

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 2 - NO. 12 - MARCH 1985 A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

A Former Mayor, Proud Of His Record

Some people said that Robert Lindsey Daniel, mayor of Mentone from 1972 till 1976, was trying "to make Mentone into a little Miami." Today, laughing, Bob Daniel says, "I just wanted to clean it up."

Mayor Daniel did clean up a large portion of Mentone during his tenure in office. He was a working mayor and got out and cleaned up the area alongside the Town Hall building to create a small park. The building itself was spruced up, and a lighted Christmas tree placed in its front window during December. Benches were placed in the park. The brow park area was also kept clean.

Once during a water shortage so severe that showers were curtailed at area camps, Mr. Daniel secured an army surplus water tank free of charge in Mississippi. The town paid a little over \$100 to move the tank, and Leonard Shigley installed it at the water plant for a reserve tank.

Examination of town council minutes reveals that during Mayor Daniel's term the town dump was closed and covered by the National Guard. Garbage pickup was made compulsory and arrangements made with Downer's Solid Waste Disposal. At the request of the Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone was voted a bird sanctuary. TVA was approached to provide means of improving the Mentone Springs Hotel.

During this time roads were improved



ROBERT LINDSEY DANIEL

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DeSoto Falls Hydro-Electric Project Withdrawn, Page 1

Protests Mount About Deplorable Roads, Page 1

the GROUNDHOG

DeSoto Falls Electric Plant Withdrawn By Maryland Firm

Because of widespread opposition, the application for a preliminary permit for a hydroelectric plant at the DeSoto Falls dam has been withdrawn by Synergics, Inc., of Annapolis, Md.

On March 6, last date for the filing of objections at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington, Judy Kelly, speaking for Casey A. Cummings of the Annapolis firm, stated by telephone to **THE GROUNDHOG** that the withdrawal papers had been prepared and were in transit.

Mayor Rob Hammond, who took strong leadership in filing of the opposition petitions, said that every national and regional official contacted was opposed to the project. "Everyone was indignant," he said.

Petitions of opposition, statements, or letters were submitted by the following:

- The Town Council of Mentone
- The Mentone Area Preservation Association
- The DeKalb County Commission
- The Alabama Conservancy
- Bobby Lee Cook, Summerville attorney and Mentone home-owner
- The Birmingham Audubon Society
- The Rhododendron Garden Club of Mentone
- The Valley Head Women's Club

Crux of the opposition to the plant was eloquently stated by the Rhododendron Garden Club:

(1) For many years the Mentone area has been a beautiful part of Alabama, attracting visitors to the scenic mountain and falls. More and more persons are building homes in this area because of the quiet

(Continued On Page 6)

MAPA Sends Letter To Gov. George Wallace

BULLETIN — As the GROUNDHOG went to press, county trucks were spreading chert on the Ponderosa road, and National Guard equipment was active on Sand Mountain.

Cooperating in the drive to correct the serious condition of county roads, some 28 members and guests of the Mentone Area Preservation Association at its March meeting authorized Director Homer Crow, with the assistance of Art Harris and John Morrison, to address a letter to Governor George Wallace. The text is as follows:

Dear Governor Wallace,

We wish to express our appreciation for the interest and concern you and your staff have shown in reference to the continuing problems we are having with the road conditions here in DeKalb County and especially here on Lookout Mountain. Because of your help, it appears we at long last will be getting the emergency assistance we have needed for so long.

The Mentone Area Preservation Association was organized for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. The majority of the members of MAPA live on Lookout Mountain from DeSoto State Park to the Georgia state line and to the bottom of Lookout Mountain at Valley Head. The residents of this area are very concerned and upset over the extremely poor condition of the roads.

As you know, this is one of the most picturesque areas in Alabama, and people from all over the world visit and enjoy the unique qualities of life that exist here.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts state Senator Lowell Barron and state Representative Ralph Burke have made in contacting you and your staff concerning our road problems. We understand that emergency assistance is coming — our concern, however, is that we need our roads repaired immediately before the tourists and visitors come to this area this spring. We feel this should be done because the condition the roads are now in will project a very poor image for the State of Alabama and certainly for DeKalb County.

The problems on our roads have been created over a long period of time because of lack of coordination and correct maintenance by our county officials, and the severe and extreme winters we experience here on Lookout Mountain.

On behalf of all the members of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the interest and love you have shown toward this area in the past, and we hope you will honor us with another visit soon. When you do come back for a visit, we hope it will be to cut the ribbon for the dedication of the much needed sidewalk and to drive over the roads that you and your staff have helped to improve.

