

the GROUNDHOG

Vol. 1, No. 2, May 1983

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Sammy Cash Man Of Many Hats

Sammy Cash has worn many hats in this community and he does credit to them all.

Right now he is especially proud of the hat of fire chief of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protective District. His mere presence gives us all a greater sense of security. In event of a conflagration he is the one you're most likely to see coordinating the activities.

Until he doffed his hat as a forest ranger in the early '70s, Sammy Cash presided over the planting of literally millions of seedlings, contributing to the abundance of the woodlands on the slopes of Lookout Mountain, Sand Mountain, and the valley between.

As a forester he marked timber for sale by the farmers, counselled about diseases that infect timber, and stood ready to deal with the ever-prevalent threat of forest fires. Although he dealt with many treacherous fires, including one which swept across some 1,100 acres along the Georgia line, he witnessed no fatalities until recently in his retirement when he was called to the scene of a Mentone citizen who was trapped while burning underbrush.

(Continued On Page 3)



PHOTO BY DOC LONG

We Salute Our Camps

Pages 4 and 5

the GROUNDHOG

Fun And Work At Old Hotel

Bernise Crow, chairperson of the special committee, invites you to lend your talents and enthusiasm on Saturday, May 7th, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Appreciation to the Padgetts — a volunteer work day at the Mentone Springs Hotel.

Whether your work-talent is in carpentry, plumbing, painting, yardwork, rockwork, or similar activities, fill out a card at the Hitching Post. A special index card will be filled out with your volunteered talents and your assignment will be presented to you upon arrival.

The day's activity ends at 5:00 p.m. with a gala covered dish supper to be held in the hotel dining room. Bring your favorite main dish, dessert, or salad. Beverages will be furnished.

Bernise suggests that this is an excellent way to contribute to the restoration of the old hotel, have good fellowship with other volunteers, and indicate to the Padgetts that we appreciate their courage in purchasing the building which has symbolized the endless nature of Mentone.

For further details stop by the Hitching Post. Bernise Crow will fill you in on any details.

Landmark News Features Mentone

"Mentone: Yesterday, Today or Tomorrow" is title of the cover story of the Winter-Spring edition of **Landmark News**, published semi-annually by Landmarks of DeKalb County and edited by James R. Kuykendall, who was speaker at the April meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Prominently featuring a photograph of the Mentone Springs Hotel and Sandra Padgett, its new co-owner, the article concludes with this statement: "Landmark News considers the Mentone Springs Hotel one of the important landmarks of DeKalb County, and we strongly endorse the listing of the structure in the National Register of Historic Places."

Editor Kuykendall in preparation for the article interviewed a number of persons for their views about the recent resurgence of activity in Mentone. Some are concerned about over-commercialization, but Mayor Sam Barrett said: "Sandra bought the old hotel when it was on its last legs and has put new life into the area. Many of our people are glad to see it preserved. A community either moves forward, or it deteriorates; it just doesn't stand still."

The current **Landmarks** also included the stagecoach scene from the 1983 Alabama Film Commission calendar photographed recently at Cloudmont Resort. Those featured in this colorful scene are David Sims, William Nunn, Bruce Bon Fleur, Walter Sumner, Gary Jones, Bernise Crow, and Connie Rawlinson. These calendars are available at the Hitching Post for \$3.00.

MENTONE FIRE DEPARTMENT VOLUNTEERS

SAM CASH, CHIEF
ROBBIE REYNOLDS
HOBSON KIRBY
CHARLES FERGUSON
JUNIOR GRAY
STEVE GRAY
LARRY GRAY
NELSON STALLINGS
EDDIE WORTHY
LUKE LUCAS
HERSHEL PRUITT

The next time you see these fellows, how about letting them know how much you appreciate them?

Maybe you can even join them as a Mentone Volunteer Fireman. You are needed!

(Purchased by an anonymous supporter)

Entertainment Doubles At '83 Craft Festival

Entertainment at this year's Mentone Crafts Festival will more than double previous years' efforts. Ovie Blalock, in charge of entertainment, plans to have square dancers and cloggers perform five times on Saturday and three times on Sunday afternoon. There may even be a surprise appearance by a local band if plans gel. The officers, Linda Brown, president; Ray-



Linda Brown President Federation Garden Club

On Saturday, April 30, in a meeting of the DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs, Mentone's Linda (Mrs. Bobby) Brown will be installed as federation president. The meeting takes place at Fort Payne High School.

At the same meeting, new officers of the Mentone Rhododendron Garden Club will be installed. They are Helen Hill, president; Betty Johnson, vice president; Beverly Hoyt, secretary; Grace Howard, treasurer; Mabel Kirk, past president and parliamentarian; Jean McGehee, corresponding secretary.

To date almost 200 rhododendron have been planted in Mentone, largely along the highway, under auspices of the Garden Club.

The next meeting of the club is on May 10 at the home of June Meadows.

City Council Considers Expanded Police Hours

In its monthly meeting on April 4th at the City Hall, with Mayor Sam Barrett presiding and all members present, the City Council expressed hopes for longer hours of police protection, and plans were approved to repair the road behind the Hitching Post.

It was a brief meeting lasting approximately a half hour. Visitors present and reporting for the Mentone Area Preservation Association were Ed and Geri Disney, operators of Nipper-sink.

Volunteer Fire Rumage Sale

At the Mentone Volunteer Fire Department's Rummage and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 14, there will be opportunity to win two tickets to ALABAMA'S June Jam concert.

Donations to the rummage and bake sale can be brought to the fire hall May 9 to 13 between the hours of 3 and 5 p.m. All proceeds go to the fire department.

mond Brown, vice president; Grace Howard, secretary-treasurer, and board: Rick Chapman, William Blackburn, Ovie Blalock, Lola Mae Blalock, Charles and Jean McGehee all met to set into motion final plans for this year's festival to be held in the city's brow park July 9th and 10th.

The festival has grown each year, and this seventh annual fair promises to be the best yet. Planners hope for demonstrations by a blacksmith and a chain saw sculptor. Exhibitors will be polled as to whether they would like their displays to be judged by a jury, with prizes to be awarded.

Food booths have been awarded to the Church of God, Little River Cemetery Committee, and the Athletic Club. The Mentone Fire Department will once again be in charge of drinks. Milton Howard will be in charge of traffic. H. P. Goss and Eddie Worthy along with the sheriff's department will handle security and traffic. The committee hopes for better parking arrangements this year. Bobbie Hilderbrand will handle assigning places to exhibitors and Gay Godbois will handle publicity. Gay Godbois and Raymond Brown will once again be in charge of the program to be distributed at the gates. Linda Brown, Stanley Brown, Raymond Brown, and Milton and Grace Howard will all work on signs. Garden Club members will staff the gates as they have previous years.

The officers and board are proud to have \$847 in their regular treasury and some \$3,400 in savings to be allotted for a community project. This spring will see the placing of cross-ties around the concrete slab at brow park and the painting of two shuffleboard courts there.

