



the GROUNDHOG

A Publication Of The Mentone Area Preservation Association

JACK MARTIN— A Man Of Vision

By Rebecca Terrell Rish

Jack B. Martin, who spent his early childhood and youth in the beautiful rolling, green countryside of Lynchburg and Shelbyville, Tennessee (where he also was born), was the eldest of Lucille and Charles Johnson Martin's five children. You might even say that he was almost an only child, since his other three brothers and one sister didn't start arriving until more than 15 years after Jack's birth.

Evident, even at an early age, was Jack's unique industriousness, determination and commitment. Living in the country made getting an education difficult. From the first through the seventh grade, in order to get to school, Jack had to walk between 10-12 miles roundtrip, each day. Although buses did pick up the older children for the upper grades, they did not transport the younger ones, and at six years old, or at any age for that matter, 10-12 miles of walking a day in all kinds of weather, was very hard. Many a child would not have endured, but then, Jack wasn't just any child!

Some of Jack's fondest childhood memories are of the times spent with his beloved Granddaddy Willie and Grandma Mollie. Although his Granddaddy died when Jack was about 12 years old, during his lifetime he served as a hard working role model for Jack and left him a priceless legacy in the form of cherished time spent together.

Tagging along behind Granddaddy Willie was Jack's favorite past time. Jack fondly recalled his Granddaddy's imposing features, especially his gray beard, as well as helping him hunt, fish, garden and do whatever chores were needed. In times shared together, Granddaddy Willie also inspired Jack to have a special reverence and respect for God's bountiful nature and wildlife.

One specific event that left a permanent memory and eventually a dream in Jack's life occurred when he was around 8 or 9 years old. His family was living in Lynchburg, Tennessee when he got an opportunity to tour the famous Jack Daniels Distillery. That visit not only made a lasting impression on him but also, in a way, changed and directed his life. What he saw was an imposing sight — **REAL LIVE BUFFALO!**

He was completely awed by their majesty. They were pretty, with their black-brown shaggy head and cape, short-curved black horns and gigantic hump — large, approximately 6 feet tall, and totally different from anything he'd ever seen. At that time, there were no deer running wild in that area (the state had not yet imported them), so the only wild animals he'd encountered were of the smaller variety such as rabbits, squirrels, opossum, etc. He never forgot the impressive Buffalo nor that wonderful day when he saw them for the very first time.

When Jack was in his early teens, another event occurred that has also played a major role in influencing his life. His family had moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan when Jack



JACK MARTIN

was about 13 years old. One Saturday afternoon he went, for the first time, to a movie theatre where he not only saw his first "picture show," but also again saw those magnificent wild beasts known as Buffalo. The film was a typical Cowboy and Indian shoot-'em-up, and as exciting and thrilling as it was, Jack was fascinated by those unusual and rare animals.

As time went by, upon reflection, Jack began to realize not only how mistreated the Buffalo had been, but also that due to this unnecessary slaughter they were almost extinct. It saddened him to think of these majestic wild beasts, who not only are America's oldest inhabitants but who also played such a major role in our heritage, being so abused and possibly completely non-existent in the future.

(Continued on Page 4)

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NEW POLICE CHIEF FOR MENTONE

Mentone has a new police chief who has already moved his family to the mountain. Johnny Ferguson, wife Kathy and sons Dennis and Johnny Mac Jr. live on Cutler Ave. in Stanley and Christa Brown's home near the Methodist church.

Chief Ferguson is well acquainted with the area as he was the Valley Head police chief for 10 years. He attended Valley Head High School.

Chief Ferguson attended the North Alabama Police Academy in 1980 and is certified in many areas such as radar detection and various detection equipment. He is proficient in basic first aid as well.

Chief Ferguson: "I like the area, it is beautiful. This is a fine place to work, friendly people and a good council and mayor."

When asked about his reason for leaving Valley Head, he responded, "I just felt I needed a change. Sometimes it is best to get out of the old routine and to try something new. I still have many friends at Valley Head — it was a good place to work and I enjoyed my years there. But I really like it here, and am looking forward to my job here."

Chief Ferguson can be reached at home at 634-4757 or at town hall at 634-4444.



PARK MANAGER INVITED TO WASHINGTON



Talmadge Butler, manager of DeSoto State Park, will be a guest of President and Mrs. George Bush in July as he receives an award on behalf of all those who have worked to clean up Little River Canyon.

The Canyon clean-up was chosen to be among 170 finalists chosen from 690 nominees in 15 categories.

The clean-up began last April when over 200 volunteers from 25 different organizations and groups converged on the canyon area armed with garbage bags which, after two days of hard work, were filled with over 20 tons of garbage plucked from the canyon, ditch banks and roadsides.

Local rescue groups assisted as did many DeSoto State Park employees.

There was a follow-up that involved air-lifting junk automobiles from the canyon floor.

RANDY STILL PART OF CHATTANOOGA FESTIVAL

Randy Still, former owner of Cragmere Manna on DeSoto Parkway in Mentone, was recently featured in *The Chattanooga Times*.

Randy and wife Annie own Park Place, an elegant dining establishment located beneath the Tallon building in downtown Chattanooga. Park Place was one of the participants in the recent *Taste of Chattanooga* event which is an annual food festival organized by Chattanooga's WGOW radio station on behalf of the Kidney Foundation.

Randy's flower pot bread and Crab Newburg were favorites among participants and patrons of the festival which featured specialties from 30 eating establishments from the Chattanooga area.