Kindest personal regards,
Homer Crow, Director

copies to
Superintendent of Highway Department Ray Bass
State Senator Lowell Barron
State Representative Ralph Burke
DeKalb County Commission President W. C. Buttram
DeKalb County Road Commissioner Billy Colley
Civil Defense Coordinator in Fort Payne, Arthur Porter

Strong Complaints Lodged About Mentone Area Roads



The Pond

Condition of county roads in the Mentone area has been the subject of vehement complaints to the DeKalb County Commission in recent weeks. Of immediate concern is the 4-mile stretch leading from the water tower toward Ponderosa Bible Camp.

Glenn Miller, director of the camp, told the commission that the road is so unsafe and dangerous to vehicles that the school bus driver is refusing to pick up children; suppliers and vendors are not making deliveries. One huge hole in the dirt road is now filled with water and referred to as The Pond.

Says Miller, "My wife has been so disturbed about driving over the road that she insists on calling when she arrives at her destination when shopping and doing errands." Miller believes the severe cold did aggravate the situation, but the road was already in bad condition last summer. The log trucks have not been running since last summer and the coal trucks for about two years, he said.

Sammy Cash, commissioner for beat 21, who with Miller and others, went to the commission to protest road conditions, says the bad condition of roads in Mentone is not confined to the 4-mile stretch northward. Although he is hopeful that the commission will find means of correction, Cash says, "There are

1985 Rhododendron Festival

Preliminary plans are shaping up for the Annual Rhododendron Festival at Mentone on the weekend of May 18 and 19. Among the features are music by Tony Goggans of the Malibu Mountain Band, arts and crafts demonstrations, crowning of the rhododendron queen, and Little River Boat tours at the time when the foliage is in full bloom.

One meeting has already been held of the committee which consists of the following: Donna Bukley, chairperson, Randy Still, Shurlee Froehler, Grace Howard, Patty Bryan, Harold Jenkins, Sharon Barron, and any other interested persons.

Food concessions will dot the square, and Maggie Cordell is in charge of coordinating and quilting a basket pattern quilt to be raffled off.

One of the most successful of the projects last year was the Little River tours, made possible by Warren Coppedge. The Mercury motor has been stolen from Mr. Coppedge's boat. Any assistance you can give in recovering this motor, call Donna Bukley — 634-4678.

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

(A Panel on the Future of Mentone)

Mayor Rob Hammond
Former Mayor Bob Daniel
Former Councilwoman
Linda Brown

Moderator, The Rev. Robert Blackwell

All citizens are urged to be present for this comprehensive discussion of problems, goals, and possibilities for our town.

Refreshments follow
MENTONE SPRINGS HOTEL
7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 2, 1985



PHOTOS BY ROMA HOPE

Some Potholes

bad conditions on both Lookout and Sand Mountain. There is not much to be happy about."

Veteran councilman Max Cash said at the March town council meeting: "I've written Governor George Wallace that I've not seen our roads in this bad condition since 1957."

The protests widened to a public meeting at the Henagar Town Hall Saturday, March 2, attended by Senator Lowell Barron and Representative Ralph Burke. They announced available state funds for paving of certain highways, but citizens were generally concerned about repairs to dirt roads.

Cooperation was reported being offered by the National Guard, Civil Defense, and school bus drivers who were reporting the most badly damaged sections. There are approximately 85 miles of dirt roads in District Four that need repairing immediately.

County Commissioner Billy Colley stated that he was doing the best he could with the available equipment and limited manpower. Help is forthcoming from the state, he said, but he pointed out that the sections to be repaired would be decided upon by the county engineer.

With improved weather conditions work on the washed out portion half-way down 117 toward Valley Head is moving faster. R. E. Grill Construction Company has almost completed the filling in process, and the paving should be finished by mid-April.

Water Rates Increased

Citing the necessity of funds with which to apply for grants toward the goal of once again having Mentone's own water plant, the Town Council unanimously voted on March 4 to raise local water rates. April rates for May billing will be raised from a minimum of \$8 for the first 3,000 gallons to \$10. The former fee for each 1,000 gallons over the minimum was \$2.25. This has been raised to \$2.75.

Mentone is on a poverty list of having more citizens below the national median income than above and thus is eligible for federal grants. These grants usually require 10 percent matching funds, according to Mayor Rob Hammond and Councilman Richard Meadows who attended a recent workshop at Northeast Alabama Junior College in Rainsville.

Councilmen reluctantly raised the rates, but are aware of higher rates in nearby communities, such as the \$14 minimum charged in Ider. The council did not enact special commercial rates at this time.

