

the GROUNDHOG

Volume 6

— No 2

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

May-June 1988

Special Edition



Mentone's Summer Camps — An Investment In Living

Mentone is famous not only for its beautiful location, friendly people and gracious hospitality but also for the places in the hearts of thousands of children who come to have the time of their lives. Susan Hooks, Director of Camp Skyline said: "... an investment in living a lifetime of memories." They come from all over the world to our mountain camps, and everything is ready and waiting — the cool green woods, the sleek horses, the tireless workers, the sumptuous food, and the immaculate grounds welcome the first arrivals in June.

As early as 1922, Mentone was recognized as one of the best places in the world for a child to spend a summertime interlude. Camp Alanita was built that year on a ledge below Eagle's Nest rock on the north brow. The camp's brochure claimed: "it is the ideal spot for developing the girl with a mind that thinks, a body that acts, and a heart that loves," and that is still the criterion for the development of the campers of today.

Another pioneer is Camp DeSoto which is perhaps the oldest camp in Mentone. It was originally a boy's camp

Continued on Page 6

Mentone Featured On CNN Nationwide — Page 1
June Jam VII — Coming Soon

CNN Films Mentone Feature Aired Nationwide



Jack Jones with CNN crew.

Mark Leff, Correspondent with Ted Turner's Cable News Network discovered Mentone over a year ago. He has, along with friends from CNN, been looking for property for a weekend retreat. He made friends with several Mentone residents, including Mickey Strickland, *Groundhog* editor, and when CNN wanted to do a segment about places off the beaten path for viewers to visit, Mark suggested Mentone.

An itinerary was set on Thursday, and Friday, May 27, the news crew from Atlanta arrived at the *Groundhog* office in hotel square in Mentone. Time was a deciding factor and it was not possible to film all the places the *Groundhog* staff had listed on the schedule, such as Cragmere, Cloudmont, the Mentone Inn and DeSoto State Park. However, Mickey Strickland, Jack Jones of Cloudmont and Sharon Barron of "Gourdies" fame were all featured in the segment as well as DeSoto Falls. It was aired nationwide on cable television that afternoon.

CNN Correspondent Jeff Levine, cameraman Vince Sturla, sound technician Lisa Britton and soon-to-be Major Bob Issacs, an Army officer interning with CNN, gave Mickey Strickland and Jack Jones the opportunity to witness a news team in action, and if this crew is indicative of the rest of CNN's staff, it is no surprise that Ted Turner's Broadcasting System is one of the best in the business.

Mickey Strickland was interviewed on the front porch of the Hitching Post, Jack Jones with a view of the Log Cabin Deli in the background, and Sharon displayed her Gourdies outside The Gourdies Shop. Then it was off to the falls for a final shot with Jeff Levine who, amazingly, has the capacity to write script, memorize it beautifully, direct the crew and carry on a conversation — all at the same time. There were a few other spots shot, such as

Continued on Page 4

Canyon Confirms Slot At Jam

Alabama June Jam VII is delighted to announce that CANYON, five of the most delightful guys you would ever want to meet, has been added to this year's lineup of artists scheduled to perform June 11 at ALABAMA's charity show held in Fort Payne, Ala. CANYON's new release, "In The Middle Of the Night," on their 16th Avenue Liable debuts on Billboard's Hot 100 Country Singles at 81 with a bullet!

Due to conflicts, Sawyer Brown and Steve Earle will be unable to appear at the Jam. This information was received May 13 from John Dotson of the William Morris Agency. The June Jam is in the process of booking additional artists for the June 11 show.

Gary Morris To Attend Jam

Gary Morris marks his return to the country music scene after six months run in the Broadway musical, *Les Miserables*, with an appearance on the Alabama June Jam June 11. His plans also include a playing spot in the Randy Owen Celebrity Golf Tournament Friday, June 10.

Randy Owens Speaks

"We appreciate all our guests who are appearing on this year's June Jam," commented Alabama lead singer, Randy Owen, from the group's headquarters in Fort Payne, Ala. "Especially folks like Charlie Daniels, Ricky Van Shelton and Restless Heart who are performing here early afternoon in order to make previously scheduled shows that same night."

He continued, "K. T. Oslin and the Bellamy Brothers leave early the following morning for European Tours. It really makes us feel good that these great artists are making this extra effort to be with us at June Jam VIII."

Town Council Urges Businesses Purchase Licenses

The Mentone Town Council meeting was held on May 2 at the town hall. The Council urges all business people to come in and purchase a city license, for it is a requirement in order to do business within the city limits of Mentone. Each business person should get one before opening or building or whatever, but several have not, and the Council asks that they do so immediately.

The Council passed a Standard Code for the elimination or repair of unsafe buildings. The meeting was closed in order to discuss personnel.

MAPA MEETING

Tuesday, June 7, 1988
7 O'clock

Speaker at the June 7 meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association at the Town Hall Meeting Room is Bob Thacker, retired Alabama highway patrolman, assistant state director of the American Association of Retired People and pastor at Howard's Chapel.

The meeting at 7 p.m. is open to the public. Refreshments will be served afterward by Jean and Charles McGehee.

Mentone Election Nears

Mentone voters go to the polls on Tuesday, Aug. 23, to elect the offices of mayor and the five council members. The new administrations begin on Oct. 3. Deadline for filing is July 19 at 5 p.m.

Filing cost for the office of mayor is \$50; for council \$25. Each new candidate must file a statement of ethics. All information is available with Mrs. Catherine Bailey at the Town Hall, where all filings take place.

Present mayor is Rob Hammond. Council members are Max Cash, Bill Russell, Hobson Kirby, James Johnson and Epp Meadows.

Voting will occur in the new Town Hall Meeting Room.

Friends Of Little River

Following the January 28th open meeting in the Town Hall Meeting Room, Mayor Rob Hammond sponsored a steering committee to set in process an organization to protect Little River. The initial impetus of the group was the fear that Chattooga County would establish a landfill near the river. Subsequent rumored plans have included a dam that would divert water to the Georgia valley.

Mayor Hammond was elected temporary chairman of the group and Talmadge Butler, manager of DeSoto State Park, served as secretary. The name FRIENDS OF LITTLE RIVER was chosen and a post office box established for donations: Box 111, Mentone, AL 35984. Individual memberships are \$10, group \$25, patrons, \$100 and over. The organization will have an office, a library of resource materials, and a parttime employee.

Mentone Hardware Under New Ownership



Mentone Hardware has a new owner and operator, Bill Pilson from Lysterly. Bill currently resides there with his wife and two children. "I have always loved the mountain," Bill said when asked for the reason he chose a business in Mentone, "so when I got the chance to buy the hardware store, it seemed like a great opportunity."

Bill is going to keep the name the same, but make big changes inside. "We are going to carry a full line of products under the auspices of the Pro Hardware Company, and the idea is to buy the goods at a lower price and to sell them at a discount to our customers. Pro is a nationally-recognized line and known for quality at a great price."

Bill will have a Grand Opening sometime soon, after he has the store fully stocked with more building supplies, hardware goods, movies, and a lot of other items too numerous to mention. He intends to make the Mentone Hardware a one-stop shopping store for farm, building, and home maintenance, as well as a place where one can get the latest videos at a reduced price, and he intends to offer chain saws, weed eaters, and other kinds of equipment.

"I am no stranger to Mentone," Bill told *The Groundhog*, "and I just want to be part of the community and to offer a service that no one else does. I am not out to get rich, just make a living, and I am happy with a life that includes my family, getting by, and making a place for my business in this beautiful area."

Crafts Festival — July 9 and 10

From The Editor

By Mickey Strickland

The truth is out. Stop the presses, the biggest news since the invention of the Twinkie is blasting across the world, commanding the cover spread of everything from **People to Time**. AstroGate is upon us — Nancy Reagan reads her horoscope, and even more, she has consulted an astrologer! Now, if that's not big news, what is?

It seems Americans and some of those who presume to inform them and speak for them have a talent for emphasizing the trivial. Who cares about whether someone tries to find a universal, inner meaning to the workings of life or not? If this sort of journalism is to set the pace, let's get to the really important things next, like does Jesse Jackson like the color purple and what significance does that information have upon his reliability in making profound decisions? And about Princess Di, does she or doesn't she? Oh, and the big stuff, will Jessica Hahn go back to work for her former employer? Let's not forget to make an issue of whether or not Donald Trump and lovely wife will spend one or two million today on delightfully mindless pursuits. And those naughty Helmsleys, caught with mitts in the Federal cookie jar. Isn't it enough to bring one to tears?

No, the truth is, it is not enough to bring tears. But there are a lot of important issues that have a way of taking a back seat to sensationalism — real problems with real people who spend their lives in the back wash of society while stupid and inane stories get millions of dollars in coverage. At least 34 percent of American children are sexually abused sometime during childhood, often many times, usually the child is female and the felon is a relative. There are seven year olds selling themselves on the street for food and often to support a drug habit. There are whole families of displaced Americans living out of cardboard boxes, huddled over street grates to keep from freezing to death. There are little boys and girls whose only dream is to have a real home in which to live, and the only security they will ever know will be in a jail cell somewhere. Our minimum wage is a national disgrace and while a few moan about Black Monday, to thousands and thousands of our countrymen, every Friday when that paltry paycheck comes the blackness descends because it is not possible to support a family on the meager crumbs thrown from the corporate table to the American worker forced to grovel in order to survive.

Don't give me Nancy Reagan's hobbies. Give me some real answers to how we can provide health care, nutritious food and a warm bed to every sick, hungry and cold person in this nation. I don't care about someone's study of the stars, unless it includes a way to stop the Star Wars madness and waste, paid for at the expense of the common man. I want coverage of the stupidity in the Agricultural Administration which gives the majority of price supports to mega-farms while the little farmer has his business auctioned for a tenth of its value. I want to read about the risk we take every day we continue the folly of investment in nuclear power. One Chernobyl at Widow's Creek or Brown's Ferry and this mountain would be as empty as a graveyard for centuries. We have the technology to clean up emissions from other types of power-producing equipment, but we continue to throw good money after bad, even though it could kill us all.

Perhaps the powers that print feel we need a break from all the hard stuff once in a while. But those people living the hard life don't get a break. They can't pick up and put down the jagged edges of their existence at will, and we have no right to forget them, even for one glitzy issue of some national attention-getter. Until we make up our minds to get down to business and resolve some of the problems of this country, until we take some definite steps in the direction of common sense, equality and compassion, then for otherwise reputable journalists to devote so much coverage to something so inconsequential as Nancy Reagan's horoscope is the height of ignorance or the depths of indifference.

