

Rhododendron, Spring Beauty In Mentone



STAR OF SPRING in Mentone — Beautiful native rhododendron.

Masses of delicate purple blossoms and shiny, smooth foliage brighten the spring landscape of Mentone as thousands of rhododendron bloom in May each year. The rhododendron, along with the pink mountain laurel and wild azalea are an invitation to get outdoors and enjoy the beautiful spring scenery of our area.

The rhododendron is the featured attraction for the Mentone Area Preservation Association's annual Rhododendron Festival held the third weekend of May each year. The dates for this year's festival are May 17-19.

Rhododendrons are found all around the world and are traditionally thought of as cool weather plants, growing in soil rich with organic matter. There is a species of rhododendron found in Florida that grows in sand dunes. The rhododendron can be grown in a variety of conditions.

The three species of rhododendron most popularly found in this area are the *Rhododendrons carolinianum*, *minus* and *catawbiense*. Azaleas are of the genus *Rhododendron*. There are about 1,000 basic species of *Rhododendron* including some 70 azaleas.

Around the world, rhododendrons grow in Europe, Asia, Indonesia, Malaya, Cambodia and Japan. The first places imported rhododendrons were cultivated were England, Germany, France and, Holland. The rhododendron was considered "exotic" and names like Rothschild and Loder are associated with the importation and development of rhododendron.

Colors of rhododendron around the world vary from yellow such as those found in southern Japan, pink and, purple to deep red.

One of the nicest ways to enjoy the rhododendron of the Mentone area is by paddling Little River in a canoe or taking a ride from the DeSoto Falls Lake in the MAPA pontoon boat. The pontoon boat will run both Saturday and Sunday for the Rhododendron Festival, May 17-19.

RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL MAY 17-19

A Piece Of History

BITS AND PIECES

From Zora Strayhorn's History of Mentone

THE HISTORY OF CRAGSMERE MANNA

Ned Jackson and his wife Margaret Davis were black. In 1898 they acquired property on DeSoto Parkway from W. N. Howell on which a log cabin was situated. Part of the 1985 Cragmere Manna restaurant has handhewn log walls from the original log cabin and is one of the oldest remaining structures on Lookout Mountain.

Ned Jackson was a former slave. He grew up in Virginia; in the late 1800s he moved to this area where he spent years helping to build railroads. He lived near Valley Head.

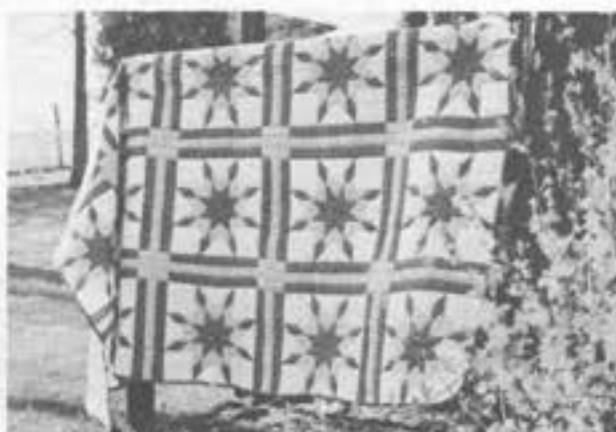
"Uncle" Ned and "Aunt" Margaret had five children, and to support their family they performed many services for the community. Ned butchered and dressed animals; Margaret did laundry and was a midwife. They farmed. The family was respected and extremely well liked.

Sunday afternoons they had picnics at the "Jackson Place" where good food and friendship was enjoyed by their many friends of both races. In 1927 the Jackson family sold the property to N. B. (Nick) Davenport and his wife Jessie. They went into business partnership with P. G. (Pete) Snedecor, which resulted in a real estate promotional venture called the "Cragmere Club."

A clubhouse was constructed and the building expanded around the original dwelling to accommodate overnight guests. Recreational facilities were included and meals served. Guests were shown available mountain properties for sale as well as informed of land for sale in Florida. The Depression caused a swift and screaming halt to the Cragmere Club.

From 1931 to 1937 the house was occupied by George Gifford, a lumberman. His family consisted of his wife and seven children; they farmed the land.

Ninth Rhododendron Fest Celebrates Springtime



BEAUTIFUL HANDMADE QUILT — Offered at the Rhododendron Festival by the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

The ninth annual Rhododendron Festival will be another successful, great weekend May 17-19 in Mentone with plenty of variety to appeal to everyone. The event is sponsored by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. Entertainment for the Festival has been lined up by Terry Hutcherson, a Mentone resident and attorney in Fort

Payne. Hutcherson sings and plays guitar and has been involved in many Mentone events in the past. Tony Gogans, the Mentone troubadour, will emcee entertainment on Saturday and Sunday. Cloggers will dance both days.

The Rhododendron Festival will get off to a grand start Friday night, May 17, with a bonfire and story-telling on the corner of Highway 117 and DeSoto Parkway. Visitors are invited to tell their favorite campfire story and join in the singing and fun.

Local radio station WFPA (1400 AM) will be broadcasting live from the front of the Hitching Post Saturday, May 18.

Approximately 40 craftspeople will operate their booths at the Festival Saturday and Sunday offering a wide variety of handcrafted goods — pottery, quilts, paintings, woodwork and other unique items.

MAPA is selling chances on a handmade queen size quilt. The quilt will be given away Sunday afternoon at the 4:30 p.m. drawing.

One of the most popular items at the Rhododendron Festival is native and hybrid rhododendron plants. These will be for sale at the Festival all weekend.

Boat rides on Little River leaving from the DeSoto Falls Lake afford visitors an opportunity to see the beautiful rhododendron, mountain laurel and wild azalea blooming along the river. The cost of the rides is \$2 per person.

Two local churches, Moon Lake Baptist and St. Joseph's Episcopal will conduct rummage sales Saturday, May 18.

Dates To Remember

Thursday, May 16 — 7 p.m. — Outstanding Natural Resource Water designation for Little River hearings at DeKalb County Activities Building.

