOVERNOR — Graddick 84; Baxley 59. Lieutenant Governor — Folsom 103; Mitchem 88. ATTORNEY GENERAL — Siegelman 120; STATE SENATOR — Lowell Barron 190; Green 33; REPRESENTATIVE — Burke 130; Summerville 40. PRESIDENT COUNTY COMMISSION — Sparks 112; Buttram 47. DISTRICT 1 — Hunt 158; Uptain 37. DISTRICT 2 — Chitwood 73; Ridgeway 65. DISTRICT 3 — Anderson 45; Shirey 41. DISTRICT 4 — Brandon 119; Bradshaw 73. SHERIFF — Richards 124; Weaver 78. BOARD OF EDUCATION — DISTRICT 4 — Johnson 115; Willoughby 105.

Runoffs are June 24.

MAPA Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Amelia Brooks, director, at 7:05. Minutes from the last meeting were read and approved. Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$8,091.96. Groundhog report showed a balance of \$1,486.86.

New business: Jean McGehee reported on the nominating committee meeting: Present officers were re-nominated and agreed to serve another term. A ballot will be in the next Groundhog for out-of-town members. Voting will take place on July 8.

Old business: Wall building project is delayed until after elections of public officials. June Jam: cheaper source of corn was found and fried pies will be sold. Donna Bukley reported on the Rhododendron Festival (See elsewhere) and thanked her workers.

Guest speaker was Jenny Brownlow (See elsewhere). Meeting adjourned at 8:08.

— Condensed from minutes of Bill Riedesel, sec't.

Groundhog Finance Report

May Issue

Income	
Balance on hand	\$846.89
Ad Sales	\$740.00
	\$2,586.89
Debits	
U. S. Post Office, stamps	\$22.00
McGehees, expenses, editing	100.00
U. S. Post Office	76.65
Donna Bukley, sales, delivery	291.00
Greg Purvis, reporting	15.00
Angelo Rosario, photos	10.00
The Summerville News Co.	585.38
	\$1,100.03
Balance on hand	\$1,486.86

Rhododendron Finance

Expenses:	
Quilt cost materials, etc.	\$150.00
Rhody nursery cost	750.00
Printing	190.17
Signs	20.00
Porta-potties	135.00
Entertainment	375.00
Publicity tapes	149.00
Queen prizes	125.00
Trophies	101.60
Banner material and painting	99.44
Florist	21.40
Misc. costs mowing, file case, river attendant	31.20
Total	\$2,219.53
Income:	
Quilt ticket sales	\$933.00
Rhody flower sales	1,171.00
Vendors spaces	330.00
Beauty contest entrance fees	85.00
Boat rides	even? (about \$20 profit)
Total	\$2,519.00

This is not a complete report as some monies and some bills are yet to come in, but it's close.

Shurleen Froehler

Letter To The Editor

Let me compliment you on the wonderful monthly newspaper. I've been going to the family summer home almost 50 years now, so I have a great fondness for that mountain. As a side note, our family home was built almost 80 years ago and the group has never had a family reunion. Well, on the 5th of July about 56 of us will gather at the house on the brow road.

Keep up the great work,
Pete Wood



Restaurant

Mentone, Alabama

Wed-Sat. Sunday Buffet

5-9 634-4677 12-3

—Reservations Accepted—

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 1987.

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
Shurleen Froehler, Treasurer
Homer Crow, Past Director
Gregory Purvis, Student Reporter

Brow Briefs

Bill and Marie Shadgett, charter MAPA members now in their native Canada, have sold their new home there and moved into a condominium since they wish to spend three months in our South in the winters. Their new address is 1818 Cherryhill Rd., Suite 302, Peterborough, Ontario, K9K 1S6, Canada.

Mae Shigley received a \$25 gift certificate from K-Mart during the recent Citizens Day co-sponsored by the RSVP, the Council on Aging, and the Baptist Medical Center.

Everyone is invited to the dedication of the new multi-purpose Gym/Chapel Building and swimming pool on Sunday, June 22, at Ponderosa Bible Camp. If you wish to stay for supper at 6:30 with the staff and campers, please make a reservation by phoning 634-3795.