Tuesday MAPA Meeting

Kenneth Pennington, amateur archaeologist and general manager of Sequoyah Caverns, will present a slide-artifact program at the May meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association Tuesday evening, May 3, at 7:00 at the Mentone Springs Hotel.

The public is welcome to attend, remain for refreshments, and meet this archeologist who feels he is qualified for figs because he thinks there is Cherokee blood in his veins.

Speaker at the June meeting of MAPA will be James A. Berry of Mentone who recently was reelected to the board of directors of the Alabama Rural Electric Association.



May Groundhog Award

The May Groundhog Award for the business structure showing the most improvement has been bestowed on Country Charm, operated by Billy and Elene Lee.

Making the decision was a special committee composed of Mayor Sam Barrett for the City Council; Betty Chapman representing the Garden Club; and Ferne Fitzgerald for MAPA.

Improvements at Country Charm have brightened Old Hotel Square. The bright painting, window boxes, and porch with tables for serving gives the atmosphere of a German inn. At this unique establishment the Lees offer a complete floral service, gift shop, drinks including gourmet coffee, and sumptuous desserts.

from your director

By H. Bruce Bon Fleur

It is appropriate that this issue of the GROUNDHOG focus on Mentone's resident camps and their dedicated owners and operators. They represent in my opinion more than any other single element what Mentone has been, is, and what it will be in the future. Their effect both socially and economically on this area is great.

Literally thousands (tens of thousands to be sure) of individuals have pleasant childhood memories based in one of Mentone's camps.

One of the major factors in my locating (my business and my self) in Mentone was because of the number of established and reputable resident camps in the area. Prior to moving here I worked with several YMCA's in Florida, and my fondest memories in "Y" work are those years I served as Youth and Camping Director at Camp Winona, a branch of the Daytona Beach YMCA. I worked at resident camps for fourteen summers, and prior to that attended several different camps as a camper. So I know about camps.

I know the effect camp can have on a person. There are few experiences in life that offer the variety and degree of influence on a young person than does a well-run summer camp. Learning to appreciate nature in the best possible classroom, developing necessary lifetime skills, both physical and social, and just plain having fun contribute to a youngster's maturity and growth.

Spring in Mentone, as elsewhere, might be described as a time for new growth of the natural kind. Summer in Mentone, unique among places, could be described as a time for another kind of growth — people growth.

It is our camps that have given Mentone its long-term good name and very important purpose. We owe a lot to them.

M.A.P.A. recognizes this and proudly says so. May all of our camps have a prosperous, safe, and FUN summer!

News items and ads for future editions of **The Groundhog** may be placed in a prominently marked news box at The Hitching Post. This will also be the receptacle for the listings for "Sell, Swap and Service." (Classified ads, \$1.00 per line). Bernise Crow will be available to answer questions and provide assistance. On news items, editorial judgments will naturally be exercised by the staff.

The Groundhog

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

Charles White McGehee, Editor
Bernise Crow, Managing Editor
Sandra Padgett, Jean McGehee,
Donna Bukley, Advertising
Desmond Disney, Photography

Bruce Bon Fleur, Director
Sandra Padgett, Associate Director
Bernise Crow, Secretary-Treasurer

April MAPA Minutes

Thirty-two persons braved the fury of a heavy thunderstorm to attend the April meeting at the Mentone Springs Hotel to hear the slide presentation on historic DeKalb structures presented by James R. Kuykendall and Walter Sumner.

Bruce Bon Fleur announced that a nominating committee would be appointed at the May meeting in preparation for election of new officers at the July meeting.

In reporting for the **Groundhog** Staff, Jean McGehee presented a check for \$100 to the general MAPA account. For efficiency of procedures it was voted to establish a separate Publications account, to be administered by the MAPA treasurer, from which any surplus would be on occasion transferred to the general fund. MAPA voted to expand the monthly **Groundhog** Award to include people as well as structures.

The intention of the **Groundhog** is to remain self-sustaining. 2,500 copies are printed. 650 are mailed to Mentone box holders. The remainder is distributed through the advertisers and in area businesses.

— Condensed from the minutes of Bernise Crow, secretary-treasurer.

ViewPoint...

By CHARLES WHITE McGEHEE

Have you heard about the Thoreau Sauntering Club?

This unique Mentone based organization defines itself as "an alternate means of transportation" and is soon to be featured in an article in the publication **Walking Journal**. It is open to everyone, has none of the usual impediments of organization — no meetings, fees, or schedules.

To saunter, according to Webster, is to muse, to walk about in an idle or leisurely manner. In the opinion of the Thoreau Sauntering Society such a definition won't do. The person responsible for such a definition was in too much of a hurry.

"If Dante had been a runner instead of a saunterer, **The Divine Comedy** would be no longer than a **Reader's Digest Condensation** or more appreciated than **Punch Miller's Joke Book**," states the flyer for the TSS. "If Robert Frost had been in a hurry, what decision would he have made when he came to two roads that diverged in a yellow wood — would he have taken the one least traveled, which made all the difference, or the trodden path?"

"Sauntering calls for the philosophic, the poetic, and the religious mind and takes such meditations out for an airing. Besides being the activity of the contemplative person, sauntering is also for the individual who, like Calvin Coolidge in 1928, says, 'I do not choose to run.' Sauntering is for children small and children large, medium, and extra large."

Next time you saunter past the Hitching Post, ask Bernise Crow or Donna Bukley if they have one of the unique T-shirts of the Thoreau Sauntering Club. These manifestations are produced under the trademark of Kudzuman, Inc., or write Patrick Kelly, President, Thoreau Sauntering Club, P.O. Box 202, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

Thoreau once said that "the swiftest traveler is he that goes afoot." He went to the woods surrounding Walden Pond and built with his own hands the cabin that is now one of the significant architectural structures of all time.

He went to the woods, he wrote, because he "wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if he could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when he came to die, to discover that he had not lived."

Thoreau would have loved Mentone. He would have been comfortable and at peace with himself sauntering along our byways. In early April when the first blossoms of the redbud suspend themselves along the elevation of 117 up from Valley Head, perhaps after a chat and a haircut at Hester's Barber Shop, sauntering up toward our rarefied slopes, he would say quietly to himself:

"If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

A few days later after some leisurely conver-

(Continued On Page 7)

Brow Briefs . . .

Those attending A Food Sanitation and Certification Course at the DeKalb Materials Center March 28-April 1 were the following from this area: San Hammond, Camp Laney; Jackie Kerby, Camp Skyline Ranch; Kathy Evans, Ponderosa Bible Camp; Beatrice Crow, Alpine Camp; Alice O'Ferrall, Alpine Camp; Barbara Boyd, Log Cabin Restaurant and Deli. The twelve hour course included the following areas: Food Borne Disease, Sale Sources and Handling of Food, Cleaning and Sanitizing Procedures, Personal Hygiene, Pest Control, and Accident Prevention.

Joyce Smith of Mentone was one of 65

leaders from across the state at the recent Third Annual 4-H Volunteer Leader Retreat held for two days near Columbiana.

