

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 1 - NO. 8 - NOVEMBER 1983 A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

The Law, Without Fear Or Favor

Mentone has a new policeman. He is an important person in the community who needs our support and respect. We need his protection and dedication. With warm forthrightness he says he intends to enforce the law without fear or favor.

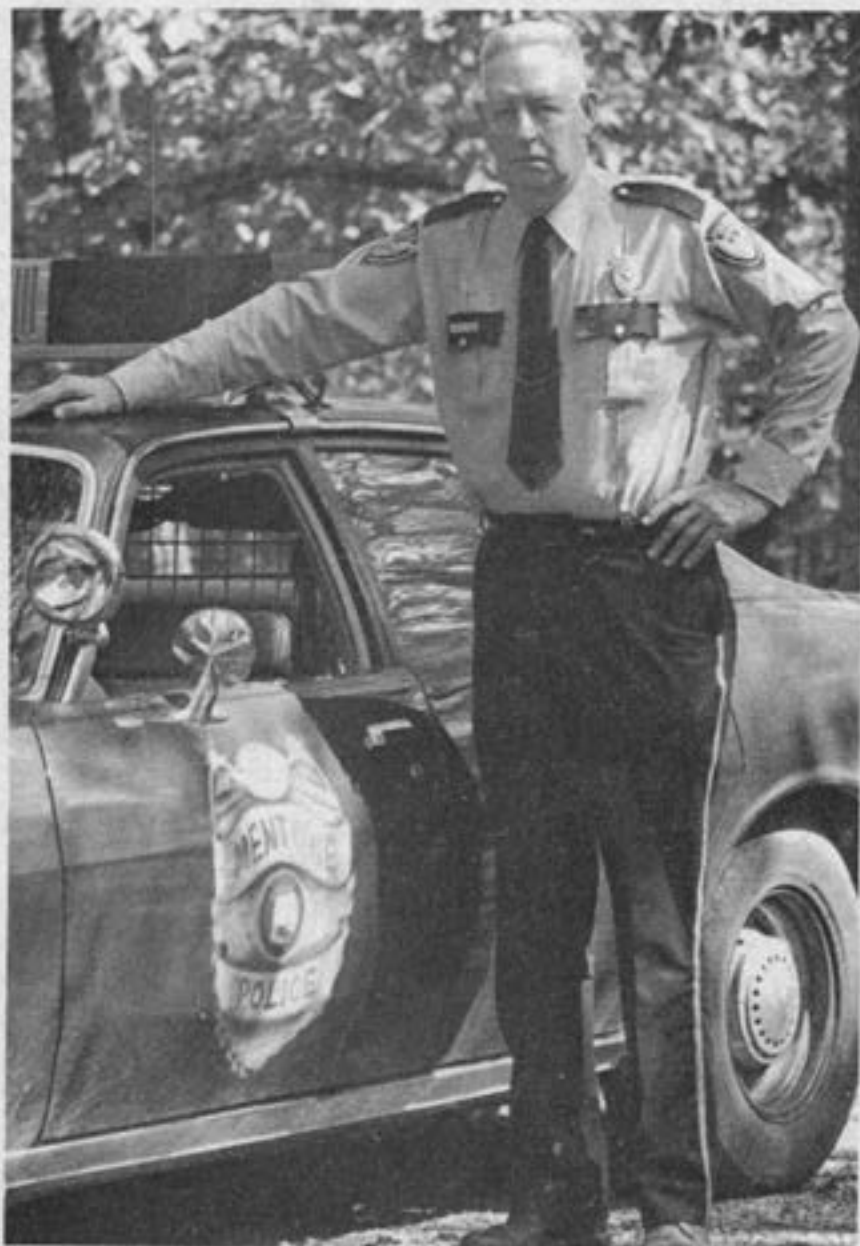
Rufus Colquitt Jones is a modest, towering man, six feet four inches tall, who has served some six years on the Town Council, was a fireman in Birmingham for 38 years, and as a member of a pioneer family knows our town and its citizens well.

He was chosen by the Town Council in the hope that his accessibility and obvious qualifications will provide for us an added sense of security and that this choice begins a process of providing a much-needed continuity in law enforcement in Mentone.

Our new officer, whose father was Hardy Jones, attended Moon Lake Elementary and Valley Head High School. After graduation he worked for two years in Indiana as a welder.

In 1944 he went to Birmingham, Ala., and began an association with the Department of Public Safety which continued until 1972. Although his principal duties were

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RUFUS COLQUITT JONES

PHOTO BY DOC LONG

Groundhog Classic Run Climaxes Second
Annual October Color Festival, Page 1

the GROUNDHOG

Mayor Rob Hammond Speaks, Answers Questions

Mentone's new mayor will be the featured speaker at the November meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association on Tuesday evening, November 1, at 7:00 p.m. at Brownie's in the Hitching Post. Mayor Rob Hammond will speak briefly and then welcome questions from the audience about matters pertaining to local government.

Director Homer Crow, who will preside, states that in the business session there will be reports on the October Color Festival and Groundhog classic run, progress reports on the goals projects, and preliminary plans for the Second Annual Musical Mountain Christmas.

Refreshments will be served following the meeting. All local citizens are invited to attend, but only MAPA members may vote on the motions submitted.

Brownie's is at the end of the walkway on the 117 side of the Hitching Post. Older citizens may remember it as the Old Post Office.

Post Office Upgraded

Mentone's post office has been elevated from rating K to rating J (formerly class C to B), according to notification from the U.S. Postal Department to local postmaster Benny Goss. Basic measurement for the increased rating is growth and volume as it affects increased revenue.

Other members of the staff are James B. Whitehead, assistant postmaster; Max Cash, rural free delivery; Sherman Goss, star route carrier; and Ron Wheat, rural carrier relief.

Mentone's first post office was situated in a store near the present site of the Mentone Inn. First postmaster was Ed Mason, son of John Mason, generally credited with founding the town. Mason served from 1888 to 1891. Mail was first delivered by horseback, then later by wagon up the mountain from Valley Head.

The new rating was effective October 1.

Moon Lake School Harvest Festival

This Saturday, October 29, is the afternoon and evening of the big Harvest Festival celebration at Moon Lake School. Billy Berry, PTA president, is in charge of the event. All proceeds go to benefit the school.