MAPA Meeting

Director Bill Riedesel called the May 2 meeting of the MAPA to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Twenty-four members were present and guests Hope and George Walker and Bill Pillson.

Director Riedesel appointed a nominating committee composed of Charles McGehee, Homer Crow, Ed Disney, Rick Chapman and Donna Buckley. He then introduced Rick Chapman, who gave an interesting talk on his experiences as a World War II bomber pilot (See story elsewhere). Homemade pies and pudding by Bernise Crow and Maggie Cordell were served to everyone present. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Condensed from the minutes of Jean McGehee

The Lookout

"Atop Lookout Mountain"
CLOUDLAND, GEORGIA
(404) 862-2515

The Groundhog

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205-634-4198 or 4185

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Our Town With Linda Brown

Have you noticed how hard nature tries to cover the ugliness caused by man? The woods that burned last winter are now covered with green growth. The tall grass covers the litter on the roadside. Wild roses cover rusted cars on the salvage lots. Everything blooms to make us feel better by being happy. Couldn't we give nature a little more help?

The Rhododendron Garden Club had double special treats for their May meeting. They all attended the annual luncheon held at the Mentone Inn. The program concerned genealogy; how to begin to trace your family tree and other information. Several members decided that they didn't want to shake their family tree for fear of what might fall out. Later, several members met Jimmy Berry for a trip down the river on his boat. They reported that the rhododendrons were pretty but the mountain laurel was not in bloom.

If you saw a lot of rescue squad vehicles around Mentone on Monday the 21st, it wasn't an emergency. The DeSoto Rescue Squad hosted the quarterly meeting of the DeKalb County Association. This consists of all the squads in the county. About 100 people attended the meeting to finalize the plans for parking cars at the June Jam.

Mentone in general and the camps in particular are getting ready for the camping season. There will be about a thousand young people in camp at any given time this summer. Watch for them and be extra careful when driving on our streets.

I received a letter from a lady in Chattanooga concerning the article on "Grandma Mary" Winn in last month's issue of **The Groundhog**. Her grandfather was the same person as Mary's. She wanted some information and pictures if possible. I called Mickey and she told me that Mary had a stroke recently but that she would write the lady.

I'm sure that most churches will be having Vacation Church Schools before long. If you will contact me, I will publish a list of all of them so that parents can make plans for their children to attend.

I want to say thanks to the Mentone Superette. They are so nice to let me (and I know that others do to) leave things there for others to pick up. It saves me many steps and much time and I do appreciate it.

Vacation Bible School will be held at Moon Lake Baptist Church June 6 through 10, 6-9 p.m. each night. There will be classes for everyone, children to adults. Everyone is invited.

If I can help you in any way, please let me know. Linda Brown, P.O. Box 271, Mentone, AL 35984, 205/634-4755.

Get Your Jam Tickets
now

MOUNTAIN WATCH

By Jean McGehee

Recently our friends, Eileen and Jim Walbert, phoned from Birmingham, laughing over an incident at their UPS office. Jim had gone in to send some books our way. The clerk gave him a hard time when he couldn't give our house and street address. I could appreciate the problem.

On a 1948 plat our road is called Sunset Brow Street. On an earlier map it is named Cool Street. When I first applied for my Alabama driver's license after moving back to the state, I couldn't remember either of those names. Desperately, I created one: North Brow Road. Since ours was the third house from the highway, I gave the house number 103. I think any delivery person could figure out North Brow Road.

But Jim Walbert didn't even know that street name. He wasn't getting very far with the UPS clerk until a young woman who worked there walked over and said, "Mentone? Oh, I've been there. Let me tell you, Mentone ain't NOTHING!"

We caught the humor of the situation, of course. In a very small town there would be no problem delivering packages. Everyone would know where everyone else lived. But not always. We lost five pounds of cheddar cheese one Christmas when a new UPS driver delivered it down the street and dogs destroyed it. The cheese company later replaced it, and we were able to gorge on cheese straws for another holiday season.

But here we are, firmly rooted in Mentone, our home of choice which we've always thought was not just SOMETHING, but the most wonderful place of all! That city girl has a long way to go before she can judge small towns.

We've been especially blessed this spring by having a titmice couple take up residence in one of our birdhouses just four feet off the screened porch. Never have I seen a couple work harder to put food in their babies' mouths. They are tiny birds — they have to be able to get into the bird house that Papa and McGregor built several of, some 23 years ago.

Initially Charles thought they were wrens. At our first Mentone home on the brow down the road (at 103), wrens at least twice wintered over in a bird house in the carport. One Christmas when we arrived between the holidays, the mother wren dive-bombed us as soon as we got out of the car. Charles thought they had followed us to the Morgadanes cabin.

Also at 103 one summer a thrush family built a nest in a tree, later killed by lightning, just off the deck. Charles' sister, Ties, was visiting and she took up her watch on the deck and saw every one of the babies learn to fly.

When Charles used to have a Florida ministers' retreat there every fall, an owl once lit on one of the clergymen's bald head. I wonder who was more surprised, the owl or the man? I've always been glad Mentone is a bird sanctuary.

WAR ON MOLES! This is what I've declared this gardening season. Caesar has managed to kill three or four moles in that many years. We don't encourage his violence, and basically, Caesar is a pacifist, unless other dogs are around. But the moles seemed to be winning the war.

Castor beans? They don't work — at least not for us. Traps and severe poisons are out because of Caesar. Juicy Fruit Chewing Gum has been suggested. I believe this must be a public relations act by the company. Then our neighbor, Gobbie Lawman, told me she had routed moles from their yard with mothballs.

Promptly I put moth balls all around one side of the garden fence, down about five inches and about that far apart. Feeling that at least I had won the skirmish, I went inside hoping I'd see no more empty places where my tomato plants had been sucked underground. I felt pretty good until Charles said, "What are you going to do about the moles still in the garden?" Ouch!

RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL



Maggie Cordell with her beautiful quilt. (Russell Clark of Birmingham won it).

The Greens - Keeping It All Together



Preston, Phil, Alice Ruth and Burma Green (Charles Inset).

Recently, Charles Green was killed in an accident almost to the day of the anniversary of the purchase of the Cloudland Trade Center by him and his brother Phil and their families. Charles and Phil were more than brothers, they were best friends, as are their wives and children. They jointly owned the Trade Center and the Cloudland Nursery, and the remaining members of the Green family have no intention of letting go of any part of their lives with Charles. "Things will stay the same as when he was here," Phil said, "and we will keep the Nursery and the Trade Center just as they were." Alice Ruth, Charles' widow and their son Preston intend to remain in the home they have lived in for so long: "Charles built our home in Cloudland and I would never part with it," Alice told *The Groundhog*, "It is a place I love and I have my beauty shop there. It is a place I call home, and it will always be."

Charles was the elder of two sons born to Amos and Robye Green. The boys were reared in the house on the hill at the caution light in Cloudland. Miss Robye, as she was called by everyone, was a teacher and principal of Cloudland Elementary School which was a small two-roomed structure that went through the fourth grade. Phil met his wife, Burma, when he began the fifth grade in Menlo. Charles met Alice Ruth when she was in the seventh grade at Summerville Junior High School.

Alice Ruth Henderson's father was a deputy sheriff for Reuben Lyons and often had dinner at the Lyons home at Cloudland. The Green home was across the road, and when Alice Ruth saw Charles playing on the hill, he would hide from her. Then he began to call her and write letters. "That's how we got together. Charles and Phil are the only men we have ever had in our lives."

When the boys were still in grade school, their father built a rock home for Mr. Perea, who owned a plant nursery in Rome with a farm in Cloudland for the hardier plants. Amos Green began work in the Cloudland Nursery full time, and Charles began after school, on weekends and holidays. Shortly thereafter, Phil began with them. They learned the nursery business from the inside out, wedding, potting, propagating cuttings and often working in Mr. Perea's hothouse in Rome.

Charles attended Jacksonville State University in Business Administration before beginning a 23 year long career with Bigelow and Sanford Corp. Phil went to work at the same rug mill before graduating, working the second shift at night and attending school during the day. He began full time with Bigelow and Sanford after graduation and two years later married his childhood sweetheart, Burma McClung. He then did a stint in the armed services before returning to Cloudland and a job with the rug mill

again before taking a position with the Tag Railroad that ran through Menlo. Southern Railway bought out the Tag line, and Phil stayed on with them and worked for them in Chattanooga until 1976. Then he worked for the Alabama Great Southern Railway as machine operator.

The brothers had been dabbling in the nursery business all the time they worked other jobs and reared families. Charles had one son, Preston, and Phil a daughter, Lindsey. They did not sell much, a few box-woods and such to friends. Then the farm across from Lib Wood's store became available in 1973 and the brothers became partners, putting cattle on it. Charles and Sonny Woods, Lib's husband, were good friends, so after Sonny's death, Lib, his widow, sold the Green brothers the farm. Charles and Phil decided more people wanted nursery plants than cattle, so they sold the animals and moved the nursery stock from their homes to the farm. They bought out a lot of Perea's stock when it went out of business and with what they had raised themselves, they had a large selection. Frank Near, the late Mr. Perea's son in law who inherited the nursery, sold the Perea property at auction.

Meanwhile, Phil's wife, Burma, worked for Bigelow and Sanford and is still employed there. Alice Ruth, Charles' wife, has a beauty shop in her home in Cloudland.

In April, 1987, the store previously owned by Lib Woods became available and the two families purchased it together, renaming it the Cloudland Trade Center. Charles began work full time in the store, and Phil worked part-time, keeping his other job. Charles ran the store, and the family has had to work together to fill in since his death, but the Greens are accustomed to hard work and they know in order to preserve what they have striven for so long to build will take sacrifice and cooperation. "We have always been very close," Burma spoke of their years together, "and have shared our lives — raising our children, spending our spare time together, working together. And we are going to keep it that way." Preston grew up in the family business and although he works in Rome, will take more responsibility in the nursery and store.

"We are going to keep the store and the nursery until we are old and gray," Alice Ruth said. "We'll be running around here in wheelchairs pumping gas. We do not plan to sell anything, and we plan to keep it just like it is."

Tragedy often brings families closer together, and in the case of the Greens, it reinforced their devotion to one another and to the businesses they have built together through long years of hard work. It is in the places he worked and lived that they feel closest to Charles, and the effort is a labor of love.

