

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 3 - NO. 2 MAY 1985

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Outstanding Citizen: The Mayor Of Berry Patch

You could call him the honorary mayor of Berry Patch, that unusual community in the southern part of town.

You might call him Mentone's most influential citizen, but such an evaluation has not been made.

James A. Berry is a gentle, warm person, belying in his modesty the life of consequence and accomplishment he demonstrates.

He has held the top position in the Alabama Rural Electric Association; despite that he doesn't like to shoot animals, he has served in two wars; at one time as a poultry producer he was Mentone's largest employer.

"Mentone is the best place in the world," he told *The Groundhog* editors as he prepared to leave for a TVA meeting in Washington. "I wouldn't want to live anywhere else in the world. I like it the way it is. I don't want it to stand still, but I don't want it to go commercial either."

Jimmy Berry was born in Birmingham. His father was a

physician who performed the first recorded open heart surgery. After high school education at Hampton-Dubois Academy, Zellwood, Florida, he went to the University of Georgia, majoring in poultry with a minor in animal husbandry.

Meantime he served in the Merchant Marine in World War II in both the Atlantic and Pacific; emerging with the rank of lieutenant commander. During the Korean War he served for two years at Fort Jackson.

Early in the century Dr. William Thompson Berry, Jimmy's father, purchased a house on the river which had been built before the Civil War by Eldridge Jones. It was an acreage of abounding greenery, particularly blackberries, blueberries, even strawberries.

Each summer Mrs. Berry made the all-day journey from

(Continued On Page 6)



Second Annual Rhododendron Festival May 18-19

See Page 1

Crafts Festival Signups Ahead Of Previous Years

President Linda Brown of the Crafts Festival Committee reports that reservations for spaces are coming in large numbers earlier than in previous years. The ninth annual festival will take place at Mentone's Brow Park on Saturday and Sunday, July 6th and 7th.

Improvements and innovations for this year's event include placing large sheets of plastic at the end of the present shelter, in case of rain, and placing a roof over the concrete platform. Walkie-talkies will be used by the festival officers to facilitate communications. Better spacing will be instigated in the new area to the right of the road midway in the park, walking north.

Advertising for the festival will be handled by Christa Brown. Dorothy Crow is in charge of Sunday's food booth and the Sunday morning devotional.

Ovie Blalock is in charge of the entertainment. There will be cloggers and square dancers both days. Ice cream will be available, and the fire department will have its drinks trailer. The United Methodist Church Women will have a bake sale.

The traffic flow will be regulated by Milton Howard, Luke Lucas, and Nelson Stallings. Aiding in parking will be the Dixie Youth ball team players. Raymond, Stanley, and Bobby Brown with Luke Lucas are erecting signs; Bobby Brown also is arranging for the electrical needs. Manning the security and clean-up detail are H. P. Goss and Luke Lucas.

Assigning booths is the task of Barbara Blalock, Linda Brown, and Grace and Milton Howard. Stanley Brown is in charge of the brochure to be handed out at the gates. Arranging for the Friends of the Festival section of the program is Ferne Fitzgerald.

The Rhododendron Garden Club will be in charge of the gates and will have its usual plant booth. Mrs. Brown will arrange for public toilets and for any clearing of the grounds.

Officers of the festival committee are in addition to Linda Brown, president; Stanley Brown, vice president; Barbara Blalock, secretary; Epp Meadows, treasurer.

Complaints Continue About Road Conditions

Mentone area residents are still unhappy with the condition of roads and are critical of the handling of the repairs by the County Commission, according to remarks at the meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association at the Mentone Springs Hotel on Tuesday, May 7.

Sammy Cash said that during the recent emergency Civil Defense records show that 951 loads of chert (or 7,608 yards) were hauled by the National Guard, all of it to Sand Mountain. "The only road fixed here in March — eight months from the last visit — was Ponderosa Road," said Mr. Cash. "Chert was dumped in holes and graded. It's still in bad shape."

Homer Crow said that it had been 9 months from last August till the middle of April before any machinery had been in his area.

Attorney John Cooper was asked to determine what legal action could be taken to correct the situation.

Cable TV Survey Underway In Town

Preliminary survey is underway for Cable-TV service in Mentone under ownership of H. W. Kidder of Fort Payne, who is currently situated in Piny Flats, Tennessee.

Provided there is sufficient response, Mr. Kidder states, a tower-earth station will be constructed in the northern part of town. Lines will run from the station at Eagle's Nest to Libby's Farm and from the Mentone Springs Hotel to Skyline Ranch. Customers may branch off from these lines.

Between 9 and 12 channels will be available. The cost should be in the average range of most Cable-TV services. J. C. Francis, operator of Cable Service TV in Fort Payne, declares that there is no possibility of its service being available to Mentone because of the expense of bringing the cable up the mountain with no customers en route.

Mayor Rob Hammond has made available to the Kidder project for its survey the list of town water customers. Mr. Kidder says, however, that not all Mentone water customers may have availability to the service at first.

Exciting Celebrations Planned For 1985 Rhododendron Festival



Senior High Queen Mona Lackey and Junior High Queen Melanie Martin, 1984 Festival.



Captain Warren Coppedge boat after 1984 river tour.

Mentone citizens, tourists and visitors will have many choices at the Second Annual Mentone Rhododendron Festival on Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19.

Riverboat cruises from DeSoto Falls up to the site of the old covered bridge when the overhanging foliage should be at its height...

Crowning of the three Rhododendron Queens with prizes of \$100, \$50, and \$25...

A gala parade...

Music by Tony Goggans of the Malibu Mountain Band...

Crafts exhibits by mountain artists, including the raffling of a genuine Appalachian quilt made by local ladies...

Food and drinks galore available at Old Hotel Square...