Congratulations to four of the 36 students in the GED program taught by Mrs. Eugene D. Smith at Moon Lake School this past year: Estelle Hale, Janice Stanford, Becky Brown, and Johnny Sampson, Sr. Official word had been received before The Groundhog went to press of their having successfully passed the examinations and been awarded their high school diplomas. Isaac Bohannon, father of Mentone's Maxine Baty, also received his diploma.

Others are expected to take the test after the school year has ended. Summer classes in the Northeast Alabama Area Adult Basic Education Program will be held at the Williams Avenue School in Fort Payne on Mondays from 6 to 9 p.m. (845-0465) and at the DeKalb County Public Library from 9 to noon on Thursdays (845-0465).

Mountain Cookery

MENTONE MOUNTAIN COOKBOOK: A Collection of Recipes Sponsored by United Methodist Women of Mentone, Alabama. 164 pages. \$10 plus \$1.00 per copy for mailing costs and handling.

A quality cookbook which should be on the shelves of area people for scores of years to come has been published by the United Methodist Women of Mentone. Favorite recipes of Lookout Mountain cooks are included, along with those of members of the now world-famous Alabama Band.

Not only is the volume up-to-the-minute with latest gourmet developments and such techniques as microwave, it has recipes from yesterday. There is a handy table of contents, dishes for one or two persons (often ignored in other cookbooks), low calorie and low sodium dishes, and a glossary of terms.

Following is a list of the sections of recipes: meat, poultry, seafood; main dishes and casseroles; breads and rolls; vegetables and natural foods; soups and sauces; salads; desserts, frostings, pies; cookies and candy.

The Groundhog editors unqualifiedly recommend this book on its qualities of historic preservation, of recipes from the past, and its modern attention to newest developments. Orders may be placed to Linda Brown, Route 1, Box 271, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

Business News

Ellis Clark's new hardware structure is nearing completion on Highway 117 near the West Fork Little River Bridge. Clark's present business is located in the Town Hall.

Helen Turner is opening Helen's Doll House upstairs at the White Elephant Galleries. She will be offering dolls of all types, some porcelains, some hand-made and other items of various nature. Her sewing business is at the same location.

The Log Cabin Deli has been sold by the Weavers to Carmie and Brenda Pettry. They are residents of Fyffe and will commute. No major changes are planned. Before moving to Alabama they were in the restaurant business in Texas.

Mountain Watch

By Charles White McGehee

Back around 1927 in Mississippi when I was an early teenager, aviation was my obsession. I kept scrapbooks about Lindbergh and Byrd, collected specifications about planes, and took my first ride in an open cockpit Waco OX-5. Except for circumstances I probably would have become a pilot.

Because of a constant interest in aviation, I enjoy talking with Bill Riedesel, MAPA secretary. Aviation has been his lifetime pursuit. Beyond that, he truly loves flying. One day when we were in the midst of an enjoyable conversation, he suddenly said, "We probably disagree on most political issues." Then we agreed that opposite political views in no way seemed to intrude upon a warm personal friendship.

This immediately brought to mind my brother Ben, perhaps my favorite of our large family of eight brothers and sisters. Over the years we enjoyed a warm and amiable relationship. Of diametrically opposite philosophical viewpoints, there was no breakdown in the genuineness of our communication. He was a food broker. In our early struggling days when Jean and I visited Mississippi, he would load the back of our station wagon with samples of canned and dried foods.

Several years ago Ben died. On a subsequent visit to his widow Rebecca in Jackson, she said, "Charley, I keep getting letters from various organizations requesting donations. You know, Ben contributed to a lot of causes. Can you help me write a form letter to send out to help get these things discontinued?"

She brought out a stack of letters, which I examined one by one. An almost unbelievable contrast was immediately obvious. It was both emotionally overwhelming and strikingly humorous. His letters were in direct contrast to those I received soliciting funds for causes.

Ben's letters from the National Republican Committee equated mine from the National Democratic Headquarters. He used to say, "My vote knocks yours out."

His letters from the National Rifle Association contrasted mine from the National Council to Control Handguns.

Requests he received from organizations for support of capital punishment were as routine as mine for legislation for its abolition.

Ben's routine solicitation for funds from the Southern Baptist Convention equaled in volume mine for support of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Solicitation for the work of the Right to Life organization were in direct opposition to those I routinely receive for support of those groups advocating a woman's right to choice over her own body.

On and on the contrasts could go. Various other groups soliciting funds from Ben counterbalanced mine from The United Nations Association, Common Cause, and the American Civil Liberties Union. Whatever mailings he received from Citizens Council type organizations contrasted my mail from SCLC and NAACP.