ALABAMA STUDENTS VOLUNTEER

Gov. Guy Hunt has announced the creation of the Alabama Student Volunteer Corps to help establish student volunteer organizations throughout the state.

The program was created in conjunction with the "Give Five Alabama" campaign and will consist of two freshmen or sophomore students from every college and university in the state.

Students in the program will be chosen by the college or university president and they will be asked to serve for a two-year period. The group will have more than 160 students from junior colleges, community colleges and four-year institutions.

"I think this is an excellent program that will help foster the volunteer spirit throughout Alabama," Gov. Hunt said. "The program will give younger college students a chance to become leaders and set an example for their classmates by volunteering and getting involved."

Birmingham-Southern College hosted a program orientation and training on the campus March 10. Representatives from each campus will work to establish a volunteer corps or strengthen any existing volunteer organization at their school.

The program is similar to the Southern Volunteer Services Outreach Day at Birmingham-Southern last fall. This effort involved more than 60 percent of the student body volunteering a day of their time to a community service project.



— Photos by Louis Sahn/The Chattanooga Times

From the Editor....

by Mickey Strickland

We humans tend to live life on this earth as if it will last forever. Some strange sense of immortality, about ourselves and our planet, makes us often unaware that our days are numbered, as are the earth's.

The late Peter Noll, in his book *In The Face of Death*, says it all too well: "It is obviously impossible to live in the present. The brain-computer has no program for it. That we live only in the past and in the future, in memories and hopes, in past accomplishments and plans for the future, is based on one of those odd laws of the human psyche."

Yet, if we do not begin to see the present, and the danger therein, there can be no hope of a future, certainly not a long term one for our children.

We throw away because it is too much trouble, or not profitable enough, to recycle. Bottles, cans, newspapers, plastics, all products of a new technology, are being thrown onto an old world. Stuff is being manufactured, purchased, used and discarded faster than we can find places to hide the refuse. Waste from nuclear power plants, which has a shelf life of millions of years, has no safe place to go. Forests are being decimated, rivers polluted, oceans desecrated, land poisoned, skies blackened, food tainted, bodies sickened, yet, like Scarlett O'Hara, we choose to think about that tomorrow. We may be closer to standing on a barren hillside with a cold potato in hand than we think.

The majority is choosing to ignore the death rattle in the throat of Mother Earth, while a few individuals and organizations frantically try to undo the damage and to educate the spoilers before the funeral march begins for life as we know it.

Peter Noll: "What should have been long recognized becomes apparent only with technology's unleashing: if man breaks all bonds with what lies beyond his own experience... then man will automatically (in the true sense of the word)... bring about total destruction. Man is putting himself in the position of Creator, who took billions of years to produce something that one now and then can sense as being beautiful; and man has botched it — one cannot describe it otherwise."

There is nothing that has been created that cannot be destroyed, and to have the power to do so is an awesome thing. Because of nuclear proliferation, we all have lived with the threat of complete destruction hanging over us. Perhaps we can see the forest but not the individual trees; the big picture but not the little brush strokes. In the end, it will not be one big conflagration that takes away life on earth, it will be the little fires of carelessness, thoughtlessness and greed that will burn this planet into a desert.

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22 and resolve to put out the fire.

Valley View

By Eloise Brown

The Sunshine Club met at the home of Gladys Cobble March 22. Joyce Hall gave the opening prayer. The president, Gladys Cobble, conducted the business session, the Secretary Ruth Pickett, read the minutes of the last meeting. Eloise Brown gave the devotional and read some of her poems; names were drawn for secret pals. Willie Mae Palmer won the door prize. Others present were: Geraldine Hawkins, Betty Brown, Tillie Schlicher, Sue Cooper, Jewell Palmer, Evelyn Clark, Vernitice Young, Karen Freeman, Lorraine Gothard and Billie Harper, who helped us make little Easter bunnies.

The U.M.W. of Valley Head Methodist Church, met at the home of Mary Louise Holleman, March 27 for the Day of Prayer Program. Eloise Brown, the president, presided and Laura Margaret Allison, the Secretary and Treasurer, gave a good report. Venna Livingston led the program, assisted by Helen White and Jane Meadows. Others present were: Cindy and Mary Frances Barrett, Geneva Smith, Adelaide Biddle, Mary Frances Tate, Frances Longshore, Geraldine Hawkins, Elizabeth Coleman, Velma Hammond, Vesta Hawkins and visitors Rev. Arno White, Janie Longshore, Katherine Crumley, Gladys Holleman, Betty Adams and Edwina Towers. A beautiful covered dish luncheon was enjoyed.

Linda Blackburn and her friend, Bette Jo Lewis of Orange Park, Fla., spent last weekend with Linda's parents, Dot and Bill Blackburn.

Ruth and Bert Pickett and Mae Card visited Mae's son, Lewis and Ro Card, in Panama City, Fla.

Mickey Cobble and John Muse of Chattanooga, Tenn., visited Mickey's mother, Gladys Cobble, recently.

Addie Hall's daughter, Mary Porter, and her son, Tom Hall of Chattanooga, Tenn., spent last weekend with her. They were joined on Saturday for lunch by Tom's son, Marty Hall, and his friend, Kellie Taylor of Chattanooga, Tenn. Lou Edith Sweatt visited with them and also visited her aunt and uncle, Evelyn and Loy Clark. Addie Hall's daughter, Beth Mares, called her from Germany, to wish her a happy birthday.