Events get underway Saturday at 10:00 a.m. with music by Tony Goggans of Malibu Mountain Band, which will continue throughout the festival. Riverboat tours begin up Little River from DeSoto Falls to the site of the Old Covered Bridge, at a time when most foliage should be at full blossom. Many of last year's visitors considered this a highspot — viewing rhododendron, mountain laurel, and other plants hanging over the river bank.

Rhododendron plants will be available for sale throughout both Saturday and Sunday. Maggie Cordell has coordinated the making of a genuine Appalachian quilt by local quilters — which is being raffled off. Chances are sold at local merchants.

Craftspeople will have their wares set up in booths around Old Hotel Square. Food booths with a variety of items will be available.

Saturday at 8:00 p.m. the three Rhododendron Queens will be crowned at the Mentone Springs Hotel. The senior high queen will receive \$100, the junior high queen, \$50, and the elementary queen, \$25.

Sunday's activities begin at 12:00 with the music of Tony Goggans. Crafts exhibits and food will again be available at 2:00. The quilt will be awarded during the afternoon.

The planning committee has had several meetings in preparation for this second annual event: Donna Buckley, chairperson, Shurlee Froehler, Bernise Crow, Art Harris, Randy Still, Harrell Jenkins, Grace Howard, Sharon Barron, and Angelo Rosario, assisted by many others.

Postmaster Goss Thanks Citizens For Response

Postmaster Benny Goss wants to thank Mentone citizens who have written our representatives in Washington in protest to the Grace Commission's conclusion that certain post offices in the Mentone category be closed.

Although no specific legislation has been filed to this date, the Grace Commission Report is very much a working document in Washington during the current emphasis on reduction in government spending. The Mentone office is on the list of offices to be closed and would be very much in line.

In replies to the appeals, Senator Howell Heflin wrote, "I have contacted U. S. Postal officials regarding this matter. Just as soon as I receive a report from this agency, I will be back with you." Congressman Tom Bevill from our district replied, "... should such legislation come before the floor of the House of Representatives, you may rest assured that this will be given my full support to see that it remains open."

In addition to correspondence by local citizens in protest, Mayor Rob Hammon and the Mentone Area Preservation Association issued statements of objection to the possibility of closing the Mentone Post Office. Major reasons were the seeming inefficiency of closing an office which had recently moved into a new building, the steady increase in the volume of use of the facilities, and the positive community value of the Post Office, as a gathering place, a focal point of communication, and a source of pride.

Rummage-Bake Sale At Fire Hall May 18

The Mentone Fire Department will hold its annual bake and rummage sale on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., according to Marty Griffin, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors, North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District. All proceeds will go to support of the efforts of the volunteers toward improving equipment and paying for building and maintenance.

The fire house will be open from 4 to 5 p.m. on Monday, May 13 through Friday the 17th. "If anyone has any rummage they would like to donate," says Chairwoman Marty, "please bring it by the fire hall on one of these afternoons."

Elinor Tate is in charge of the bake sale. Those who would like to bake a cake or request a certain kind of cake should give her a call at 634-4105. Hamburgers and hot dogs with all the trimmings will be available for lunch.

The volunteers and board members will be selling one dollar chances on a one hundred dollar bill. These tickets will also be available on the day of the sale. The drawing is at 3 p.m.

Marty urges all Mentone citizens to attend the rummage and bake sale and have lunch with all the trimmings.

If you would like to make a donation to the fire department, just mail it to P. O. Box 154, Mentone, AL 35984.

The Mayor's Report

Thanks to all citizens who participated in the clean-up campaign. A special thank-you to Bob Blackwell, Lynette and Jimmy McCary, Colquitt Jones, Christine, Brian and Jim Evans for helping pick up from Tutwiler Gap to the top of the mountain on 117. Altogether we collected 46 bags of trash that filled the dumpster. Hopefully, next time we pick up, there will be a lot less litter.

Work on the water lines is progressing well. From all the drilling and blasting, it's not hard to figure out we live on the top of the rock. All construction should be nearly complete by June.

Rob Hammond, Mayor

NOTICE

Out-of-Town Groundhog Readers:

Renew Your MAPA Membership

By July First

To Continue Receiving Groundhog

MAPA Minutes

The Mentone Area preservation Association met at the Mentone Springs Hotel on May 7, 1985. Homer Crow, Director, presiding. Following approval of the minutes, the treasurer's report showed a balance of \$3,626.99 as of May 1st. On that date THE GROUNDHOG balance was \$1,041.34.

The Rhododendron Festival Committee announced that all was going well (see page one story).

There was a long dialogue on the roads on Lookout Mountain, in which a decision was made that a detailed column in the Fort Payne newspaper was a good place to start.

Betty Harris will attempt to arrange a triangle chairman. It was moved and seconded that the McGehees be allotted \$100 monthly from GROUNDHOG proceeds as reimbursement for expenses and time. A note of thanks was read from Marie Shadgett. Bruce Bon Fleur, former director, was present, showing a *Chattanooga Magazine* which will feature Mentone in June.

Ken Pennington of Sequoyah Caverns spoke, explaining the work of Mountain Lakes Association. MAPA voted a \$100 annual membership in this organization which promotes tourism in 16 north Alabama Counties.

Sis Martin then spoke and presented a slide show on United Givers Fund which is beginning its campaign.

It was moved and seconded that a County Recreational map of Mentone be included in a tourism booklet along with the other towns. The executive board was given discretion on cost.

Thirty-three persons were present, including a number of visitors.

Adapted from the minutes of Amelia Brooks, Recording Secretary.