Such was the chasm of our political, religious, and philosophical differences. During his lifetime we discussed these things sometimes heatedly. Never, however, did they diminish our mutual love, respect, friendship for each other.

It is not enough merely to describe Ben as conservative and Charles as liberal. In their fashion, conservatives desire to maintain the essentials of democratic existence, fearful of too much government, careful about change. Liberals think conservatives move too slowly, that government must do those things collectively which individuals cannot do separately. The definitions go on and on, sometimes humorous, sometimes biting.

A liberal is someone who likes to spend someone else's money.

A conservative is one who believes in a past that never was.

It's difficult anymore really to tell who is liberal and who is conservative. Lines are being crossed, things are moving so rapidly.

Franklin Roosevelt once told a story which is relevant. Once in a town square there was a huge oak tree which over the years everyone loved. Some of its branches were rotting. Some thought it was becoming a threat and an eyesore. There was a town meeting. The radicals said, "Cut it down." The conservatives said, "Don't touch it." The liberals said, "Let's prune away the rotten branches, give it some fertilizer, and see what we can do to save it."

So, some day my aviator friend Bill Riedesel and I are going to get together, make a list of subjects, and discuss them one by one. My prediction is that we would still be good friends afterward.

Ballot

OUT OF TOWN MEMBERS

Mentone Area Preservation Officers

Director Amelia Kirk Brooks ()

Associate Director . . . Donna Bukley ()

Secretary Bill Riedesel ()

Treasurer Shurleen Froehler ()

Other Choices

Mail to Box 50, Mentone, Alabama 35984
Prior to July 1, 1986



Moon Lake School News



Chris Stallings



Dewayne Cash

Graduation exercises were held at Moon Lake School May 31. Juanita Smith played for the processional and recessional. Class salutatorian was Chris Stallings; valedictorian was Dewayne Cash. The class history was presented by Wendy Manifold, Jeff Crow, and Jennifer Furgerson. The last will and testament was read by Michele Hopper. Andrea Powell gave the class poem. Clark Smith and Leslie Day read the prophecy.

Graduates were Nathan Baggett, Dewayne Cash, Jeffrey Crow, Tiffany Coots, Leslie Day, Richard Dodd, Ricky Frasier, Jennifer Furgerson, Richard Harrison, Denise Hilliard, April Hunter, Michele Hopper, Donald Ingram, Wendy Manifold, Carlotta McGee, Andrea Powell, William Smith, Christopher Stallings, Jeremy Webb, and Spring Wimberly. Ushers were Clay Green, Sam Whatley, and Charlton Bell. Trustees present were Joan Harrison, Nelson Stallings, and Max Cash.

Chris Stallings, class salutatorian, had a perfect attendance record from kindergarten through the sixth grade.

Students having perfect attendance for this school year include for Kindergarten, Grace Godbois, teacher: Brad Hale and Haley Hilliard. Grades 1, 2, Brenda Bobo, teacher: Amy Crane, Cassidy Hudgins, Heather Jackson,

and Brandon Taylor. Grades 2, 3, William Berry, teacher: Nichole Cash, Jennifer Hale, Cheri Keith, and Eric King. Grades 4, 5, Joyce Smith, teacher: Kip Taylor, Carla King, Whitney Smith, Kelly Johnson, Stacie Worthey, Bridgett Blalock, Sally Sharp, Junior Smith, Michael Flannigan. Grades 5, 6, Charles O. Bell, teacher: Shannon Blalock, Sam Whatley, Clay Green, Ivy Godbois, Allison Kirby, Dewayne Cash, Clark Smith, and Chris Stallings.

Those having perfect attendance for eight month's were Teri Campbell, Ginger Gray, Renee Pruitt, Brian Smith, Nikki Smith, Crystal Bettis, Josh Godbois, Chris Smith, Marian Crane, Tiffany Coots, Jeff Crow, Jennifer Furgerson.

Students having perfect attendance for seven months of this past school year include Rene Brendle, Grant Meadows, Brian Blalock, Kerry Blalock, Curt Miller, Jon Baggett, Terry Furham, Jason Goss, Matthew Kilgore, Joseph Lee, Matthew Smith, Darrin Smith, Richard Harrison.