Sue and Foyle Cooper have a new great-granddaughter, Alexandria, daughter of Kelly and Eddy Davis of Flat Rock.

Dr. Wayne Scott of Birmingham, Ala., conducted a revival at the Valley Head Baptist Church last week. They had beautiful special music at each service.

Janet and Teresa Cooper enjoyed a tour of New York recently.

Melvin Smith, Ida Wilson, Florence and Bill Austin of Ider, Ala., visited their niece and cousin, Sadie Cooper.

Helen Longshore took Tillie Schlicher to University Hospital in Birmingham, Ala., on Thursday for a check up with her heart specialist.

Little Heather, daughter of Marjorie and Donald Daniels, has returned home after being ill at Children's Hospital in Chattanooga, Tenn. She is Stella Pierce's

The Groundhog

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granddaughter.

Bonnie and Floyd are recovering at home after being treated at hospitals.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Arnell Lawman who passed away last week, and to Louise Blake, who lost her sister, Rebecca Harrington, who died in Scottsboro, Ala. Jane and Larry Locklear and children were guests of Jane's grandmother, Louise Blake, and attended the funeral.

Geraldine and Howard Hawkins visited Howard's sister, Hazel Johnston, who is ill in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Geneva Phillips became ill while visiting her daughter, Sara Dell Wiggins, in Dothan, Ala., but I'm glad to hear that she is much better and will come to Mountain Manor in Fort Payne, Ala., where she will stay until able to return home. Bethel had a birthday dinner honoring her on her 95th birthday last Sunday but she was unable to attend. She is a noble lady who has been very active and enjoyed good health until recently.

Laura Margaret Allison has returned home from a visit with her daughter, Ansley, and John McGinnis at Florence, S. C.

GOV. HUNT URGES CLEAN VOTING

Gov. Guy Hunt Tuesday urged probate judges from around the state to work closely with voter registrars at the polls in June to continue the process of cleaning up the state's voter lists.

Gov. Hunt spoke to probate judges and registrars attending a special workshop in Montgomery sponsored by the state Office of Voter Registration. More than 150 officials attended the meeting.

In the primary elections in June many voters will be asked to fill out information cards as registrars continue the process of re-identifying voters. An act passed by the Legislature in 1989 requires that all county voter lists be purged of ineligible names Dec. 15, 1992.

Gov. Hunt was probate judge of Cullman County from 1964 through 1976, and told the group "I know something about the difficult in really getting a clean list."

"For us to get this job done it's going to take all of us, and there needs to be that strong cooperation between the boards of registrars and the probate judges," Gov. Hunt said. "We've all got to be interested in clean voter lists... It's the building of the confidence in the system. And as you go out there and do your job I just want you to know that a lot of people are interested in it and watching and will be very grateful... when we come to have clean voter rolls."

On Oct. 26, 1989, Gov. Hunt directed that \$60,000 be transferred from the governor's contingency fund to the Director of Voter Registration to help local registrars fund basic office supplies needed to clean up the voter lists.

MOUNTAIN WATCH

EARTH DAY — APRIL 22, 1990

By Charla Herman

In 1970 an environmental group began an awareness program that became Earth Week. Grassroots organizations converged on Washington to make politicians and all American's aware of the depleting resources of our planet. There was a lot of talk and out of it came some aware individuals who began to take action. April 22, 1990 makes the 20th anniversary of those beginnings. Now many more thousands of people are joining in the hoopla. Now it will take that many more to make a difference because, quite frankly, things have gotten worse instead of better.

Twenty years later, we are surrounded with much more garbage, have suffered hundreds of oil spills, have watched our forests become bare due to clear cutting of the trees, have watched many kinds of plant and animal life become extinct, we talk about acid rain as if it were a regular part of living, and have seen our water and food supplies become tainted. In that time we have discovered radon and asbestos poisoning and that many of our great advances in animal and food production are nothing more than new ways to create cancer and disease. The issues are astounding all around the world.

And what of our own beautiful home, here in Alabama. It was only a few weeks ago that flood waters raged and garbage piled along every road and in water supplies. Together as a community, we were faced with cleaning piles of plastic jugs, styrofoam cups, beer cans, and fast food wrappers. It was sad to see how little respect folks seem to have for this beautiful land. We live in a place that millions of people have only read about, as they have no trees, water gone to drought and are starving with the inability to produce their own food. Our land is still relatively healthy, our animals thrive and our environment is about as safe as can be found anywhere in this country. But is that enough?

Here in DeKalb County, we do a pretty good job of living in balance with the ecology, but we could do much better. People who live an ecologically balanced lifestyle all contribute to the healing of our planet, who cries out with storms, floods, earthquakes and all of the things that make up the 6 o'clock news. There is more that you can do to make Earth Day everyday.

* Help establish a recycling center at our own overloaded landfill. SORT YOUR TRASH.

* Participate in programs like "adopt a mile."

* Maintain your home water and sewage systems.

* Use water saving shower heads and toilets (38 percent of our water supply is flushed away).

* Fix your leaky faucets.

* Take shorter showers.

* Wash your dishes in the sink.

* Hang your laundry out to dry.

* Use biodegradable cleansers.

* Use energy saving appliances.

* Lower your hot water thermostat.

* Watch all of the thermostats in your home, don't over heat or cool.

* Grow your own gardens, there's nothing better than organic vegetables.