Shala Barron, Angie Kerby and Jeff Dunaway were among the fifty-four medal winners of the Fort Payne High School Band in the county solo and ensemble competition.

Sandra Padgett is quite busy with her many duties as president of the DeKalb County Tourist Association.

Don't forget the opening of the Arts & Crafts Park at Knotty Knots on May 7 and 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Preservation Area Expands

Wildlife preservation in the Mentone Area will be expanded by some 1,800 to 2,000 acres, according to John Clowdus, state conservation officer. Located in an isolated section of the DeSota State Park in the eastern sector, this tract will become a part of the Little River Management area with no maintenance required.

The federal government has agreed to donate the property as soon as the land has been surveyed. Senator Lowell Barron has stated he will work to get state funding to provide cost for the survey. The only cost involved is the running of the survey lines.

The area is ideal for hunting wild turkey and deer. "There are some 300 members of the Bowhunters Club already pushing for it," Mr. Clowdus recently told the DeKalb County Commission.

Frazier Art Exhibit

The works of Jimmy Frazier, one of the most promising young artists in this area, go on exhibit Saturday, May 14th, at 10:00 a.m. at the Mentone Springs Hotel. The opening day festivities continue until 2:00 p.m., with refreshments served by the hosts, Ray and Sandra Padgett.

Frazier is a resident of Valley Head and is the artist who did the huge mural in the Depot Deli in Miracle's General Store. He is proficient in oils and water colors. His works will be on sale at the Mentone Springs Hotel until May 31st. The public is invited.

PAGE TWO

Welcome to THE LOG CABIN RESTAURANT & DELICATESSEN

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ALABAMA.

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Amelia Kirk-Brooks, Owner

FROM THE TREETOP

By Ron Godbois

During the past month we have experienced the magnificent beauty of nature's awakening. While some shrubs, like the Forsythia and Spiraea, did not seem to sleep terribly soundly, spitting out sporadic flashes of yellow and white during the warmer days of our mild winter, most trees and shrubs slept very well and experienced all the conditions necessary to give us a colorful and showy spring. The Red-bud, Dogwood, Azalea and fruit trees on the mountainside and in the yards have been truly spectacular.

Those of us who keep yearly records of our yards notice that our shrubs and trees break dormancy at different times each year. For example, many of the flowering shrubs and trees bloomed a week later this year than they did last year. While we may have expected the mild winter weather to induce an early spring, that fortunately is not the way trees and shrubs operate. What seems most logical to us is not always logical in nature.

Dormancy, or the suspension of growth, is generally brought on by the onset of cold weather and shorter day length. The breaking of dormancy, or the beginning of growth, is brought on only after the accumulation of a specific number of hours below a specific temperature. While the number of cold hours required varies from plant to plant, those that are most hardy and able to survive our colder extremes (as compared to the valley and farther south) require more cold hours to break dormancy. Some plants, the Forsythia for example, require a very minimal cold period to induce flowering. That is why in the fall after a brief period of cold weather, a few warm days will induce flowering.

Fortunately, the Forsythia has such an abundance of flower buds that we hardly notice the few that are missing in spring. The cold period required to bring trees out of dormancy can vary a great deal from species to species and from varieties within a species. For example, peaches have cold requirements that vary from 350 to 1,200 hours below 45 degrees F. For Mentone we choose varieties that have a longer chill requirement for more positive success.

Once the tree or shrub breaks dormancy, the buds that were formed during the previous summer's growth begin to swell. These buds contain the entire growth for the coming spring and summer. The bud is a tiny and tremendously compact unit, which if seen under a microscope, would reveal the stem and leaves in minute proportion ready to telescope into the year's growth with the breaking of dormancy.



NIPPERSINK LODGE

ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
MENTONE, ALABAMA

ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Our Fire Department: We Did It!

With bake sales, pledges, road blocks, fish fries, and jamborees the citizens of Mentone in 1979 drew together in a cooperative spirit and met a long-standing need when they formed the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District. Their efforts resulted in a fire house, two fire trucks, and an enthusiastic volunteer fire department.

At that time Lagrant Gable was Chief of Police. In mailings to the community he pointed out the needs which included not only volunteer firemen but such equipment as gloves, raincoats, hoses, life-saving aids, and regular incidentals — fuel, heat, lights, and telephone service.

Since that time Sammy Cash has been fire chief. The original board of directors was Jimmy Graves, chairman; Frank Biddle, vice-chairman; Willo Blackburn, Stan Brown, and Sam Cash. Officers were Maxine Baty, secretary; Eleanor Tate, treasurer; and Patrick Tate, attorney.

The original fire truck was purchased for \$12,000. An additional back up tank truck was obtained for \$750. Frank Mason donated the metal building which now houses the two trucks. For use as a fire hall, the building formerly occupied by Jackie Smith's Gun Shop was purchased for \$20,000. For a time the City Council, which has been cooperative throughout, paid \$200 monthly on the purchase and is now paying \$150. The remainder of the price is \$13,000.

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District covers all of DeKalb County atop Lookout Mountain and North of DeSoto State Park Headquarters.

If you want to be a part of this project, contact Sammy Cash.

Mrs. Meadows President Valley Head Women's Club



Mrs. Richard Meadows of Mentone is the newly-elected president of the Valley Head Women's Club. Other officers are the following: Mrs. Edward D. Disney, vice-president; Mrs. Dorothy Reeder, second vice-president; Mrs. Ritchey Phillips, secretary; Mrs. Claude Howe, treasurer; Mrs. W. W. Donahue, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Paul N. Davenport, custodian.

Groundhog Finance Report

MARCH 31 ISSUE

INCOME	
Ad Sales	\$501
DEBITS	
Times Journal (Printing)	182.50
Kenneth Pennington (Art Work)	30.00
Postmaster (Mailing)	51.35
Postmaster (Postal Permit)	40.00
	303.85
Net	197.15
Donated to MAPA treasury	100.00
Operating reserve	\$97.15



Sammy Cash

(Continued)

Sammy Cash and his wife, the former Clara Green, have no children. They are both from families who were pioneer settlers in the area. The Cashes helped settle and develop Lahusage. Sammy has lived here all his life, attending the Lahusage and Moon Lake schools.

In World War II he proudly wore the cap of a member of the 42nd Armored Division which under the leadership of General George Patton invaded North Africa, stormed Sicily and Italy, then moved into the heart of Europe. "One of the most exciting moments of my life," says Cash, "was being at an airport when Patton got off a plane." To another question, he replied, "No, he never slapped me."

Returning to the mountain from the army he received what he calls "four years education in farming." When this failed to provide sufficient challenge, he went to work for the State Forestry Department for 62 cents an hour. By the time he worked to the status as chief ranger in DeKalb County, he had become one of the best in the business.

The Mentone fire tower which was the center of so much of Sammy Cash's activities now stands deserted, probably never to be used again. By the time of his retirement helicopters and planes were being utilized for spotting and directing the fighting of fires.