Groundhog Finance Report

April Issue

Income

Balance on hand	\$826.17
Ad Sales	745.00
Donation, Dr. & Mrs. R. Boatwright	50.00
Donations, tourists, Crow's Nest	25.25
	\$1,646.42

Debits

The Summerville News Co.	\$357.75
U. S. Post Office	69.58
Donna Bukley, sales & delivery	147.75
Angelo Rosario, photos	30.00
	\$605.08

Balance on hand \$1,041.34

Letter To The Editor

With the passing of our grandmother, Hattie A. Bruce, this month, our last living tie with Mentone has gone, but *The Groundhog* will keep us informed of events to come and will serve as a calendar to schedule happenings that will take us back to the mountain and keep us in touch with each other and with some of the most important "roots" of our lives.

Sincerely,

Harriette H. Pentz

Centerville, GA

NOTE: Six memberships to MAPA were enclosed.

Mailbox Improvement Week

Rural Mailbox Improvement week has been declared by the U. S. Postal Service for May 22-25. All owners of outdoor mailboxes are urged to repair, paint, renumber or replace any faulty units.

Postmaster Benny Goss urges all Mentone box-owners to examine their boxes and make any necessary repairs. Work of the mailcarriers is made easier especially when the numbers are clear.

Although it is a federal offense to willfully damage mailboxes, this is not a major factor in needed repairs. It is also pointed out that in the recent emphasis on cleanup, neat mailboxes add to the appearance of Mentone area homes.

To MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, BOX 50 in support of the objectives of MAPA, desiring to join with others in preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, I enclose \$5 for voting membership for one through June 1985.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

The Groundhog

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

Charles White McGehee, Editor
Jean McGehee, Associate Editor
Donna Bukley, Advertising, 634-4678
Homer Crow, Director
Donna Bukley Associate Director
Amelia Brooks, Secretary
Shurlee Froehler, Treasurer

Brow Briefs

Another untimely death occurred on April 22, when Ed Worthey died at 38. For a time he served as our policeman, was assistant fire chief, a member of the Rescue Squad, and a veteran of the Vietnam War. Many Mentone friends are expressing sympathy to Mrs. Worthey and their children.

Raymond Brown is busy as president of the DeKalb County Chapter of the American Association of Retired People. Virginia Crider received one of the awards from Sand Mountain Cooperative. Dailynne Jones, of the county agent's office, recently attended the first statewide Extended Food and Nutrition Education program at Auburn University.

Councilman Lee Davenport remains a patient at University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham. His many friends are inquiring about his condition.

When the 100th birthday anniversary of Justice Hugo L. Black was observed at the University of Alabama Law School in mid-April, one of those quoted in *The NEW YORK TIMES* was Attorney Jerome Cooper, who has a vacation house at Mentone and was Justice Black's first law clerk.

Attorney Cooper said: "He yielded to no one in his love for the South. But he was also an American and a world figure, and we produced him."

We continue to be grateful to Bill Cyr of Mar-Mil Steel and Supply Company of Fort Payne for sending us our address labels all typed each month. Thanks, too, to Saddle Rock Camp for their generous cooperation in usage of their duplication machine. They often bail us out.

The New York Times proclaims *The Wheel of Fortune*, seen daily by 43 million viewers, to be the top TV game show. It has been seen for fifteen years now. Recently, after Amelia Brooks was on the show, two sisters came from Vista, California and from Kentucky to see "The best kept secret in Alabama" or Mentone — and Amelia. On the program Amelia had held up the bumper sticker she'd printed which reads: MENTONE — ALABAMA'S BEST-KEPT SECRET.

Notice

Of course, all Mentone Post Office patrons receive *The Groundhog* free, courtesy of the Mentone Area Preservation Association. However, if you are or would like to be, a member of MAPA, dues are due again at the July meeting. Ten dollars gets you a voting privilege for one for a year.

And if you are an out-of-town MAPA member, the \$10 insures that you will receive *The Groundhog* by mail for a year.

Alabama
the Beautiful
The way to go

VIEWPOINT

By Charles White McGehee

The 10th Anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam brought numerous TV and newspaper analysis of the conclusion of this conflict. It was indeed a horrible and controversial war, the first war America lost. Some are of the hope that the TV coverage which brought home the actuality of war will make it the last of the major wars, that there will be better means of settling international disputes. Certainly this war reached to Mentone. Those veterans who fought seemed unwilling to discuss it at great length. There is divided opinion about whether our nation should have committed us to it. But the fact is obvious that these of our neighbors, who are now in our midst, joining with us in sustaining our town, building our homes, tending our businesses, endured some terrors which we ourselves can never know. Their names deserve to be perpetuated in our histories. *The Groundhog* began compilation of an accurate list, then turned to Councilman Stan Brown for checking and completing the roster. It follows now, submitted in honor and reverence, with the expectation that any deletions can be corrected in the next issue:

Bob Baty
Richard Baty
Tony Blalock
Stanley Brown
Jim Cameron
Billy Cash Jr.
Pleas Cox
Bob Crow
Charlie Drake
Sherman Goss
Ernest Smith
Britt Tate
Bruce Tate
Rocky Tate
Ron Wheat
Ed Worthey

AREA Magazine Scolded

Neglect of two outstanding Mentone citizens in the May issue of AREA Magazine, publication of the Alabama Rural Electrification Association, has caused the *GROUNDHOG* editor in the name of civic pride to direct a letter to Executive Vice-president Gail Gibbs of the organization.

The editor points out that the absence of mention of the late Congressman Miles Allgood and the currently active James A. Berry are especially obvious because the May issue of AREA is the Sand Mountain Co-Op Edition. The letter follows:

Dear Mr. Gibbs:

It seems incredible that upon perusing the special 50th anniversary edition of AREA Magazine, which is also the Sand Mountain Co-Op special edition, there is neglect of two key figures in the history of the Co-Op, who are incidentally Mentone citizens.