* Watch what you put in your lawns and ditches.

* Avoid using chemicals in growing food and lawns.

* Develop composting systems.

* Recycle (52 percent of all trash in the landfill is recyclable paper).

* Don't use disposable products.

* Avoid styrofoam and plastic, ask for paper.

* Become an environmental shopper, if you don't like what a company makes or does to the environment — don't support them financially.

* Plant a tree.

* Become an active part of the community.

* Use all of your resources wisely.

Submitted by Charla Hermann, Co-Founder of Hawkwind Earth Renewal Cooperative. Hawkwind is an organic farm and teaching center, based in Valley Head. Ongoing programs are developed to work with city children, organizations and individuals who wish to learn more about living in balance with the Earth. We invite you to take advantage of our growing network of individuals committed to this lifestyle.

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WITH NOVA DEAN KILGORE



Beginning with this month's column, Nova will present a series of special recipes from a 1930's Watkins cookbook.

This series is brought to you compliments of Morgan Drugs in Valley Head which offers a complete selection of old-time Watkins Products.

THE WATKINS MAN

Before the days of automobiles, telephones and televisions, salesmen were welcome visitors whose regular calls were looked forward to with anticipation. Most people did not have easy access to town and stores, so they depended upon goods to be brought to them.

The peddler wagon was a happy sight as it rolled to the door with shelves and barrels full of necessities and treats. William Blackburn, who now owns and operates the Mentone Superette, spent his growing up years helping his father run the peddler wagon over the mountains and valleys of this area.

Just as eagerly awaited was "the Watkins man" with his satchel full of flavorings that would enhance pies, cakes, bowls of snow cream and other homemade goodies.

The Watkins man also brought an assortment of medicines — liniments, laxatives, cough and catarrh remedies and salves.

An early advertisement boasts: "Here are just a few of the 101 uses to which you can put this good, old-fashioned Liniment: For aches and aching joints, backache from lame muscles, bruises, chilblains, frosted parts, ordinary surface swelling from congestion, poison ivy, stitch in back, muscular cramps, soreness and stiffness and lameness."

Watkins Liniment could be taken internally then, too. "When Watkins Liniment is taken internally, it produces a sensation of warmth through the entire body... the regular dose for adults is one teaspoonful of liniment and one teaspoonful of sugar in a half cup of warm water. The addition of milk or cream makes it easier to take." Oh yes, it was good for the livestock as well: "It is a dependable medicine for colic in horses due to gas, and for bloat in cattle and sheep due to gas... it can be used for muscular sprains on horses, mules and stock... customers also use it to dress barb wire cuts."

The story of how Watkins Products came to be in just about every home in America, and all over the world, is a true turn of the century success story.

The Watkins Company began in the back room of a small home in Plainview, Minnesota. In 1868 Joseph R. Watkins had just purchased the rights to the best liniment he had ever tried from a Cincinnati doctor.

Joseph Watkins knew his homemade red liniment was a superior product, but found it hard to get needed shelf space in stores. He decided to not wait for customers, but rather to take his product to them. He loaded a buggy and went farm to farm, door to door. He guaranteed satisfaction or money would be refunded. This was a good selling point.

In 1885, Watkins decided to relocate his business to a community with better trade routes — Winona, Minn., which was then a bustling lumber and railroad town. For several years, Watkins Products were still made in the Watkins home.

The useful product line became very popular and after about five years, Watkins had to hire helpers. By 1892, there were 143 salesmen on the road working 15 states.

During the 1890's, beauty aids were added to the product line and then flavoring and spices.

Shortly after moving to Winona, the J. R. Watkins Medical Company, as it was called then, became a national concern and by 1910, there were branch offices in San Francisco and Memphis.

In 1912, construction began on what is still the grandest building in Winona, the Watkins Administration Building. Expense was of little concern — Italian marble, Tiffany windows, and brass and mahogany fittings gave the structure a majestic and luxurious air.

Unfortunately, Mr. Watkins died before his masterpiece was completed. He was vacationing in Jamaica when he died suddenly at 70 years of age.

Four years later, the 10-story factory was built.

Ownership of the company passed to Paul Watkins, nephew of J. R. He was responsible for building The Watkins Home.

By 1920, Watkins, Inc. had the largest complete print shop west of the Mississippi river. Among its publications was an atlas of the United States. It was used to keep track of Watkins salesmen and their territories. A Watkins Cookbook was a very popular item, also.

In the late 1920's and early 1930's, already with branch offices in San Francisco, Memphis, Boston, Newark, Houston and Winnipeg, the company expanded into Great Britain, Sweden, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

But hard times were on the way, for when Paul Watkins died in 1928, E. L. King, who was married to J. R. Watkins' daughter Grace, took over the company and thus began an era of extravagance at the top of the company. Grace, who was fond of big-game safaris, was once the world champion female trap shooter.

The end of World War I corresponded to a decline in the heyday of the Watkins Company. The company failed to keep up with the times, and refused to allow women to sell its products, vowing to keep the image of "The Watkins Man" as just that.

The company fell into a decline which resulted in ownership passing out of the family for the first time in 1964. James Doyle could not reverse the trend that forced Watkins Inc. into bankruptcy.

In 1978, Irwin Jacobs bought the company and turned the downward trend into an upward spiral. The rebuilding effort has resulted in over 1400 dealers and distributors of Watkins Products showing an annual sales increase of at least 25 percent.