Hot dogs and chili will be available beginning at 4 p.m., while the festival itself starts at 5. There will be two categories in the Halloween costume contest: babies through third grade, and fourth grade through adults. There will be one overall winner and two categorical winners. Prizes will be awarded.

In addition, there will be a country store, games for all ages, a cake walk, movies with popcorn, and the traditional king and queen crowning. Snacks, hot dogs, chili, soft drinks, and desserts will be served all evening. Everyone is welcome to participate in this major fund raising program of the year.

Law Enforcement Is Stressed At Special Meeting Of Council

Law enforcement in Mentone was the emphasis of the special session of the Town Council on Friday evening, September 23rd. Local citizen Rufus Colquitt Jones was elected policeman, to begin duties October 1, succeeding Ed Worthey, who could no longer carry out the duties because of ill health.

Of equal local importance was adoption by the council of the stringent DUI bill passed by both houses of the Alabama Legislature, signed by Governor George Wallace, that went into enforcement on July 29th.

Both Mayor Rob Hammond and Policeman Colquitt Jones state emphatically that the law will be given strict attention. Those arrested for drunken driving will be taken to the DeKalb County sheriff's office for testing of alcoholic content and if necessary placed in the county jail.

Monthly court sessions will be held at the Town Hall, with Judge Terry Bush presiding.

The new law provides that upon first conviction, the guilty person shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than a year, or a fine of not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$1,000.00, or by both. In addition, the Director of Public Safety shall suspend the driver's license for 90 days.

First time offenders are also required to attend a DUI court referral program approved by the Administrative Office of Courts. Neither reckless driving nor any other traffic offense is a lesser included

New Councilman



Wright Is Elected

At the regular meeting of the town council on October 3 in the Mentone Town Hall, Jimmy Wright was elected to fill the council seat left vacant by the election of Rob Hammond as mayor.

Councilman Lee Davenport nominated Mr. Wright; Max Cash seconded the nomination. Councilman Kenneth Crowe nominated Jean McGehee, and Hobson Kirby seconded this nomination. Those present voted to close the nominations, and Mr. Wright was elected by a vote of four to one, Mr. Crowe voting for Mrs. McGehee.

Mr. Wright previously served on the council for sixteen years. He is employed by Dupont in Chattanooga. His term will expire with the rest of the council's next summer.

Further business acted upon by the council included a unanimous vote to repair the water line into Eddie Worthey's home.

Mr. Leland Cox, former postmaster, chaired a delegation that requested a feasibility study to bring city water into the north end of town, beyond Hobson Kirby's home to perhaps Charles Bain's. Mayor Hammond promised to study the possibility, with Mr. Cash's help.

Bill Russell asked for assistance in giving a right of way to Dewey Crow for land beyond Mr. Russell's property. Mayor Hammond promised to contact Pat Tate, town attorney, for aid.

Councilman Cash suggested Mayor Hammond write thank-you letters to Governor Wallace and to Senator Lowell Barron for the recent water money grant. A thank-you note was read from Eddie Worthey for flowers sent by the town during his recent hospitalization.

The council will meet again at 6 p.m. Monday, November 1. All citizens are welcome.

Mentone Color Fest Groundhog Classic Run Set for Weekend

The autumnal splendor of Mentone will again be celebrated this weekend when the Second Annual October Color Festival climaxes on Sunday afternoon, October 30th, with the Groundhog Classic Run, in which scores of runners form throughout the Southeast will run the four-mile course which begins at Old Hotel Square, down DeSoto Parkway to the falls turnoff, and back to the Hitching Post.

Events of the Mentone October Color Festival begin Friday the 28th, at noon with luncheon at the Sidewalk Cafe at Brownie's at the Hitching Post. At 5:00 p.m. German food will be available at the Log Cabin Deli. At dusk, there will be a ghost story-telling contest and bonfire at the Mentone Inn.



Saturday promises to be a gala day, beginning at 10:00 a.m. with hay rides and "Mentone Maggie" rides from the Mentone Inn. At The Hitching Post at 11:00 a.m. there will be "Name the Groundhog" and "Little Miss Color Fest" contests, followed at 3:30 p.m. with a Cake Walk upstairs at the Hitching Post. A "Prettiest Legs in Mentone" contest is planned at the White Elephant at 5:00 p.m. (only men may enter).

For those who want to be able to tell their grandchildren they helped build a log cabin, Jack Jones will have underway construction on his property behind the Log Cabin Deli all day Saturday. Mountain music will be played throughout the weekend at the White Elephant, Hitching Post, Log Cabin Deli, and the Mentone Springs Hotel.

Saturday's festivities are highlighted by the Second Annual "Night of the Tenth Moon Ball," beginning at 8:00, at the Mentone Springs Hotel. Admission is \$2 and music will be provided by Tony Goggins. This is a family-style evening with no alcoholic beverages permitted.

In anticipation of the big event in the afternoon, Sunday's activities begin with a "Color Festival Brunch" at Brownie's Sidewalk Cafe, with Gospel Music following at 10 o'clock at the Mentone Inn.

Crowds should be pouring in shortly after noon for the 2 o'clock starting of the Classic Run. The Run Committee of Randy Still, Amelia Brooks, and Marty Griffin is pleased with the volume of registrations.

Steering Committee for the October Color Festival is Avline Brown, Sandra Padgett, and Dorothy Crow.

November Groundhog Award



The November Groundhog Award goes to the home and grounds of Mabel and Frank Kirk. The family had retired in San Diego, but because of Mr. Kirk's health, they chose to come to Mentone for a quieter life.

The Kirks have 56 acres here, and Mr. Kirk wanted to build on a bluff above the river. However, the home — a federal design — was built on a knoll above the road. To the original design of the house, Mr. Kirk added a garden room and a shop. Mrs. Kirk is responsible for the beautifully landscaped grounds, beginning as one approaches the home, and leading to numerous planting areas, blooming with color at any season.

from your director

By Homer Crow

After all of the fun and excitement of the Color Festival this coming weekend, November will be here with the first cold weather and with one of my favorite holidays — Thanksgiving.