(1) Without the enthusiasm and political skills of the late Congressman Miles Allgood, there almost certainly would be no Tennessee Valley Authority or Alabama REA. He was chairman of the Agricultural Committee which sponsored the Boulder Dam project in Colorado. During a ride with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the President's private railroad car, he extolled the advantages of hydroelectric power and began discussions of TVA. In the official photograph of FDR signing the TVA bill, Congressman Allgood is shown with Senator Lister Hill and others instrumental in fighting for TVA in Congress. (Last August I sent to your editor Donnie C. Ford a complete article about the importance of Congressman Allgood to TVA. There were difficulties in securing a suitable photograph and the material was never run).

(2) Of more recent historical importance is the work of James A. Berry who over a period of 25 years has served as president of AREA, board member of SMEC, and who has been effective in such pertinent endeavors as the Alabama Farm Bureau and various poultry associations.

These things are called to your attention because these two esteemed men are Mentone products who belong in the history of TVA, AREA, SMEC — organizations which have made our lives more dignified and comfortable.

Respectfully,
Charles White McGehee, editor,
The Groundhog

New MAPA Officers

The new slate of officers for the Mentone Area Preservation Association will be presented at the June meeting and voted on at the July meeting, at which time they will be installed.

If you have any suggestions about the new officers, contact one of the following members of the nominating committee: Randy Still, Jean McGehee, or Maggie Cordell.

Out Of Town Members

These out-of-town MAPA members have new memberships or have already renewed their memberships for 1985-1986: Bruce Bennett and Sherry Cundiff; Dr. and Mrs. Robert Boatwright; Mrs. James Ferry; Mrs. Charles L. Hicks, Jr.; James R. Johnson, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. James E. Kuykendall; Jeffrey H. Pentz; Harriette H. Pentz; James L. Pentz, III; Mrs. Mary M. Rempe; Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Sawyer; Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Scott; and Sarah H. Studstill.

Business News



Furgerson's Restaurant.

Jimmy Cooper recently photographed in **The Fort Payne Times-Journal** as Cooper Appliance donated a microwave oven to the Red Cross Disaster Service.

Evelyn McGee says she plans to continue operation of McGee's Gulf Mart and Country Store, with no major changes in the immediate future. She will be enthusiastically assisted by her daughters. Charles' death has been a blow to them all.

Some of us are counting the days until we can have breakfast at the new Furgerson's restaurant. Helena tells **THE GROUNDHOG** that construction is progressing nicely. Charles is doing most of the work himself. The opening should be in a week or so.

There seems to be a minor building boom. The editors are ready to double the size of their dormer upstairs. The materials were bought by Max Tilley, who was going to do it on Saturdays, between times of his commuting from Sylva to Huntsville where he is helping construct a bridge. Because of the bad weather, Max now works on Saturdays. First we turned to Leonard Shigley, who is building a house over the Georgia line. Then, Jim Jones who is busy for at least the next month. Next, the Purvis brothers, who are building five log cabins for Camp Alpine, and have three more houses after that. Next builder approached was Dave Blalock who, although busy, was able to allocate a crew that did a masterful job.

The Weavers, who operate the Log Cabin Deli, have opened a new restaurant in Fort Payne. It is called the Hearth and seems to be getting good reviews.

ANCRO Specialties, Incorporated, of which MAPA Director Homer Crow is president, is now in operation at its newly completed plant on Old Valley Head Road just north of Fort Payne.

Employing 13 persons, ANCRO manufactures wiring assemblies for The Hill Company, Fort Payne; Voltrath Refrigeration, Pell City; Emberhearth Stove, Dunlap, Tennessee; Century Wreckers, Ooltewah, Tennessee; and is in process of designing for and negotiating with several other firms.

Betty's is a new addition to The Hitching Post. Operated by Betty Harris, Betty's has a collection of antique and gift items, adjacent to The Gourdie Shop.

Moon Lake Girls 4-H

The Moon Lake Girls' 4-H Club held their last meeting of the year on April 29, 1985. President Tommy Hopper called the meeting to order. Song leaders Shannon Blalock, Wendy Crow, Jennifer Trout, and April Langston led the group in singing "I've been working on my club work."

Carliotta McGee gave the devotional. Sandy Sharpe, vice-president, led the flag pledges. Michelle Hopper, secretary, read the minutes of the last meeting and checked the roll.

Mrs. Annette Wardrup presented a program on "Total Fitness." Total health fitness includes physical, emotional, mental, and social aspects.

The 4-H Summer Camp will be at the State Resource Center below Birmingham. Kayla Evans, Tiffany Coots, and Spring Wimberly did a skit on how children could raise their own money to go to camp.

April Contest Winners: County Beautification Poster Participants — Shannon Blalock and Ivy Godbois. Record Books — Michelle Durham, Michelle Hopper, Shannon Blalock, Marion Crane, and Ivy Godbois. Rabies Posters — April Hunter and Sandy Sharpe. Seat Belt Posters — Stacie Worthey, Tiffany Coots, Sandy Sharpe, and April Hunter. Woodworking Exhibit — Michele Hopper.

— Denise Hilliard, Club Reporter
— Joyce Smith, Local Leader

New PTA Officers

Gay Godbois was elected president of the Moon Lake Parent Teachers Association at the April Meeting. Other officers are as follows: Hershell Pruitt, vice-president; Vonda Lee, secretary; Amy Keith, treasurer; Sible Hopper, membership.

Did You Know?

There is a government listening device for earthquakes located at Corner Scout Reservation.