The new multi-level sales plan, coupled with extremely loyal employees and devoted customers has made the Watkins Company into a success story again.

And, after over 100 years, J. R. Watkins at last has the shelf space in stores that he wanted so much back in 1868.

WATKINS COOK BOOK

Apricot Nut Bread

1½ cups cooked dried apricots (no juice) chop
2 tablespoons butter (melted)
½ cup sugar
2 eggs
1 cup milk

2½ cups flour (sifted)
4 teaspoons Watkins Baking Powder
1 scant teaspoon salt

Mix as for any bread dough. Fold in apricots and ½ cup chopped nuts. Bake in greased loaf tin about 55 minutes in oven of 350 degrees F.

Banana Nut Bread

½ cup butter or other shortening
½ cup sugar
2 eggs
2½ cups flour (sifted)
1 cup chopped nuts

3 large bananas, put through sieve, 1½ cups
½ teaspoon soda
2 teaspoons Watkins Baking Powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup sour milk

Cream the shortening, slowly add the sugar and beat well. Add the eggs, one at a time and beat thoroughly. Add the bananas and nuts. Alternately add the sifted dry ingredients and the milk. Bake in two small or one large loaf pan in moderate oven, 350 degrees F., about 1 hour. Grease tin.

Grape Nut Bread

1 cup grape nuts
2 cups buttermilk
2 level teaspoons soda
1 level teaspoon salt
1 egg beaten

½ cup light brown sugar, pack in cup
2 rounding cups sifted flour
1 cup black walnut meats, cut in pieces

Soak the grape nuts in the buttermilk several hours. Add remaining ingredients and blend well. Bake in fairly moderate oven 1¼ hours. Use greased loaf tin.

Orange Bread

5 tablespoons butter
½ cup sugar
1 egg
3 tablespoons orange rind, chop
½ cup milk

½ cup orange juice
2 cups flour (sifted)
4 teaspoons Watkins Baking Powder
½ teaspoon salt

Cream butter, slowly add sugar, mix thoroughly. Add orange rind chopped fine, well-beaten egg. Add orange juice and milk alternately with flour, Watkins Baking Powder and salt which have been sifted together. Mix thoroughly, let stand 20 minutes, bake in moderate oven about 1 hour, 350 degree F. oven.

Lightly flour all fruit before adding to mixture. Pump raisins in little hot grape juice to improve the flavor. Cut raisins with lightly floured scissors. Do not chop.

To economize, all water may be used in recipes for bread, or all milk, or a combination of the two may be used. But all milk should be used when possible as the bread has a better flavor — a better crust and is whiter.

Bring the milk to boiling point in a double boiler, cover, then cool until lukewarm before using. Do not overheat milk.



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RITE OF SPRING: CLEANING THE CANYON



The weekend of March 24-25 saw volunteers from all over the state meet again on the mountain for another Operation Canyon Clean Up.

The project did not reach the magnitude of last year's because after the initial big cleaning effort of last April, park personnel have worked diligently to keep most of the garbage picked up.

DeSoto State Park manager Talmadge Butler estimated that about 100 volunteers cleaned from 5-10 tons of trash and tires from the canyon area. Once again, Canyon Land Park was the meeting place and central dumping point.

The weather cooperated beautifully as the weekend, for the most part, was clear and cool.

The canyon clean up has been nominated for a national award which is to be given in July at the White House.

(Continued From Cover)

Jack Martin — A Man Of Vision

However, Buffalo or no Buffalo, life goes on and throughout high school, along with working a part time job, Jack also played football and baseball. As he was growing up, those whom he looked up to, aside from his Granddaddy Willie, were Ted Williams, outfielder for the Boston Red Sox, and Willie Shoemaker, jockey.

As a hard-nosed catcher, Jack was so outstanding at baseball that upon graduation in 1952, he was offered a position with the Philadelphia Phillies to play in the Minor League System. This was a dream come true for him, but upon reflection, fearing that his small physical stature would cause any chance for a long, successful career in Baseball to elude him, he allowed his practical nature to take over and declined this possibly golden opportunity. We'll never know what might have been.

Having decided to play it safe, Jack went to work in the auto industry. His first job out of high school was with Kaiser Motor Co. where he was employed for approximately six months before beginning his lifetime career with Ford Motor Co. where he spent 33 years before retiring in May, 1985. During his 33 year stint at Ford, Jack took two years off when he was drafted into the Army (1957-59). While in the Army he was stationed at Aberdeen, Maryland, serving as a dental technician. He then returned to Ford where he worked at the Lincoln Continental Assembly Plant in Wixom, Michigan. There, he specialized in various types of repair work, including body, trim, glass, paint, etc., caused by assembly line damage and error.

Jack married in 1960 and later divorced in 1978. This union blessed him with his greatest dream, two children whom he adores: A son, Gaylen Eric Martin, who lives in Michigan and a daughter, Cirreenna Gayle Martin McQuiston, who lives in Lynchburg, Tennessee. His daughter, Cirreenna, also made him a proud Granddaddy when she presented him with his only grandchild, Amber Nichole McQuiston, who is the "apple of my eye."

For about three years during the early 1970's, Jack took weekend and night classes at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Having always been fascinated by the cause and effect of people's actions, Jack decided to major in psychology to help him better understand human nature, or as he would say, "To find out what makes people tick." Although he never planned to build a career from a degree in psychology, and only lacked approximately one year getting that degree, he enjoyed the variety of classes he took and feels the knowledge and insight he gained have been invaluable in helping him better understand himself and others.