Like everybody, I'm most thankful for the health and well being of my family. I'm glad that I live in a beautiful place like Mentone and that I can worship, work, travel, read, and generally do pretty much like I want to.

And of course, I'm especially thankful this year for the Mentone Area Preservation Association. We really mean it when we say that we want to preserve and protect this special place.

In MAPA naturally we're thankful for those members who have worked to bring about improvements such as the bulletin board at the post office, the bright flowers by Blackburn's store, the much-needed traffic light, the highway signs, and our seasonal celebrations. Most of all, we're thankful for the local merchants who make possible our monthly **Groundhog** publication.

Let's work real hard to get up to 100 members by the first of the year — then we'll have an even bigger reason to be thankful!

Bulletin

As the **GROUNDHOG** went to press word was received that the Mentone Springs Hotel has been officially accepted for listing in the National Register of Historic Places; effective October 22.

Groundhog Finance Report

October Issue

INCOME	
Ad Sales	\$550.00
Balance in account	409.05
	\$959.05
DEBITS	
Doc Long (photos)	\$ 22.00
The Summerville News Co.	312.50
U.S. Post Office	52.06
Ken Pennington (sketches)	10.00
Donna Bukley (sales)	51.75
Jean McGehee (sales)	34.50
	\$482.81
Balance in account	\$476.24

MAPA Minutes

With Director Homer Crow presiding, the September minutes of Marie Shadgett, secretary, were approved, following which Ann Climer's treasurer's report gave a balance as of October 1, 1983 of \$1,338.93. Jean McGehee's **Groundhog** financial report for the September issue was Sales — \$550.00; expenses — \$482.81; balance — \$476.24.

The paid membership as of October 1 was 61. Six more persons became members as of the 4th. Two of these were attending members and four were out-of-town persons who joined by letter and payment of dues.

Sandra Padgett reported that the dances at the Mentone Springs Hotel have been discontinued. She presented MAPA with a check for \$35 from the proceeds from the dances. She displayed a proposed advertising layout for the October Colorfest, saying that Terry Parker would do the layout work at no charge. The group voted to order 2,000 copies at \$28.78 per thousand.

Plans were made for distribution of the poster-flyers to outlying towns. Jamie Cooper, Don Welch, and other TV personalities will publicize the event. Amelia Brooks reported that 20 entries had been received already for the Groundhog Classic Run. Marty Griffin requested help for the Run: starters, timers, water-persons. Water will be available for the runners at the half-way mark. Aylene Brown will have a Sidewalk Cafe at the Hitching Post on the day of the run, with food and drink.

There was thoroughgoing discussion and action on the MAPA Goals for 1983-84 (See story elsewhere).

Bob Climer announced that on Oct. 28 at 8:00 p.m. the American Legion Post 215 will present a plaque to Daniel Smith, age 93, the oldest member of the Post and our only remaining World War I veteran.

Director Homer Crow presented H. Bruce Bon Fleur a Lifetime Membership Certificate in appreciation for his contribution to Mentone as MAPA's founder.

—Digested from Minutes of Marie Shadgett, Secretary

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
Homer Crow, Director
Mabel Kirk, Associate Director
Marie Shadgett, Secretary
Ann Climer, Treasurer

Lifetime Membership



H. Bruce Bon Fleur is shown above following presentation of a LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE at the October meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association. The award was in appreciation from the membership for his role as the motivating force in formation of the group.

— BROW BRIEFS —

Mrs. Catherine Bailey, town clerk for the past seven years, took her first days off ever on Monday and Tuesday, October 11 and 12.

State Representative David Stout recently presented a check for \$750 to the students of Moon Lake School. This comes from a special state fund for such purposes.

Local artists Sharon Barron (Gourdies) and Doc Long (photographs) took their works to the New Salem Crafts Fair and report good results. Sharon also went to the Gatlinburg Festival with her Gourdies.

Mentone members of the DeKalb County Tourist Association are now Amelia Brooks, Donna Bukley, Sharon Barron, and Marie Shadgett.

Your support is needed by the local Rescue Squad. Its rescue work in water accidents, lost persons, and similar unfortunate incidents is invaluable. Call Captain Larry Gray or First Lieutenant Leonard Shigley.

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 \$10 for voting membership for one through June 1984.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
PHONE: _____

ViewPoint...

By Charles White McGehee

Robert Browning said that the reach should exceed the grasp, or what's a heaven for? That's why people and organizations and businesses set goals. It helps us organize our energies, evaluate our positions, and keep momentum going. Goals like anything else can be overdone.

Last year when MAPA established its goals they seemed over-ambitious. When the year was over, however, virtually all of them were accomplished. Mentone is a better place for it. We have more confidence, more of a sense of community.

Now the goals for 1983-84 have been adopted. Plans are well underway for getting them done. People are volunteering. Ideas are being shared. Things are settling into place. There seems to have evolved clear distinctions between MAPA and the Town Council. Obviously the Town Council is the governing body of Mentone, administrator of its powers, protector of its citizens and facilitator of its finances. MAPA and similar organizations can assist the council in its responsibilities, set forth and implement community goals, and provide better communication within the community.

We need to realize that neither the Town Council nor MAPA can do it all. There are things that other organizations and other individuals can do. Not all of our citizens are involved. Some of them choose to remain uninvolved. Others would like to know what they can and should be doing.

For these reasons, I, in a mixture of modesty and arrogance, now set forth some goals that would fit in to the overall scheme, aid in our quality of life and the preservation of our culture.

A MENTONE MUSEUM. It could indeed be modest, but it would require the enthusiasm of a person or an organization. It would best be placed in a convenient place in Old Hotel Square. At one time Bernice Crow made available space in The Hitching Post. Such a location would be readily available to tourists and local citizens.

What belongs in such a museum?

A cross-section of our culture — if at all possible beginning with pre-historic times, artifacts, rock specimens demonstrating our archeological formations. This area was once inhabited by Indians, particularly by the Cherokees. Perhaps there is available evidence of their culture.

Mentone was involved to a certain extent in the Civil War. The early stages of the Battle of Chattanooga brought troops to our area.

Occasionally some of the older citizens state that they have old books, photographs, maps, which all of us would like to examine. There may well be old letters, tools, handicraft.

The Mentone Museum need not begin ambitiously. It could at the outset be little more than displays of photos, post cards, then expanded into glass cases preserving the more delicate items.