May 16-20 — Audubon Workshop, Camp Alpine.

May 17-19 — Rhododendron Festival.

May 18 — Howard Finster Arts Festival, Summerville, GA.

May 22-23 — Last day of classes for DeKalb County and Fort Payne Schools.

May 26 — Memorial Day services, Bank Head Cemetery, 11 a.m.

June 10-15 — June Jam week.

June 22 — Mentone Crafts Festival.

For Our Visitors

Begin at the Hitching Post, the Mentone equivalent of a Welcome Center and Chamber of Commerce. They are glad to give directions and suggestions to make your visit to Mentone memorable. The Lookout Mountain Parkway Association information Center is located across Highway 117 and can also aid in your trip to Mentone and travels around Lookout Mountain.

Shopping in Mentone is a unique experience. Visit the shops at the Hitching Post, the Log Cabin Village and Weaver's (entrance at the Log Cabin Deli Parking area) for beautiful handcrafted items, artwork, antiques and collectibles.

Standing outside the Hitching Post, you can look across the highway at the Victorian Mentone Springs Hotel. Looking to the left, across DeSoto Parkway, you can see the Mentone Inn and St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Church, built around a log cabin said to be Mentone's oldest structure.

DeSoto Falls is about two miles down the Parkway. Five miles farther are DeSoto Park and Lodge, and Howard's Chapel, built against a giant boulder, where were placed the ashes of the well-known Colonel Milford Howard.

This is just the beginning. Ask questions. Keep in motion.

WHERE TO EAT ON THE MOUNTAIN

(1) Just across from the Hitching Post — The Log Cabin Deli.

(2) Across from Mentone City Hall — The Kountry Chef.

(3) About two-and-a-half miles down the Parkway — Cragmere Manna.

(4) Further down the Parkway — DeSoto Restaurant.

(5) Back on 117 east — Lookout Restaurant at Cloudland, Georgia.

Call for reservations:

The Mentone Inn — Bed and Breakfast (205) 634-4836.

Mentone's City Court: Dispensing Justice



PRESIDING OVER MENTONE COURT — Judge Steve Nole and court clerk Ethel Manifold.

City court is held in Mentone the third Monday of each month. Judge Steve Nole presides, Ethel Manifold is the court clerk and Pat Tate is the town's attorney. Nole has served as judge since 1985.

At the most recent court session, April 18, the cases before the court included arrests for possession of an unlawful beverage, driving without a license, reckless driving and driving under the influence.

Judge Nole begins the court session by explaining the basic rights each defendant has in the Mentone court. Defendants can plead not guilty and have their case tried by an attorney. They can subpoena or call witnesses to testify for them and they can have an attorney appointed for them by the court if they can not afford one and if they may face prison.

Because many of the cases in Mentone court involve charges of driving under the influence, Judge Nole also explains the penalty system for D.U.I. offenses. The first D.U.I. offense carries a minimum fine of \$250 and a maximum fine of \$1,000. The second offense has a minimum fine of \$500 and a maximum fine of \$2,500. The third offense has a minimum of \$1,000 and a maximum of \$5,000. Any D.U.I. offense can also serve time in jail, the second offense requires a 48-hour stay and the third offense requires a 60-day stay. Also, the Department of Public Safety can suspend the offender's driver's license depending on the number of points the offender has accumulated against himself.

Any driving related offenders may also be sent to defensive driving school.

Cases decided on April 18 were:

— Possession of an unlawful beverage. A Trion man was fined \$50 and \$44 in court costs.

— Driving without a license. A Mentone teen was sent to defensive driving school, charges were dropped and court costs of \$34 were paid.

— Reckless driving. Another Mentone teen paid a fine of \$84 and was sent to driving school. He will face a 10-day jail sentence if he does not report to driving school.

— D.U.I. A Summerville man was fined \$250 plus court costs and will attend D.U.I. school in Georgia.

Judge Nole explained that the court's jurisdiction includes traffic violations and misdemeanors and occasional trespassing charges.

RHODODENDRON TIPS

Mae Hilburn, owner of Lookout Mountain Nursery, offers these tips for successful rhododendron gardening.

1. Start with good healthy plants that have been acclimated to our climate, not plants grown in hot houses.

2. Prepare the soil for planting using a combination of pine bark and peat moss. Well drained, rocky areas are most suitable. The hole for planting should be eight to ten inches larger than the plant's root ball to allow for mixing the mulch into the soil.

3. Don't plant too deep or pile dirt up too high around the plant.

4. Water thoroughly.

5. Rhododendron needs very little fertilizer or pruning. However, they may be fertilized with a rhododendron and azalea fertilizer lightly after blooming and again in the fall. Pruning to shape the plant more compactly may be done.

6. Spray for insects as needed using a spray for crawling or flying insects. Check at a feed store for recommendations.

7. Mulch for winter with pine straw or pine bark. Mulching prevents weeds, keeps in moisture and protects the roots. Avoid sawdust as a mulch, it can get moldy.

8. Weed-eaters are rhododendrons worst enemies. Because the rhododendron has a shallow root system, a weed-eater can cut through roots and damage the plant.



Cloudmont Golf and Ski Resort and Shady Grove Lodge and Ranch — (205) 634-3841.
Woodhaven Bed and Breakfast in Valley Head (205) 635-6438.

MENTONE'S

GROUNDHOG

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. M.A.P.A. was 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, and is chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.

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Highway 117 Dangers Need Attention Now

By Emily Smith

As warm weather arrives in Mentone, so does an increase in traffic, especially along Highway 117. The condition of Highway 117 is always a concern for local residents as we watch large tractor trailer trucks speed through our town oblivious to the posted speed limit signs.

The road going down the mountain from Mentone to Valley Head has been the site of many close calls for us. Cars often pass traffic although the double yellow lines on the road prohibit passing. This places drivers in a hazardous position. The choices are to go into the ditch going up the mountain or into the crumbling stone wall on the far side of the road.