Six month's perfect attendance: Anna Crow, Nathan Keith, Lee Worthey, Nicky Langston, Shaunathan Bell, Josh Goss, Trevor Strickland, Melissa Worthey.

Five month's: Jennifer Smith, Krissy Brown, Chad Smith, Cayla Bell, Shirley Collins, Lisa Drake, Kevin Worthey, John Chambers, Toby Manifold, Shane Ingram.

Four month's: Angela Hunt, Corey Ingram, Adam Hilliard, Emily Rutledge, Yon Hopper, Michael Shandruk, Mary Battles, Denise Hilliard, Wendy Manifold.

Three month's: Chris Helms, Joe Combs, April Hunter, Michele Hopper.

Two month's: April Gold, Richard Dodd.

One month: Gabby Furgerson, Becky Ballinger, Pam Hunt, Kay Evans.

The Moon Lake Boys 4-H Club met May 5 with Mr. Shackelford, 4-H Agent, speaking on "Contests and Activities." Reporter was Charlton Bell. Clay Green, president, presided. Dewayne Cash, Richard Harrison, and Toby Manifold were song leaders. Jeff Crow gave the devotional. Clark Smith, vice president, led in the pledges of allegiance to the flag and in the 4-H pledge. Nathan Baggett is secretary.

The Library

"Where are the books about ghosts?"

"I want to read about cats and dogs."

"I want to read about World War II."

"Where can we check out the new books that have not been marked yet?"

These are only a few of the comments of the excited students at the April 28 opening of the Moon Lake Elementary School Library. The students' enthusiasm was even greater than the library committee had expected.

Thanks to the hard work of volunteers and the generous donations from many community individuals, MAPA, the Garden Club, and the DeKalb County Public Library, the dream of a school library has become a reality.

Though the process of opening the new facilities took much more time than originally expected, the goal of allowing students to check out books before the end of the 1985-86 school year was met.

The new 1300 book library is housed in one room of the Moon Lake Baptist parsonage, located next to the school.

Kathie Disney
Moon Lake School Library



MOON LAKE GYM NEARS COMPLETION

Space Camp Winners

David Eugene Bosworth and Karen Ann Bosworth, 12 and 11 years old, children of Bill and Sherry Bosworth, won scholarships to the United States Space Camp at the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. They wrote essays about the Challenger tragedy in a contest sponsored by Channel 31. Seven young persons in North Alabama were awarded scholarships. David and Karen Ann attend Valley Head School and live in Mentone. Their grandparents are Sid and Virginia Bosworth, also of Mentone.



KAREN ANN



DAVID

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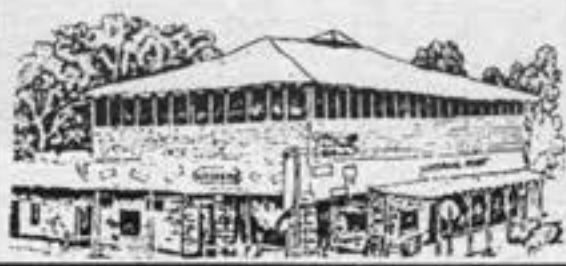
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CROWS' NEST ANTIQUES
Jean Elrod - Bernise Crow



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The Mentone Troubador



The Mentone Troubador is here to stay. Tony Goggans has established a business and is moving into a local residence.

It has been a natural progression. As a guitarist-singer and master of ceremonies at the last two Rhododendron Festivals and October Colorfests, as a soloist at Cragmere Manna Restaurant and St. Joseph's on the Mountain, he has become a prominent factor in the life of Mentone.

He is known throughout the southeast as a member of the Malibou Mountain Band. His jingles for political candidates and such businesses as Lowe's Auto Shop in Fort Payne have been heard with increasing regularity on regional radio stations.

Name of the new business is Jingle Masters, a company for the production of musical advertisement. It is prepared to write, perform, and record musical jingles. Many of them feature Susan Bolding, also a member of the Malibou band.

Tony and his wife Dana and their two daughters have moved into Sharon Barron's house on Camp Laney Road. Jingle Masters is in a nearby building.

The Mentone Troubador is also the coordinator of The Musical Village, which is a project of local arts-crafts people, restaurants, and business people. Located on the deck of the Log Cabin Deli, it provides music Saturdays 10-2, and Sundays 12-2. Among the performers in addition to Tony and Susan are Randy Still, bass, of Cragmere; Bernise Crow and Jean Elrod of Crow's Nest Antiques; Dorothy Crow, Angela Jones, and Judy Sims.