Someone needs to adopt the project — a person, persons, or an organization to begin modestly and move along with a plan, soliciting the historical and archeological items, giving assurance of their care, maintenance, and availability. Eventually there would be need for cataloging, but this is not a problem at the outset.

THE MENTONE SPRINGS HOTEL LOBBY. When one examines the history of Mentone, it is clearly obvious that the formation and naming of the town coincided with the building of the old hotel. The fortunes of the town and the hotel seem to parallel each other.

It can clearly be contended that what's good for the Mentone Springs Hotel is good for Mentone, and vice versa. It's a kind of symbol, a gathering place, with its own mystique, its mythology, its history that goes back to the 1880's. These are worthy of preservation and utilization.

This beloved structure stood neglected and in a process of deterioration until Ray and Sandra Padgett purchased it three years ago. With their own funds, they have accomplished tremendous improvements — especially in the matter of a new roof, replacing faulty timbers, and painting the exterior in the original colors.

Significantly the dining room has been brought to an attractive stage and is used for various functions, including warm weather MAPA meetings. The ultimate task will require years and thousands of dollars. But I especially would like to see a community effort implemented in restoring the lobby, that beloved open room, centered by the three-sided fireplace, the stairways, the various niches and alcoves.

Labor, paints, timbers are needed for the process. What if Mentone citizens pitched in for that over-the-hump effort of speeding up the process? What if certain groups contacted Sandra and Ray and asked, "What can we do to help get that lobby restored?" There was one working Saturday that saw some progress. The Padgetts will eventually do it all, but it may take years. What if we had it ready for next spring when MAPA hopefully would resume meeting there?

CRACKER BARREL, COUNTRY STORE, GENERAL HANGOUT. When Linda Brown was interviewed for the cover story, she said, "There needs to be some place downtown where retired men can gather, play checkers and talk, particularly in winter." Linda was reading my mind and speaking to a general need — not just for retired men.

When I first began coming to Mentone there was Kirby's store across from the old hotel. There was a pot-bellied stove, plenty of space for loafing and talking, a very leisurely place. It need not be a store, just a place — that perhaps served coffee and sand-

(Continued On Page 4)

Mountain Cookery

What is mountain cookery?

Is there anything special or unique about it, any touches, methods, ingredients, seasonings, spices, or other qualities that set it apart?

In past columns we have featured specialties of the local innkeepers and restaurateurs, such as the five-star baked ham of owner-chef Randy Still of Cragmere Manna; the Tijuana Pie of Innkeeper Amelia Kirk-Brooks of Mentone Inn; the tramp eggs of Gerry Disney of Nippersink Lodge; the famous chili served to the students of Moon Lake School by Mrs. Lola Mae Blalock; and the Chili Corn Pone of Barbara Boyd of the Log Cabin Deli.

These are some of the favorite current dishes served on the mountain, along with certain others at DeSoto Lodge and the Lookout. But we have only been scratching the surface. There are some superb private cooks along our streets and byways. Their talents need to be known.

How would you like a **Groundhog Mountain Cookbook** which embodies these talents?

How would you like to be a co-author of such a publication? The **Groundhog** editorial board has decided to embark on such a project.

You can cooperate by sending your favorite recipe, whether yours or someone else's, to **Groundhog Cookbook**, Box 50, Mentone, Alabama.

Future **Mountain Cookery** columns will publish these recipes and any cooking hints. When enough have accumulated, they will be incorporated in the **Groundhog Mountain Cookbook**, with your name included. It will be placed on sale at local businesses. Perhaps it will be advertised not only in the **Groundhog**, but in other publications.

All sales proceeds will go toward attainment of the goals of the Mentone Area Preservation Association.

Have you enjoyed an especially good dish lately? Have you cooked something you were especially proud of? Send that recipe to Box 50. Let's run the gamut: your method of baking bread and various pastries; how you bake biscuits; and special casseroles; ways of varying the menu when the gardens are overflowing with vegetables.

What about those items particularly native to Lookout Mountain: venison, ham, eggs, potatoes, chickens, squirrel, and tomatoes? On and on we could go. Your suggestions are needed. We can all be proud if we can put across this project.

Happy Mountain Cookery!



Shown busy at work reading *Groundhog* copy before we went to press last month are MAPA Director Homer Crow, Treasurer Ann Climer, and Secretary Marie Shadgett. Not shown are Mabel Kirk, vice director, and past director Bruce Bon Fleur, who usually reads copy also.

MAPA Numbers 72

New members since the October issue, and three inadvertently overlooked, are (out of town with asterisk):

- *Frank M. Young, III
- *Mrs. William D. Woodward
- *Mrs. Doug Crowe
- *James Lyday
- *Richard Dorman
- *Seaborn Walker
- Clarence Sheffield
- Patty Cox Bryan
- *Mrs. Lucille Fox
- *Mrs. Springer Wood
- *Mrs. R. N. Cunningham, Jr.

*Mentone Custom
Photo*

*... Fine Custom
Photography ...*

DOC & KYLE LONG/634-4423

Families Of Mentone

The Cashes fifth in a series

fifth in a series

Grandmother Cash was part Indian. She and Grandfather Cash came from around Atlanta where Sam Wallace Cash was born in 1872. Sam's wife Maude Elizabeth was born near Mentone in 1882. She went to Liberty School near Forks of the River where the Cash family first settled.

The Forks of the River area is around Brannon Ridge. This property is now owned by Max Cash, grandson of the original settler. One can still see the stones that formed the furnace for syrup made there.

Of course, there were no bridges across the river then; one had to cross on horseback or in a buggy or wagon. There is one family story about an uncle who died of pneumonia when the river was high. Because of this, he was buried near the old homeplace instead of in the cemetery across the river.

By the time Sammy Cash was born, the family helped to settle Lahusage where the father worked on the dinky line — a small crane that pulled cars to the top of the mountain and then dumped coal. Mr. Cash Sr. fired the boiler on the dinky line.

Nine children lived to adulthood; two died in infancy. Albert Cash married Cassie Jones and they had 10 children of their own. Max is well known to Mentone residents as mail carrier and member of the town council. Eva Helen, Susan, and Neil also live here. Dorothy, Anita, Bruce, Philip, and the twins Edward and Edmund form the remainder of this brother's family.