While he was county forester there was a definite arrangement whereby the Fort Payne Fire Department handled residence fires and the Forestry Department controlled woodland fires.

It was this interactivity which made it natural for him when the occasion arose to lend his talents toward organizing the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protective District. He has been its only chief, assisted by a loyal crew of volunteer firemen who meet at the fire house twice monthly.

Sammy and Clara Cash are ardent collectors of antiques — glass, furniture, iron objects. Ever looking forward to new hats to wear, Sammy Cash might just go into the antique business.

His name is Sam W. Cash, Jr. When asked what the "W" stands for, he replied, "Wallace" and I'm proud of it.

Sammy Cash is a gentle, loving man. He's the one in a crowd who usually comes up to you and engages in conversation. He has done his part in preserving and expanding a heritage that is deserving of his warmth and our gratitude.

Next time you see Sammy Cash, tip your hat to him.

Appalachian Project Bears Big Results

Mentone is in the very midst of the Alabama area covered by the Appalachian Regional Commission established nineteen years ago by President Lyndon Johnson. After examining the record of the House Subcommittee on Economic Development, Governor George Wallace stated that the Appalachian program has stood the test of time and has produced maximum results with minimum delay.

"The changes in economic progress in the Appalachian Region of North Alabama have been striking" the governor said. "The population growth rate exceeds the national average, and the number of families living in poverty has been cut in half. Per capita income has risen from 75 percent of the national average to 81 percent."

"The infant mortality rate in the Appalachian counties in Alabama has dropped to about one-half the 1965 level; the number of doctors practicing in that part of the state has increased some 30 percent. The percentage of Appalachian Alabamians 25 years old and above has risen by an astonishing 89 percent. And the labor force has increased by more than 300,000 workers."

The governor further stated that because it is small and flexible, the Appalachian program has enabled this area to test new ideas, pioneering approaches to health care in areas with a shortage of doctors; networks of local development districts; vocational educational programs; creation of state housing finance agencies.

Federal funds have been made available for highways, water and sewer systems, industrial site development, and energy resource development.



Alpine Camp

Alpine is a Christian camp for boys. It was founded in 1959 by Rufus Hyde of Dallas, Texas, and Richard C. O'Ferrall, Jr. of Jackson, Mississippi. This summer will be Dick O'Ferrall's thirty-third year in camping. He was a camper and counselor at Lookout Mountain Camp for eight years. His wife Alice was a camper and counselor at DeSoto Camp for Girls for ten years. She is a Jackson native also. The O'Ferralls with their daughters Toy and Carter live at Alpine year-round.

The original buildings at Alpine were built in the late '20s by Col. Milford W. Howard, who operated the facility as a summer resort. Miss Alice MacVicar of Miami, Florida, next owned the camp and operated it as a girls' camp.

Alpine has 300 acres and some fifty-two buildings. There are thirty-three cabins, an open-air gymnasium, stables, infirmary, two amphitheatres, a dining hall, crafts cabin, etc.

Mr. O'Ferrall is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, and Mrs. O'Ferrall is a graduate of Newcomb College and of the University of Wisconsin. Their program director is Tommy Foster, principal of Mt. Salus Christian Day School in Clinton, Mississippi. This will be his twelfth summer at Alpine. The three head counselors are Bill Jamieson, of McCallie School in Chattanooga, in charge of the older boys and of riding; this will be his eleventh summer; Lee Ozler of the Trinity School in Montgomery is in charge of team sports, and this is his fifth summer; and Bud McBride of the LSU Medical School, here in charge of the waterfront for his tenth summer.

There is a full-time registered nurse and a resident physician during camping season. There are two four-week sessions with enrollment limited to 240 campers each time. Campers range in age from seven through fifteen. Counselors are some fifty college students from throughout the Southeast.

Alpine is divided into three living units: the Canyon, for boys who have finished the second, third and fourth grades; the Mountain, for those past fifth, sixth and seventh grades; and Up Top for the oldest boys.

Riding groups are kept small for boys to receive individual instruction. Much time is given to the instruction and drill of fundamental swimming strokes. Eligible campers take Rescue and Water Safety from certified American Red Cross lifesaving examiners. Many cabin units take breakfast canoe trips, paddling up the river to High Rock for a cookout.

Two excellent sports fields are maintained. Boys play flag football, softball and soccer; they play such minor sports as volleyball, wiffleball, slaughterball, and kickball.

Competition is engendered by the division of the camp into two Alpine tribes, the Mohawks and the Cherokees. The open-air gym, in addition to sports events, has a stage for skits, movies, and other shows.

Alpine maintains two all-weather courts and three clay courts for tennis instruction. Photography is offered to middle and older campers. They learn how to use cameras and how to develop film.

Archery and riflery are taught as well as nature study and survival techniques. Overnight camp-outs are enjoyed by all Alpine campers. Alpine has its own water purification plant which was built in 1964 under the direction of the state Board of Health.

In addition to the usual camp special activities, Alpine enjoys field trips, a "Lazy Day," rafting, rappelling, watermelon cuttings, and a party with Camp DeSoto girls.



Camp Cloudmont

Camp Cloudmont was founded in 1924 and purchased by Jack and Olive Jones in 1947. They made this a family camp with each of their children in turn helping.

For the past three years the boys' summer camp has been leased by Dick Moeriller and Shelton Whittle, from Florida, as are the Joneses. The camp is run as a brother camp to Valley View Ranch, a riding camp for girls in Cloudland, Georgia, operated by the Jones girls.

Camp Cloudmont follows VVR in its dates for camping sessions. This year these will be from June 19 to August 14. Mr. and Mrs. Jones also lease Cloudmont for band camps. There are chalets for family rental and grass skiing on astroturf as well as a nine hole, 18 tee regulation golf course.

Physical facilities at Cloudmont are excellent. There is a camp office and trading post and a huge dining hall done in knotty white and red cedar. The gymnasium is so large that two basketball games may be played simultaneously. The floor is maple hardwood. The gym is suitable for indoor baseball, volleyball, tumbling, wrestling, boxing, and bowling. The gym is open on two sides and special vents are in the roof. There is a large stage for shows.

There are six hard-surfaced tennis courts equipped with steel and wire back stops. Campers play competitive baseball and receive instruction in track and field events. Sports include diamond ball, soccer, football, and track.

Crafts feature wood, metal, airplane modeling, leather, nature study, Indian lore, and lapidary. Also offered during the years Camp Cloudmont has been in existence are photography, clay modeling, auto mechanics, and electronics.

There is a Junior Camp for boys aged six to nine that is separate from the older boys' activities. The Junior Camp operates on its own schedule.

Ravine Lake provides a safe place for the use of canoes for campers who have passed their swimming test. Ravine Lake was formed by a huge reinforced concrete dam on the river. The lake is owned by the camp. It is a safe place for all water sports. There are docks, piers, diving boards, and towers. There is a special area for beginning swimmers.

Boys may take advantage of the grass skiing and golf course on adjacent Cloudmont Resort. There is competition

in these sports, too. A special division to Camp Cloudmont is Shady Grove for boys aged ten to fifteen who are interested in learning to ride and to care for horses. There is a one-hundred mile pack trip at the end of the summer for these boys.