Mountain Cookery

Gerry Disney, who with her husband Ed owns and operates Nippersink Lodge, proudly announces the advent of the Ninth Edition of **Favorite Recipes**. This reviewer has owned — and used — recipes from the Fifth Edition given by a beloved sister-in-law, Mildred McNeese, who visited Nippersink from Jackson, Mississippi, many years ago.

This new edition contains six less pages than the Fifth Edition, with twelve fewer recipes, but the up-to-date recipes insure that quality exceeds quantity. The new recipes are more healthful, innovative, and tempting.

There are seven repeats from the earlier edition: Tramp Eggs, Nippersink Eggs, Rosemary Chicken, Corn Souffle, Bun Sticks, Prune Cake, and Broiled Pineapple.

The cookbook opens with the familiar dedication, "To the nicest people in the world, our guests at Nippersink Lodge." This edition celebrates the fortieth anniversary of the popular lodge. Gerry Disney includes the history of the former summer home (printed in the April **GROUNDHOG**) which she researched and wrote, and keeps the pages for names and addresses of "Favorite Folks at Nippersink" in the back of the booklet.

Before we print a couple of our favorite recipes, we know that readers will be glad to know that even if you're not Nippersink guests, you may obtain a copy for \$2.50 from Gerry Disney.

CORN BEEF SALAD

1 3-ounce package lime Jell-O
1 teaspoon plain gelatin dissolved in 1 tablespoon cold water
1 beef bouillon cube dissolved in 2 cups boiling water
Dash of Worcestershire sauce
1 can corn beef, shredded
½ cup diced celery
3 diced hard-boiled eggs
1 diced small onion
1 cup mayonnaise

Combine first four ingredients; cool. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well and spoon mixture into a lightly-oiled 9-inch square pan; chill until firm. Cut into squares to serve. Serves nine.

THIRTY-MINUTE CHOCOLATE CAKE

2 cups plain flour
2 sticks oleo
1 cup water
1 teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups sugar
3 rounded tablespoons cocoa
2 eggs
½ cup buttermilk

Mix sugar and flour in large bowl of electric mixer; mix well. In sauce pan combine oleo, cocoa and water. Bring to boil. Add to flour and mix well. Add eggs, soda, buttermilk and vanilla. Bake in 13 x 9 x 2 greased pan in 350-degree oven 30 minutes. Leave in pan and while warm pour sauce over cake.

SAUCE

1 stick oleo
6 tablespoons milk
1 box powdered sugar
1½ cups nuts
1 teaspoon vanilla
3 tablespoons cocoa
Pinch salt

Bring oleo, milk and cocoa to boil. Add sugar, salt and vanilla. Beat until smooth. Add nuts and spread over warm cake. Cut into squares and serve. Serves 15 to 20.

New Water Tower



The New Water Tank has been painted and is being tested.

Town Council Meeting

By Bernice Crow

Town councilmen Richard Meadows, Max Cash, Stanley Brown, Hobson Kirby, and Mayor Rob Hammond voted unanimously to donate \$100 to the Mentone Little League at the May 6 meeting of the Town Council.

Other action taken was a unanimous "no" vote to Ellis Clark, who wanted to cut down the boxwoods in front of his hardware store in the Town Hall building. The council also voted unanimously to let Hershall Pruitt have water for his cattle as long as the supply lasts.

The council further voted unanimously for Bill Russell to close a street between his house and garage in exchange for his donating a lot to the town.

Mayor Hammond stated that he would ask Billy Colley, county road commissioner, for more road repairing; also, the town will repair more streets maintained by the town of Mentone.

There was discussion about enforcing the 10 p.m. closing time of Brow Park if any more destruction of property takes place there. The mayor will meet with the contractors to see that they are living up to their contract on the water lines.

Patricia Bryan asked whether she could get town water if she built a new home. Councilmen decided they could do so. The mayor showed a brochure being proposed by the Mountain Lakes Association and asked whether councilmen wished to appropriate \$75 for a town map to be included in this booklet. No action was taken on this matter.

Rhododendron Garden Club

Beginning in June, the Mentone Rhododendron Garden Club will meet at 2 p.m. instead of 10 a.m. Members voted unanimously to change the meeting time at the April meeting, held in the Ephgrave home.

President Helen Hill announced that the installation of new officers will occur at the May meeting, a noon (CST) luncheon at the Lookout Restaurant. Bobbie Hilderbrand, a past president, was voted a life membership in the state organization. Funds from these memberships go for college scholarships.

Charles Green is replacing and planting new rhododendrons around town; dogwoods will be planted in the fall, according to Lynette McCary, in charge of this project.

The devotional was given by Norma Williams, on the legend of the sand dollar. Mamie Rains and Mildred Cochran of the Fort Payne Garden Club presented a witty and informative program on "Simple and Interesting Flower Arrangements." Their arrangements had been made using materials each had at hand.

Both Mrs. Hill and Mabel Kirk have available the history of Mentone booklets by Nelda Howe, published by the garden club.

New Water Lines



New pipe being laid along 117 opposite Camp Skyline Ranch.

Correction

Last month's cover story on Kathryn Jones implied that she was immediately succeeded by the current principal Charles Bell. She was actually succeeded by Elaine Keith, who served for about three years and is currently principal at Valley Head.



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Breakfast

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205-634-4836 Mentone, AL 35984
Amelia Kirk-Brooks, Owner

Mentone Camps Set State Standards

Seven Mentone area camps — Alpine, Comer Scout, DeSoto, Laney, Ponderosa, Saddle Rock, and Skyline Ranch — are setting the standards and helping the DeKalb County Health Center to draft an inspection report that will be a model and guide for the rest of the State of Alabama. Representatives from these camps met with officials from Public Health Area IV on April 11 at Comer Scout Reservation for the eleventh annual pre-camp meeting.