Jody Cash was married to Eula Rose, who still lives in Mentone. They had eight children, of whom Kenneth and Roberta live here; Louise is in Valley

Head and Betty lives in Albertville. Other of Jody Cash's children are Jack, Donald, James, and Nell.

Thelma Cash O'Rear remains a resident of Mentone. She and her husband had four children: John, Lottie Jo, Velda, and Theresa.

Louie Cash and Gladys Kay had four daughters — Lois, Clara, Elizabeth, and Martha.

Bascom, called "Bac," was never married. Sammy and Clara Cash have no children, but Clara taught in this area, and Sammy is known all over the county from his work as county forest ranger and as Mentone's fire chief.

Harry and Bertha Gifford Cash had one daughter Frances who still lives in Mentone.

Grace Cash Scott and two sons still live in Mentone, Alton and Mac. Her other children are Billie Fay, Gayla, and Donald.

Bill Cash and JoAnn Wood have eight children. Billy Jr., Dewey, Sheila, Kim, Kevin, and Sammy all live here; Linda is in Valley Head. Their other daughter is Phyllis.

Aunt Vestie Cash lived to be an alert 100 years old. She died in the Collinsville Nursing Home two years ago. Sammy Cash remembers that Dr. Floyd, who delivered him, had the first automobile in this area.

The Cashes have been a prolific family. When Grandfather Cash died, because he had been married twice, there were 18 children surviving him.

One last interesting fact about this pioneer Mentone family: Sam Cash Sr.'s sister married his wife's father. Readers can figure out the family relationships this union engendered. — JDM

MAPA Goals

At the October MAPA meeting, goals adopted and briefly discussed earlier were formally passed and assigned. Altogether some 14 items were considered.

The triangle planting at the Superette was assigned at the September meeting to Lynette and Jimmy McCary and Ann Climer.

Bernise Crow, Sandra Padgett, and Graham Glover were assigned to continue the investigation of procedures necessary to receive "historic district" status for the hotel square area. They were also appointed in September.

The **Groundhog** assignment is carried on by the McGehees.

The rock wall up the mountain from the slide area on to the top has about 27 broken places. It is estimated these will cost about \$2600 to repair. Sammy Cash will check with the county and state road departments and with local rock workers. Mr. Cash also volunteered to check on cleaning the area immediately along the road before the October Color Festival.

MAPA voted to participate in building a new shelter at the brow park if other groups such as the Crafts Festival, the Rhododendron Garden Club, and the Town of Mentone share the cost of approximately \$2500.

MAPA voted unanimously to continue sponsoring seasonal events for townspeople and visitors.

Amelia Brooks and Charles McGehee were thanked for having contacted Ray Bass, state highway commissioner, for the new exit signs for Mentone on I-59 going south. Mr. Bass was sent a thank-you letter.

Director Homer Crow stated that a community center of some kind is high on MAPA's priorities and goals list. He will appoint a committee to investigate rental of possible sites. Offered as warm winter meeting places for MAPA were Brownie's, Cragmere Manna, the Fire Hall, and the American Legion Hall.

Sammy Cash was also appointed to investigate the possibility of having divider stripes painted on area roads.

Donna Buckley is in charge of facilitating the clean-up of the springs site.

MAPA's membership goal is to reach a total of 100 members by the first of the year. Bruce Bon Fleur will be in charge of membership.

A committee to investigate the possibility of grants, endowments, wills, and any other monies to aid Mentone from federal, state, county, and personal means will be composed of Sandra Padgett, Sammy Cash, and Bruce Bon Fleur.

Patty Cox Bryan and Amelia Brooks will explore ways and means of building some kind of safe walkways from the hotel square area to the post office vicinity.

Eventually MAPA will do a feasibility study on the tabled motion for restoring the old covered bridge. This would be brought before the entire community again for open discussion.

What is The Groundhog?

It is not a newspaper.

It is not a magazine.

It is not a newsletter.

The **Groundhog** is a monthly publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association which is dedicated to the preservation and protection of the heritage and special qualities of life in the Mentone area. Any profits from this publication are applied to the goals of this organization.

Because there is no daily or weekly newspaper in the Mentone, Cloudland, Valley Head, and Hammondville area, we feel that **The Groundhog** offers a special opportunity for business organizations to reach potential clients. Each month 2,500 copies are distributed. Of these 650 go into the mailboxes of the Mentone postal area. The remaining copies are placed for distribution in the establishments of those advertising or potentially advertising in **The Groundhog**.

Advertisers in this publication are not only assured of a thorough coverage, they know that the proceeds from their advertising dollars go to the cause of a non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of this area.

If you would like to know more complete details about our advertising arrangements, or to place an advertisement in the next issue, call:

Donna Buckley (634-4678)

or

Jean McGehee (634-3737)

Or write: **The Groundhog**, Box 50, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

**CRAGSMERE
MANNA**

Restaurant and Gardens

Desoto Parkway, South, Near Mentone

Wed. Thru Sat., 5-9; Sun. 12-6

OPEN ALL YEAR

RANDY STILL

OWNER-CHEF

634-4677

\$191,000 Presentation



Shown above are those present in Montgomery when Governor George Wallace presented the \$191,000 Community Development Block Grant for improvement of the Mentone water system. At the far left is Representative David Stout. Councilman Max Cash is next, receiving the grant from Governor Wallace. To the left of Councilman Cash are Senator Lowell Barron, Mrs. Max Cash, Mentone Fire Chief Sammy Cash, Mrs. San and Mayor Rob Hammond, Mrs. Ethel Manifold, under whose administration the grant was applied for, and Councilman Lee Davenport, who began service on the council in 1936. The lady to the governor's right is presumed to be a staff assistant.

According to Mayor Rob Hammond, initial stages are well underway for implementation of the \$191,000 Community Development Block Grant for improvement of the local water system.

A workshop was held in Huntsville Monday, October 17, to determine that all parties involved are familiar with the guidelines that all projects must adhere to.

Guidelines must be followed for a proper letting of the bids and seeing that the engineer's plans are properly followed. Project engineer is Fountain, Allman and Associates, Inc. of Florence.