Not only do car and truck traffic pick up in the warmer months but pedestrians crossing the highway as well.

Highway 117 needs to be resurfaced and widened and adequate warnings to slow traffic down should be put in place.

Sometimes, we feel that the State of Alabama has forgotten that Highway 117 is a state highway. It is time to remind them of their responsibility. The **Groundhog** invites you to write to Perry A. Hand, Highway Director at 1409 Coliseum Blvd., Montgomery, Alabama 36130 and tell him about the condition of 117.



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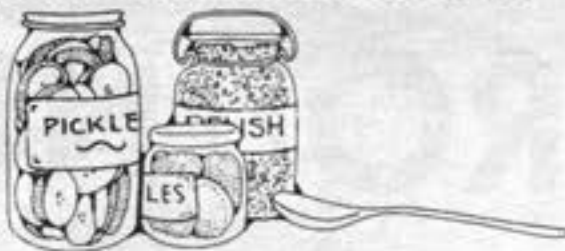
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Country Cooking

By Nova Dean Kilgore

More great recipes from Amish cookbooks.

JIFFY PIZZA

Dough:
2 cups flour
1 tablespoons baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
½ cup milk
½ cup salad oil
Sauce:
6-ounce can tomato paste
¼ cup water
½ teaspoon oregano cheese (finely chopped)
2 tablespoons sugar
¼ teaspoon pepper
½ teaspoon salt
1-pound hamburger

Sift flour, baking powder, and salt. Add milk and oil. Pat dough on bottom of pizza pan. Mix sauce ingredients and spread on dough. Crumble the browned meat on top and sprinkle with finely cut cheese. Bake at 425 for 25 to 30 minutes. Serves 6 to 8.

SHIPWRECK

4 large potatoes
1 teaspoon salt
1 can kidney beans
1 can tomato soup (10¼-ounce)
1-pound ground beef
Dash of pepper
1 small onion chopped
¼ cup water

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Peel and slice potatoes, place half of slices in a greased 2 quart casserole. Add beef, salt, pepper, beans and onions. Arrange remaining potatoes on top. Combine tomato soup and water and spoon over all. Cover and bake 1½ hours.

TEXAS CHOCOLATE CAKE

Sift in large bowl:
2 cups sugar
2 cups flour
Bring to brisk boil and pour over dry ingredients —
1 stick oleo
4 tablespoons cocoa
½ cup shortening
1 cup water
Add to above mixture and mix well:
1 cup buttermilk
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon soda
2 beaten eggs
Bake 350 for 20 minutes.

ICING

Mix 1 stick oleo (melted)
4 tablespoons cocoa
6 tablespoons milk
Bring to boil, remove from heat, add 1 box powdered sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla and 1 cup chopped nuts.
Put on cake as soon as out of oven.

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Valley View

By Eloise M. Brown

The month of May has been proclaimed Older Americans' Month by Gov. Hunt. The Alabama Spring Fling for Seniors was held in Montgomery; its theme was, "Age and Fun in 91." Gladys Stott and Johnnie Justice went down Monday, April 29, and attended the tea given to honor the C.A.S.A. volunteers. Thirty-eight went by bus on Wednesday, May 1, including Priscilla Gregory and Virginia Livezy. Gov. Hunt spoke to them and, among other things, stated, "To keep young is to keep active, and to grow old quickly, is to sit down in a rocking chair and sit there." They were also welcomed by the Mayor of Montgomery. They had music, entertainment, booths, a style show, lunch, and a jolly good day.

Laura Margaret Allison and Mary Louise Holleman spent the day, recently, with James and Katherine Crumbley at Geraldine, and attended the U.M.W. meeting there. The pastor from Rainbow City, presented an interesting program.

The Valley Head U.M.W. met at the home of Adelaide Biddle for their April meeting. The program, "The Purpose of U.M.W.," was given by Velma Hammond, assisted by Elizabeth Coleman and Laura Margaret Allison. Others present were Venna Livingston, Janie Longshore, Helen White, Mary Louise Holleman, Geraldine Hawkins, Frances Longshore, Gladola Holleman, Melinda Adkins and Eloise Brown.

Sue and Sam Mosly and children, and Marilyn Mercer and children, took Venna Livingston to the Western Sizzlin for her birthday on April 7.

The Sunshine Club met at the home of Vernice Young on April 25. Carmel Gifford prepared some delicious refreshments. Bess Bauerle gave the opening prayer. Eloise Brown gave the devotional. The president, Karen Freeman, presided over the business session; Ruth Pickett, the Secretary-Treasurer, gave her report, and Billie Harper taught us to make bows. Others present were: Addie Hall, Evelyn Clark, Gladys Cobble, Geraldine Hawkins, Jewel Palmer, Ruby Gifford, Doris Shaw, Frances Stanek, Willie Mae Palmer, Sue Cooper, Lillian Bowden. Gladys Cobble got us in a jovial mood with a funny story.

Decoration was held at Beene Cemetery Saturday, May 4, with Bill Hall, pastor of Hammondville Baptist Church, as speaker.

Congratulations to Annie and Carol Larmore on their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Their daughter, Dr. Carrell Damman and her husband, Dr. Ed Uzi, honored them with a luncheon at their home in Atlanta. Among those attending from here were Frances Longshore, Winifred Scott, Nancy and Thomas Larmore, and Dot and Bill Shugart, Jr.

Valley Head Methodist Church was blessed with some beautiful music last Sunday, with Kelly Howell, as pianist and Frances Elrod as organist. It lifted our spirits and meant so much.

Sympathy is extended to the families of Otis Dean and Charley Hester, who passed away recently; also to the family of Edgar (Sonny) Tatum, of Scottsboro, formerly of Valley Head.

Congratulations to Melinda Adkins, who has achieved her Masters' Degree, in Educational Psychology with specialization in School Psychometry, from University of Alabama. She plans to get her doctorate in School Psychology.