Public Health Area IV includes Cherokee, DeKalb, and Etowah counties, part of an eleven county group. James Russell, administrator for DeKalb and Cherokee counties, introduced Joan Wimberly, a registered nurse, who spoke on the necessity for a physical exam and immunization form from each camper.

Ms. Wimberly talked of illnesses contracted from food, proper removal of ticks, symptoms of Rocky Mountain Fever, and cautioned against letting campers approach sick or dead animals because of the danger of rabies.

Butler Green, Environmental Director for Public Health Area IV, announced that no communicable diseases were reported from last year's campers in DeKalb County. He went over a ten point inspection report and legal notice that will become the model for the rest of the state to use in grading and inspecting children's camps. He was assisted by Dr. Robert J. Henderson, Assistant State Health Officer for Public Health Area IV.

The ten items are Location of Camp; Water Supply; Sewage and Liquid Waste Disposal; Garbage and Refuse Storage and Disposal; Sleeping Area, Facilities, Maintenance; Toilet, Lavatory, and Bathing Facilities; Swimming Pools; Food Service; Restriction of Animals; Communicable diseases.

Violation of items considered to be critical must be corrected within five working days. A point system is being devised to rate each of the items under each of the ten sections of the report.

Among the more interesting of the regulations is the one requiring ice scoops to be enclosed when not in use, and not merely placed atop ice or the ice chest.

Another regulation states that each camper must have 30 square feet of sleeping space. Dr. Henderson remarked that the army is supposed to require 80 square feet for each soldier under ideal conditions, but that 40 square feet is the national standard. However, Area IV authorities believe that 30 square feet is sufficient for each camper. The environmental staff will inspect all camps in the state, grading them on each of the ten sections.

Those present at the meeting were Kathy Dowbiggin, Sam Dobbs, and James Russell from the DeKalb County Health Center; San and Rob Hammond, Camp Laney; Dr. Robert Henderson, Joan Wimberly, Tommy Nielsen, and Butler Green, from Public Health Area IV; Dick O'Ferrall, Camp Alpine; Marty Griffin and Polly Cameron, Camp Saddle Rock; Jim Evans, Ponderosa; Susan Hooks, Skyline; Bob Dunaway and Mickey Bobo, Comer Scouts; Sue Henry, DeSoto; Jean Foster from Etowah County; John Hatley, Cherokee County; and Earl Simpson, DeSoto State Park.



Environmentalist Butler Green addresses camp directors.

Four Mentone Camps Join National Group

Four of Mentone's youth camps are in process of becoming members of the American Camping Association, a professional association dedicated to programs in leadership, ethics, standards, education, and management of youth camps.

Marty Griffin of Saddle Rock, Susan Hooks of Skyline, and Rob Hammond of Laney recently attended a meeting in Atlanta which dealt with participation in this organization. Richard O'Ferrall of Alpine is also in process of becoming associated with this organization.

Through its Camp Standards programs, developed by the camping profession over a thirty year period, ACA provides a mechanism for camps to evaluate their operation and programs. To assist in this program it maintains a voluntary accreditation program, administered for members by members.

ACA offers a voluntary Camp Director Certification program, representing effort and achievement in professional education, experience, and involvement. It publishes "Parents' Guide to Accredited Camps," listing over 2,000 approved camps; "Camping Magazine;" maintains a library at national headquarters in Martinsville, Indiana; and offers a Publication Service with complete materials on training procedures and equipment.



Camp directors chat after meeting: Rob Hammond, Dick O'Ferrall, Bob Dunaway, San Hammond, Susan Hooks, Polly Cameron and Marty Griffin.

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Did You Know?

DeSoto State Park was built by the CCC in the '30s and covers some 6,000 acres and 40 miles of roads.



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Objections Expressed To Old Covered Bridge

Among the original objectives of the Mentone Area Preservation Association was restoration of the Old Covered Bridge which once provided access to Georgia roads and has been the subject of so many artists and lasting memories. Last year the motion for restoration was tabled.

Because the *Groundhog* reprinted the article in the current *Landmarks of DeKalb County* which quoted suggestions that the bridge be restored as a memorial to Ruby O'Rear, the editors think it only proper that space be given to the petition submitted at a MAPA meeting and the remarks of Lynette and Jimmy McCary in a letter to Director Homer Crow, dated October 28, 1983.

"When the covered bridge was in operation this was a narrow dirt road and there were very few cars and motor bikes. It was a necessary means of crossing the river," wrote the McCarys. The river has a tendency to magnify sounds, so that the noise of additional people and vehicles would be objectionable, not to mention the trash they would leave.

"Many along our road also think there is a safety factor in this being a dead-end road. Most of us have invested time, money and effort in making our homes attractive and pleasant. We chose this area because it was quiet and pleasant. We want to keep it that way."

The petition follows:

We, the following, object to any kind of bridge being constructed on or near the site of the old covered bridge. We also want to have this project removed from the list of those under consideration.

James H. McCary III
Lynette A. McCary
Lillian Stiles
Herb Stiles
San Hammond
Rob Hammond
C. O. Sennett, MD
Barbara Sennett
James S. Sutherland
Katharine J. Sutherland
Chuck Carper
Cornelia A. Dow
Fred Dow Jr.
Colquitt Jones
Lucille Jones
Ramona D. Beck
W. M. Beck Jr.
Frank Joyce
Annie M. Climer
Robert H. Climer
Angie Prestwood

O'Rear Photos Preserved

Two pictures omitted from *The Groundhog* centennial edition are shown here. Mrs. Paul Whitehead treasures the smaller photo of her father, Samuel A. O'Rear. The larger portrait is of her uncle, Joseph S. O'Rear, who with Dr. Franklin Caldwell and

Mr. Joseph Blalock built the Mentone Springs Hotel. Mrs. Whitehead thinks her uncle might have had something to do with its design since he studied architecture.