Mentone's Representative is Ken Towry, a consultant with Public Systems, Incorporated, Huntsville. Mr. Towry's fees are included in the grant.

Mayor Hammond pointed out that the \$191,000 grant is to be used exclusively for the water program which involves 20 new fire hydrants, enlargement of lines, two rings added to the storage tank, an eight-inch line run from the falls to the tank, and the installation of several more two, four, and eight-inch lines.

It is hoped that the work will be completed by next summer.

When asked about the appreciable increase in water rates in Fort Payne, Mayor Hammond said that he anticipated no upcoming increases because of last year's advance in price. Mentone's water supply is derived from the Fort Payne system.

Mentone Businesses Entered On Computer

Randy Still, owner-chef of Cragsmere Manna restaurant, presented a report on Micro-Vision in Alabama that was adopted at the October MAPA meeting. Micro-Vision produces free information to tourists on any place in the state. The information is shown on a TV screen by a computer that also prints the information for visitors.

At present there are seven welcome centers in the state and each has the Micro-Vision computer. The Alabama Travel Council sells memberships in the program for \$100 a year. Local businesses pay a fee and can be listed on the information about their town or area.

Mr. Still assumed the responsibility for securing \$840 yearly from area businesses who wish to be part of the Mentone area listings. MAPA members voted to pay the annual fee of \$100 to join the Alabama Travel Council.

An average of 12,000 tourists go through each of the seven Alabama welcome centers each month. Next year it is estimated that three and a half million people will go through the state on their way to the 1984 New Orleans World's Fair. Mr. Still expressed the hope that some of these tourists will push the Mentone button and come to visit attractions here.

Markers Dedicated

Three historical markers were unveiled and dedicated on Sunday afternoon, October 23rd, the first time that any group has erected three markers at one time through the Alabama Historical Association. The markers are:

Sequoyah, inventor of the alphabet for Cherokee Indians.

Fort Payne's fort where Captain John Payne was in command.

Wills Town Mission erected in 1828 for the Indians.

Music was provided by the Fort Payne High School Band, directed by Gary Sims. The event was coordinated by landmarks of DeKalb County.

To become a member of Landmarks send \$10 to P.O. Box 518, Fort Payne, Ala. 35967.

VIEWPOINT

(Continued From Page 2)

wiches. I'd like for it to stay open nights. I can remember times Jean and I drove in from Jacksonville or Chattanooga and would have liked to stop somewhere for a cup of coffee and to ask someone, "What's been happening?"

There are plenty of friendly places that serve their purpose, but none at present that seem to meet the need Linda and I touched upon. Perhaps this is all too vague, needing some expansion of concept and implementation. Most likely it's a matter of private capital and not an organizational endeavor. But it is a clear and present need.

PAGE 4

Garden Club Hears About Perennials

Mrs. Jessie Whitehead, retired teacher and member of one of the Mentone's first families, was the featured speaker at the October meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club in the Kirk home. Mrs. Whitehead's topic was "Labor Savers: Perennials."

Although Mrs. Whitehead began by remarking that she was "looking ninety straight in the face," her presentation sparkled with wit and intelligence. She illustrated her talk with examples from her own yard and with poetry quoted from memory.

No plant is a total labor saver, but Mrs. Whitehead named many that are dependable, year after year. Her favorites are the native pines. Following these are the flowering trees — the dogwood, redbud (which likes lime), the wild crabapple, the mimosa, sourwood, and poplar. Mrs. Whitehead is aware that some of these trees are not popular with everyone, but she has her reasons for liking each — fragrance, color, or shape.

Shrubs mentioned by Mrs. Whitehead are the forsythia (or golden bell), weigelia, beauty bush, althea (rose of Sharon), deutzia, lilac, and scotch broom. The flowering quince and almond she remembers from her childhood as having made "good" switches. Wild shrubs favored by the speaker are the maple and oak leaf hydrangas. Dried hydranga flower clusters can be bleached to their original whiteness.

Mrs. Whitehead favors climbing roses since with a little care such as fertilizer, lime and mulch, they return annually in profuse bloom. Experience has taught her that the purple clematis is the hardiest vine. Clematis plants like "warm heads and cool feet" as well as lime and pinestraw mulching.

Phlox (which require steady watering), coreopsis, tiger lilies, and bulbs such as daffodils and crocuses are Mrs. Whitehead's favorite perennial flowers.

The Rhododendron Garden Club won a fifth prize in arranging at the DeKalb County Fair. Member Mrs. R. D. Blalock won first prize with a begonia plant.

Mrs. Helen Hill, president, passed around other awards for the group to share. The local club won a silver bowl for having the largest contingent present at the district meeting. Eight ladies attended. A Club of Distinction Award from the state applauded the Mentone group's achievements during the past year.

Club members voted to continue supporting the United Methodist Church's Christmas program by bringing canned goods and staples to the December meeting.

Three members, Lydia Speed, Anne Jackson, and Elizabeth Anne Stephens, will judge the Moon Lake School students' costumes at the Harvest Festival on Saturday, 29 October.

The next meeting of the garden club will be November 8 at the home of Beverly Hoyt.

American Legion

With the election of officers and the beginning of projects, American Legion Post 215 of Mentone is in process of revitalization. On October 28th at the Moon Lake School assembly the school will be presented a flag. Also at this gathering, Daniel Smith, 93 years old and a World War I veteran will be presented with a special plaque.

New officers of Post 215 are Commander, Leonard Shigley; Adjutant, Clarence Sheffield; Vice Commander, Waylon R. Bell; Service Officer, Emerson Brown; Chaplain, Leland Cox; Sergeant-at-Arms, Ralph Low.

Bob Climer, post reporter, states, "We are small in numbers, but big in enthusiasm. We are always seeking new members, as there seems to be an ever increasing civic need in our community."

Current members include Daniel Smith, Waylon R. Bell, Willis Blalock, Emerson Brown, Max Cash, Sam Cash Jr., Bob Climer, Edward Collier, Leland Cox, Jess N. Crabtree, James R. Ellis, Benny Goss, Paul Huffstutler, Herman Hughes, Luther King, Arnold Lance, Ralph Low, Raymond Ringer, Clarence Sheffield, Leonard Shigley, James Whitehead, James Wright, and William Holl McCarty.