Rick Chapman Speaks To MAPA

As a 19-year-old B-17 pilot stationed in England during World War II, Rick Chapman learned the truth of John Donne's declaration: "No man is an island." Chapman stated in a talk to members of the Mentone Area Preservation Association on May 2 in the Town Hall Meeting Room. "Teamwork and mutual support was the only way to come home safely."

The brave young men who flew missions to Europe, Russia and Africa were so young that many did not even have their driver's licenses before they left for military service and training.

Crews of nine and 10 men, ranging in age from 18 to 30 years, flew in a diamond formation usually composed of 30 to 35 planes. Each plane was about 75 feet long with 104 foot wing span. Their bombing was accurate to within 50 feet of a target. The planes flew some 1,000 to 1,200 miles with full loads of fuel and bombs weighing about 65,000 pounds.

The remarkable thing about the B-17s was the love their pilots and crews felt for these trustworthy planes. Rick told several stories of badly damaged craft miraculously making it back to base.

During the war some 4,700 planes were lost; 28,000 were killed in action in B-17s and 40,000 were wounded. Rick said that his first and last missions were his worst. Once 988 planes went on a single mission.

Chapman had been in love with flying since he had seen an old Ford tri-motor when he was eight years old. Straight out of high school, the Mentone gemmologist was sent to the University of Chattanooga, then to Nashville, Maxwell Field in Montgomery, and on to Arcadia, Fla., where he was in the same flight training class with Mentone's George Walker in January, 1944, in the Army Air Corps.

Other than the B-17, Chapman's aviation love was the P-47, the "workhorse" of the Air National Guard. In July in Huntsville, there will be a reunion of the World War II pilots, complete with planes and demonstrations. Rick will be there, proud of his past and of his and his companions' dedication — but also filled with love for the B-17, an incomparable plane.

Tourism Boon To Alabama Economy

Travel activity in Alabama produced an estimated \$4.3 billion for the state's economy in 1987, up 8 percent from 1986, according to statistics released today by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel.

The statistics were compiled by Auburn University during a yearlong survey of travelers in Alabama during 1987 and the economic impact of their spending.

For each day in 1987, the state received, on average, nearly \$12 million in income from travel and tourism. This amounts to more than \$1,100 for every resident in Alabama.

Travel income accounted for almost 20 percent of the state's retail sales tax collections, or in excess of \$160 million, not including state taxes on gasoline.

Almost 78,000 employees were provided employment directly as a result of the state's travel activity, or about one job for every \$55,000 spent by travelers.

Of the 70 million people traveling in Alabama during 1987, about 45 percent were from out-of-state locations. About 73 percent of the travelers were under the age of 50, with 41 percent under the age of 30. About 85 percent had incomes over \$20,000.

On average, travelers stayed 2.8 days and 2.1 nights per trip in Alabama. Those golfing, boating/fishing, and attending conventions stayed longest, spending more than five days a trip.

Travel parties averaged 2.8 persons per party generally, and each party spent, on average, \$185 in Alabama. Their chief leisure activity while in Alabama was visiting historical sites. Golfing, boating/fishing, and going to the beach were the activities accounting for the largest expenditures per party.

More than half of the travel parties were Alabama residents traveling in their home state. When broken down by regions, 79 percent of all travelers came from the South Region of the U. S., including Alabama. Outside the South, the Southwest and the North Central Regions were the largest contributors to Alabama's nonresident travel population. Louisiana and Florida were dominant origin states for nonresident travelers in Alabama in 1987.

 ELECT
WELDON PARRISH
 Superintendent Of Education
 Subject To Action Of Democrat Primary, June 7, 1988 and June 24 Run-Off General Election, November 8, 1988

 * YOUR VOTE AND SUPPORT WILL BE APPRECIATED *
 PAID IN FULL BY WELDON PARRISH, JR., FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA



Helen Turner
Groundhog Advertising
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THE STILL HOG GETS THE SLOP

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Our Bargains Are Bigger Than Anybody's!

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Continued from Page 1

the Bed and Breakfast sign and the town of Mentone. Vince Sturla proved he was not just a cameraman, but an artist with film as well.

The Log Cabin Deli's owner, Collette Forrester, gave the crew the royal treatment as she served her specialties at lunch time. They were impressed with the beauty of Mentone and some have made plans to return and bring families to visit.

Mayor Rob Hammond once called Mentone Alabama's best kept secret. Even further, Mentone is one of America's best kept secrets, but with networks like CNN who put forth the time and financing to feature such treasures as this mountain, others will have the opportunity to find the special people and places on, as Jeff Levine quoted, "The road not taken."



Jeff Levine, Correspondent.

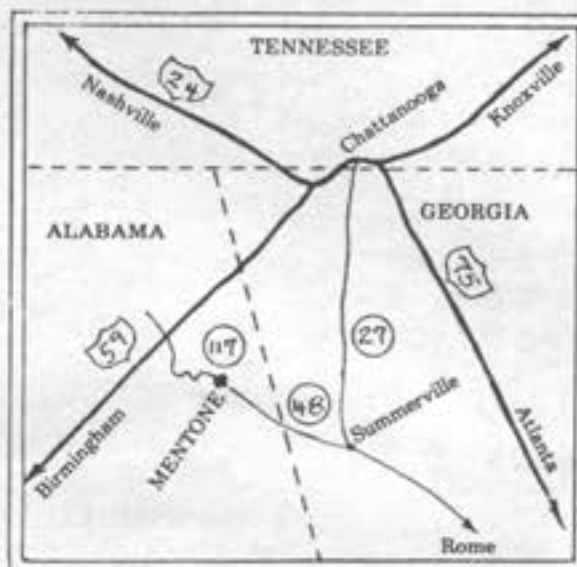
MENTONE CRAFTS FESTIVAL

OF MENTONE, ALABAMA

JULY 9 & 10, 1988

At The
CITY PARK

On The Brow Of
Lookout Mountain



**ADMISSION \$2.00 ADULTS
UNDER 12 YEARS - FREE**

SQUARE DANCING CLOGGING

9:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Demonstrations can be seen in
basket weaving, quilting, shingle splitting, pottery throwing,
blacksmithing, & other mountain crafts

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Mentone, Ala.

Open Weekends Or By Appt. (404) 657-7411

Log Cabin Craft Village

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Etchings By Sigi Campbell

Basketry By Adena Johnston

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- Loveseats
- Sofas
- Swings
- Tables
- Dining Sets
- We Do Custom Work
- Heart Headboards
- Beds including Canopy,
4 Post, Bunk, Daybeds



Pottery By
Sue Cannon
Rising Fawn Pottery



Furniture And Other Fine Crafts

Featuring Handmade Rustic Willow



The Valley Head Masonic Lodge honored their Past Masters and widows of their deceased members, Monday night, May 9, at the Promenade Hall.

Eloise Brown, Worthy Matron of Valley Head Eastern Star, gave the invocation. Randy Carson presided and introduced the Grand Master of Alabama, Floyd Hambrick of Scottsboro, Deputy Grand Master, David Shirey from Rainsville and Grand Orator Malvert Putman from Princeton. They gave talks about the work of Masons and

Eastern Star members over the state.

Past Master certificates were presented to John Blankenship, Dennis Lewis, Howard Carson and his son, Tommy Carson.

The widows present and honored were Vesta Hawkins, Jewell Palmer, Stella Pierce, Velma Hammond, Doris Durham, Dorothy Ashley, Mary Frances Tate, Ruby Sully and Eloise Brown. Past Matrons and Past Patrons of the O.E.S. were recognized.

Refreshments were catered by O.E.S.

By Eloise M. Brown

Doug Jones, Fire Control Technician, Third Class, is on leave from the Navy and is home with his parents, John and Jean Jones. On his return, he will be aboard the submarine, Portsmouth, based at San Diego, Calif.

Geraldine and Howard Hawkins had as their weekend guests, her sister, Stella Tanaska, and friend, Fran Talkington of Copley, Ohio.

Dorothy Ashley and her daughter, Sandra Maffett, attended the wedding of Dorothy's niece, Pamela Nelson, to Dennis Reynolds in Fort Meyers, Fla.

Patti Brown and Cindy Meadows, Consultants for Princess House, attended a two day Seminar of Management Dynamics, at the Raddison Inn, in Atlanta, recently.

Alba Brown went with her son, Dixie Brown and his wife, Nell, to Harpersville, Ala., for the Hayden reunion on May 15.

Lila "Tille" Schlicher has returned home after treatment at University Hospital in Birmingham.

Jim Carmichael is at Carraway Methodist in Birmingham, after suffering a heart attack. We are praying for his quick recovery.

Sympathy is extended to Gladys Scott and family, in the death of her sister, Vergia Johnson Perkins; also to Patsy Hammond and family in the loss of her sister, Susan Robinson.

I attended the funeral of my aunt, Lemma H. Fuller in Chattanooga, May 10. After the eulogy by her pastor, her son Frank Fuller, spoke a glowing tribute to her. Among other things, he said, "It is not a time to grieve but a time to rejoice for she is in Heaven and will suffer no more pain." His remarks gave special meaning and comfort. I also visited my mother-in-law, Thelma Brown and my cousin, Lottie Dantzler, who are shut-ins.

Aura Mae Baurle celebrated her birthday with a family luncheon at Western Sizzlin in Fort Payne. Others present were Jean and John Jones and little Jessica, Doug Jones, Kernie Wright and Stella Pierce.

Roy Cobble is at home for a while before returning to the hospital for surgery. We wish for him a return to good health.

Brad Hawkins is at home and hopefully on the way to recovery. He still asks for our prayers.

It is such a beautiful time! — May inspires poetic expression.



LEMASTER

Superintendent Of Education

WHY?



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Lemaster

DeKalb County Superintendent of Education

Subject to action of the Democrat Primary June 7, 1988

Pd. Pol. Advt. by Joe Lemaster, Rainsville, AL



built in the 1920's by a Mrs. Newton. At her death, Eloise Hart Temple leased it and turned it into a camp for girls. Martha Berry, the famous educator, assisted in an advisory capacity and sent students from Berry School in Rome, Ga., to work in the dining room. In 1944 Camp DeSoto was purchased and operated by Norma Bradshaw and Bess Heron.

Sue McLarin Henry became a staff member in 1947, and stayed to purchase the complex in 1975. She resides full-time at the camp, and takes pride in the development of young minds and bodies through communion with nature on a personal basis.