Families Of Mentone

thirteenth in a series

"The folks who came to Mentone from the East, New England, and the Midwest were high quality people," said Jessie O'Rear Whitehead. Certainly the Libby family from Portland, Maine, is worthy of this description.

Horatio Thomas Libby and Mary Louise Libby came to Mentone in 1881. They were members of the larger Libby family. They came by train to Valley Head, bringing their four year old son Ralph Westcott Libby with them, as well as their furniture. The furniture was hauled up the rough mountain roads by a team of oxen.

The Libbys had always been city people, but the lure of milder winters brought them to Mentone. Horatio had boarded with the Masons while his house was being built. He homesteaded along the brow, from the present Parker property to the Ephgrave place. Horatio's health was poor, and he was able to live only sixteen years in Mentone before his death.

Horatio had worked at an arsenal in Hilton Head, South Carolina, during the Civil war. He worked in Chattanooga as a machinist after his move to Mentone. Ralph was his only child.

Ralph Westcott Libby was tutored and went to private schools in Mentone. One of his teachers, a Professor Baggett, went on to teach in New York City, and the family visited with this dignified scholar there on their trips back and forth to Maine. Another, Professor Taylor, later taught at a college in Virginia. Ralph Libby maintained a life-long love for reading, and after the loss of his eyesight, his daughter Mary enjoyed reading to him.

The family employed several farmers before World War II — the Doss, Parker, Clark and Miller families all farmed there. They also raised cattle. Ralph Libby was married to Nellie Jane Swader, of Fort Payne and Henagar; they were parents of two daughters.

Marjorie Libby Gray is married to Robert Gray, on the power board in Chattanooga. They are parents of one son, Robert. Marjorie taught for 22 years. She is a graduate of the University of Chattanooga.

Mary Libby Crow and her sister went to Moon Lake School through the ninth grade. They walked to school across the old covered bridge. Mary also walked to Valley Head her first year there. She, like her sister, attended the university in Chattanooga.

Ralph Libby purchased "Jerico," summer home of Mrs. C. P. Orr (Lynette McCary's grandmother) and made it his family's home. Mary Crow, widow of Austin Crow, still lives in the home where she has always lived. She and Austin were parents of one daughter, Jane Blansit. Jane and Calvin live in Valley Head with their children Stacey and Angela.

Austin Crow loved machinery and worked in Chattanooga and Rome, Georgia. Today Mary Crow keeps up the family tradition of cattle raising at Meadowbrook, assisted by Richard Goss.

The Libbys have always enjoyed traveling. Ralph and Nellie Libby first took their teen-aged daughters Marjorie and Mary to Europe by ship. Since that time the sisters have traveled on their own, never with a tour group, but visiting friends and going by rail all over Europe. Mary Crow also has fond memories of trips to Canada, Hawaii, Mexico and to the Caribbean islands.

Today Mary Crow receives a great deal of satisfaction from living in the Libby home, enjoying the wedding furniture her grandparents brought from Maine, and anticipating visits from family members. Jessie Whitehead's judgement has proven to be correct. Northeast Alabama has been enriched by these transplants from New England. — JDM

Doc's Class

It may not be too late for you to register for the "Photography Composition" course to be conducted by local master photographer Doc Long at the Charles Counts' Pottery Workshop the week of June 16-20. Titled "Focus on Design" this summer workshop also features "Drawing and Design" by the well-known Chattanooga artist Dorothy Gannon. For full details, call Doc Long at 634-4423.

Summer Residents

Please help us keep Mentone beautiful. Make careful disposition of your garbage. For efficient disposal call Downer's, 635-6379, or take your garbage to Downer's in Hammondville where Highway 117 crosses old Highway 11.

DID YOU KNOW

That according to Postmaster Benny Goss, the Mentone Post Office has grown by 25 new boxes during the past few months?