Jean and John Jones have returned home after a very interesting two-month vacation in their motor home. They left here Feb. 20, toured Tombstone, Ariz., and Tucson, where they saw the Sons of the Pioneers and had a Chuckwagon Meal. They went to San Diego, where they spent time with their son, Roy, his wife, Bonnie, and children, Rebecca and Megan, they also had a visit with their son, Doug. They left there April 6, for the Gene Autry Western Museum. They toured the Crystal Cathedral at Los Angeles and attended services there (Did you know its dimensions are the same as Noah's Ark? They have six choirs that practice six to eight hours per week). They went to Victorville, Cal., the home of Roy Rogers. They met him at the museum and he talked to them at length, about his life and the tragedies of losing three of their children. They were very impressed with him as a good Christian person. They saw the Grand Canyon, the Painted Desert and, Monument Valley, all of which they described as "awesome and amazing." They were at four corners — Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico. Then at Liberty, Oklahoma, near Muskogee, the home of Sequoyah, they saw his alphabet, which he changed after he left here. (Did you know "Unh-uh" is "Yes" in Cherokee?) They had a scary trip up the San Juan mountain in Taos, N. M., through four feet of snow. On the way home, they visited John's aunt, Bobbie Jones Phillippe in Rogers, Arkansas, and spent some time with Jean's parents, Clyde and Lorene Holcomb, at Hackleburg, Al.

Jean McGehee, Berniece Crow, and I, enjoyed very much, a delicious lunch at the uniquely beautiful home of Emily Smith Wednesday, April 24. That night, Venna Livingston, Adelaide Biddle, Gladys Stott and I, went to the Rainsville Civic Center to hear the Alabama Symphony Orchestra Concert — a melodious ending to a perfect day!

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Our Town

With Linda Brown

This has been one of the most beautiful springs I have seen in Mentone. The abundance of rain seems to have made every thing grow faster and the mild winter allowed everything to bloom without being damaged by cold weather. We should really appreciate living in a place like this. We may not have this quiet, serene atmosphere forever. I have mixed feelings concerning the proposed changes for our area. I attended the meeting about the possibility of a National Preservation Area at the DeKalb County court house recently. A number of people there stated that they own land that could be taken from them by force if the proposal passes through all channels and becomes a reality. I sympathize with them. On the other hand, I can foresee how Little River and the canyon can become polluted and damaged if it is not preserved. I can see both sides of this issue and do not believe that a solution will be reached that will please everyone. I only hope that a decision can be made that is best for the majority of everyone involved.

I recently read a magazine article that was written by a man whose family owned a cabin in Mentone. He stated that it was one of the most beautiful and least known areas in Alabama. The article was about bird watching and he named the many species of birds he saw in Mentone in one day. I don't know the circulation data of this publication, but how many people may come to Mentone because of it? To some readers this will be good and to others not good at all. We definitely have two factions of thinking about tourism in Mentone. There are many who think that tourism can and should be Mentone's largest source of income. Others do not want the tourist business to increase, they want Mentone to remain "one of the most beautiful and least known areas in Alabama." Everyone should think about this issue long and hard. We may be called upon to take a stand one way or the other. This may be something we are faced with sooner rather than later. What do you want for Mentone?

So many events are scheduled for our area in the next two months. The Rhododendron Festival, the June Jam, the Mentone Crafts Festival and the opening of all the camps will happen very soon. Most churches will have revivals or other special services and schools will have graduation services. Attend all that you can, enjoy meeting new people and being with friends you haven't seen lately. We are more likely to be remembered for the way we interact with other people than for any material wealth we amass.

My person of appreciation this month is Catherine Bailey. She is the town clerk. She is the lady who is in the city hall every week-day morning. She collects water bills, fines and privilege licenses. She is the one to notify if you need a new water line or water cut off or on. She will get the message to the proper person. She does all the bookkeeping for the city. Besides all of this she acts as the Chamber of Commerce and the librarian. She does all of this with a smile and good humor. She is one of the most sincere and loving persons you will find in Mentone. She is always willing and ready to help in any situation. I have the privilege of calling her "Aunt Catherine" because she is Raymond Brown's (my father-in-law) sister. Many know her as "Miss Catherine." I love her dearly as do all who know her.

Today is the only day we have, live it to the fullest. Live, love, laugh and be happy!!!



PICKING UP TRASH ON 117: Young people from St. Joseph's clean-up the roadside from Valley Head to Mentone. From left: Larry Longshore, Jason Smith, Bryan and Garrett Manning, Jason and Matthew Smith.

Water Concern For Council

Water was the main topic of discussion at the regular monthly meeting of the Mentone Town Council, Monday night, May 6. Water rates will increase this month due to an increase in the price of water from Fort Payne. The cost will go up to \$11 plus tax for the minimum rate of 3,000 gallons and \$3 for each additional 1,000 gallons.

Fort Payne increased the wholesale cost of water to Mentone from \$1.22 to \$2.45 per 1,000 gallons on May 1.

Negotiations are continuing with the Fort Payne water board over the amount of water Mentone will be able to get. Mentone hopes to increase the amount to provide adequate water for future development and for the increased demands in the summer months for water.

A fire hydrant has been requested to be installed on Dogwood Drive by Angelo Rosario. The town wants to use a renovated hydrant. Details concerning the cost of installation of the hydrant and adequate lines are being discussed.

A number of residents have contacted the Mayor and council members recently because they have been unable to reach the Mentone policeman. Over the weekend of May 4, the fence around the Mentone water tower was run into and an accident on Highway 117 occurred. The policeman could not be found in time to assist in either event. When the policeman was found, he was asleep at another residence.

"The sheriff ought to be able to reach him any time of the day or night if there is an emergency," commented Mayor Cash.

The council plans to have the policeman meet with them each month so he will know the problems.

The council approved the Mayor's support of the North Alabama Mayor's Council supporting an east-west interstate highway through North Alabama. They also approved purchasing an ad in the DeKalb County Tourist's Association's new brochure.