Another historically significant camp is Skyline which was begun by Eloise Temple after she sold DeSoto. Mrs. Temple founded the traditions that are still a part of Skyline today. The location is lovely, perched above the waters of Little River. Skyline has more acreage than most other camps, for when Edmund and Edward Cash of Cash Construction purchased the camp, they added some of the most scenic land on the mountain to be used for camp activities: a three-hundred acre lake and cabin on hundreds of wooded acres called Lizard Lope, Granny Dollar Lake near DeSoto State Park and a huge complex and lake near Fort Payne called Lick Skillet. Susan Cash Hooks is Director and lives year around at the Camp with her family. Susan stresses self-improvement and development of confidence through learning, fun and lifetime friendships.

Lookout Mountain Christian Conference Center began as a camp in 1928 for boys, known as Lookout Mountain Camp. Dr. Jacob Gorman and his son-in-law Gray Morrison opened the camp as the culmination of a dream held by Dr. Gorman to provide an ideal place for boys to grow and learn while having fun in a wild and beautiful setting. In 1958, Gray Morrison died, leaving the camp to his two sons, Gray D. and John.

Because of strong religious conviction, John and wife, Anne, and children moved to the camp full time from New Orleans in order to provide a place for religious retreats, conferences and Christian Day Camps. It is open year round and welcomes anyone who seeks spiritual kinship in a rustic setting.

In 1921 a mule team brought Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America to the Georgia-ridge side of Lookout Mountain. She was in search of a site for a leadership training center in the southern wilderness. John and Will Ledbetter, who were developing Cloudland, gave her 10 acres for the project. Her choice was an area on Little River with rugged terrain and a natural rock swimming pool. Juliette Low was the aunt of Marion Wallace Low of Mentone. The first season was in 1922 and was advertised as a Girl Scout Training School at Cloudland Park.

In the summer before Mrs. Low died, she transferred the campsite to Camp Juliette Low, Inc., a non-profit organization managed by a board of trustees. Its philosophy emphasizes response to the impact of nature and ecology and a concern for the environment.

Camp Cloudmont began as 40 acres on Little River developed by the Young Men's Christian Association of Miami, Fla. It was operated by C. W. Able and L. B. Sommers and purchased by them five years after its beginning in 1924. They increased the acreage to 5,000 and built 40 structures. Under their guidance, Camp Cloudmont was an almost totally self-sufficient complex — workers hired locally raised cattle and butchered them on the premises, as well as hogs and chickens; vegetables were grown in large plots with food being taken from garden to table in a matter of hours.

A young camper went on to become a staff member and realized a personal dream in 1947 when he purchased the camp. He was Jack Jones, and under his ownership the camp was streamlined while keeping the old traditions and starting new ones.

In 1982, Marty Griffin leased the camp and purchased it two years later. She changed the name to Saddle Rock Camp for Girls and has done extensive landscaping and rebuilding to the structures and 80 acres that lie along the banks of Little River. She brought with her 20 years of camping leadership, as well as a goal of contributing to the spiritual, physical and mental development of girls 6 to 16.

In 1887, Dr. John Edward Purdon and his wife Katherine came from Althone, Ireland to Mentone, servants and all. He had been a Major Surgeon in the British Army. He practiced medicine in Mentone, often without pay. The Purdons' friends, Mary and Thomas Sproule, built a home on the adjoining property to house the Irish servants and a parrot they had brought with them. They are buried in Bankhead Cemetery. The remains of an old fireplace are all that's left of the original structures, but in 1959, something new was added: Malcolm Laney, assistant coach at the University of Alabama and his wife Louise began Camp Laney for Boys. There had also been a hotel on the site known as Riverdale Lodge, but it had burned.

The site was a popular one, evidently because it includes a broad stretch of the most scenic area on Little River. Here the river is deep and wide and smooth, perfect for summer sports and winter contemplation.

In 1974, a staff member, Rob Hammond, and his wife San purchased the camp and have operated it ever since. Rob is the mayor of the town of Mentone and active in community affairs, as he and his family live at the camp year around. The primary objective of Camp Laney is to provide for boys an exciting experience under close supervision, while making close friendships and gaining self-confidence in a setting of natural beauty.

In 1954 Jack and Olive Jones purchased 2,000 acres known as the Fults Farm near Cloudland, at an auction. Thus began another camp, this time a wild west camp for boys. After a few years, Valley View Ranch became a girls camp under the directorship of Jack's daughters Nancy and Marsha Hair and Marsha's husband, Doug. Nancy became sole director several years ago and maintains the same philosophy upon which the camp was founded: Provide every girl who comes to Valley View Ranch with the best in learning experiences which include a personal relationship with nature and a horse to call her own while she is at camp. The camp stresses care for the environment and love of nature with many opportunities to get close to the earth and its creatures.

Ponderosa Bible Camp is located five miles north of Mentone on 80 acres along the banks of Little River. It was founded in 1973 by the University of Alabama. It began as a camp for emotionally disturbed children and for those with learning disabilities.

In 1976, the Children's Bible Mission established a Christian camp for children which, although nondenominational, maintains a doctrinal position of evangelical, conservative fundamentalism. Glenn Miller is the director and lives at the complex with his family. Many children come to Ponderosa in the scholarship program based upon need. Credit toward tuition can be earned by memorizing parts of the Bible through the Mailbox Club sponsored by Children's Bible Mission. Ponderosa's priorities lie with the spiritual Christian development of the child, and all activities are geared toward Bible teachings with nightly inspirational services emphasizing personal commitment.

In 1934, Camp Alpine was established, at that time for girls. It began in a lodge originally built by Milford Howard and his wife Vivian. The camp was purchased by Rufus Hyde and Richard O'Ferrell who made it into a camp for boys. Mr. O'Ferrell became sole owner when Mr. Hyde retired in 1962.

Over one thousand acres of the most beautiful land in Alabama belongs to the Choccolocco Council of the Boy Scouts of America, an 11 county organization. Camp Comer Scout Reservation was named for Hugh Ross Comer of Sylacauga, Ala., who had been a long time scout worker and was president of the Choccolocco Council. After the land was purchased in 1962, it was three years before the camp was officially opened. A successful fund-raising campaign in 1965 allowed for development and the building of a dam to form Lake Republic, named for one of the camp's strongest supporters, Republic Steel of Gadsden, Ala. Thousands of scouts each year come to Camp Comer to learn about nature and their relationship to one another and to the earth.

One of the newer camps is Camp Woodmont located 15 miles North of Cloudland. The camp is privately owned by the founders, Jim and Jane Bennett, faculty members of DeKalb College near Atlanta. Woodmont offers horseback riding, dancing and acting, nature lore, arts and crafts, sports and games, gymnastics, archery and much more.

Camp Woodmont offers an up close and personal learning-by-doing experience. The Bennetts believe in respect for and love of the natural world, and their camp gives children the chance to make new friends and learn new skills in a wilderness setting.

Thirteen years ago when she was 12, Lee Cohen, together with several other children from Birmingham, Ala., came by bus to Camp Skyline. "I was so scared," Lee remembered, "and when we got to camp the bus from Chattanooga was already there and those kids had their bunks made up and everything. I was assigned to Joywood and when I went in, all the bunks but one were taken. I mustered up my courage and asked the girl on the top bunk if it could sleep on the one below. She said 'sure' and that conversation began a firm friendship that lasts until this day." The camper on the top bunk was Patricia Davies from Chattanooga, Tenn., and throughout school, different colleges, and careers these two have remained close. "We wrote all year long," Lee laughed, "these long 25 page letters which we kept in boxes with our ribbons, pictures, music sheets and all the other things we got at camp. Sometimes, we get together and get this stuff out and laugh and sing the old camp songs that meant so much to us."

For years, the girls commuted to one another's homes by Greyhound bus, then when they turned 16 and obtained their driver's licenses, they drove to see each other. "The friendship that formed between us at camp will last a lifetime, as will all the things we learned there," Patricia said. "I remember especially the campfires and the singing, the special counselors that we idolized, and the canoeing on the river."

"It is amazing now to be doing some activity and to realize that most people don't know how, and that the things we learned at camp mean so much," Lee continued.

When Lee and Patricia made a pilgrimage to Camp Skyline last winter, they were given a tour of the place of their childhood and when they returned to Joywood, the cabin where they met, they found their names still on the rafters. "We were so glad things haven't changed. It seems all the more special now that we know it is just like we remember it. Those were the best times of our lives."