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Outstanding Citizen

(Continued From Front Cover)

Birmingham to Mentone, where they spent summers, especially in the twenties. Instead of electricity and running water, there was kerosene and wood stoves. Each child was given farm chores.

"What is Berry Patch?" Jimmy Berry answers the question as follows: "Nine brothers and sisters." He doesn't remember who gave it that name. But he describes how as the years progressed they have married and had their own homes built at Berry Patch, and have come here for regular reunions and summer vacations.

In 1949 Jimmy Berry moved to Mentone, establishing a broiler chicken business, with volume up to 20,000 a year, which he operated until 1957. At that time he converted to laying hens — a capacity of 150,000. In addition to a local egg route he operated his own trucking company, delivering for grading houses in Chattanooga, Canton, Georgia and in Kentucky.

At Moon Lake Baptist Church he met Marjorie Jones, whom he married in 1951. They have one son Billy, teacher of second and third grades at Moon Lake School and former president of the PTA. Mrs. Berry is a nursing director at DeKalb Baptist Medical Center.

It was his extensive use of electrical power at his poultry plant that caused Berry to become involved in the rural electrification program. In 1968 he was elected to serve the Mentone district on the Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative, eventually acting as secretary-treasurer.

In 1972 he was elected to the state board of Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives headquartered in Montgomery. In 1976 he was elected vice-president. In 1978 he was elected president, serving two years with distinction.

He is currently serving on the executive board of Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative, as vice-chairman of the legislative committee.

One wonders how Jimmy Berry managed his time and effort as he operated his poultry business, worked with AREA and SMEC and his various other activities. He has been a director of the Alabama Farm Bureau, president of the DeKalb County Poultry Association and a board member of the North DeKalb Development Authority. In this capacity he was instrumental in getting HEMCO Manufacturers and DeSoto Spindle (Now Shaw Industries) to locate in Valley Head.

He closed his poultry business in 1984. "I just got tired of it," he says. By no means retired, he spends about three days a week working as manufacturer's representative for Elec'tell Supply company. This firm, operated by his brother, is wholesale supplier for transformers and other high voltage materials. Frequent travels and duties continue for him as

director of Sand Mountain Cooperative. He is proud of what TVA has accomplished. "TVA helped develop rural areas. It is continuing its goals of supplying Co-ops and helps in developing local industry. Such a large organization is bound to make some mistakes, but it is fulfilling its original purpose. Industries recently have been brought to Collinsville, and Henagar."

On the Mentone scene he is a past trustee of Moon Lake School and is especially proud of his membership in Moon Lake Baptist Church where he has been a deacon since the 1950's and chairman of the board of deacons several times.

"Next to my wife and family that church is the most important thing in my life," he proudly declares.

Meanwhile there is Berry Patch, where 11 family houses are situated on some 33 acres. The closely-knit Berry family come back each summer: brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, nieces and nephews, and grandchildren galore. In addition to Jimmy's family, the only permanent residence at present is that of Corinne Berry Wolcott, who moved here with her husband Drew from Monterrey, Mexico. The Berries came to Mentone and keep coming back.

The big reunion this year will be on July 4. They exchange stories and reminiscences, swim and canoe on nearby Little River. They utilize the Berry Patch facilities often for cookouts, volleyball, shuffleboard, croquet, badminton and horseback riding.

Of his many accomplishments and the many marks he is leaving on his mountain and this town, Jimmy Berry remains modest and proudest when he speaks of his family.

Successful Bike-A-Thon

Christa Brown, chairperson of the Bike-a-Thon for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, reports that the event was "a tremendous success." The ride covered a ten mile route for the Mentone, Valley Head, and Hammondville communities.

Forty-one riders participated. Christa also reports that a dog ran the entire course and that one of the volunteers even collected pledge money for the dog. The dog also joined the riders in enjoying drinking Cokes after the ride.

On April 27th the participants met at the Hammondville Park to turn in their pledge money. At this time a total of \$1,761 has been sent to St. Jude's.

Winner in pledges was Stacia Gray, who brought in \$300 and won a ten speed bicycle. Second place winner was Marc Hale with \$158 turned in, and Clarence Davis took third place with \$121. Other riders deserving recognition for their large donations are Shannon Hunt, Sam Whatley, Donna Bain, Krystal Johnson, and Carla Tucker.

Leftovers

By Jean McGehee

All of my life I've been accused of being naive — or stupid — about solving big problems. For instance, once I said of an alcoholic, "Why doesn't she just quit drinking?"

However, now I'm beginning to see the complexity of some issues. Just now, the mountain has seldom been more beautiful. Although the forsythia chose not to bloom so profusely after the extremely cold winter, the iris loved the cold. There are clumps of iris that haven't bloomed for years that are knocking themselves out with their profusion of color. Mentone and Valley Head have seldom had Grandfather Graybeards with so many delicate feathery white blossoms.

Even most of the azaleas are beginning to recover from their freeze burns. I'd thought our fig tree was dead, but it, too, is putting out anew at its base. Especially the wild flowers have appreciated the warmer weather — the bluets, violets, lady slippers, Indian paint brush, and mullein have been and are spectacular.

In the midst of all of this beauty, why do we still litter the mountain? It seems so simple: Keep your trash in your hand or car until you can empty it into a proper trash can.

I don't know how we can expect to stop the littering in Mentone when our "leaders" the world over can't seem to stop befouling over nations. Here we have the simplest rule of all, the Golden Rule, in all of the world's religions in similar form, and we just can't follow it. As Bob Dylan says, "When will we ever learn?"

The enormity of the problem gets through even my thick skull because I really have an urge to zap the litterers!