Calling Plans Save Money

Mentone telephone exchange subscribers can take advantage of several different area calling plans that offer lower rates for long distance calls.

The "County-Seat Plan" covers calls to Ft. Payne and costs \$3.30 for one hour plus \$.24 for each six minutes over the hour.

The "22-Mile Plan" covers calls to Gaylesville, Pisgah, Bryant, Fyffe, Flat Rock, Rainsville, Rinehart, Henagar and Ft. Payne. The cost is \$3.79 for the first 30 minutes and \$.75 for every six minutes over the half-hour.

The "40-Mile Plan" covers calls to Whorton, Sand Rock, Collinsville, Leesburg, Crossville, Aroney, Geraldine, Cedar Bluff and Centre. The cost is \$5.16 for the first 30 minutes and \$1.03 for every six minutes over the half-hour.

The "70-Mile Plan" covers calls to Anniston, Oneonta, Jacksonville, Gadsden, Piedmont, Heflin, Snead, Ragland, Morgan City, Attalla, Guntersville, Arab, Boaz, Ashville, Lecta, Union Grove and Albertville. It costs \$6.61 for the first 30 minutes and \$1.32 for every six minutes over the half-hour.

For more information about these calling packages call the Contel business office at 1-800-826-2557.

Rhododendron Festival



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OFFERING A PRAYER at National Day of Prayer Service in Mentone.

National Day Of Prayer Service

The Mentone Ministerial Association sponsored their third National Day of Prayer Service, Thursday, May 2. Mayor Max Cash and pastors Tim Smith, Blaine Derck, Curtis Bridges, Jeff Adkins, and, Ron Johnson, from Mentone area churches participated in the service held at Brow Park.

Music for the service was provided by Terry Hutcherson and Bert Chandler and David Tucker led the singing. Favorite hymns "America the Beautiful," "Amazing Grace," "Just A Closer Walk With Thee," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," and "How Great Thou Art," were sung. Prayers were offered for Mentone and the nation.

The Mentone service was one of thousands held in the United States on May 2. The service goals were to acknowledge our dependence upon God, seek God's guidance for our nation's governmental and community leaders, give thanks for the many blessings our country has received from Him through the years, recognize our need for personal and corporate renewal of moral values, pledge ourselves to the restoration of marriage and family commitments and, intercede for healing and reconciliation within our nation.

Finally we reached Los Angeles, our destination. We had corresponded with the Browns — life long friends of the Crow family, and they were expecting us. Homer and I stayed with Cleburne and Edna, and Uncle Lawrence and Jackie stayed with Paul and Isabelle Brown. Alfred stayed a day or so in L. A. and went about one hundred miles north to visit with his mother.

The Browns treated us royally, showing us Hollywood and other attractions. We toured the Los Angeles Museum, which was a treat. We spent one day at Long Beach, and rode the highest and fastest roller coaster in the nation at that time. And we all said "never again." Cleburne told us we did not want to ride, but we said we would try anything once. That broke me from ever saying that again! Alfred got off and said "you know — that could kill a fellow!"

Coy Brown drove us around a great deal, and how we appreciated that, even if he did frighten us dodging traffic. Traffic was bad even then. One night he drove us to an unusual restaurant in downtown Los Angeles, called Clifton's. It had a south pacific decor, with grasses huts scattered about. One of them was a rain hut. Occasionally the rain would pour on it. The food was very good, and one could eat all he wanted. They stamped your hand when you paid at the entry, and a nice evening began. There was good music for entertainment, and a free birthday cake was given to those who were celebrating the occasion. They also took us to China town one evening.

Alfred returned from his mother's as home-sick as I have ever seen anyone. He had never been away from his wife, Polly, and he was missing her something terrible. He had an awful headache, and even ran a temperature. He volunteered to do all the driving if we would get started back to Alabama. And he did do most of the driving, and the weather was good — no problem. We have been back twice since, but will never enjoy a trip anywhere as much as this one.

RUMMAGE SALES

May 18 - 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church, DeSoto Parkway At Hwy. 117

Proceeds Benefit Outreach Fund

Moon Lake Baptist Church - At Sam Cash's Garage, Across From Hwy. 117 From the Superette

NIPPERSINK LODGE

ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
MENTONE, ALABAMA
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ADVANCE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Country Journal

By Bernise Crow

We were forty-niners, nineteen forty nine, that is. And our trip was almost as interesting as those made to California in 1849!

Homer was stationed in California while serving in the Air Force during World War II, and I had heard him speak of the state so much that I really wanted to go badly. So Homer's uncle, Lawrence Magnusson and his wife Jackie decided to go and take us with them. Alfred Chambers, a good friend of ours, wanted to go, and would help finance the trip and help with the driving. His mother lived there then, and he wanted to visit her.

What an adventure this was! I had never been any farther away from Mentone than Greenville, South Carolina, and this was very exciting.

Our son, Barry, was only two years old, and we left him in the capable hands of his grandmother Crow, and great-grandmother Magnusson. (Now, I would not do such a thing. There was no way they could have reached us if he had become ill). We set off on a cold first of February, in a 1935 Chevrolet pulling a camper trailer packed with food and clothing to last for the three week trip. Everything was going quite smoothly until we got somewhere in Mississippi. Uncle Lawrence was driving when the trailer started swaying from side to side, and we almost turned over. And it would have if the trailer had not hit a bridge abutment that stopped it. Uncle Lawrence was white as a sheet — badly shaken.

He sat there a while and crawled out of the car and got in the back seat. He said, "Boys it's yours." He intended for them to do the driving from then till we reached California. He had been using a little foul language. He looked at me and said "and what were you saying?" I told him we were using some of the same words, but in a different manner. I had been praying. He then told us that all of us were Christians, and we had better get him to California and back, and not let a thing happen to him!

We continued on to Louisiana, stopping in Monroe I remember to enjoy the lovely camellias blooming at that time.

The great Mississippi River was fascinating to me, since I had read so much about it in Mark Twain books about Huckleberry Finn.