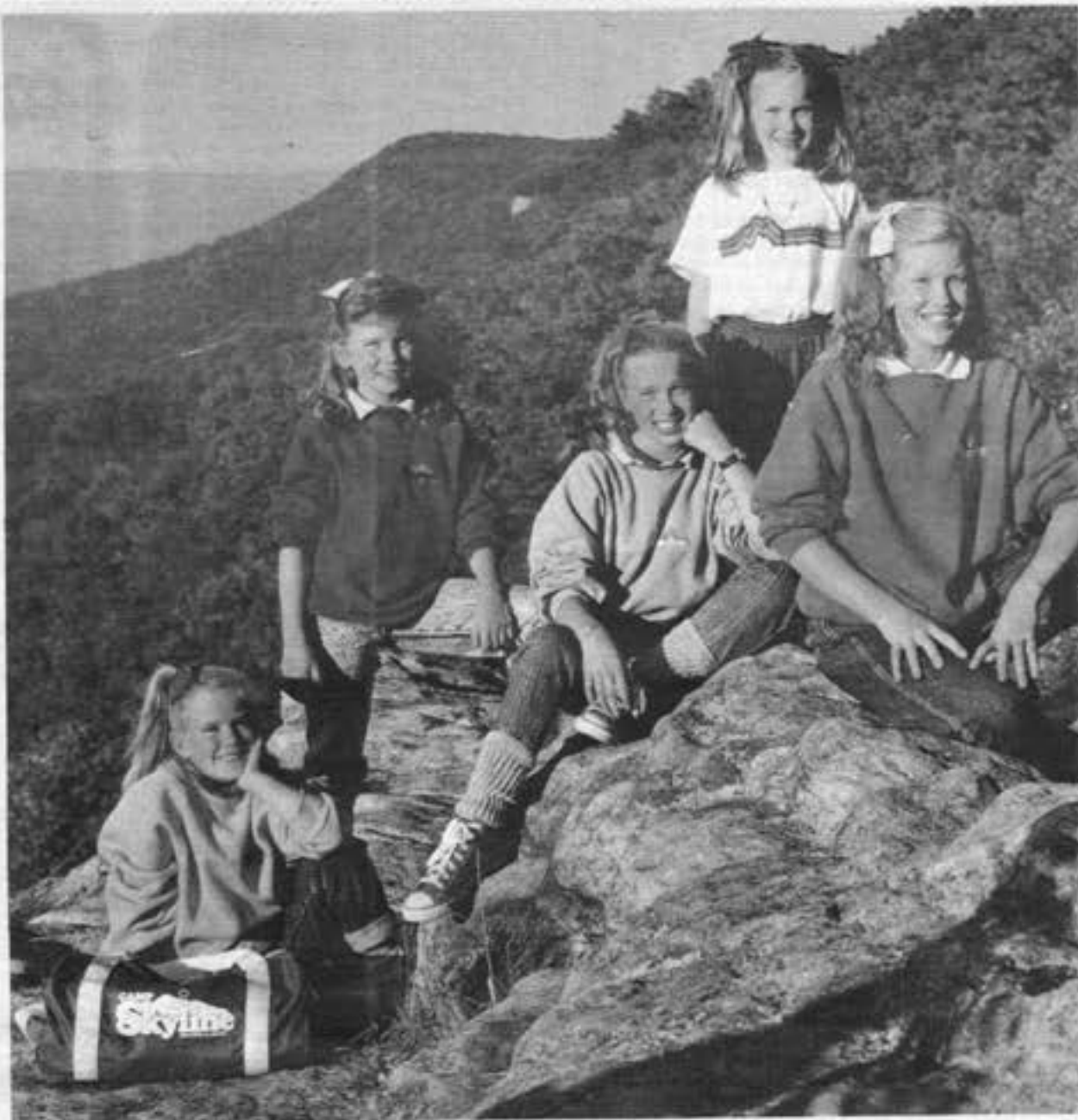
And that is just what each camp strives to provide — "an investment in living a lifetime of memories."

Thanks to Mentone: A History by Zora Shay Strayhorn from which parts of this article were taken.



Lee Cohen and Patricia Davies.





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ATOP LOOKOUT MT. — MENTONE, ALABAMA



Roy Matthews-Native Son Returns Home

and although Roy preferred to see active duty in Korea, he was sent to Biloxi, Miss., to study Electronics and Radio. He was soon head of maintenance at Keesler Air Force Base.

Roy was then sent to Colorado where he trained troops for Korea. He became sergeant and made Airman of the Year through his efforts with the five thousand men he trained and given a vacation at one of the Dame Dude Ranches.

After leaving the Air Force for two years, Roy reenlisted and was sent to Tucson, Ariz. He was trained in radar at that time and worked for an insurance company in his off-duty hours. He received the Most Outstanding Airman in the 34th Air Division while in Arizona. He also owned a barber shop, operated a resort and service club and worked for various lodges in the Tucson area. He had so many jobs outside the Air Force that many of his friends did not even know he was an Airman. He even received a Presidential Plaque from Bankers Life Insurance Company (White Cross) during that time for Salesman of the Year Award.

Roy had married and had one son, David, during his years in the service. David is now principal of Ensley High School in Birmingham, Ala., and is working toward a Doctorate in Education. David and wife Brenda, have one son, John Devon. After leaving the service, Roy and his wife divorced.

Roy left the insurance business and accepted a position with a copper mining company, Isbell Construction as Comptroller before becoming Field Administrator with the companies who built the Titan Two Missiles. He worked for three companies in succession and was able to stay with the missile from start to finish. He traveled 250 miles a day to the different missile sites. He had 38 men working for him when he resigned to begin as a junior accountant for Pan American Airlines.

Roy had attended the University of Arizona in Business Administration and together with his 11 years in the field of Business, he had enough credit to obtain a B. A. In the three years Roy was with Pan Am, he went from junior accountant to material control to computer programming. He put \$15 million worth of electronic equipment into the Pan Am System.

Roy decided another career move was needed because of the stress of his Pan Am position, so he headed for a new frontier, Alaska. He arrived just two weeks after the big earthquake and began in construction. "All my life, I had worked in construction, even when I was in Tucson I painted houses and worked in the building trade. I loved the work and being outdoors." Roy started a custom building and remodeling company, then trained in the use of plastics in California. His was the first successful company in Alaska to spray fiberglass and urethane from spray guns. He constructed apartment houses, did contract construction with the Alaska Court System and purchased earthquake damaged homes and sold them at a profit, while braving 30-below zero weather.

At this point, Roy decided a warmer climate would be better, so he migrated to Coos Bay, Oregon. He began another construction company which built subdivisions, apartment houses, and had the first approved plan unit development for construction for one million dollars in Southwestern Oregon. He restored Victorian homes, and built them also. He constructed himself a Victorian-style home in Gold Hill, Oregon, on the Rogue River. He built the biggest supper club in Southwestern Oregon, 20,000 square feet. Roy stayed in Coos Bay for 10 years, and when the building boom went bust, Roy had to make another move, so for the first time in his life, he backtracked. He returned to Alaska in 1981. For five years, he did commercial construction — restaurants, large service buildings and did remodeling.

During his travels, Roy remarried and divorced, the last time just before returning to Mentone.

During the last five years, seven of Roy's family members have died, including his brother, Jessie, of Mentone. He felt a strong longing to return to the place of his birth and to be with the remaining members of his family: his sister, Dovie Traffenstedt, of Collinsville, his niece, Margie Foster; and her son, Rodney of Mentone; niece, Aubie Smith of Mentone; and nephew, Delmas (Dickie) Smith) and others to whom he feels very close.

Roy is content to live "far from the madding crowd" and to spend his days among old friends. He is still in the construction business and "has enough to do to stay busy day and night." He does cabinet work, builds, remodels, just about anything in the construction line. He is a plumber, electrician, and painter also. He was recognized in Oregon for his work in restoration, especially for his work at the Gold Hill Hotel which had been built in the 1850's. He also restored four old bars which sailed to Oregon by ship in the last century, were shipped to Eugene, Oregon by train then sent out to other parts of Oregon in covered wagons. Their restoration was quite a feat. He not only restored each bar, he traced its history over the years. "The intricate craftsmanship done on these bars is fascinating. They were built in St. Louis, Mo., in 1864 and were covered through the years in layers of paint. It was a revelation to strip them down and find how they were constructed. Phillipino mahogany was used and the color was beautiful. After restoration, the owner of one was offered \$27,000 for it. He refused."

Roy Matthews takes pride in his work, and "if I cannot do it right, I will not do it." When he returned to his home place, he not only brought with him the love and respect for the mountain and her people that he had carried with him in his adventures, but also the wisdom and expertise gained from years and miles spent in pursuit of experiences of which most of us can only dream. He feels he has closed the circle of his life, and that this is where he is supposed to be — among friends and family and the places he loved as a child. Sometimes, it is not true that you cannot go home again; Roy Matthews has come home and all who know him welcome him back to where he belongs.

Roy Matthews feels he has come full circle; he started out many years ago to travel, to use other places and to experience life far from the rural place of his birth, and when he felt the call to come home again, he knew in his heart that it was the right time to return.

Roy Matthews roots tap deep into the Appalachian soil. He was born in Mentone on the Murray farm to a mother from the hill country of Harlan, Ky., and a father who had moved to Mentone from Collinsville, Ala. Roy's father met his mother when he was in Kentucky doing construction work following the sudden death of his first wife, Lou Smith.

Roy was reared in Collinsville and as a young man joined the Marines and served in the combat infantry in the South Pacific. Of the 240 men in his company, he was the only one who made it home alive.

After his discharge from the Marines, Roy and his father, John, did construction work locally, and many of the structures they built are still in use such as the original buildings at Skyline Camp and the Lodge at DeSoto. They also constructed the house across from Moon Lake Church which is now a part of Camp DeSoto.

Roy attended the University of Alabama for three years under the G. I. Bill before moving to California where he joined the Air Force. This was during the Korean conflict,



Moon Lake Baptist Youth Group

On April 22, 23 and 24, the Youth of Moon Lake Baptist Church had their annual Youth Retreat. The retreat was held at Cook Springs Baptist Camp near Birmingham, Ala. The retreat was led by Rev. Bill Steele III, music was directed by Billy Anderson. On Saturday night, the 23rd, a concert was presented by "Sons and Brothers."

The theme of the retreat was "Boot Camp 88," based on training that is necessary in the Christian life. At the end of the retreat, John Moore and Andrea Kirby were chosen by the Youth to receive the "Medal of Honor." This was given to the boy and girl who had demonstrated a willingness to participate and contribute to the group.

Adults serving as leaders for the retreat were Bill and Pat Steele III, Bonnie Steele, David Tucker, Eddie and Roberta Kirby, Mike and Jeanne Bare, Nick and Linda Harcrow, Billy Anderson, Gary Crow and Amanda Gray.

Local Resident Receives Promotion

Marilyn Ward, of the investment firm of Edward D. Jones & Co., has been named Branch Office Administrator for the Firm's Fort Payne office, announced local representative David Brouwer. Marilyn's promotion is part of a firm-wide policy on the part of Edward D. Jones & Co. to reward the efforts of branch office secretaries. Secretaries are promoted after successfully completing a training program and displaying appropriate managerial and administrative skills, according to John Bachmann, managing partner of the firm. In her new position, Marilyn will be responsible for administration, marketing and customer-service duties.

Edward D. Jones & Co. was founded in St. Louis, Mo., in 1871. Its home office today is located in Maryland Heights, Mo., just outside of St. Louis. In 1955, the firm opened its first branch office in Mexico, Mo. Offices soon followed in small towns across the nation. Over the years, this network has expanded to more than 1,150 offices in 36 states.