Altogether there are 5,000 acres of land in Cloudmont Resort. A special feature of the camp for boys is a library of over 500 books, used mostly during quiet hours.

The Mentone area is indebted to the Joneses for the development of their properties and for their continued confidence in this community.



Comer Scout Reservation

More than 10,000 people used the Comer Scout Reservation last year. The reservation is composed of some eleven counties called the Choccolocco Council. Camp director is Bob Dunaway; his Sequoyah District includes DeKalb and Cherokee counties.

Rated one of the top Scouting camps in the nation, Comer Reservation contains some 1,100 acres, including a 93 acre lake. There are two camps: A. C. Michaels Camp for tent camping; and Allen C. Jacobs, twelve A-frame chalets for family camping. There are 13 troop camping sites. Around 1,000 Boy Scouts will come to summer camp from June 12 to July 16.

The reservation has been near Mentone since 1966. Bob Dunaway was born in Ashland in Clay County. He and his wife Marilyn, an Anniston native, came to Comer first in 1973. They stayed four years, then went to the council office in Anniston. But they loved the Mentone area so much, they returned in '79 with their three children, Cara, Jeff, and Krista.

In addition to the Dunaways, Mickey Bobo, camp ranger who grew up in Fisher Community, and his wife Lynn and two children also live at Comer year-round. During the summer camp, Scouts work toward merit badges in rowing, swimming, archery, environmental science, wilderness survival, first aid, rifle, canoeing, cooking, motorboating, forestry, pioneering, soil and water conservation, leatherwork, basketry, woodcarving and God and country.

Since Scoutmasters, Troop Committeemen, and Dads are all volunteer workers, and the Comer camping experience may be part of a family's vacation time, the reservation operates a separate program led by Marilyn Dunaway for wives and families of Scoutmasters, simultaneously with the Scouting program.

Where did those remaining 9,000 people who used Comer Scout Reservation come from last year?

There were five weeks of band camps in 1982, including weekend parents who came up for the Friday competition.

The Order of the Arrow met at the reservation last year, too. This is a group of Scouts elected from their own troops, who study Indian legends. They came from all over Alabama and some from Florida, too.

Troop camping and hiking is available all year, as well as outdoor programs and hiking for Cub Scouts. Girl Scouts of DeKalb County held their summer day camp here in 1982.

Comer Scout Reservation was built for Scouts by Scouters and community volunteers. Each troop that comes to camp here assumes responsibility for keeping the camp in the spic and span condition in which they begin their camping. Scouts experience outstanding camping here when they take full advantage of the planned program and excellent facilities.

CAMP DE SOTO

Camp DeSoto offers girls today wealth that the explorer DeSoto never dreamed of — a wonderful Christian environment where they may learn new skills, enjoy friendships, and grow in self-confidence.

Since the mid-forties the camp has operated in basically the same way. At that time Miss Bess Herron and Mrs. Norma Bradshaw acquired DeSoto. In 1948 Sue Henry joined them. Miss Herron passed away in 1981, but Mrs. Bradshaw, named Director Emeritus, is still at DeSoto each summer. Sue Henry has been active at DeSoto since 1948.

Miss Henry was graduated from Mississippi State College for Women and did graduate work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She taught and served as administrator in Southern schools until she moved to Mentone full-time in 1971.

DeSoto has some forty-eight buildings and a dining hall that serves 300 easily. The gym is used for team games, for parties with Camp Alpine boys, and for Sunday morning worship services. There is a stage for skits and shows. There is a library in the Lodge.

All living quarters are frame buildings with wide overhanging roofs and screen over the upper part of the walls. A counselor lives in each cabin with the girls. Bath houses are equipped with plumbing and hot water.

The youngest campers live in a section called The Enchanted Forest. Their cabins are equipped with plumbing. These younger girls, who have completed the fifth grade, and younger, have a completely separate program.

Older campers are divided into two groupings, Intermediates, and Seniors. These girls come together in the dining hall, for assembly programs, and for tribal competition.

Camp DeSoto keeps twenty-six horses for whom there are six instructors. Girls learn English style riding in two rings. There are trails through DeSoto's wooded areas. Seniors may go on overnight camping trips, and there is a horse show at the end of camp.

There are four tennis instructors, four clay courts, and two hard surfaced courts. DeSoto employs a tennis pro for intermediates and seniors. There are final tournaments, also.

Hail To O

This edition of *The Groundhog* is wholehearted Hail To O Mentone area which will be opening in June. Since the early Twenties many thousands of partake of and grow from the wholesome, upl Maintenance of these facilities has provide tone businesses, and a sparkling vitality during It is our hope that this will be the finest sea of our environment.

Two instructors are employed for riflery and for archery. There are two standard five-gun ranges and six archery targets. There are eight qualified Senior Life Savers or Water Safety instructors who teach not only basic strokes, but synchronized and competitive swimming as well. Eight canoes are used and there are special trips to DeSoto Falls. Team sports taught and played at DeSoto include basketball, kickball, soccer, softball, track, and volleyball.

Arts and crafts offer numerous opportunities for campers: photography, dancing, dramatics, guitar, macramé, batik, block print, silk screen, leather work, ceramics, decoupage, and stitichery.

DeSoto has a wide range of special events including a trip to Rock City, a Tennessee River boat trip, a visit to Six Flags, a special Five Year Club party, backpacking, a raft trip, and rappelling. These are in addition to the usual competitions, stunt evenings, and exchange parties. Girls may even go spelunking in a non-commercial cave.

Sundays are always special at DeSoto. Everyone dresses in white for a day of worship and rest. Everyone eats out of doors in the evening, followed by hymn singing. Then each age group goes to a campfire spot for vespers. It is the directors' aim that parents will count it a privilege to have their daughters enrolled at Camp DeSoto.



Camp Juliette Low

Camp Juliette Low, the Girl Scout camp in Cloudland, Georgia, serves girls in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas, and Florida. Present caretakers of the camp are Tiny and Inez Brown. Mrs. Brown's father, who passed away last October, preceded the Browns as caretaker. Mr. Brown grew up in Trion, and Mrs. Brown is a native of Menlo. They have three daughters, two granddaughters, and four grandsons.

Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of the Girl Scouts of America, was given 10 acres of land in 1921 by Will Ledbetter, a developer of the Cloudland section. The camp was begun as a leadership training camp for counselors. Two hundred twenty girls came to camp the first summer in 1922 by railroad to Menlo. First directors were Dorris Hough and Frances King. By 1925 the daily schedule was similar to what it is today.

Shortly before Mrs. Low's death in 1926, she transferred the title of the camp to a board of trustees. This form of government is still in effect today. Similarly, many of the early camp ceremonies and facilities are much the same in 1983.