Parkway Dedicated At Rhododendron Festival

History was made. The golden spike was driven completing the Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway. The Rhododendrons were celebrated. The queens were crowned; the food was better than ever; the crafts displays excelled; the cloggers clogged marvelously; the quilt was won by Robert G. Thompson of Pinson, Alabama; the boats carried their passengers up Little River to view the foliage; and the rains came just as the parade was about to begin — cancelling the foregoing Sunday afternoon

festivities. But this ended the drought and people were happy about it. Slightly behind schedule, the two caravans arrived Saturday — one from Gadsden's Nocalula Falls, the other from Point Lookout in Chattanooga. Speakers at the Parkway celebration were Joe Barnes, Alabama vice-president; Carl Gibson, vice-president for Tennessee; Jackie Weaver, director from Alabama; Ruth Moore, tourism director for Dade County, Georgia; Gaynelle Pitts, director, Alabama Fan Club; and Doug Benton, director,

Alabama Tourism. In subsequent ceremonies, Senator Lowell Barron presented the \$2,500 check from the Alabama Historical Commission to Amelia Kirk Brooks, Director, Mentone Area Preservation Association. This is for replacement of the Hwy. 117 rock wall. Both Senator Barron and Director Brooks said that the goal is to preserve a beautiful natural area and a wonderful small town.



Jane Blansit, director of the Rhododendron Queens Pageant, was assisted by Sandra Padgett. Walter Sumner was master of ceremonies. Judges were from Northeast State Junior College; Ider, Alabama; and Atlanta, Georgia.

The winners were Senior, Stephanie Mullins; Senior

Alternate, Shaney McElhaney; Tenth and Eleventh Grade Winner, Alecia Huiet; Tenth and Eleventh grade Alternate, Jennifer Palmer. Seventh-Ninth Grade Winner, Angela Blansit; Seventh-Ninth Grade Alternate, Christy McKenzie. Fourth-Sixth Grade Winner, Heather Harper; Fourth-

Sixth Grade Alternate, Andrea Powell. Kindergarten — Third Grade Winner, Kim McKinney; Kindergarten — Third Grade Alternate, Cindy Cherry.

Our Town

By Greg Purvis

The Mentone Fire Department held a rummage and bake sale during the Rhododendron Festival which raised a few hundred dollars going to the purchase of fire equipment.

Due to excessive rains in May, the repair on the Desoto Park pool was delayed past Memorial Day. According to Talmadge Butler, the pool should be opened by June 10. The park expects a good crowd from the June Jam to visit. Already all lodging in the park is reserved.

During the June meeting of the DeSoto Rescue Squad, several changes and topics were discussed. A new meeting time was set for 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. Greg Purvis was elected as the Rescue Squad reporter. Plans were reviewed which had been made during the county meeting May 19. Ples Cox, David Mays and Paul Purvis attended this meeting. These plans included work schedules for the June Jam, to be held on June 14 and 15. During May, the only call for the Squad was to park cars at the Hammondville Political Rally on 31.

The 1986 graduating class at Valley Head High School includes Mentone residents Jeff Bain, John Bain, Shelley Blalock, Kim Cash, Susanne Crabtree, Chris Gilliland, Richard Green, George Hulet III, Barbara McDaniel, Karen Prestwood, Cindy Pullen, Julie Smith, William Smith and Lisa Strickland. Honor graduates, who are members of the Beta Club, are Bonnie Blalock and Kim Langston. Congratulations to these Seniors.

Eric Kirby and Shala Barron graduated with honors this year from Fort Payne High School. The High School held its ceremony for the class of 1986 on May 30 at 7:00 p.m. at the football stadium.

During the Hammondville Political Rally held on May 31, Mentone students David Lusk, guitar, and George Hulet, singer, performed with the rock group Vital Signs. Tony Goggans was the emcee for the Rally. Mayor Dorothy Blackburn of Hammondville reports the rally a big success.

The American Legion held a flag ceremony on Memorial Day, May 26, at Little River and Bankhead cemeteries. Families visited their relatives' graves and laid flowers on them. In Mentone dozens of men have been buried in military honor, veterans of World Wars I and II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Shannon Biddle of Valley Head gave his life while in Beirut, Lebanon.

Mountain Greenery

When I quit teaching, some of my friends were incredulous that I preferred pulling weeds to teaching adolescents. They didn't know that it's partly an inherited trait — my mother loved to pull weeds — and partly because of the instant improvement readily observed.

Mother used a small, metal stool, but I squat, kneel, and sit in the dirt. It's great exercise and satisfying since the weeds aren't cut or chopped, but come up, roots and all. It took me almost three hours to weed my garden this year. It's 29 x 37, divided into 8 triangles with a rectangular border. McGregor, our older son, says it's just like the British flag.