Other business conducted at the March council meeting included accepting of bids for the current water improvement program. Low bidder for the tank rework was Jordan Industrial Coatings. Low bidder for the lines installation was ACD Construction, Inc., from Fayetteville, Tenn. Target date for completion of the work is this coming summer. Jordan Industrial Coatings bid \$8,984, while ACD's bid was \$129,514.60.

Council members including the mayor will repair potholes in town paved roads. A new sign is being made for Desoto Parkway at the top of the mountain near the road to the falls marking the town limit and welcoming visitors. It will match signs leading into DeSoto State Park.

Final business included reimbursing former Mayor Daniel for \$25 for having a tree cut which fell over the parkway and having a load of chert hauled to Dogwood Lane, leading to the Rosario and Bosworth homes.

MAPA Minutes

Following approval of the minutes, the treasurer's report revealed a balance on hand of \$3,424.97 as of March 1, 1985. **Groundhog** balance was \$660.12. Because publication date is now in the middle of the month, a committee of Maggie Cordell and Frances Rosario was appointed to call all local members to remind them of the meetings.

Chairperson Donna Bukley reported on the Rhododendron Festival (see story elsewhere). For the Centennial Committee Bernise Crow reported that Homer Crow is still owed \$1,000 which he lent to start the celebration. Decision was made to accept Jimmy Frazier's offer for MAPA to sell his limited prints with a 40 percent commission. Proceeds would go toward repayment of Homer.

There was much discussion of needed road repairs (see story elsewhere), building of the sidewalk and repair of the 117 wall down the mountain. Individuals were urged to write the governor about the roads and the sidewalk.

MAPA members decided against having a booth at the Canyon Land Park Rhododendron Festival.

Director Homer Crow appointed the following nominating committee to submit a slate of officers for 1985-86: Maggie Cordell, Jean McGehee, and Randy Still.

Amelia Brooks, Recording Secretary
March 5, 1985

Groundhog Finance Report

FEBRUARY ISSUE

Income	
Balance on hand	\$673.39
Ad Sales	390.00
	\$1,063.39
Debits	
U. S. Post Office	\$61.52
Jimmy Frazier, drawing	30.00
Riddle's, sales forms	16.00
The Summerville News Co.	207.25
Donna Bukley, sales and delivery	88.50
	\$403.27
Balance on hand	\$660.12

Springtime In Alabama

Springtime in Alabama means the Mentone Rhododendron Festival. It also means many other statewide events.

Springtime in Alabama means the opening of beautiful flowers. It also means the opening of beautiful historic homes. March and April are traditionally the months for annual tours of older homes and buildings, scheduled this year in at least nine cities around the state.

Alabama's pilgrimage season begins March 13 in Mobile and March 15 in Lowndesboro. Later tours will take place in Selma, Tuscaloosa, Eufaula, Huntsville, Talladega, Athens, and Florence.

All of the pilgrimages will hold daylight tours, and several have scheduled evening candlelight tours as well. Antique shows, arts and craft shows, and tea rooms are being offered during some of the pilgrimage weekends.

For advance information about individual tours, contact the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, 532 South Perry Street, Montgomery, AL 36104, or call (205) 261-4169.

American Indians

DeSoto Caverns near Childersburg will be the site for the 10th Annual Indian Dance Festival and Pioneer Fair March 23-24, a benefit for the Alabama Boy Scouts. American Indians and Order of the Arrow Scouts will participate in the dance program.

The festival will feature an arts and crafts show of pioneer, contemporary and Indian articles. Country and bluegrass bands will provide entertainment.

Authentic Indian history displays will include relics and teepees, games, black gunpowder fights and dancing in full Indian costume.

All activities will take place in the wooded park outside DeSoto Caverns. The gate will open at 9 a.m. each day and close at 5:30 p.m. To learn admission or directions, contact DeSoto Caverns, Rt. 1, Hwy. 76, Childersburg, AL 35044, or call 205/378-7252.

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 \$5 for voting membership for one through June 1985.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____



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
Homer Crow, Director
Donna Bukley Associate Director
Amelia Brooks, Secretary
Shurlee Froehner, Treasurer

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Brow Briefs

Mentone Inn owner Amelia Brooks will appear on the nationally shown TV show **The Wheel of Fortune** on March 19 at 6:30 p.m. The MAPA secretary was filmed while visiting friends and relatives in California for several weeks.

Shala Barron, a student at Fort Payne High School, has been named a National Honor Society student. These awards are decided upon by the school faculties, choosing from junior and senior students with an 88.5 average or over.