We would stop and sleep in the trailer at night, and Alfred would sleep in the car. Then we got into Texas and the weather got much colder. Then freezing rain caused hazardous driving. We stopped at a little town, Kent, and bought chains to put on the tires before continuing the trip. It was so cold the men would take turns working with them, and come inside the trailer to warm their hands by the oil heater. It was so bad that we spent the night there, preferring to drive in the daytime. Homer and Alfred slept on a mattress in the floor, and the next morning they got up shivering. Their bed was frozen to the floor! We had put a quilt on under their bed that we had used as a wrap for our feet in the car, and it was damp.

After a good breakfast, we were on our way again. It was a long drive across Texas on Route 66. I kept humming the old song "I get my kicks on Route 66." Even the bleak days in Texas were exciting to me, because I loved the old western movies so much, and had read all Zane Grey's books about the west. I could hardly wait to see sage brush, tumbleweeds, armadillos, and jack rabbits. And we saw all of them — even the lone coyote standing forlorn looking on a bare hillside.

When we reached Lordsburg, New Mexico the whole area was snowbound. Traffic was at a standstill, and cars lined the road, parked and abandoned. A special train was sent to pick up stranded motorists. We stayed in a motel that night, afraid our little oil heater wouldn't produce enough heat to keep us warm.

The next morning we carefully moved the trailer onto the icy highway, and Uncle Lawrence wanted to turn around and go back about two miles to a service station where he had left a flashlight the night before! Nothing could dissuade him. We could not get the trailer off the road without getting stuck in the snow. They had unhooked it from the car, and had just turned the car around, when a new Buick going at an average rate of speed came down the road, hitting the trailer. The trailer rolled and finally stopped when it hit soft snow.

I thought, "there goes all our food, clothing and the end of our trip."

But, nothing was damaged, except a small hole in the back where the car hit it. The new Buick was pouring steaming water from its radiator, and the angry driver just looked daggers at us and drove on. He never said a word. We were actually both at fault. But Uncle Lawrence got his two-dollar flashlight.

Then he wanted to turn around and come back to Mentone. We had to talk hard and fast to convince him that we had already come through the bad weather. The roads had been cleared during the night and we got out of the snow soon. One of the features of the old car was that the generator had to be adjusted night and morning. They would set it up to give enough power for the headlights to burn at night, and set it back in the morning. Otherwise we had no trouble with it.

Now the weather was good. We went through Tucson, Arizona at 2 a.m., and they woke me so I could see the giant saguaro cactus. This was another thing that I had always wanted to see. They remain a most fascinating plant to me. They stand like huge sentinels on the desert, with arms spread as if to protect the area. I would love to see them bloom sometime. To see them thrilled me beyond words. And we did come back through the same area and make pictures of them.

We enjoyed the Indian territories, and seeing names we could not pronounce such as Gila. There is a place in Arizona, called Gila, probably named for the Gila monster — a large lizard which is poisonous.

Alfred was fascinated with the large irrigation systems used in the farm areas. There were miles and miles of it. The lettuce fields were green and fresh looking. Passing through Yuma, Arizona, which is almost on the California border, we learned that the town is the hottest one in the United States in the summer.

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From The Pastor's Study

By The Rev. Tim Smith

Mentone: In the French language, the name of our mountain community apparently means something like "musical mountain spring." This name was ascribed to this scenic area in 1884 by the young daughter of John Mason who is considered by many to be a founding father of this special place atop Lookout Mountain.

Back then there were a number of mineral springs of refreshing mountain water located around what we now know as Mentone. Today many of those mineral springs either have been adversely affected by highway and other construction or have simply dried up. However, all is not lost.

There still are in this community springs of living water. These springs come from THE well that will never run dry. The Lord God Almighty at Jeremiah 2:13 declares Himself to be "the fountain of living waters." God is present with us on this mountain! He is the fountain from which living waters flow. He is the source of the springs of living water in this community of Mentone.

Jesus once encountered a woman at an earthen well. John 4:14 records His telling her about the water from God's fountain:

"Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up into eternal life."

God's water is living water. It is eternal in nature.

God's living water provides everlasting satisfaction. It is contrasted by the Lord Jesus with the earthly well water of which "everyone who drinks . . . will thirst again." — John 4:13.

Mentone: "Musical mountain spring."

Yahweh: "Fountain of living waters."

For those of us who call the Mentone area special, we must choose whether we are going to have the one (i. e., the earthly) without the other (i. e., the eternal). We must choose whether we will settle only for "the musical mountain spring" or whether we will drink of "the living waters of God."

Mentone is lively. It is a wonderful place to live or to visit. Yet, Mentone is but a foreshadowing of the eternal place that the Carpenter from Nazareth has constructed for those who come to Him by faith.

So if you are drawing only from the earthly springs and wells of Lookout Mountain . . . if you have not "tapped in" to the Fountain of Living Water . . . or if you have "shut off" your spring of water welling up into eternal life and are spiritually "dry," then I encourage you to go the Source of all life — to God. Allow Him to give you the living water that comes from His never-ending supply. It is yours by faith in Jesus as Saviour, as Lord and as Friend.

God desires that we all enjoy this beautiful place — this "musical mountain spring." He desires that we be faithful stewards of the goodness of this HIS creation.

Moreover, God desires that we all enjoy the abundant life — the springs of living water. He desires that we be faithful stewards of His righteousness, peace and joy of being nourished by His living waters. For it is these things that bring true life to earthly things.

Righteousness, peace and joy are the things of His Kingdom. They flow from the Fountain of Living Waters and well up to eternal life.

May each of you enjoy Mentone not only for its own natural beauty, but as a foreshadowing of the best which truly is yet to come . . . by drinking of the waters of eternal life from THE spring of living water.



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The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service

FAMILY LIVING

By Annette Mehurg Wardrup
County Agent

Our future depends on our working to maintain and improve the quality of the environment for life on this earth.

I think each of us, everywhere — know that we have important choices to make about the continuing health of this planet. It is not just our home — it is a home we share with all other living things.