Today the girls still gather on the Soft Rocks in front of the dining hall; they still make ice cream in the unit kit-



camp skyline

Sharon Barron, Broker

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Our Camps!

dedicated to the boys' and girls' camps of the young people have been attracted to Mentone to participating activities of our summer camps. employment for local workers, clientele for Mentone the summer months. tion for all these camps. They are very much a part

chens; they still sleep in tents; and they still put on shows and use the "sanitary facilities." And like all campers, they sing.

Older girls today may participate in the Counselor-in-Training Program. Girls who have finished the third grade through girls of high school age come to Juliette Low. Activities include tennis, nature study, archery, canoeing, handicrafts, sailing, swimming, gymnastics, hiking, dramatics, conservation, cooking, music, games, horseback riding, and firebuilding. This year for the first time a rope course has been added. Camper-counselor ratio is about four to one, so girls receive individual help.

The only year the camp was closed was 1934 during the Great Depression. However, the following year in 1935, the camp reopened with improvements such as a water system, a gasoline pump, and a screened-in dining hall and camp infirmary. This year 1936 saw the well established program that exists today. Directors then were Lutie Neese and Katherine Park. Expanded activities included a Mountain Fair in which neighbors of the camp brought in their crafts of quilts, rugs, baskets, etc., and taught local folksongs and dances to the campers.

In 1938 campers presented *The Miracle* at Miss Clara Moorman's Windward Inn in Mentone, now owned by Millie Moerlins. The show, originally put on at the camp for visitors, helped raise money to purchase 150 additional acres. Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Ashcraft, the purchase was made possible. A swinging bridge over Little River is called Ashcraft Bridge in their honor.

The 1940's were difficult years because of shortages brought about by World War II and because of the polio scare. The camp survived, though, and added a camp newspaper, *The Lone Voice*, campers studied canning of food, Red Cross Life Saving and First Aid, and tended a Victory Garden.

From 1949 to 1959 Grace Chapin, from North Carolina, led the camp. Her tenure saw the largest expansion in physical improvements. All units of the camp included kitchens; a riding ring was built, a utility house for laundry, tennis courts, and a large pool. A total of 321 acres was fenced in 1962. During the '60s sailboating was introduced and pottery making.

For this summer of 1983, the director and assistant director are from South Carolina and Georgia. Girls still come from all over the South to attend camp in beautiful Cloudland.

camp laney for boys

Football fans in these parts know that Coach Malcolm Laney led Woodlawn High School in Birmingham and University of Alabama teams to great victories in the '40s and '50s. Coach Laney and his wife Louise founded Camp Laney for Boys in 1959 and directed the camp for fifteen years.

Mentone City Councilman Rob Hammond, who came up through camper ranks, serving as counselor as well, has

microscope, would reveal the stem and leaf in minute proportion ready to telescope into year's growth with the breaking of dormanc



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ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

been director since 1974. Rob is a Vanderbilt graduate and taught for four years at Darlington Lower School in Rome, Georgia. His wife San has a master's degree in Home Economics from the University of Georgia. She is camp dietitian and bookkeeper.

Also on the staff are Jim Doss, program director for the past nine years, who was graduated from The Citadel and has a master's degree from the University of Kentucky. Formerly he taught math and coached football as head coach at Darlington. Coach John Clifford works at Oak Hall School in Gainesville, Florida, and summers at Laney as assistant program director. He played defensive back for the Florida Gators. Dr. Jerry Jennings, education psychologist from Berry College, helps to train counselors and other staff personnel each summer. All counselors are college students.

Campers are divided into seven age groups; there are twenty to twenty-five boys in each group. Boys participate in seven daily activity periods including horseback riding, canoeing, Project Adventure, tennis, sports, swimming, archery, and riflery. There is river fishing after supper each evening.

In the evenings boys enjoy movies, camp fires, music, storytelling, competitive games, dances with Camp Skyline Ranch for Girls, and stunt nights. Senior campers enjoy backpacking, rappelling, a ropes course, and an Ocoee whitewater rafting trip.

Project Adventure, mentioned earlier as a daily activity, seeks to give campers skills in survival tactics. They learn knots, lashing, and after training, test their skills on three compass courses. Also campers participate on the low ropes courses and learn the "Banzai" and "Kamikaze" ropes courses.

In addition to swimming lessons, there are games and sports in the pool and time for free swims. Boys may also learn water-skiing on the river.

Sports at Camp Laney are divided into track, softball, flag football, and soccer. Campers are divided into Apaches and Comanches for contests. Archery and riflery are offered under strict supervision.

There is a minimum of two counselors in each cabin. The ratio of camper-counselors is five to one. A registered nurse lives in the camp lodge.

Physical facilities include in addition to the lodge (which contains the dining hall, kitchen and infirmary), a gym, large pool, twelve-horse stable, riding ring, three asphalt tennis courts, athletic field, and rifle and archery ranges. There are twelve cabins in camp with interior plumbing, and a centrally located shower house.

Camp Laney stresses sportsmanship and seeks primarily to give boys confidence in themselves while sharing a super camping experience with other boys and with fine leaders — in the heart of Mentone.



Ponderosa Bible Camp is operated by The Children's Bible Mission with home offices in Lakeland, Florida. Other divisions are in Georgia, the Carolinas, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia. It is a non-denominational and non-profit home mission organization with "a doctrinal position of evangelical, conservative fundamentalism." CBM was begun in 1935.

CBM purchased Ponderosa from the University of Alabama in 1976 and began camp that summer. Glenn and Linda Miller are camp directors and live at the camp year-round with their young sons Curtis and Kenneth. The Millers are graduates of Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham. Mr. Miller says he came from L.A. — lower Alabama, and he was raised at CBM's Camp Victory where his parents worked. Mrs. Miller's parents were active in Child Evangelism Fellowship.

The Millers' duties include, besides directing the camp, maintenance, monthly public school Bible chapels in every school in DeKalb County (except one), Bible correspondence lessons, and scheduling and servicing camp rental groups.

Also living at Ponderosa are Mr. and Mrs. James Evans. Mr. Evans is known in the schools as "Donald Duck" because of the hand puppet he uses when he tells Bible stories and lets children know about the Mailbox Club. Youngsters who memorize all Bible verses or complete CBM correspondence lessons may come to camp for half price. One-fourth price scholarships may also be earned. Other scholarships are also available. Ponderosa operates a counselor-in-training program, too.

Other staff members who work at Ponderosa Bible Camp include Miss Bess Robertson and Miss Elsie Bailey of Birmingham, and volunteers.

Many people in Mentone will remember Brother and Mrs. Hunt (he died in 1968) who began CBM work in DeKalb County. Glenn Miller first came to Mentone with Mrs. Hunt in November of 1975 to see the Ponderosa site. Until that time CBM had been renting a camp site in Birmingham.

Ponderosa includes eighty acres. There are six camp cabins, each of which serves sixteen campers. There are some twelve buildings, including a craft place, a staff house, an office building, and a large dining hall and kitchen with a basement chapel. The goal for this year is to build a one hundred by seventy foot gymnasium which will be especially helpful for rainy day activities.