Business News

If you've had trouble lately getting the services of a plumber, you'll be glad to know that Alvis Prestwood is back in business after a time off due to illness. Alvis, whose partner is David Battles, has been a practicing plumber in DeKalb County since 1954.

The C and H property in Valley Head has been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. James Young, who own a similar business in Collinsville. Valley Head Hardware will open March 15.

Mentone Hardware, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Clark, situated in the Town Hall building, is expanding its stock and services.

Another new business is State Line Country Store, just across the Georgia line in Cloudland. Owner is Terry Day, who for many years has been in the used car business in Menlo. In a nice new building, groceries and beverages are available.

After her trip to Greece, Helena Furgerson is making plans to reopen Mentone Drive-in on March 29th.

Back from her California jaunt, Amelia Brooks is arranging to open the Mentone Inn for an Easter Dinner. If it matches her Thanksgiving dinners, we are in luck.

Randy Still at Cragsmere Manna Restaurant is revising his menu. There will be a fresh seafood special of the day regularly from now on.



RUN TO THE PHONE AND
CALL DONNA BUKLEY
TO PLACE YOUR AD IN THE
GROUNDHOG!

VIEWPOINT

By Charles White McGehee

Now that it seems our protests have blocked the construction of a hydroelectric plant at DeSoto Falls, there is another matter that requires attention. There is literally no convenient place one can go for a proper view. At the park where swimming is possible in summer and the dam can be seen, the falls are beyond view, unless one wants to risk life and limb by crawling down the rocks to a half-way point. Frankly I would like to own one of those properties with that breathtaking view downward of this historic and poetic landmark. I admire the people who were visionary enough to secure much idyllic scenery. But one of these families could attain a form of immortality by donating a lookout spot where we could go for an inspiring view. Such lookout spots are all along the Appalachian Parkway. They need not involve a broad area — just an overview spot with a protective railing and an accessible walkway. Meanwhile, we are dependent on photographers, painters, and mountain climbers for proper appreciation of our most precious symbol. We rose to the challenge to prevent a power plant; what about some initiative to provide us with adequate access?

How's your mental health today? Psychologist Ashley-Montagu has outlined the four following cornerstones of mental health:

To love
To work
To think
To play

In our neighborhood there is a growing problem with stray dogs. They spread garbage, make noise with their barking and fights, and threaten spread of rabies. Some of these mangy creatures are not being kept up by owners. Others are just wild. All are dangerous. Over in Limestone County hundreds of such dogs have become a public nuisance. They sleep in the woods by day and attack livestock by night. One human has been injured. We in Mentone had better do something before our problem gets out of hand. A similar situation exists in Valley Head. There is no county pound. Efforts have failed for the county commission to make arrangements with the Fort Payne pound for disposition of stray dogs. First, all dogs should be in a yard or on a leash. Second, we should begin urging our officials to do something.

The other day a friend expressed difficulty in scheduling time and establishing priorities. This called to mind a clipping that's been in my trivia file for years, quoting a man named Sterner as suggesting the following: (1) Discover and protect your most creative and productive time of day. (2) Combine tasks when possible. (3) Learn to say no — to long-winded telephone callers and other time wasters. (4) Have a follow-up system of notes on your desk. (5) Plan for the unexpected; don't schedule every minute. To this I add: Make a priorities list. What absolutely must be done? List the duties in order of importance. Put the least things last. You'll be happier. But you'll never be completely organized.

Is it all this bad? Is life, as Samuel Butler said, like giving a concert while learning to play the violin? Think about it.

In court procedures the selection of a jury is one of the most vital factors in the process of justice. Lawyers and judges want to know about our prejudices. In certain situations our bias prevents us from making sound judgments. Some time ago a Mentone friend was interrogated for jury duty in a given trial. One of the questions asked by the judge was "Do you have a bumper sticker on your car?" What better way to find out how we feel about an issue. "You ain't seen nothin' yet" gives good indication of feelings about Ronald Reagan. "Guns don't kill people; People kill people" makes clear feelings about gun control. This was a wise judge down at the DeKalb County Court House.

When your body is tired, someone once suggested, exercise your brain. When your brain is tired, exercise your body.

Mayor Rob Hammond and the members of the Town Council are to be commended for getting us through this severe winter without any appreciable water cutoffs. Leroy Snider had been diligent. The additional water tower seems to have helped. Bids have been let for the new lines and fire hydrants. Sources close to the Town Hall have stated that we may as well face it — the ultimate answer is our own system. Meanwhile, the groundhog saw his shadow and there may be some more real winter. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

To our business people: Without your regular purchase of advertising, **The Groundhog** cannot continue. Ads in **The Groundhog** reach about 3,000 families. They are current for an entire month. By the usual measurement of advertising costs, they are relatively inexpensive. Regularity brings results. Call Donna Bukley (634-4678) and set up a regular schedule.