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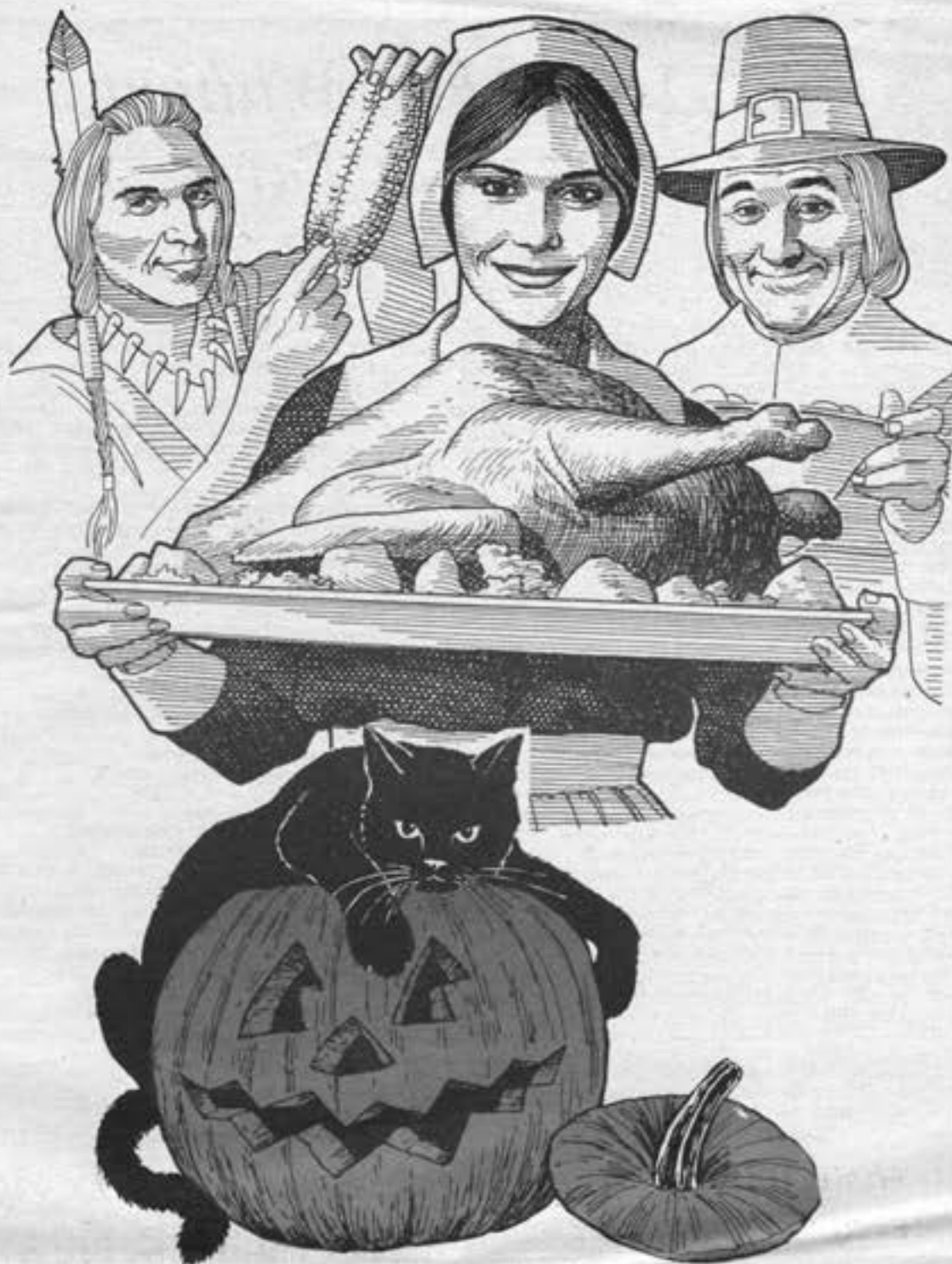
For Your Protection

To reach your Mentone policeman call:
634-4467 (Home)
Weekday mornings 634-3705 (Town Hall)
Other times: 1-845-3801

One of the listings in the current Mentone telephone directory is inaccurate. Do not call the 634-4444 number.

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The Law, Without Fear Or Favor

(Continued From Front Cover)

as a fireman, there were emergency occasions when he was utilized as a policeman because the Department of Public Safety coordinated both categories.

The twenty-four hour stints at the firehall in the central area of Birmingham largely involved rescue work, principally at public buildings when fires occurred. His narrowest escape came when a roof collapsed and he and several associates were injured.

During his early years in Birmingham he met and married Lucille Thomas, a native of the Magic City. They are parents of two sons: Donnie who now lives in Montgomery and Bobby of Fort Payne. He is a Baptist and a member of the International Association of Firefighters.

He retired from the Birmingham Fire Department in October 1972. Immediately he began work as maintenance director and caretaker at Camp DeSoto. This involves duties as watchman and the handling of plumbing, carpentry, and electrical work. He also drives one of the huge trucks which transports the young campers to their various jaunts across Lookout Mountain and along Little River.

During the remainder of the year when Camp DeSoto is closed, he has maintained a modest contracting business that installs septic tanks, driveways, pipelines, and some roadwork.

Should he be called Rufus or Colquitt? His wife calls him Rufus because this is the name he was commonly called during the Birmingham days, but virtually everyone in Mentone calls him Colquitt.

Without a doubt his hobby is music. On a fiddle he bought from Finn Crow when he was about twelve years old, and has played across the years, he plays country and bluegrass. By rough computation this

violin is 55 years old. He has been playing with the same group for 14 years. They are popular performers at parties, gatherings at private homes, and various public occasions.

"Are you a good fiddler?" he was asked. "I'm not the worst," he replied modestly.

Does he play the fiddle when he is under pressure, or worried? "I like to play the fiddle any time."

The Groundhog interviewer then turned to the most important question most persons ask about the Mentone Police Department.

"How do we get in touch with the policeman in event of a break-in or any other emergency?"

The answers were direct, obviously having been carefully thought out. All citizens should write down these numbers. It would be helpful to place them beside the telephone, or write them on a card and paste it on the bottom of the phone.