Jack discovered Mentone almost by accident, but fell in love with it the minute he saw it. In 1982, a co-worker at Ford, Betty Brazelton, was visiting her Aunt, Christine Dersa, who lives in Mentone. From conversations with Jack, Betty already knew what type of place he envisioned for his retirement and when she saw a "for sale" sign on a beautiful piece of property in Mentone, she called Jack and told him about it. Jack didn't waste any time. He took a few days off and drove to Mentone the very next morning. Jack knew instantly that this was "the perfect place." He was so impressed with the property, which consists of approximately 130 wooded and rolling acres as well as a beautiful six-acre spring fed-lake, that he immediately started negotiations to purchase this piece of Americana that reminded him of his youthful home in Tennessee.

On and off over the next few years, Jack took his vacation time to come "home" and start cleaning and clearing his beloved land which he has named "Trail Of Tears Lake." He arrived permanently in 1985 and began to work in earnest toward realizing his dreams.

In 1988, Jack began construction on his "house of dreams." This talented man not only designed the entire

house in his head — there were no blueprints, drawings or written notes —, but he has also done almost all of the construction work single-handedly.

The imposing, single story home has approximately 5,700 total square feet of space. There is approximately 3,200 square feet of heated/cooled living space, approximately 1,000 square feet of garage area and a 1/2 basement of approximately 1,500 square feet. Large windows and sliding glass doors are almost everywhere, even in the garage, to take advantage of the magnificent surrounding countryside.

The house consists of a 38 by 50 great room with a breathtaking view overlooking the lake and wooded hills, as well as three bedrooms and two baths. The master bedroom and bath shares the view with the great room, while the other two bedrooms and bath have an almost equally impressive view of woods and pasture land. Although the house is still under construction and probably won't be completed for at least two more years, or as Jack says, "Somewhere down the road," you can already sense its majestic ambience. It will truly be a place of beauty when it is finished.

"Jack Martin has been an inspiration to me and the most helpful neighbor and friend a person can have. His ideas are so inspiring and our community needs more men like Jack Martin."

Christine Dersa

Jack also has an excellent eye for landscape design and when he eventually fills his wooded hills with rhododendron, mountain laurel, azaleas and other shrubs and flowers, the beautiful masterpiece he creates will be the perfect complement to his dream home.

Both the house and landscaping would be nearer completion if Jack hadn't also been busy fulfilling another part of his dream — that of preparing and fencing his land so he could raise some very special and unusual animals. Since young adulthood, Jack has dreamed of providing a refuge for Buffalo and helping to continue to preserve and breed this great beast.

"Jack Martin is a man who will walk that extra mile for someone in need. He is a wise and hard-working man. The Lord sent us a humble shepherd."

John Hilliard

In December, 1989, the beginning of that dream started to come true when Jack purchased two female baby Buffalo. They really are a sight to behold and Josephine and Joleen, who are now about seven months old and who weigh approximately 800 and 1,000 pounds respectively, are fast making themselves at home in Mentone.

To keep the Buffalo company, Jack recently purchased a cow who is expecting a calf in a few weeks. In the future, he plans to add a Buffalo Bull and more female Buffalos in hopes of breeding them for pleasure and preservation.

Jack also has approximately 19 of the most unusual and adorable African Pygmy Goats. There are 10 adults — nine females and one male, named Willie after Jack's Granddaddy — and at last count, nine brand-new babies (kids), many of whom will soon be for sale. These goats are very rare and are usually a light to dark grayish-black in color, although several are almost solid black with a white spot or two. They love to play and prance and jump about.

MAPA MEETING

Tuesday, May 1, 1990

7 O'clock

Town Hall

Meeting Room

Everyone Welcome!

Speaker — Refreshments

Being a very intelligent man, Jack started raising them, not only because they were cute and different, but mainly because they have been his biggest helpers in clearing his land by eating the underbrush and mowing the lawn. They are extremely healthy, don't get fleas, don't like rain and won't get in water, love to climb and sit on Jack's truck, cars and four wheelers, and one special goat, Peewee, even sits in Jack's lap. Wherever he goes around the property, they are usually following right behind him. They are an uncommon, excellent, delightful breed who make wonderful pets, helpers and friends.

Add to the above menagerie a few ducks, occasional Canadian geese, chickens, a variety of fish and "The Lord only knows what else is to come," and you have the wonderful, wacky world of Jack Martin.

"Jack Martin is one of the most imaginative, interesting and industrious persons I've ever known. He is always busy working — either on the development of his house and property, or helping someone else with their needs. He is always ready, willing and able to lend a helping hand, yet never expecting anything in return. He is definitely a fine asset to the Mentone community."

Harrell Jenkins

According to Jack, "Living in Mentone among so many good folks and being surrounded by so much beautiful natural wildlife and vegetation, as well as owning my own small piece of this majestic mountain, is the next best thing to Heaven I can imagine."

There are just so many hours in a day and no one makes more constructive use of each and every one of them than Jack Martin. He is an inspiration to us all; a man of wisdom and vision, whose hard work, determination and patience are making his dreams become a reality. When he's not working to fulfill his vision, he's working to help someone else realize theirs. Jack is a kind, generous and gentle man — truly a man for all seasons, whom I am proud and privileged to call my friend and whom all of Mentone should be proud to claim as one of their own. — R.T.R. — Special Features Editor.