Lost And Found

STOLEN: 50 horsepower Mercury Motor and control that are used on the boat for the Rhododendron Festival River Tours. For information call Donna Bukley — 634-4678.

The February Eleventh Snow



The Mentone Inn



The entrance to Cragmere Manna Restaurant



Terry Bouldin and Phil Howard



Cloudmont Resort reports about 4,500 skiers and numerous on-lookers.



Howard's Chapel in Winter.

Sunday Services Resume At Sally Howard Chapel

Regular Sunday morning services at Howard's Chapel began on Sunday, March 3, and will continue on a weekly basis at 10:30 a.m. at this historic landmark south of Mentone and adjacent to DeSoto Park. These services are sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Fort Payne and are conducted by the Rev. Jeffrey W. Fuller who states that they are open to tourists, campers, visitors, and residents of this area.

This stone chapel, visited regularly by tourists, and a frequent subject of artists, was one of the dreams of Colonel Milford W. Howard, author, filmmaker, member of Congress and a candidate for the Presidency. Its construction provided employment during the Depression. Much of the labor was provided by CCC workers.

Built on a small hill adjacent to DeSoto Park, springing from a huge boulder, the chapel was dedicated on June 27, 1937, to the memory of Colonel Howard's wife Sally Lankford Howard. When he died on December 28, 1937, Howard's ashes were placed in the giant rock of which the chapel is a part.

In 1973 the chapel was deeded by the Howard estate to the DeKalb Baptist Association for use as a non-denominational place of worship. It is available for weddings, retreats, and remains open for silent meditation.



A truck stalled going up the mountain



Little River

Mentone Is Going To The Logs

(The Groundhog is indebted to Grace Howard for the concept, title and research for this article; Angelo Rosario took the photos).

Several attractive log homes have been built in the Mentone area within the last two years. There are four kinds of construction: new logs, old logs, round logs and kit logs.

Principal builders are Frank and Paul Purvis of Mentone and Larry Benefield of Henagar. Originally from Atlanta, the Purvis brothers have been in business together here for two years. The younger brother Frank and his wife Lynda Lee and children Melanie and Flynt moved to Mentone in 1980 from Birmingham. After having visited here for some time, they chose Mentone as the spot where they would like to live.

For two years Frank worked in general construction. Then the family moved to St. Martin Island in the West Indies as part of the Caribbean Outreach Mission. There Frank built houses to demonstrate ways of generating funds for the mission work.

Back in Mentone, Frank enticed brother Paul with his wife Gail and sons Greg and Brad to come from Orlando. The Purvis Brothers Construction Company was formed.

Using new logs from Baly Lumber Company or from Blalock Lumber Company, the logs are hand hewn with a foot adze on the construction sites. Log houses built in this manner within the past year or so include Grace and Milton Howard's guest cottage adjoining their home and Chattanooga Dr. Robert Boatwright's log house near Eagle's Cliff.

Larry Benefield constructed Glenn Franklin's home on Alpine Road similar to the Purvis' methods of using new logs. Mr. Benefield also supplied the logs for the David Bettis home on Alpine Road.

The Purvises have also built houses from old logs. An example of this type of construction is Mike Shaw's home on DeSoto Parkway, built from old logs by the Purvises.

Jesse Crow, local builder and rock mason, built a picnic house of two sides of old logs supplied by the Purvises and two sides screens for Summerville attorney Bobby Lee Cook.

Houses built from round logs include those in Jack Jones' compound alongside the Log Cabin Deli. Cloudland resident David Rape and his brother cut small poles from their own land and built a small house off Alpine Road of round logs.

At least two log houses in this area were built by the Purvises from kits: the Charles Williams (from Rome) house at Lake Lahusage, and Dick Tindol's on DeSoto Parkway, for which the Purvises constructed the foundation and roof.



Paul and Frank Purvis.



Glenn Franklin's cabin built by Larry Benefield.



Grace and Milton Howard's guest cottage.



Mike Shaw's home on DeSoto Parkway.



Jack Jones's cabins beside the Log Cabin Deli.



Charles Williams's house at Lake Lahusage.



Dick Tindol's cabin on DeSoto Parkway.

Greece Is Fine, Mentone Is Better

Seventeen years ago on March 11, 1968, Charles Furgerson arrived in the United States with his seventeen-year-old bride Helena from Athens, Greece. This year from the middle of January until the middle of February, Helena Furgerson visited her family in Greece, courtesy of a Christmas and birthday present from her father.