This is not a new idea. Chief Sealath said it best back in 1855. Let's all get involved, if we have not already done so. Each of us, in our own way — can contribute to a healthy, peaceful planet earth . . . now, and in the future.

LETTER FROM A SAVAGE

The Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. How can you buy or sell the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. Yet we do not own the freshness of the air or the sparkle of the water. How can you buy them from us? Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shiny pine needle, every shady shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing and humming insect is holy in the memory of my people.

We know that the white man does not understand our ways. One portion of the land is the same to him as the next, for he is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he needs. The earth is not his brother but his enemy, and when he has conquered it he moves on. He leaves his fathers' graves, and his children's birthright is forgotten.

"There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. No place to hear the leaves of spring or the rustle of insect wings. But perhaps because I am savage and do not understand, the clatter only seems to insult the ears. And what is there to life if a man cannot hear the lovely cry of the whippoorwill or the argument of the frog around the pond at night?"

The whites too shall pass, perhaps sooner than other tribes. Continue to contaminate your own bed and you will one night suffocate in your own waste.

When the buffalo are all slaughtered, the wild horses all tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men, and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires. Where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. And what will it be to say goodbye to the swift and the hunt, it will be the end of living and the beginning of survival."

Chief Sealath from Washington State sent this letter to President Franklin Pierce in 1855

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Grace Jones: A Strong Family Tree

(Editor's Note: This is the continuation of last month's feature about Grace Jones).

The church has been an important part of her life. She has served as church treasurer, treasurer of the women's missionary society and, taught Sunday School.

"I've taught every age from primary to adult and loved it," she said.

She is currently chairman of the communion committee and makes all the communion bread for the church.

The Wesleyan Church has a strong commitment to Christian education and supports several colleges throughout the United States. Mrs. Jones says that in her big family "there has never been a drop-out."

Of the Shigley grandchildren, a "big part" are teachers and several are ministers.

"My own family is devoted to music," Mrs. Jones said. Both her daughters, Betty Johnson and Frances Louise Crowe play the piano as do her three grandchildren.

Although Mrs. Jones rates her own musical ability as "tolerably good," she played for the Wesleyan Church for many years. That responsibility has now been taken over by her daughter, Betty.

"I'm proud of them," she says of her family.

Her daughter, Betty, lives next door with her husband, James Johnson. Their children are Betty Sue Rickman and Fred. The Rickman's live in Clemson, S. C., and have one daughter, Stephanie. Fred lives in Rainsville, is married and, has two children.

Mrs. Jones' other daughter, Frances Louise, is married to Clyde Crowe who was raised here. They have one daughter, Frances, and live in Oakridge, Tennessee. Clyde Crowe is a brother of Homer, Chester and Jesse.

She says she loves Mentone and has never lived anywhere else.

"I never would, never could live in a city," she exclaimed. "I like the beautiful scenery, the rocks, hills, and rhododendron. I like to get out and walk through the woods especially in the fall."

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DeSoto Parkway — Mentone

Tourism Is Big Business For Area

Tourism was the topic as several DeKalb County business people gathered at a meeting at Black's Best Western in Fort Payne recently. The main speaker, Tom Chestnut a tourism consultant from Auburn's agricultural extension service told the group that \$3 billion was spent in Alabama last year by tourists.

Chestnut said that there are several tourism "myths" that need correcting.

"Big attractions like Disney World and Six Flags are not the only thing people like to see," he said. "People do visit rural areas."

He highlighted DeKalb County's natural, cultural and historic appeal saying that many urban people like to visit our area.

Tourism not only benefits hotels and restaurants, Chestnut said.

"Travelers need gasoline, groceries, clothes and even medical care," he explained. He cited the example of several ski areas in the northeast where medical clinics are set up to operate only during the ski season.

Economic studies indicate that only 10 percent of tourism dollars goes to the big attractions. Food is the number one expenditure of tourists and shopping is

second.

"We feel that downtown shopping areas benefit from tourists' dollars as much as anyone," he said.

Tourism is economic development but it is diverse. Most people think of economic development in terms of industry where you see a factory providing jobs to a large number of people in one place. Tourism, however, impacts a large number of local people, but the effect is spread throughout the community.

Service is the main product of tourism according to Chestnut. Attractions are the drawing card he says but, good service (clean restrooms, good food, nice accommodations and friendly people) is what keeps tourists in an area overnight or longer.

"You want people to stay overnight," he said and added jokingly, "slash their tires if you have to keep them around."

Chestnut said the Olympics scheduled for 1996 in Atlanta and the proposed National Park in Little River Canyon as drawing cards for tourists to this area.

Several attractions including DeSoto State Park, the Lookout Mountain Parkway, and the Mentone Area Preservation Association presented information about what they have to offer to tourists.

Comments Pro and Con At Park Public Meeting

Comments supporting and opposing the national park concept for the Little River Canyon area were given at the public meeting at the DeKalb County Courthouse last month. Several Mentone residents were part of the crowd of nearly 200 people who attended the meeting.

Ralph Sussman, park planner for the National Park Service's regional office in Atlanta introduced representatives of the Park Service who dealt with specific issues related to the proposal. Ralph Bullard, new areas coordinator for the Southeastern Region of the Park Service presented the concept to those attending.

Some of those opposing the concept were concerned about land they own along the Little River that is included in the proposed boundaries of the park. Although most of the property under consideration is publicly owned or owned by large corporations such as Alabama Power, some is privately owned.

Land acquisition methods were briefly discussed by Barbara Selhoff who specializes in that area for the Park System. She outlined three alternatives: fee acquisition,

scenic easements and, conservation easements. The process in land acquisition allows for comment from the landowners. Contracts with local appraisers to determine land value area made. The Park Service can not offer less than the appraised value of the land.

Selhoff also said relocation benefits were available to help homeowners reestablish elsewhere. When questioned as to what procedure the Park Service would follow if owners did not accept the Park's offer, Selhoff replied the "courts would decide."