"Jack Martin shares and cares about everyone and everything. He is a good friend who is always ready to help. I enjoyed the trip to Kansas to bring back the Buffalo. Neither of us knew what to expect, but the Buffalo were well behaved and easier to transport in my pickup truck than we had anticipated. It was an experience I'll never forget and it will be interesting to watch them develop. I don't know what I'd do without Jack. I enjoy helping him and working with him. Jack is a man with great foresight and fortitude and I feel privileged to have him as a friend."

Wayne Millican

"Jack is one of the warmest and most generous people in Mentone. If you don't feel at home at Jack's house, it's nobody's fault but your own!"

Terry Hutcheson



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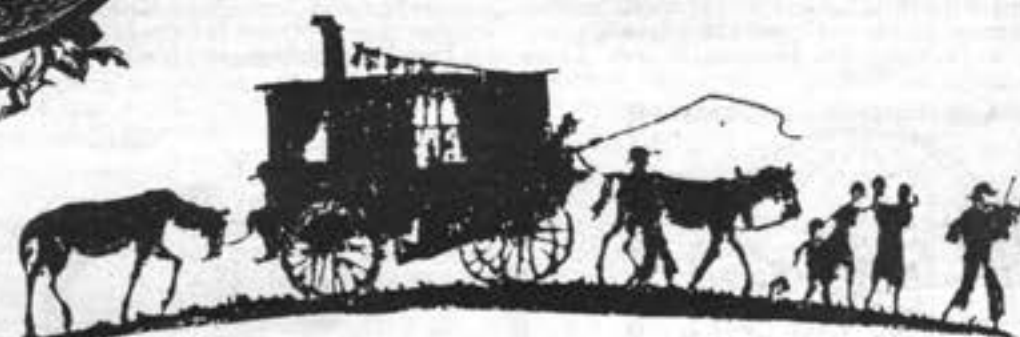


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Country Journal

By Bernice Crow

The air is fresh and crisp — spring is here, and everything is bursting with new life. Jimmy and Lynette McCary are back at Mentone till November — the best harbingers of spring I know, with all due respect to the robin.

Easter is near — vegetable garden planting should be done, but it has been too wet to plow at our place. My tulips have bloomed profusely — the finest I have ever had. It is strange how they do so much better some years than others. We had extremely cold weather one week that froze the stems, and the poor tulips humbly bowed their heads to Mother Nature. But within a few hours they had revived and were as beautiful as ever. I remember having them do that about 12 years ago, and was surprised that they could withstand cold down to 20 degrees.

The little Bluebells are covering our lawn, the red flowering peach is in full bloom — a little nipped by Jack Frost. Numerous varieties of daffodils are lovely, and some very fragrant. Miss Ruby O'Rear gave me loads of bulbs. How I miss going to see her and hearing her point out the many varieties of plants in her yard. She gave me one daffodil called "Cheerfulness," which is very fragrant.

Our wild plums bloomed early enough to escape the freeze, I think. Only time will tell. But I think the Damson Plum was frozen in full bloom. This is the second year we have lost our fruit due to weather conditions. Let's hope peach crops in south Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina escaped the chill and will produce luscious fruit.

The Redbud trees, on the side of the mountain, have presented a bright colorful parade of pink (or fuschia) color. They are so light and feathery looking, and appear before any other trees show any sign of life. Legend has it that Judas of the Bible hanged himself on this species of tree, so some people call it the Judas Tree.

Now the Dogwood are blending in with snowy blossoms, just as the Redbud is fading. It's a wonderful

world! Soon the many wildflowers will be blooming. One of my favorites is the little field daisy that grows on our roadsides. I would like to have some in my garden, but have never been successful in transplanting them. The wild geraniums are blooming, and so are the Virginia Bluebells.

The Bluebirds have been busy building nests, which is nice. It's so good to have them with us, after almost losing them when farmers were using the insecticide — DDT. The soft delicate blue feathered friends live off insects, and are much more pleasant to have around the vegetable garden than having to spray chemicals. We have another friend in the Praying Mantis. They feed on insect pests that torment a gardener. We found egg bags of them a few weeks ago, and hope they hatch a good crop.

The sap is rising, trees are getting green, and with the appearance of spring, my spirits rise. There are things to do — and my mind is racing with ideas for planting more roses, ordering more bulbs for fall plantings, cleaning some left-over leaves from the flower beds, fertilizing the puny-looking asparagus, and cleaning the strawberry patch.

It's Clean-Sweep time in DeKalb County, and I hope you will join in this weekend by cleaning around your own property, and helping those of us who work at cleaning the trash from the roadsides. We live in a most scenic location, but let's clean it up so it can be seen and enjoyed. Billy McDow, who is president of "Clean-Sweep," and works all the time with a crew cleaning roadside dumps, would appreciate your help. He is certainly doing a good job.

Our visitor of the month at the Hitching Post was Charlie Louvin, who has a music park at Henegar. He brought posters to announce a music festival in May. And another favorite of mine is Rene Proudfoot, who brought some lovely paintings which will be for sale in our shop.