Mrs. Furgerson and her four-year-old daughter Gabby visited in the place where Helena grew up, in Kifisia, twelve miles from Athens. They visited her parents, George and Maria Popadea, and her aunt Koula, all of whom visited here in Mentone last year. Also living with her parents is a dear friend, 97-year-old Anna.

Helena slept at her sister's home and spent her days visiting with her parents in their home and in her sister's beauty shop. While there she knitted two sweaters for her sister and enjoyed concerts and din-

ing out with her family and friends.

Especially enjoyable was meeting sister Roxane Triveza's first child George, who was a year old March ninth. Gabby enjoyed entertaining her cousin, being entertained by her grandparents, and really wasn't too eager to come home.

Back in Mentone, daughters Mary Ann, 16; Angela, 14; and Jennifer, 10, stayed with Air Force

veteran Charles and tried to keep home and business running smoothly. "It was rough," says Mary Ann. The entire family last visited Greece in 1978.

Although Helena Furgerson says that Athens is beautiful and modern today and the weather was good while she and Gabby were there, "Greece is to go see Mama and Daddy. I was ready to come back on this mountain. I love it."



Cousins — George and Gabby



Grandfather George Popadea with Gabby



Gabby, George, and Grandmother Maria Popadea

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A Former Mayor

(Continued From Front Cover)

and the White Elephant was sold to responsible owners. To increase revenue a local tobacco tax was levied on wholesalers which provided one cent on each dollar. Mayor Daniel attended numerous regional and state meetings to explore means of securing benefits for the town.

Bob Daniel was born and raised on his father's tobacco plantation in Guilford County, near Greensboro, N. C. While he was at Central Wesleyan Methodist College near Clemson, S. C., he caught the eye of one of Mentone's Shigley girls, Ruby. He was the only fellow she'd seen on campus she'd consider dating. Friends arranged a meeting that has lasted for 58 years.

After graduation from college, Mr. Daniel attended a business college in High Point, N. C. His first and only job lasted for over 44 years with the National Biscuit Company (Nabisco). Assignments in a managerial capacity took the Daniels to Greensboro; Newport News, Va.; Charleston, S. C.; Tampa, Atlanta, St. Louis and two stints in Miami, the last one from 1952 until his retirement in 1970.

At the beginning of his retirement, Ruby and Bob stopped off to visit her family and friends in Mentone, at the beginning of a trip out West. Mr. Daniel succumbed to the charms of Mentone, and for two years they rented a house from the Allgoods. They bought property from Mrs. Polly Cameron (grandmother of Polly Cameron of Camp Saddle Rock). Dave Blalock has built four of the five houses on their land.

It was during Mr. Daniel's term as mayor that Mentone's current spurt of growth began. Ruby Daniel had long had a dream of a church at the top of the mountain which was fulfilled when the Rev. Graham Glover's congregation built St. Joseph's-on-the-

Mountain Church.

Bobbie Hilderbrand is the Daniels' only child. Bobbie and her husband Ed have a home next door to Bob and Ruby. Bobbie works for Camp Desoto. Her two sons are Robert, who lives in San Diego and has a daughter, Kelly Lynn; and Ed III of Thomasville, Ala., who has a son, Ed IV.

The Daniels are members of Mentone's United Methodist Church, and he has kept his affiliation with the Masonic Lodge of Webster Grove, Mo. Today the former mayor spends a great deal of his time keeping up the extensive brow acreage behind his home, manicuring the grounds and trimming trees. There is a spectacular view and a nature trail winding down the side of the mountain.

According to its custom, **The Groundhog** asked specific questions of Mr. Daniel:

Groundhog: Are you afraid Mentone may become another Gatlinburg?

RLD: Never. Too much land is owned privately to allow that to happen.

Groundhog: Do you think Mentone is primarily a tourist center?

RLD: Yes, and a wonderful retirement place for many people who've come here and enriched Mentone.

Groundhog: What honor are you proudest of having achieved?

RLD: I have a certificate of appreciation from the Fort Payne Rotary Club, given after my term as mayor, "in gratitude for contributions and humanitarian efforts."

Groundhog: What do you think are the present greatest needs of the town?

RLD: Certainly the roads need repairing badly. The whole place still needs a lot of picking up, of cleaning up of litter. Principally, we need a larger municipal meeting place. A start would be for the council to take over the entire present building. Basically, I agree with MAPA's goals.

DeSoto Falls Plant Withdrawn

(Continued From Page 1)

and peaceful atmosphere.