Bake And Rummage Sale

Remember the annual bake and rummage sale at the Fire Hall Saturday, May 18, from 9 to 3. Shop for bargains. Enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings — plus cakes galore. Take a chance on the \$100 bill to be raffled. All proceeds go to the maintenance of your fire department. (See story Page 1).

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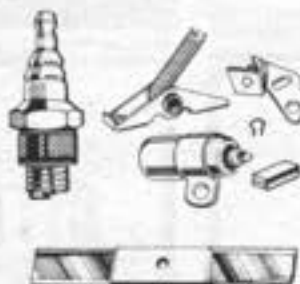


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Discussion of condition of
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Everyone Welcome
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Refreshments afterward
June 4, 1985

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A Tour Of Mentone

At the top of the mountain where 117 intersects with DeSoto Parkway (89), you are at Old Hotel Square. Within walking distances are the following points of interests: (Maps are usually available around town).

(a) MENTONE SPRINGS HOTEL, focal point of the Centennial, built in 1884, a classic example of Victorian architecture. It is not operated at present as a hotel, but there are gifts shops worthy of a visit.

(b) THE WHITE ELEPHANT, formerly an annex of the hotel, now a fine gifts and antiques shop, beside the hotel to the west.

(c) THE MENTONE INN, operated as a Bed 'n' Breakfast. Lunch Mondays. Built in the 1920's. Available for parties.

(d) THE HITCHING POST, once a place of festive dances, site of the post office and various stores; now houses a number of gift attractions. Browse here at your pleasure, ask questions about the area. Also has Crow's Nest Antiques; Gourdis and art objects; Back Door custom framing.

(e) THE LOG CABIN DELI, a place to eat if you're hungry. Excellent food. Closed Mondays.

(f) FURGERSON'S RESTAURANT AND GROCERY where you can get charcoal broiled burgers, ice cream, etc. See Ruby's Variety.

(g) ST. JOSEPH-ON-THE-MOUNTAIN CHURCH, usually open for visitors. Its center unit is a log cabin thought to be originally the oldest residence in Mentone.

Time now to get in your car and head down DeSoto Parkway, checking points on the map;

(h) DESOTO FALLS, a natural landmark.
(i) CRAGSMERE MANNA RESTAURANT AND GARDENS, originally a log cabin residence of a former slave. If it's after 5 p.m. (and not Monday or Tuesday), a top-notch meal; suitable for parties.
(j) CLOUDMONT SKI & GOLF RESORT, southern-most ski resort in America. Grass skiing in summer. Much natural beauty, chalets for rent; nine holes.
(k) DESOTO STATE PARK RESORT, good restaurant, camping areas, swimming, various accommodations, etc. Hiking trails.

(l) HOWARD'S CHAPEL, a small structure built during the Depression by Col. Milford Howard. Unique stone design, flowing from a huge boulder. His ashes are buried here. He was an author, movie producer, nominated for President, and did much for the development of Mentone.

Now return to your car and make the beautiful drive around highway 165 to 117, carefully consulting your map. If it's meal time turn right on 117 past the Georgia line to the Lookout, an excellent family restaurant (closed Sunday night and Monday).

As you return to downtown Mentone, we call your attention to the following establishments who have supported The Groundhog through their advertisements.

Taylor's Trade Center; Cloudland and Lookout Nurseries; Whatley's General Store and Service Station (mechanic on duty); The Owl's Roost (jewelry and antiques); The Red Barn (browsing); the Superette, friendly grocery and gathering place; McGee's Gulf Mart (old timey general store).



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7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 634-4444

After 11:00 a.m. 634-4467

DeKalb Sheriff: 845-3801

Valley Head Police: 635-6814

Hammondville Police: 635-6374

Forest Rangers: 1-845-1331

or 1-800-392-5679

Poison Information Center: 1-800-292-6678

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After 11:00 a.m. 634-4507

634-4446, 634-4274

Valley Head: 635-6111

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Moon Lake: 634-4133

Valley Head High School: 635-6228.

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Stanley Brown, Richard Meadows

Catherine Bailey, Town Clerk

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Wednesday Training Hour: 6:30 P.M.

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P.M.

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Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 6:30

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Sunday Service: 11 a.m.

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Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.

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P.M.

Wednesday Evening Service: 7:00

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The Rev. Robert Blackwell, minister

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Sunday Worship: 11:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 P.M.

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

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

CAMP ALPINE: Richard O'Ferrall,

director; camp for boys; 634-4200.

June 1-Aug. 11

COMER SCOUT RESERVATION:

Bob Dunaway, director; Boy Scout

camps June 17-July 14. 634-3445.

CAMP DESOTO: Sue Henry, direc-

tor; camp for girls. June 19-Aug. 15.

634-3411.

CAMP JULIETTE LOW: Kathy Holly,

director; Girl Scout Camp in

Cloudland, Georgia. June 17-Aug.

11. 404-428-0446.

CAMP LANEY: Rob Hammond,

director; camp for boys; June

16-Aug. 11. 634-3561.

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PONDEROSA BIBLE CAMP: Chris-

tian youth camp. Glenn Miller, direc-

tor. 634-3795. June 16-Aug. 11.

CAMP SADDLE ROCK: Marty Grif-

fin, director; girls' camp; June

16-Aug. 11. 634-4608.

CAMP SKYLINE RANCH Susan C.

Hooks, director; girls' camp; June

16-Aug. 11. 634-3201.

VALLEY VIEW RANCH: Nancy

Jones, director. Cloudland, Georgia;

June 17-Aug. 11. 404-862-2231. Girls.

CAMP WOODMONT: Jane Bennett,

director; boys' and girls' camp.

404-284-5369. June 17-Aug. 5.



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