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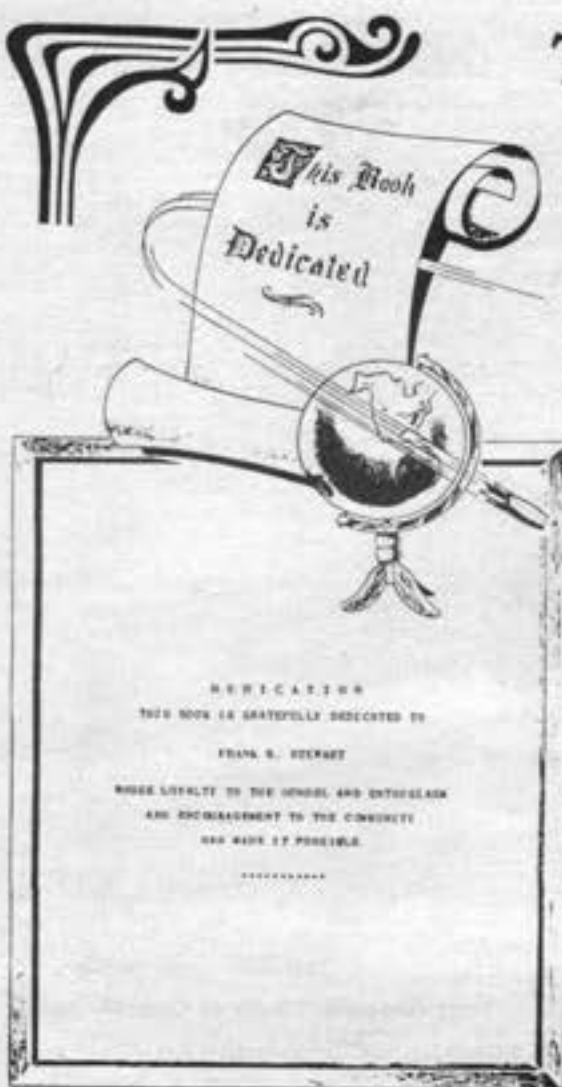
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The View From Cloudland

1954 Five Point School



The little one-room school house is a cornerstone in the foundation of American education, and its decline has been sadly noted by parents and educators alike. One of the best examples of this type of institution was Five Points School in Cloudland, Georgia. I was privileged to attend there, as were many members of North Georgia communities of Cloudland, Summerville and Menlo. All of those with whom I have spoken remember the school with fondness and nostalgia. Ms. Zora Strayhorn, Mentone historian, was a teacher at the school and she, along with the others who chose to serve in the rural often rugged and primitive areas of our country, are to be commended and remembered for their dedication and inspiration.

Jewell Maynard has kindly offered *The Groundhog* the use of the only annual the little school ever produced. It is a chronicle of sorts, of the times and of the people, and we are going to print it in its entirety as a series, beginning with this issue.

M. S.



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Renowned artist Larry Dodson with Howard King.



on the river.



Bill Bosworth of DeSoto State Park with Jim Martin, Secretary of The Alabama Dept. of Conservation.

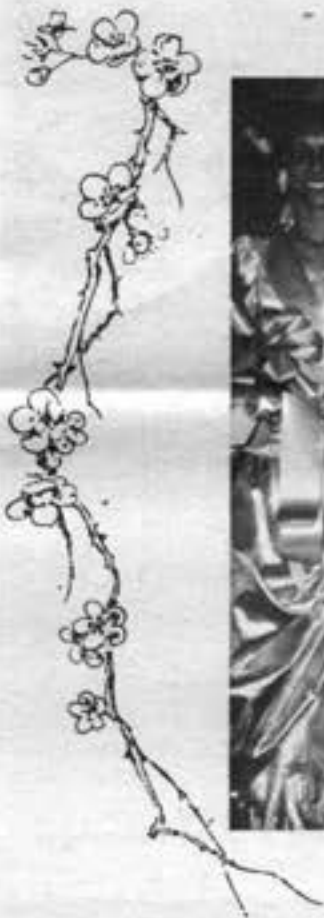


Helen Turner of Old Pioneer Christmas Shop.

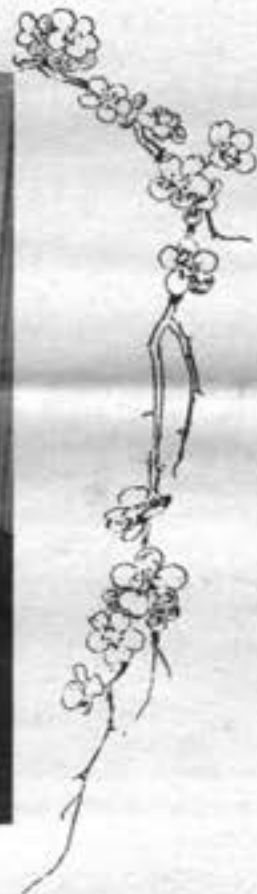
The Beauty Pageant — A Highlight Of The '88 Festival



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Christy McKenzie — Shae Barn, Rome, Ga.
Amy Sharp — Anderson Shoe Barn, Rome, Ga.
Sandy Sharp — My Shoe Barn, Calhoun, Ga.
Candice Wilbanks — MAPA

JUDGES

Mary Johnson — Rome, Ga.
Anne Marie Folden — Covington, Ga.
Dr. Susan Heape — Mentone, Ala.

Valley Head Prom '88



Weldon Parrish Announces Candidacy



Weldon Parrish of Route 5, Fort Payne, announces his candidacy for DeKalb County Superintendent of Education in the June 7 Democratic Primary. Mr. Parrish was born and raised in DeKalb County. He is married to the former Bettye Moore, who teaches at Sylvania High School. They reside in the Blake Community with their son, John Weldon, who is six years old and attends kindergarten at Sylvania School.

Mr. Parrish received his Bachelor of Science and Masters degrees at Jacksonville State University. He holds a class AA Superintendent/Principal Professional Certificate from the University of Alabama.

During his 25 years in public education Mr. Parrish has served as classroom teacher in grades five through 12, Head Football Coach, Head Basketball Coach, and Junior High School Principal. He is currently Principal at Sylvania High School and has served in this capacity for the past 14 years.

Mr. Parrish states that a vote for him in the June 7 Democratic Primary will be a vote for experience, dedication, interest and progress in the DeKalb School System.



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John Paul Johnson - County Investigator

Profiles In Law



John Paul Johnson believes that a law enforcement agency is only as good as the people it serves, and that without the cooperation of the average citizen, there would be no crimes solved nor criminals brought to justice. "Most people think that a crime is solved through purely scientific methods, and that does play a part, but the major contributing factor in any investigation is the person or persons who see something or hear something that relates to the case and are willing to talk to us and to try to remember everything, no matter how insignificant it seems," John Paul told *The Groundhog* as he talked about his chosen profession. He has been the County Investigator for three years and was the Ft. Payne City Investigator for 11 years before that.

John Paul attended school in Fort Payne and U.T.C. in Chattanooga, Tenn. He began his career in law enforcement in 1966 as a patrolman on third shift. "Rookies weren't as highly trained in those days," John Paul related, "and I remember one time we were in hot pursuit of a fleeing vehicle and when I tried to shoot the tires out on the car, I shot off my own radio antenna instead." John Paul stayed on with the city as a patrolman for eight years before becoming an investigator. "There is not much difference in the type of work between the city and county, I just cover more territory now. Also, I mostly investigate felonies. There is a lot of difference, however, in the way we conduct an investigation and the way it would be done in a larger city," John Paul continued. "Our office is not comprised of departments for each type of crime — we work them all, from shoplifting to murder."

"We do have undercover agents working for us the biggest part of the time in drugs. We have a serious drug problem here, and we work closely with enforcement agencies in the adjoining states, because we live in such close proximity to Georgia and Tennessee it is easy for a criminal to drive across the state line, commit a crime and be back in another state within hours. This happens quite a bit, so it is important that we all cooperate. We have had cases where victims were brought into Alabama from, say, Georgia, murdered here then the killer went right back to Georgia."

John Paul talked of the day duties associated with his job: "When we obtain a warrant, we had best be ready to go to court and prove our case at that time, and sometimes we work on a case for many months or years so we have to keep accurate, meticulous records because there cannot be mistakes or shoddy work when a citizen's life is at stake. Times have changed from the days when you could just pick anybody up and treat them without respect or dignity, often using physical violence. We have to be much more careful now, and I think that is a very good thing. Every human being deserves respect, and if we have had to become better cops because we have had to consider the new laws, then so be it. Contrary to popular opinion, I think there is a greater respect for law enforcement now than in the past because we have been trained to allow the individual his rights as a citizen, and respect breeds respect."

John Paul has a high regard for Alabama's forensic science labs and feels they are among the best in the world. "We use the Alabama Forensic Lab in Huntsville, a lab in Birmingham and one in Montgomery. Alabama has all the latest scientific equipment, such as the new laser equipment that can pick up the fingerprints from wood and other porous surfaces. When we have wooden-handled weapons such as ax handles, we carry them to Montgomery ourselves and have them lasered."

"Building a case is like putting together an intricate puzzle, and every effort is made to make sure the pieces fit into a whole. When a murder occurs, an officer is stationed at the crime scene to make sure nothing is touched. In many cases, the State of Alabama will send a special team of four or five forensic specialists to take the evidence. We just tape off the area and keep everything intact until they arrive. They take pictures, and we take them also so there will be plenty of prints. Each member of the team will be a specialist in a particular field such as photography or fingerprints and each will do his work. Then we work closely with them to solve the crime. The State of Alabama has a kit that we give to the hospitals in violent crime cases such as rape. The medical personnel at the hospital uses the kit to collect all the necessary evidence and it is sent to a crime lab."

John Paul feels the job carries a lot of stress, and an officer must disassociate himself from emotional involvement or he could not stand it. "Especially in cases of murder, we have to just treat the situation in a cut and dried business-like manner and not let it get to us. In cases of burglary in which the criminal has violated the family's personal belongings, gone through their intimate things, often the victims feel violated and vulnerable, and that gets to me. And if a woman is molested, I can't help but feel compassion for her pain and suffering. I lose sleep sometimes over situations like that."

John Paul also feels strongly about confidentiality: "If a person comes to me and tells me something he feels will help solve a case, he is putting himself on the line, and although I have the utmost respect for the court, I would go to jail before I would violate the trust he has placed in me. Luckily, I have never been put into a situation where I was ordered to reveal a source, and I have never done it, and I never will."

John Paul is quick to give credit to the FBI: "Most people don't realize how much help they give us on many cases, such as murder cases involving other states. They do psychological profiles, and on cases like car theft rings the FBI does the majority of the paperwork and a lot of the investigation. On all major crimes, they are a great help, and they do a very thorough job."