(2) There are now 8 summer camps operating in the immediate area of DeSoto Falls for boys and girls who come from several states. These camps depend upon the river water for canoeing, swimming, and other water sports. Such an interference of the river waters would cause 3 of the camps to close completely and be a detriment to the others. At times the water level during the summer and fall would be so low as to destroy the recreational value of the lake and destroy DeSoto Falls.

(3) In addition to altering or destroying the camps in the area, 4 thriving lodges that have operated for many years would be hurt. One, Nippersink, the most popular, is very near the falls.

(4) Mentone is designated as a bird sanctuary. The building of the plant would take away the natural habitat of many species.

(5) This location has the only river originating on top of a mountain in the United States. This fact alone provides the State something unique and draws sightseers from many states.

(6) The Synergics, Inc., of Annapolis, Md., who have applied for the permit to build the plant, misrepresented the location when they listed as the nearby town Valley Head, Ala. It is Mentone, Ala., atop the mountain.

(7) The application for permit also states that existing access roads to the project would be used and that no new roads need be constructed. The existing roads that would have to be used are those through the park, county and city of Mentone. The roads along the brow of the mountain where many lovely homes exist are already in poor condition. The traffic would be increased immensely, making the roads worse, and the noise, making living on the parkway unpleasant.

The Rhododendron Garden Club of Mentone has worked for many years to enhance the beauty of the area by planting native rhododendrons and pines.

Building such a plant would be of no benefit to the area and, we feel, destroy one of the finest and most scenic recreational areas in the State. As those who have their homes and roots in and around Mentone and enjoy working and living day by day here, we shall appreciate your help.

Cordially yours,
Rhododendron Garden Club
Elizabeth S. Stephens
Conservation Chairman
Helen Hill
President

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Calendar

Thursday, March 15 — 7 p.m. — Volunteer Fire Department meets at Fire Hall, Sam Cash, Chief.

Wednesday, March 27 — 9:30 a.m. — Bookmobile comes to Town Hall, Judy Dowiat, Librarian.

Monday, April 1 — 7 p.m. — Town Council meets at Town Hall, Rob Hammond, Mayor.

Tuesday, April 2 — 7 p.m. — MAPA meets.
7 p.m. — Rescue Squad meets at American Legion Hall, Stanley Brown, Captain.

Thursday, April 4 — 7 p.m. — Fire Department meets at Fire Hall.

Friday, April 5 — GROUNDHOG deadline for April issue.

Tuesday, April 9 — 10 a.m. — Rhododendron Garden Club meets at the Ephgrave home, Helen Hill, President.

7 p.m. — Crafts Festival meets at United Methodist Church, Linda Brown, President.

Wednesday, April 10 — 9:30 a.m. — Bookmobile comes to Town Hall.

Leftovers

By Jean McGehee

Last week I spread a load of manure (courtesy of Susan Hooks, Camp Skyline) on my garden plot. While carrying buckets and pushing the wheelbarrow, I had plenty of time to think.

My husband recently ordered a small book for me, **The Gardener's Year**, by the Czechoslovakian science fiction writer Karel Capek (U. of Wisconsin Press). Mr. Capek wrote the book in 1929, and on my world globe his country is on a line with our New England states. Nevertheless, much of what he has to say in this delightful book spoke to me and my garden.

This is my favorite paragraph in the book:

If it were of any use, every day the gardener would fall on his knees and pray somehow like this: "O Lord, grant that in some way it may rain every day, say from about midnight until three o'clock in the morning, but, you see, it must be gentle and warm so that it can soak in; grant that at the same time it would not rain on camellias, alyssum, helianthemum, lavender, and the others which you in your infinite wisdom know are drought-loving plants — I will write their names on a bit of paper if you like — and grant that the sun may shine the whole day long, but not everywhere (not, for instance, on spiraea, or on geranium, plantain lily, and rhododendron), and not too much; that there may be plenty of dew and little wind, enough worms, no plant-lice and snails, no mildew, and that once a week thin liquid manure and guano may fall from heaven. Amen." For so it was in the garden of Eden; otherwise things would not have grown in it as well as they did — how could they?

Several years ago during a discussion of a book whose title I have forgotten, I asked a class of twelfth grade boys the grand question, "What, after all, is the purpose of life?" There was silence for a minute or so, then came one of the best answers I heard in my twenty years of teaching. It came from a tall lanky fellow who had previously kept his intelligence fairly well hidden from me:

"The only thing I can figure out is, the purpose of life must be growth — that all living things should continue to grow as best they can."