Daily camp activities include Bible classes, singing, volleyball, ping pong, swimming, camp fires, tournaments, fishing, boating, hiking, picnics, missionary pictures, canoeing, archery, basketball, crafts, rappelling, sightseeing trips, softball, preaching, and good food!

Glenn Miller states that CBM's purpose "is to help boys and girls and young people know the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior, to help them develop Christ-centered personalities, to be witnesses for Him, and to be effective members of their local churches. The Bible is taught as the Word of God, and the authority for faith and conduct." This camp is open "to all campers of any race, creed, or color, for any week of their age groups."

Skyline Ranch

Camp Skyline Ranch employs sixty-five salaried adults who supervise five different age groups, divided for living arrangements and competition, over some sixty acres.

Both English riding and western trail riding are featured at Skyline. The camp offers each girl an hour of riding each day, either in one of two oval rings or pleasure riding through fifteen acres of woods. Classes are offered in walk, trot, and canter. A horse show is offered at the close of each camping session.

Tennis is also featured at Skyline. The camp has four hard-surfaced courts, two of which are lit for night play, plus two backboards.

The swimming pool was built in 1954 and a diving pool added in 1957. The pool is lighted for night dips. Skyline offers swimming classes, water ballet, lifesaving, diving, and 50-mile swimming.

Eloise H. Temple founded Skyline Ranch Camp in 1947 and operated it until 1980, at which time the Cash brothers, Edward and Edmund, purchased it. Marty Griffin, Director, has been part of the camp since 1966. She was graduated from Mississippi University for Women and holds a master's degree from the University of Georgia.

Polly Cameron, assistant director, has been with Skyline since 1968. She recruits campers along with Marty and serves as bookkeeper. She came up through the ranks, having been a camper, junior counselor, and counselor at Skyline.

Others on the administrative staff include Ellen Roberts, program director, on the staff since 1966, who during the year teaches in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Inza Fort, Ellen's assistant, has her PhD and teaches at the University of Arkansas during the school year. Karen Wilson, also assisting in programming, regularly is a physical education and science teacher at the elementary school level.

Girls aged six to sixteen participate in a variety of programs. These include, in addition to those already described, canoeing, archery, dramatics, arts and crafts, sports (badminton, ping-pong, volleyball, newcomb, soccer, softball, and basketball), gymnastics, modern jazz dancing, ballet, and chorus.

An addition to the program of outdoor camping is a ropes course. This is composed of a Burma Bridge, balance beam, two line bridge, hand ferry, and a two hundred foot zip line.

Physical facilities include seventeen roomy cabins with indoor plumbing, a steel bridge across Little River; an eight room log cabin, and Riverside with seventeen bedrooms for older girls; infirmary, dining hall, lodge, arts building, gymnasium, store, and stable. There are various other smaller buildings and meeting places.

Skyline is closely affiliated with Camp Laney for Boys so far as schedules are concerned. This is to allow brothers and sisters to attend camps simultaneously.

Skyline Ranch is a quality, select camp serving girls from Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana. There is a strong tradition of families and generations returning to Skyline year after year.



Valley View Ranch

Valley View Ranch is a Riding Camp for Girls in Cloudland, Georgia. Jack and Olive Jones founded VVR in 1954. The Jones girls have been campers and staff members for many years and now own and operate the Ranch. Nancy is director and recruiter; Marsha and her husband Doug manage the Ranch year-round; Janis and Angela are riding instructors. All of the Joneses reside most of the year here on Lookout Mountain.

Ranchers from six to eighteen years old come to the Ranch; enrollment is limited to 120. Each girl can spend as much time as she likes with her favorite horse during her stay. Instruction is given in Western stock seat, English saddle seat, and hunt seat, or jumping. Girls benefit from opportunity to grass ski at Cloudmont, also owned by the Joneses.

Valley View is a year-round working ranch, raising quarter horses specifically for young riders. The Ranch contains 1,000 acres. There are over twenty-five buildings, and girls live in lodges equipped with electricity and plumbing. There are four riding rings, one lighted horse show arena, six stables for 150 horses, a dining lodge, craft shops, tack rooms, tennis court, riflery range, archery range, three lakes, recreation building, infirmary, and office.

The Pony Club is a special program for younger campers. They learn to care for, curry, bridle, saddle, ride, and cool out their mounts. Junior campers, ages six to nine, live in Yearling Hall.

Stock seat is Western equitation. Campers are assigned horses or may bring their own. They are taught pleasure riding, problem clinics, trail classes, reining patterns, and bareback riding.

Training in barrels (like pylons) teaches the horse and rider to work together as a precision unit. Gymkhana games offer a challenge to all ages with practice.

Each Sunday after cabin inspection, vespers, and fried chicken, the girls visit their brother camp, Cloudmont or play host for their own Country Fair, Water Show, Rodeo, Derby Day, Field Day, and Fourth of July celebration.

All ranchers are encouraged to participate in Western and English riding programs. After a rancher learns to post well, she can change to hunt seat if she is interested in learning to jump. The Jones girls, Marsha and Janis, qualified for the International Finals as Medalist winners.

The Cross-Country course has over one mile of jumps in Sizemore Pasture. Equitation from cavalettes to dressage to three day events is taught for advanced riders who are willing to accept the challenge of jumping.

In addition to riding, Valley View Ranch offers the traditional camping activities. There are handicrafts, nature study, swimming, canoeing, badminton, deck tennis, volleyball, softball, ping pong, horseshoes, drama, gymnastics, basketball, cheerleading, and cookouts.

The Country Gourmet Comes to Cragmere

Randy Still, better-known as "The Country Gourmet," and Velendia Harris with the Depot Restaurant and Miracle's General Store, have formed a partnership to open Cragmere Manna



—John Wood

Restaurant on May 25.

Velendia has been associated with the food business for several years, having operated the Log Cabin Deli with her sister Barbara before Barbara and her husband Lee Boyd took over that delightful restaurant.

Randy Still is a native of Geraldine, Alabama, who has lived in Rossville most of his life. He defines a gourmet as one who cooks "something no one else knows how to cook."

He is well prepared for his role as chef, having won two baking contests back in the fourth grade: first prize in pies (it was pecan) and first prize in biscuits. He has catered parties for years and has cooked as many as twenty-one hams for Christmas orders.

Randy's mother was ill when he was quite young, so he took over most of the kitchen chores, including meal planning and cooking. He and his father Hubert have raised truck gardens on one or two acres for more than thirty-five years. Mr. Hubert Still has a thriving farm in Ringgold today.

The Country Gourmet's specialty is vegetable cooking. He knows which vegetables should never be overcooked and those, like green beans, that country folk know should be cooked a long time. You can be sure that Cragmere Manna will feature daily fresh vegetable specials.

In addition, Velendia says they will feature such delectable entrees as stuffed pork chops with cornbread stuffing and gravy, pot roast, sirloin for two, beef tips, shrimp, oysters, chopped sirloin with mushrooms, peppers, and onions; fried chicken livers, fried chicken, naturally, and ham steak Hawaiian.