Mother divided weeds into two varieties: wet and dry. I'd hate to have to pull wet weather weeds, because the dry weather ones were humongous. For my seventh year of gardening in this spot, no new manure was required. I'd put ground-up leaves and ashes on the beds during the four months of dormancy. These I turned over with Daddy's old potato rake and with our pitchfork.

Two big advantages come from using raised beds — I plant so thickly that the plants form their own mulch, and when heavy rains come (we can hope), no damage is done to the plants. Charles engineered for all of our gutters to drain underground and come out (in a rock pile) at the head of my garden. The soil stays moist and friable. I rotate the vegetables and keep the herbs in the center. The newspapers and sawdust I put down in the paths last year

are still clear of weeds. Once the garden is growing, there simply isn't room for weeds.

In August of '83 I entered WGBH's Victory Garden Contest and was a finalist for one of the six regions in the country. Rudy Perkins, the off-camera gardener, came down from Boston to visit my garden, but a Virginia garden was the Southern winner.

Although I never really expected to win since my garden is relatively small, I was annoyed when I recall the first show after Rudy visited here. Bob Thompson, the host, said, "Never, never pull weeds by hand. Always use a hoe."

Thinking there's only one way to weed a garden is like thinking there's only one religion, race, or government that's right. One may be preferred, but differences alone don't make it superior.

This year's warm weather followed by dogwood and blackberry winters isn't unusual for Mentone. April 18, 1983, the temperature was in the 20's here, and there was snow on the forsythia. Last year there was a drought in April and heavy rain the last two weeks of May.

During the summer we have other perils to confront. July 1, two years ago, hail knocked off every peach on our largest dwarf tree. There was no rain that year from Aug. 15 to Oct. 1. Maybe all gardeners are gamblers at heart, basic optimists, always looking forward to next year. — JDM

Parkway Protested

During the Parkway dedication ceremonies, a table was set up behind the Hitching Post where individuals were urged to sign the following petition: "We, the undersigned residents, landowners and lovers of the unspoiled lifestyle and natural beauty of Lookout Mountain, do strongly oppose the promotion and development of the Lookout Mountain Parkway."

When contacted by *The Groundhog*, Lyle Nicely said that approximately 300 persons had signed the petition, which was also placed in Mentone businesses. He stated that an organization is planned to oppose not only the parkway but promotion of the area in general. Heather Nicely is chairperson of the group, according to Nicely,

Checker Champion

For the second year in a row Mentone's Glenn Baty won the DeKalb County Championship, held this year at Henagar on May 10. Glenn, also a story-teller and folk musician, had won the county championship on several other years prior to 1984. "There was some pretty tough competition," he said. "I only won by one point."

Mentone's checker champion will be entered in the state contest at Fort Payne's Best Western July 12-13.

and may be contacted by mail at Star Route, Box 146 (30709) Cloudland, Georgia. In Mentone, Patricia Bryan may be phoned at 634-4232.

Mentone Original? Mentone Mansard?

No planning commission planned it. No architect sketched it. It just evolved — a distinctive roofline, giving a distinctive character to five downtown businesses. It first appeared at Clydel's Beauty Shop. Billy Cash was the builder. Homer Crow used a variation on the Gourdies Shop portion of The Hitching Post. Builder Hoyle Smith is responsible for the new roof at the Mentone Superette of the Blackburns, The Strawberry Patch, and Furgerson's Grocery (now in construction). When *The Groundhog* contacted Mr. Smith, he was uncertain of the exact term descriptive of the new roofline. Local architect Guy Staub

knew of no proper term and wryly said, "Perhaps we should coin one." Twice the word **mansard** came up. But Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines a mansard roof as one having on all sides (four) two slopes, the lower one being steeper than the upper one. The new Mentone roofs do not meet this description. Advantage of the new style (not unique to Mentone) are that its steepness quickly disposes of heavy rains and snows, preventing (hopefully) leaks. So, then what shall be adopted as a term: "Mentone Original?" "Mentone Mansard?" What do you think?



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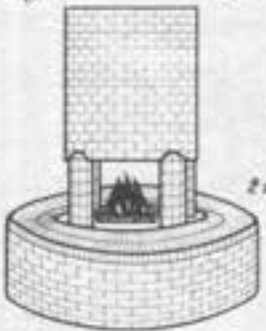


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Fourth Of July
(Continued From Cover)

of the year-round citizens.