The exact boundaries of the proposed park were questioned by several local Mentone land owners. Park officials stressed that the proposal is not "in concrete" and can be changed.

Many comments were in support of the proposed park. Several of these came from groups interested in the recreational and tourism aspects of the Little River and the canyon including the Birmingham Canoe Club, the Lookout Mountain Trail Association and, the Lookout Mountain Parkway Association.

Talmadge Butler, manager of DeSoto State Park, spoke in favor of the national park concept as a way to further protect the area from undesirable development.

Written comments about the proposed park may be sent to Bob Baker, Regional Director, National Park Service, 75 Spring St. S. W., Atlanta, GA 30303.

Club Meetings

RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

The Rhododendron Garden Club met in April at the home of Ruby Daniel. Mrs. Daniel and Fern Fitzgerald were the hostesses.

Ann Wright reported to the club that 300 feet of sidewalk had been planted with dwarf Hellen hollies and dwarf nandians. Bark mulch was added and some azaleas were planted behind the walk.

The club agreed to donate \$100 to the Animal Shelter in Fort Payne.

M. J. Orr of Valley Head presented a program on landscaping. He gave information on selecting shrubs, trees and plants and encouraged people to plant more bulbs and lots of budding plants.

The next meeting is Tuesday, May 21, at the Mentone Inn. It will be a luncheon and new officers will be installed. The slate of officers presented by the nominating committee and accepted were: president, Hope Walker; vice-president, Jean McGehee; secretary, Frances Rosario; treasurer, Jackie Skelton.

VALLEY HEAD WOMAN'S CLUB

The April meeting of the Valley Head Woman's Club was held at the DeKalb County Public Library in Fort Payne. Chris Wright, director of the library, gave the program.

Wright told the group that the library, founded by Mrs. George Irving Weatherly Sr., is 50 year old this month. He said the library ranks 30th in the state among public libraries with 85,000 books being checked out each year.

Promoting literacy is a part of the work of the library. New officers who will serve a one-year term are: president, Mrs. Ted Holleman; first vice-president, Mrs. Van Cooper; second vice-president, Mrs. Olin Lyons; recording secretary, Mrs. James Graves; corresponding secretary, Mrs. George Huie Jr.; parliamentarian, Mrs. Herbert Stanley.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PARKWAY ASSOCIATION

Hidden Hollow Country Inn in Chickamauga was the location for the April Lookout Mountain Parkway Association Meeting. Bob Elmore, LMPA vice-president for Tennessee reviewed the history of the group and the uniqueness of the Parkway.

"The product we are selling is scenery, history and, natural attractions," Elmore commented.

He feels tourism is the "answer for this area's economic development."

"Tourism brings fresh new money from outside into our area. The benefits are immediate, everybody benefits and everybody should," he said.

Hidden Hollow Country Inn is owned by Tommy and Bonny Jean Thomas. They have overnight facilities and meeting space for groups and individuals. Inn rooms and cabins are decorated in early American style. Hidden Hollow has 135 acres of land with a lake.

One of the features at Hidden Hollow is the Music Hall, a large rustic hall with perfect acoustics, hardwood dance floor and a fully equipped kitchen. It seats nearly 100 people.

Happenings

By Emily Smith

There are so many events planned for the month of May, it is hard to know where to begin **HAPPENINGS**.

Don't miss the Rhododendron Festival, the Friday night bonfire will be a lot of fun. Terry Hutcherson is the emcee and has some great entertainment lined up. The Rhododendron Festival will be a celebration of spring with the beautiful colors of our flowers at their peak.

Camp Alpine is hosting the Audubon Mountain Workshop May 17-19. People from all over come to this workshop to learn more about wildflowers, birds, crafts and other topics of interest. Workshop classes are taught by college professors and naturalists who are familiar with the flora and fauna of Lookout Mountain.

Summerville is hosting the Howard Finster Arts Festival Saturday, May 18. Finster, an acclaimed folk artist, worked as a preacher and evangelist in Valley Head and Mentone for many years. He often baptized people in the Little River. Now Finster lives in Pennville, Georgia.

Several of camps have had father-son weekends, mother-daughter weekends and, staff retreats recently. Bill Jamison, program director at Camp Alpine commented they have to watch the dads carefully at father-son weekend. They find themselves using muscles that have not had a workout since they were campers themselves.

Al Freeman recently passed his state licensing tests to become a bonded heating and air conditioning person. The Freemans' moved to Hammondville last year and set up an appliance repair business. We can recommend their work. Look for his ad in our Professional Services column.

Bankhead Cemetery will have Memorial Day services on May 26 at 11 a.m. followed by a covered dish lunch. This year they will be honoring the Shigley family. Contact Howard Carson (635-6741) for more details.

The Kountry Chef had a wonderful grand opening with great entertainment from Mike and Tena Cryer and Buddy Vetzal. The Cryers are professional musicians. Buddy Vetzal is a magician.



UNUSUAL TREE — Blooming in Mentone in spring is the Princess Tree or Cottonwood. Named for Princess Anna Paulownia of the Netherlands, daughter of Czar Paul I, 1795-1865, the flowers are large, handsome, blue and fragrant. After blooming the fruit, clusters of dry leathery capsules form, filled with tiny winged seeds. The capsules resemble cotton bolls, hence the common name. The tree was introduced to the U. S. from China.

Summer Reading At DeKalb Library

"Sir Al and His Summer Knights is the theme for the 1991 Summer Library Program to be held at the DeKalb County Public Library in Fort Payne. A series of five programs for young people kindergarten to third grade will begin Thursday, June 6. Activities will include singing with the Mentone troubadour, Tony Goggans, a talk on falconry with Ken Thomas, DeSoto State Park's naturalist and crafts.

Children may sign up for the program beginning June 3. Contact the library at 504 Grand Ave. N. W. in Ft. Payne, 845-2671. Over 100 young people participated in the DeKalb County program last summer. Prizes are awarded for the most books read.

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