The difference John Paul Johnson brings to the job of County Investigator is a compassion for the victim and a respect for the rights of the individual. He believes that each person is innocent until proven guilty, and dedicates his time to building the evidence in such a way as to make sure if it is within his power, no crime will go unsolved, and more importantly, no innocent person will be accused of a crime he did not commit. This dedication and depth of feeling is evident in the manner in which he talks of his experiences and the times he has gone the extra mile to show respect and caring. Once, for example, he worked an accident in which a couple was hurt. After his work at the scene was finished and the couple were in the hospital, John Paul took the groceries they had just purchased and which were still in the car, to their home and put the perishables in the refrigerator. Sometimes after someone is hurt, he will call the hospital to see how they are doing. His department calls the families for wreck victims, and takes care of personal belongings, storing them until the owner can come for them, or seeing that the personal effects get to the families.

"The reasons for crime have changed over the years," John Paul spoke of the motivation behind criminal acts. "Time was when economics was the main reason; now most crimes are drug related. A drug addict thinks nothing of taking those things that a man gets up at four in the morning and works all day in a sock mill to pay for — all he can think about is feeding his habit. He has lost human dignity, and cares only about himself. The man who works and pays for his possessions is resented and is fair game. It seems things changed with the Vietnam War. You had young men sent into something they were totally unprepared for. Often the face of the enemy looked the same as the face of an ally. They were not told they would lie in rice paddies while their feet rotted off, or that they would never be allowed to win. Then after the closest thing to hell on earth, they came home to hatred and disrespect. They just could not psychologically accept the horror of the situation, and many will never recover. It is a national shame; and as a nation we are going to feel the effects of that tragedy for generations, as long as daddies talk to sons and mothers teach their daughters — attitudes begat attitudes."

"A policeman is just an ordinary citizen who is put in a bad situation," John Paul summed up his years in law enforcement, "and is expected to be a little smarter, a little straighter, a little safer and more conscientious and fair but he is still just an ordinary person put into an extraordinary situation. I believe in using as little force as possible, as in the case of hostage situations. In a big city, they might go in and bring them out, no matter what, but we believe in talking the situation down, and establishing a rapport with the person. We have had three hostage situations in this county, and not a shot was fired by us. All most people want is to be treated with dignity, and I feel we owe them that. I also feel that you get back what you put out, and if I am treated with respect it is because I give it to others."

Go Sober And Safe

We have a legal and moral obligation to keep the drinking or drugged driver off the road. Many people simply do not understand the dangers involved in drinking and driving. A legal standard has been adopted to try to reduce the problems caused by the drinking driver. By taking a sample of blood, breath, or urine, the amount of alcohol in the body can be measured. The breath test is used in Alabama, and is very accurate and legal. The test result is expressed as blood alcohol concentration (BAC). With a BAC of .01 to .04 the driver is AFFECTED — Judgment begins to lessen, person is less critical of actions, reaction time is slowed, indications of mental relaxation may appear. With a BAC of .05 to .09 the person is IMPAIRED — Judgment is not sound, thinking and reasoning powers are not clear, the ability to do complex jobs is greatly lessened. With a BAC of .10 the person is INTOXICATED — Judgment and reasoning powers are severely hampered, cannot do common simple acts without error. If the person has taken some other drug along with the alcohol, the drug is not measured, but the effect will be much greater, since the other drugs must compete with the alcohol in being eliminated from the body.

Alcohol leaves the body at about one ounce per hour. Twelve ounces of beer, five ounces of wine, or one and one half ounces of eighty proof whiskey all contain about one ounce of alcohol. Nothing can speed up the body's method of getting rid of the alcohol. Time is the key factor.

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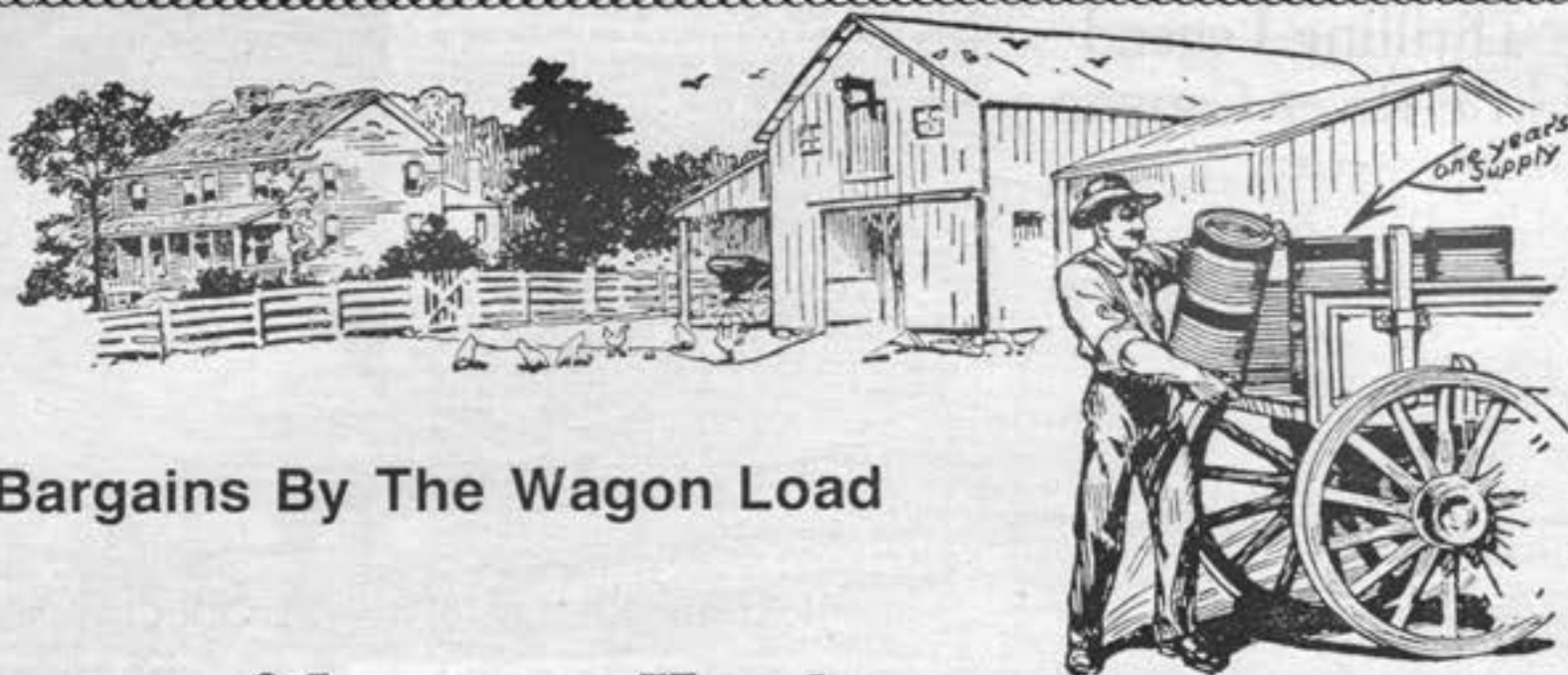
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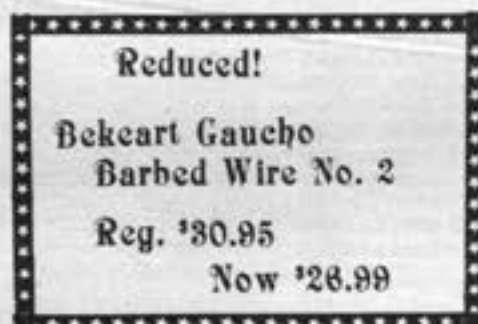


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The Thrilling Legend Of Little River Canyon



I was very much interested when I saw the account in the Birmingham Post-Herald several weeks ago of two young men having made the hazardous journey through Little River Gorge in the southeastern part of DeKalb County, Ala. It took 23 hours to go through the gorge, and they claim to have been the first white people who ever went from end to end of this remarkable gorge. The thing mentioned that was more interesting to me than anything else was the "old abandoned mine," which they spoke of finding. Can this be the fabulous "Lead Mine of May's Gulf?"

It reminded me of the "Legends of May's Gulf" I heard more than 60 years ago. I made the mistake of referring to it as "Little River Gorge" twice. Each time I was corrected and told, "It ain't no gorge, it's just May's Gulf."

I took charge of a party of engineers locating the Chattanooga Southern Railroad (now known as the T.A.G. Railroad) June 1, 1890. My camp was about 10 miles south of where Little River emerges from Lookout Mountain. The next day being Sunday, we had several visitors. Most of them were anxious to know where the railroad would be built, that is, how close to their land. I told them I had orders to build the railroad by or near Mosley's Mill, Chesterfield, and Menlo, Georgia, and I was to meet a party locating south from Chattanooga somewhere between Menlo and Pigeon Mountain. One old fellow ventured the question, "How far below the mouth of the Gulf are you going to cross Little River?" I asked, "What Gulf?" and he replied, "May's Gulf. Ain't you ever heard of that?" I told him that I had not and asked him to tell me about it. He said, "It is where Little River comes out of Lookout Mountain. You can't build the bridge closer to the mouth of the Gulf than where Mr. Ratery built the road bridge. If you do, it will wash away." That gave the chance for others to tell the "Legend of May's Gulf."

They said it started when the falls poured off the mountain and got deeper and deeper as it came toward the mouth. That no white man had ever gone through the Gulf. Several had been known to start through but were never heard from again. The Indians had a lead mine somewhere in the Gulf, but no white man had ever been able to find the way to where the Indians got the lead. Each one had something to add to the legend of this wonderful Gulf.

Some said, when dogs were running fox or deer, if they ran into the lower end of the Gulf, that the dogs would go no further than where the Gulf came out of the mountain.

We located the railroad nearly a mile nearer the Gulf than the RATERY BRIDGE WAS, DESPITE THE WARNING OF ALL VISITORS. After finishing the location I was appointed division engineer in charge of construction from Gadsden to Menlo, Georgia, and boarded with a man named Starling four months. He was 76 then and said he was born and reared where he lived, about 10 miles from the mouth of the Gulf. He said he was employed by the "Indian Service" when he was 12 years old as a linkster (linguist). (We use the word interpreter now). He said he practically lived with the Indians for four years, during the time the arrangements were being made and the Indians being moved to Indian territory. Mr. Starling told me that all the Indians who lived in Tennessee, the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida and Mississippi came to Lookout Mountain and bought or traded for lead mined in May's Gulf. He said there were only a few of the Cherokee Indians, all living in the Gulf, who mined the lead and they did not allow other Indians to know where the mine was. Mr. Starling said one of the old Indians told him about the mine.