That wise statement ties in beautifully with two final quotations from Capek's book:

We say that Nature rests, yet she is working like mad... If we could only see how many seeds germinate in secret; how many old plants draw themselves together and concentrate into a living bud, which one day will burst into flowering life — if we could only see that secret swarming of the future within us, we should say that our melancholy and distrust is silly and absurd, and that the best thing of all is to be a living person — that is, a person who grows.

A garden is never finished. In that sense it is like the human world and all human undertakings.

Beautification Week Set For April 22-27

Joining with the rest of DeKalb County, the Mentone Town Council unanimously adopted a resolution establishing the week of April 22-27 as Beautification Week. Downer's Solid Waste Disposal will pick up group collections free of charge. Warnings have been issued to several people dumping garbage along roadsides.

This is the resolution:

Whereas, there has been an increase in awareness and concern for the environmental quality of our community; and

Whereas, improper disposal of litter and garbage poses a threat to the health and well-being of our citizens; and

Whereas, a neat and tidy appearance of residential and commercial property is esthetically desirable; and

Whereas, maintaining a clean attractive community helps attract tourism and industry to our area:

Now, therefore, the Town Council as governing body of Mentone, Alabama, does hereby proclaim April 22-27, 1985, as "Beautification Week." Done this 4th day of March, 1985. By: Rob Hammond, Mayor.

Rescue Squad News

Secretary-treasurer Linda Brown of the Rescue Squad states that the group met on Tuesday, March 5, and worked on repairs and consolidating of equipment. There were no major requests for help during the extreme weather, she said, but several of the squad members provided assistance on an individual basis.

Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Sammy Cash reports a rash of five brush fires on Friday evening, Feb. 22, in the area of Moon Lake School and toward the Georgia line. The combined area was approximately one acre, and the conflagrations were quickly brought under control. Chief Cash believes they were set.

Other recent fires were a trailer on the property of Tony Tipton and a chicken house owned by Junior Gray.

Regular meetings of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District are held at the fire house on the first Thursday of each month.

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Rescue Squad: 634-4884, 634-4166

Highway Patrol: 845-5109

Mentone Police
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 634-4444
After 11:00 a.m. 634-4467

DeKalb Sheriff: 845-3801

Valley Head Police: 635-6814

Hammondville Police: 635-6374

Forest Rangers: 1-845-1331

or 1-800-392-5679

Poison Information Center: 1-800-292-6678

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Mentone:

7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 634-3705

After 11:00 a.m. 634-3745, 634-4507

634-4446, 634-4274

Valley Head: 635-6111

SCHOOLS

Moon Lake: 634-4133

Valley Head High School: 635-6228.

TOWN COUNCIL OF MENTONE

Rob Hammond, Mayor

Max Cash

Lee Davenport

Hobson Kirby

Stanley Brown, Richard Meadows

Catherine Bailey, Town Clerk

Leroy Snyder, Water Department

Colquitt Jones, Police:

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The Rev. Billy R. Boozer, pastor

Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.

Sunday Services: 11:00 A. M., 7 P. M.

Thursday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 P. M.

Telephone: 635-6365

VALLEY HEAD PRESBYTERIAN

The Rev. Jerry Davis, minister

Services: 1st, 3rd Sunday, 9:30 A.M.

Telephone: 635-6283

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MENTONE CHURCH OF GOD

The Rev. Roger Stanford, minister

Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.

Preaching Hour: 11:00 A.M.

Sunday Evening Service: 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Training Hour: 6:30 P.M.

Telephone: 634-4418.

MOON LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rev. William Steele, minister

Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.

Sunday Services: 11:00 A.M., 7:00

P.M.

Sunday Training Union: 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 6:30

P.M. Telephone 634-4587.

MENTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Rev. Ann Q. Lohr, minister

Sunday School: 10 a.m.

Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

Sunday Bible Study Group: 6:00 P.M.

Telephone: 335-6561

MENTONE WESLEYAN CHURCH

The Rev. A. C. Clemens, minister

Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship: 10:50 A.M., 6:00

P.M.

Wednesday Evening Service: 7:00

P.M. Telephone: 634-4210

ST. JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Robert Blackwell, minister

Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.

Sunday Worship: 11:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 P.M.

Telephone: 634-4476

MENTONE REVIVAL CENTER

The Rev. Dewey Oswalt, minister

Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.

Worship Service: 11:00 A. M., 6 P. M.

Wed. Prayer Meeting: 6:30 P. M.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PONDEROSA BIBLE CAMP: Christian youth camp. Glenn Miller, director. 634-3795. June 16-Aug. 11.

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

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

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

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



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