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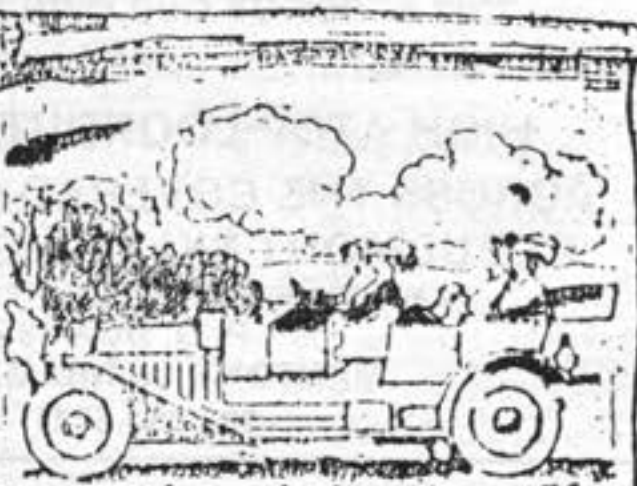
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MAPA Minutes

At the March meeting of M.A.P.A., over which the presi-
dent, Lynn Bathurst presided, was held at the town
meeting hall.

Our speaker of the evening was Steve Knowles, a cor-
porate attorney, who is helping our own local attorney,
Terry Hutcheson, form a legal non-profit status. He ex-
plained how we would have to change our by-laws slight-
ly, and have more officers on the board. We have had a
non-profit status, but maybe not according to the federal
regulations.

We voted to give Steve a copy of by-laws and let him
and Terry work out a complete diagram for approval to
us and the IRS, as to a legal non-profit organization.

President Bathurst urges everyone to work on March
31, and April 1 to help with DeKalb County clean-up days.
Ruth Bathurst complimented those on Cove Road who
pick up trash from the roadside daily.

Bernise Crow, secretary.



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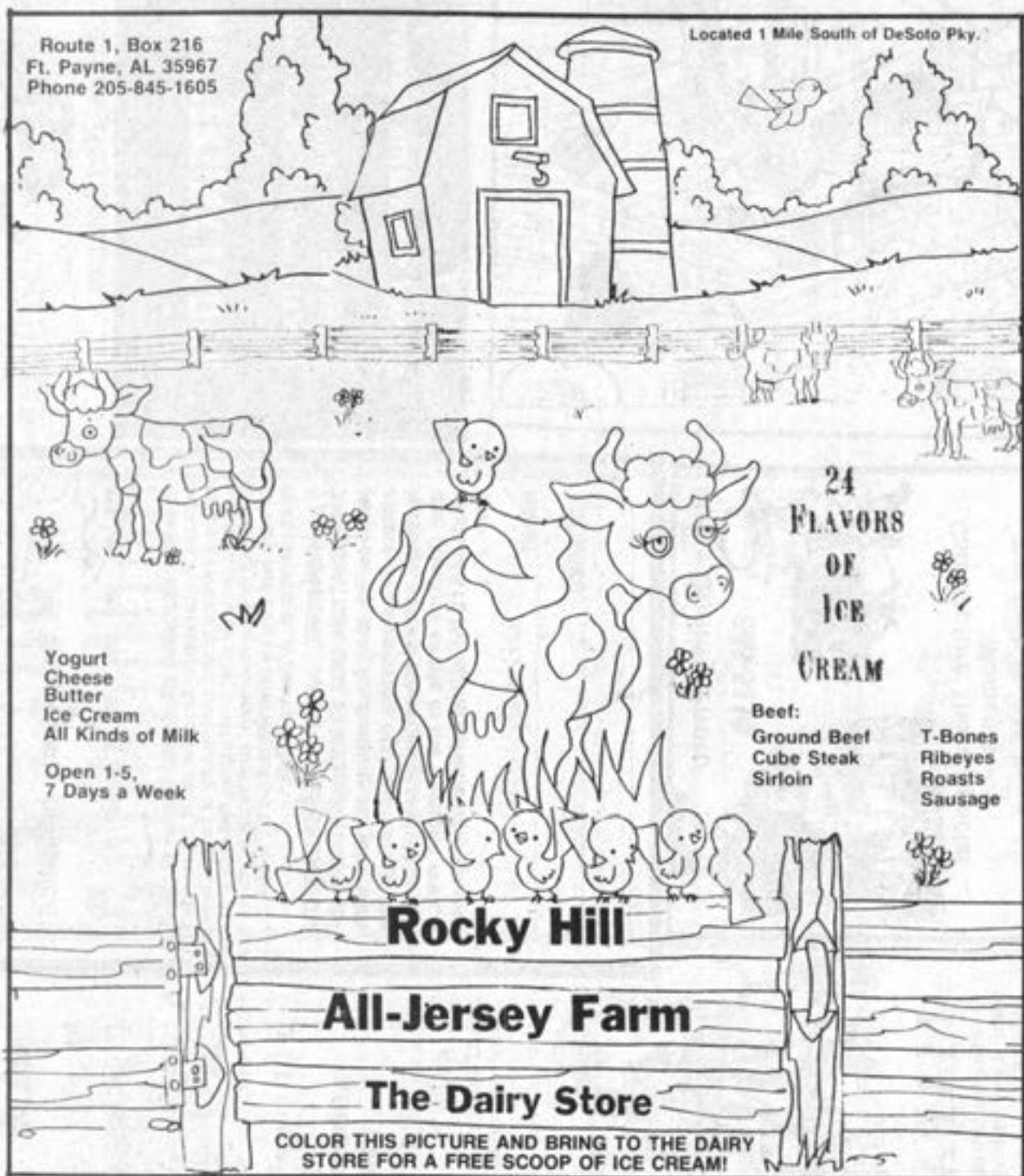
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