I tried to get someone to go with me into this mysterious hole in the ground, but never could get anyone to go. Finally, I went by myself more than a mile into the Gulf from the lower end. It was rough going all the way and finally I got to a place where the river ran right up the bluff. It was too cold for me to wade the river, so I had to turn back. The only living thing I saw while in the Gulf were six ravens. They did not seem to appreciate my visit. They followed me at a safe distance chattering and squawking as no other bird or anything else can do.

Soon after construction work on the Chattanooga Southern Railroad began, I became acquainted with Uncle Josiah Leith, an 84 year old Primitive Baptist preacher, who had lived less than five miles from the lower end of the Gulf for more than 60 years. He told me the following "Legend of May's Gulf," which I think is the most reasonable I have heard.

He said "May's Gulf" was named for the man who discovered it. There are several versions of how the discovery was made. The most reasonable to me is that he was in charge of a surveying party, making the original land surveys. He is said to have found Indians who would not let him go near the gulf. Many miraculous stories were told about white men who tried to go through the Gulf. None of them were ever heard of after beginning the journey, but I never personally knew anyone who tried to enter the Gulf.

"When the Indians were moved to the Territory, there were some of the Cherokee Warriors (I have no idea how many) who hid in the Gulf and did not go to the territory. I think they slipped out of the upper end of the Gulf some two or three years later and went to the Cherokee Reservation in North Carolina. Soon after the Indians were moved to the territory (probably five years), each winter a lone Indian would appear on a certain cliff near the lower end of the Gulf early in the morning and stand like a statue for some time, but no one ever saw him walk out on the cliff or leave it. There were several years no Indian was seen on the cliff, but after the A.G.S. Railroad was built, one Indian got off the train at Collinsville, Ala., bought some supplies and disappeared in the woods. A few days later he or some other Indian was seen on the cliff where others had been seen years before. He or some other Indian has been seen every few years since then. I doubt very seriously that there ever was any lead mined in the Gulf, however."

During the winter of 1890-91, while we were building the Chattanooga Southern Railroad, a lone Indian was seen several times, standing on the cliff mentioned above, but no one ever talked to him.

It seems to me that there surely must be some mistake about the young men mentioned above being the first white people who ever went through Little River Gorge. It is right at our door. Why go to Colorado to see the Royal Gorge or Point Lookout where Buffalo Bill and his wife were buried, looking for beautiful scenery? Little River Gorge is much longer, more rugged and almost as deep as the Royal Gorge. It is far more scenic. The cliff where the lone Indians have posed periodically for more than a hundred years is much higher than Point Lookout and the views from there are certainly as good as those from Point Lookout.

By Col. Woolsey Finnell

(From A Turn Of The Century Publication)

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A Special Season

By Talmadge Butler.

Manager, DeSoto State Park

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"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1). So it is we have the coming and passing of each season, and for each season there is a purpose. One of the first things the Bible mentions is "A time to be born." Newborn wildlife, nesting birds, budding trees and wildflowers make springtime a special season.

When Mother Nature searched for a special place for spring she decided on Lookout Mountain in northeast Alabama. And in no place does she display more of her beauty than at DeSoto State Park in spring.

Here, along the streams and hillsides, is a breathtaking presentation of flowering trees, shrubs and wildflowers. As the warm sun slowly turns icicles into clear mountain streams and forest creatures bring forth their young from their hidden dens and burrows, wildflowers push their tender shoots through the dried leaves.

Along the roadsides, serviceberry trees bud and show their colors, the first sign of spring. Legend has it that the earliest ancient religious rites celebrating the new year were held underneath its branches. Redbud, fringe tree, flowering crabapple, and dogwood follow the serviceberry tree into bloom.

Among the trees and wildflowers, especially along DeSoto State Park roadsides, are wild hydrangea, wild azalea, sweetshrub, honeysuckle and crossvine.

From the earth itself come wildflowers. Unlike the trees and shrubs that have stood barren in the cold winds and rain of winter, wildflowers are renewed each year. Carpets of bluebells cover the countryside; patches of phlox and wild iris stand out against the green background of new grass. Lady slippers appear, sometimes in abundance and sometimes solitary. Various species of trillium emerge, some with bowed heads, other standing erect. Columbine drapes its flowers over the rocks. Mayapple pushes its leaves toward the sun, but covers its delicate white blossoms.

Wild ginger keeps its small blossoms, often called "little brown jugs," secreted in the fallen leaves of the forest floor. Nearby in the cool rushing waters of Little River, golden club, anchored in the riverbed, sends clusters of shoots to dance above the water.

Beginning in March, DeSoto State Park has dozens of different wildflowers. In mid-May the rhododendron and mountain laurel steal the show. The park's Rhododendron Trail, extending along streams and beside Little River, is especially beautiful. The music of the water shuts out all thoughts of winter as visitors walk through archways of fragrance.

After being cooped up all winter, what better way to welcome the coming spring than to spend a day or a weekend at DeSoto State Park?

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Accreditation — Schools have been restored to full compliance.

Curriculum — Implemented and improved education for students at all levels, including basic skills, standard and advanced diplomas, and advanced placement courses.

Standardized Test Scores — Test scores, which were below state averages and below most surrounding systems, have improved at all schools.

Facilities — Construction of seventeen new classrooms and a library/media center plus addition of eleven classrooms through renovation. Bids to be opened this month for a new 7,700 square foot center for the multi-handicapped and trainable. Air conditioning, a monumental task that many said was impossible, completed last August and all schools opened fully air conditioned.

Maintenance and Transportation programs have been improved and updated.

Attendance and Discipline — Attention has been given to improvement of attendance and suspensions, dropouts, and discipline problems have been addressed. Goals include intensified, preventive efforts, including an alternative school and a tutorial/guidance program for at-risk students.

Increased emphasis has been placed on drug education and health education in general.

Financial and budgetary programs have been studied, corrected and improved resulting in substantial savings to the school system. Grants, discretionary, and other assistance program funds were applied for and received.

Policies, guidelines, and standards have been studied, and adopted, with most provided in handbook form in the areas of Student Code of Conduct, Personnel, Transportation, Child Nutrition, General School Operations, Curriculum Scope and Sequence, and a number of other areas. Policies help to clarify roles and responsibilities and insure fairness, thereby enabling the school system to run more smoothly and more effectively for the benefit of students and overall improvement of the educational program.

Future Goals include: Continued improvements in the above areas and further improvements and updating of curriculum, pupil-teacher ratios, attendance, test performance, maintenance and transportation, physical education facilities, and all facets of the educational program.

FRANKLIN KELLETT is a dedicated family man, father of two boys, active in his church, and a community worker. **FRANKLIN KELLETT** asks that you judge him on the merits of his abilities and accomplishments as a school administrator.

Your vote and support will be appreciated.

Subject to action of the June 7, 1988, Democrat Primary
Pd. Pol. Adv. by Franklin Kellett, Route 3, (Whiton) Crossville,
Alabama

Sue Worley Of Lookout Mountain Craft's And Classics



The view from Lookout Mountain's Crafts and Classics.

There are places that when you see them, you feel an immediate kinship — a nostalgic longing — for you sense that they are special. Such is the place where Sue Worley and her husband, Charles, and daughter, Jennifer, live and have their shop, Lookout Mountain's Crafts and Classics. The original structure was built in the early 1880's with the rock addition and the upstairs constructed in 1937. "I don't know much about the original owners," Sue recalled the history of the unique structure, "but I do know that in the early 1900's a family named Bryan lived here and the whole family, including the womenfolk, carried guns and rode horses. This was also the site of Lookout Mountain's first post office, although I do not think it was in this building."

One of the most beautiful aspects of the site is the commanding view from the brow of the mountain near the cabin. On a clear day, it is as if you can see forever, and Sue plans to put in a playground for small visitors as well as picnic tables with a view.

There are the remnants of an old coal mine in the yard where the families who have lived in the house dug their fuel. "It was hand mined for the house, and never commercially mined."

The rock used in the house is local and the craftsmanship is a fine example of the painstaking devotion to perfection that reflected the simple honor and hard work of the mountain people.

There are acres of woodlands and fields and visitors are allowed to relax and enjoy the total experience of the lovely place. A pair of turkey vultures have made a nest near the cabin and reared young for two years. "The birds are on the extremely endangered list, so it is even against the law to look for their nests, but they wing across the brow and through the woods every day, so with patience anyone who is interested can catch a glimpse of these beautiful creatures."

The Worley family decided to move to the mountain about five years ago and found a home near the famous Forrester sister's parents. They searched for years, trying to find the perfect spot to open a shop. When they found the current place, it immediately attracted them, as it does everyone who comes there. They moved in 2½ years ago and had their grand opening this last April. "We have done extremely well," Sue said, "and we feel we could not have a more beautiful or special place for our home and shop."

Sue talked of some of the items and services her shop offers: "We have a unique selection of antiques. It is a small selection of very special items, especially chosen. We offer a large variety of crafts, hand-selected from many offerings." She purchases according to the quality of the work, ability to produce and price. She offers everything from pine needle baskets to toile painting, from toys to baby quilts, from dolls to dishes. Kathy Bradford does the oil paintings for the shop and they truly reflect the talent of the artist. Sue also paints, usually local scenes and animals. Billy Eaton will do special portraits in wood of animals, such as one's pets, that are burned into the wood, then oil washed to give them a life-like quality.



SUE WORLEY

Sue loves animals and her dog Ebony who wears a little bandana, the cat Smoky and a cockatoo named Joe added a lively touch. There will soon be kittens to give away.

Sue's shop also offers custom-made furniture by Larry Skel. Such items as bunk beds, dining room suites and other lovely pieces are on display in the store. It is all created by special order. The Worleys are planning a flower and vegetable garden near the shop and plan to grow and dry herbs to sell. Sue has jellies and pickles for sale and hopes to add home-canned tomato juice.

"One of the real joys of having this place is being able to share it with so many people who can appreciate its special beauty," Sue mused. "To let the kids get an old well pump to produce water, to show visitors the rare birds, to just be a part of one of the most unique places anywhere is a blessing."



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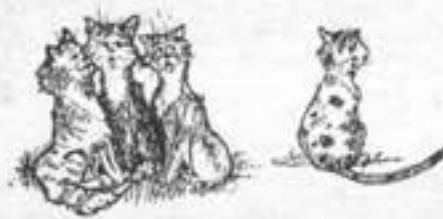
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