Summer people required milk, butter, and buttermilk, and the Kings helped to supply them. Vegetables were bought locally, and Luke remembers that Norris Baty sold meat to the summer people.

"My Uncle Willie would kill a shoat and share it with the rest of us, and this would go on in succession around each individual family until it was cold enough for each to put up his own meat for the winter," King says.

Luke asked **The Groundhog**, "Do you know why old folks spend most of their time reminiscing about the past rather than participating in the present?"

The answer: "Because they can't hear what's going on in the present!"

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There were harder winters in the old days and snow fell more frequently and was deeper. "And when anybody was sick, everybody knew it. Everyone helped and came to see you. Now somebody can be sick, dead, and buried before you hear about it," he says.

"Dr. Floyd would come to your house from Valley Head for \$2.40," King recalls. After the summer people went back to their cities, local residents turned to each other during the long winters.

Although King professes to having a deficient memory, he quickly remembers names of children he went to school with more than eighty years ago. "Oh, I remember Ras and Lora Perkins, the Masons, Johnsons — Pauline, Louise, Samuel, Luther; Howard Sullivan, the Hartlines — Alpha, Dudley and Foll."

After Ed Mason's untimely death Moon Lake was sold to Martha Berry (of Rome's famed Berry College) and subsequently to a group of four families from Gadsden. Today it is a private lake, encircled by cottages.

It is difficult to imagine a happier Fourth of July celebration than everyone gathering around Moon Lake, enjoying the rare treat of ice cream and cold lemonade, laughing, gossiping, and enjoying the extra money brought in by the summer tourists.

"Once in a while someone like a politician would get drunk and make a loud speech on the Fourth of July. But we didn't pay too much attention to them," Luke says.

It is obvious, despite his poor hearing and eyesight now, that Luther King is a hard working family man who retains an especially good sense of humor and a capacity for enjoying life.

NOTE: No Mentone Fourth of July ceremonies have been reported, but the Valley Head Fire Department is staging its annual Fireman's Barbecue. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. and will continue until the supply runs out. It will be held at the Valley Head Park on Highway 117.

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ALERT

Leftovers

By Jean McGehee

The French have a saying that the more things change, the more they stay the same. I felt the truth of that statement when I saw a young girl in Fort Payne sporting the latest teen age fashion: a large shirt split up the back about a foot and worn outside her pants. I have several snapshots of me taken in the '40's with my father's and my boyfriend's shirts, only we didn't take the trouble to split them up the back. Also we didn't buy them specially made; we just "borrowed" them.

When I was a little girl, Mother always made a Fourth of July bouquet. She picked Queen Anne's Lace and placed some of the flowers in water she had colored with red ink, some with blue ink, and some left white. Then she dried the blooms and had a patriotic bouquet.

Ben Franklin said that there can be no philanthropy or spirit to a town until enough people have lived there to inherit land, to love it, and to have enough income to want to share it. Although we've only known Mentone for some forty years, I've sure enjoyed sharing it during the summer months. While the skies were threatening just before the Rhododendron Festival parade, I was waiting for a sandwich on the porch of the Log Cabin Deli. An attractive tourist couple approached me and asked me the best route to Collinsville! Proudly I told them, feeling as if I were an old Mentone native from generations back.

During the winter we can see the neighboring houses, but in the spring we begin to see the greenery fill out, and now the other houses are completely obscured. We sit on our back screened porch late at night, enjoying each other or company. We hope we're not too loud, bothering early-retiring neighbors. Occasionally we can hear them chatting and laughing — happy family sounds. We hear, too, sounds from Brow Park. For the most part they're happy, too, and young-sounding. There's seldom annoyance after ten o'clock at night except for now and then a raucous loud-playing car radio or a squealing of tires that some poor parent will have to pay for later.

In the past week I've driven directly behind leading senior citizens of Mentone and seen them cast garbage forth from their automobiles. Driving home from Fort Payne I saw a young father with two small sons not secured by safety seats or belts. He threw out plastic cups and several kinds of paper trash. The school teacher in me made me want to stop him and remind him that example is the best teacher. Then I'd like to have made him spend his money on a fine rather than on his tobacco. I can be mean, too.

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