Occasionally house specials will feature Chinese, Mexican, and Italian food. Desserts will feature chocolate amaretto mousse and ho' chocolate derby pie. All homemade breads will be baked and served in clay flowerpots. The Country Gourmet has already moved to Mentone in preparation for the May 25 opening.

6th Audubon Workshop At Alpine May 26-29

The Sixth Annual Audubon Mountain Workshop will be held at Camp Alpine May 26-29 under sponsorship of the Birmingham and Mobile Bay Audubon Societies. Director of the project is Dr. Dan C. Holliman, Professor of Biology at Birmingham Southern College.

A staff of some twenty experts principally from colleges throughout the state will lead groups of not more than twelve in projects designed to promote better understanding of the natural history and ecology of the Southern Appalachian Mountains.

Among the subjects covered will be birdlife, trees, wildflowers, ferns, carnivorous plants, lower plants, mushrooms, aquatics, biology of the river banks, geology, herpetology, canoeing, wildlife photography, and oral history. For research a professionally staffed library will be provided at the camp.

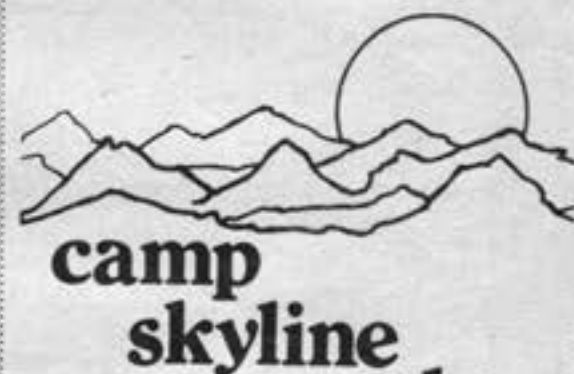
Camp Alpine, which overlooks Little River, is just upstream from DeSoto State Park, near Desoto Falls, in an area abundant with hiking trails and plant and wildlife.

Those interested should contact Mrs. Jeanette K. Hancock, Administrative Director, Audubon Mountain Workshop, Birmingham, Alabama 2919 Surrey Road, 35223 (205-879-6072). Non-members are welcome. Cost of the tuition, room and board for the three-day session is \$85.

MAPA Officers



Shown above with the bulletin board at the post office donated by MAPA to the community are Postmaster Benny Goss and MAPA officers: Sandra Padgett, Associate Director; Bernise Crum, Secretary-Treasurer; and Bruce Ron Fle



Sharon Barron, Broker

The Mentone Wind and the Mentone Rain CWM, 1949

At Mentone
All things are in turn
More peaceful, more violent.
The winter Mentone wind
Blows across the undulating slopes
With the fury of a thousand locomotives,
With the fury of fate delivered —
Roaring past through the pines,
Rustling the roofs,
Rattling the windows.
But of an early summer morn
The Mentone wind
Is gentle as a sigh
Breathing across the laurel,
Blending its rhododendron scent

With the sweetness of the honeysuckle,
Whispering a message of fragrant beauty
To pilgrims across the lanes . . .
The Mentone rain comes first gently,
Borne on the clouds and mists
That hide the crawling train,
The toyland farms, and ribbon roads
In the valley down below.
It soothes the loneliness of the night,
And its fresh drops patter against the rocks
And cling to the leaves.
But then the Mentone rain grows restless,
Moves with speed, and crashes along the crags:
Asking, relenting; surging, surceasing,
Then moving onward into the night.

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Calendar

- Monday, May 2** — 6:00 p.m. City Council Meeting. Mayor Sam Barrett presiding.
- Tuesday, May 3** — 7:00 p.m. Mentone Area Preservation Association Meeting at Mentone Springs Hotel. Bruce Bon Fleur, director.
- Thursday, May 5** — 7:00 p.m. Volunteer Fire Department Meeting at the Fire Hall. Sammy Cash, chief.
- Saturday, May 7** — 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Work Day at Mentone Springs Hotel. Padgett Appreciation Day.
- Sunday, May 8** — 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Grand Opening of Knotty Knots Arts and Crafts Park at Shadgets'.
- Tuesday, May 10** — 10:00 a.m. Rhododendron Garden Club meets at home of Jane Meadows. Mabel Kirk, president.
- Wednesday, May 11** — 10:00 a.m. Bookmobile at City Hall.
- Saturday, May 14** — All Day Rummage and Bake Sale and Alabama Jam Chances at Fire Hall.
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Jimmy Frazier Art Exhibit begins at Mentone Springs Hotel. Continues through May 31.
- Thursday, May 19** — 7:00 p.m. Fire Department meeting.
- Saturday and Sunday, May 21 and 22** — Knotty Knots Arts & Crafts Park.
- Wednesday, May 25** — 10:00 a.m. Bookmobile at City Hall.
- Thursday through Sunday, May 26-29** — Audubon Mountain Workshop at Camp Alpine.

"Country Rover" In Mountain View



Jamie Cooper, the "Country Rover" of TV's Channel 31 out of Huntsville, frequently interviews people on his show. Now the tables are turned on him as he is featured in the upcoming issue of **Mountain View** magazine and visitors' guide.

Bruce Bon Fleur, MAPA director and editor/publisher of **Mountain View**, thinks it's high time Jamie was spotlighted since he has had Mentone as the subject of his show on more than one occasion. The third edition of **Mountain View**, soon to be distributed, focuses on "Entertainment and Enterprise."

The magazine is locally produced and concentrates on our area. Bruce says there are four other issues planned for 1983.

VIEWPOINT . . . from page 2

sation at Blackburn's, Ruby's, or Charles McGee's, his sauntering proclivities would head down the DeSoto Parkway, imbibing the snowwhite brilliance of the dogwoods, asserting themselves in completeness more deliberately than along any New England byway. And as his sauntering moved him toward the Falls or Howard's Chapel, we can hear him saying quietly to himself:

"If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams and endeavors to live the life he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

Who can say what areas of Mentone Thoreau would prefer for his sauntering? One of my nominations would be Taylor's Ford. I can see him, after a cup of coffee or tea at the Log Cabin Deli or Country Charm, heading down the

backroad toward the ford, hoping to arrive when the rhododendron are in their full manifestation of purple.

We can see him, perhaps rolling up his trousers, getting barefoot, walking into the rapidly flowing Little River, downstream, to get a better view of the spring verdure. We can virtually hear him saying quietly to himself:

"If the day and night are such that you greet them with joy, and life emits a fragrance like flowers and sweet-scented herbs, is more elastic, more starry, more immortal — that is your success."

Yes, Thoreau would have loved Mentone. He would have belonged here. Mentone was created for people who understand the ramifications of sauntering. Dig out a copy of Thoreau's essay on "Walking," published in 1862. And give thanks to the Thoreau Sauntering Club for its contribution to the immortality of Henry David Thoreau.

TO MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, BOX 50 In support of the objectives of MAPA, desiring to join with others in preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, I (or we) enclose \$3.00 for voting membership for one through June 1983.

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