"The first number to call, especially at night, is my home phone:"

634-4467

"During weekday mornings, call the Town Hall:"

634-3705

"At any time, any day or night, do not hesitate to call the DeKalb Sheriff's Department:"

1-845-3801

Policeman Jones is constantly in touch with the sheriff's office via his car radio. Usually when he is away from the car, he carries an efficient walkie-talkie. In summation about availability: our policeman is constantly available through any of the above-listed telephone numbers.

"What are your working hours?"

"Officially, according to the pay schedule I work a

40-hour week. But I'm available for emergency calls 24-hours a day, seven days a week."

"Do you work any regular hours each day?"

"No. It can vary, and often does from day to day. If I have been up most of the night, for instance, I'll need some sleep during the day."

"Do you work in cooperation with the Valley Head and Hammondville police?"

"Yes. But they should not be called in emergencies. They also are on the same radio channel as the sheriff's department. Call the sheriff's office if I'm not available. But we do work together on cases where there is need. We have some of the same problems they do, and things sometimes overlap."

"Will you go to the Police Academy?"

"This has been under discussion and consideration. The decision doesn't have to be made for about six months. If there seems to be a real need — I'll probably go."

"What about enforcement?"

"Arrested offenders will be taken to the County Jail in Fort Payne. Monthly court will be held at our Town Hall on a monthly basis, with Judge Terry Bush, our Mentone judge, presiding."

Policeman Jones was then asked if he had any special message for the young people of Mentone.

"I promise to be your friend. I would like to get to know each of you. Don't ever hesitate to get in touch with me. You can help me with my work, help us make this a better town, and I assure you I'll keep in confidence anything we talk about."

"Will the new DUI law adopted by the Town Council be enforced?"

"It certainly will."

"How can the citizens of our town help you in your work?"

"I promise to the utmost of my ability to be courteous and polite. But to do my job well, I must have public cooperation and public support. I was born and raised here and I know our people well. I ask all of my friends and acquaintances not to defy the law. I will keep in confidence any information given me. In all cases, however, I intend to enforce the law without fear or favor. Let's all be friends and keep Mentone a friendly and orderly town."



Lee Davenport, Max Cash, and Kenneth Crowe discuss an issue at the October Town Council meeting, while Hobson Kirby and Mayor Rob Hammond prepare to depart after the meeting.

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Calendar

Friday, Oct. 28 — noon — **SECOND ANNUAL MENTONE OCTOBER COLOR FESTIVAL** begins; Sidewalk Cafe at Brownie's, Hitching Post.
5 p.m. — German food at the Log Cabin Deli.
Dusk — Ghost story telling contest and bon fire, Mentone Inn.

Saturday, Oct. 29 — 10 a.m. — Hay rides and Mentone Maggie rides from the Mentone Inn.

11 a.m. — Name the Groundhog and Little Miss Color fest contests at the Hitching Post.

3:30 p.m. — Cake Walk upstairs at the Hitching Post.

4 p.m. — **HARVEST FESTIVAL BEGINS AT MOON LAKE SCHOOL WITH HOT DOG AND CHILI SUPPER.**

5 p.m. — Prettiest Legs in Mentone — men only — White Elephant.

— **FURTHER MOON LAKE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES:** Halloween costume contest; Country Store; Games for ALL ages; cake walk, movies with popcorn; king and queen contest.

8 p.m. — Night of the Tenth Moon costume ball at the Mentone Springs Hotel.

Sunday, Oct. 30 — 9 a.m. — Brunch at Brownie's Sidewalk Cafe, Hitching Post.

10 a.m. — Gospel Singing on the Mentone Inn lawn.

2 p.m. — **FIRST ANNUAL GROUNDHOG CLASSIC RUN.** Hitching Post.

3:30 p.m. Scenic Caravan tour of Mentone.

Tuesday, Nov. 1 — 7 p.m. — MAPA meets at Brownie's, Hitching Post. Homer Crow, director.

Thursday, Nov. 3 — 7 p.m. — Volunteer Fire Dept. meets at Fire Hall. Sam Cash, chief.

Monday, Nov. 7 — 6 p.m. — Town Council meets. Town Hall. Rob Hammond, mayor.

Tuesday, Nov. 8 — 10 a.m. — Rhododendron Garden Club meets at the Hoyt home. Helen Hill, president.

Wednesday, Nov. 9 — 10 a.m. — Bookmobile comes to Town Hall.

Thursday, Nov. 17 — 7 p.m. — Volunteer Fire Dept. at Fire Hall.

Wednesday, Nov. 23 — 10 a.m. — Bookmobile come to Town Hall. Deadline for Groundhog copy for December issue.



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WAIVER: In consideration of accepting this entry, I the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all claims for losses and damages I may have against M.A.P.A. and all other parties and their representatives, successors, and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me in said event. I attest and verify that I am physically fit. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all foregoing to use photos, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose whatsoever. NO ONE MAY ENTER THIS EVENT WITHOUT SIGNING THIS OFFICIAL WAIVER.





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Rescue Squad: 634-4635;
634-4140; 634-4166
Highway Patrol: 845-5109

Mentone Police
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 634-3705
After 11:00 a.m. 634-4507
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

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Mentone:
7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. 634-3705
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634-4446, 634-4274
Valley Head: 635-6111

SCHOOLS

Moon Lake: 634-4133
Valley Head High School: 635-6228

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Max Cash
Lee Davenport
Hobson Kirby
Kenneth Crowe
Catherine Bailey, City Clerk
H. P. Goss, Water Department
Colquitt Jones, Police

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Sunday Services: 11:00 A. M., 7 P. M.
Thursday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 P. M.
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The Rev. Joey Kirby, minister
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Preaching Hour: 11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Service: 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Training Hour: 6:30 P.M.
Telephone: 634-4418

MOON LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rev. William Steele, minister
Sunday School: 9:45 A.M.
Sunday Services: 11:00 A.M., 7:00
P.M.
Sunday Training Union: 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 6:30
P.M. Telephone: 634-4427

MENTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Rev. Brian Wyatt, minister
Sunday School: 10 A.M.
Sunday Service: 11 A.M.
Sunday Bible Study Group: 6:00 P.M.
Telephone: 635-6561

MENTONE WESLEYAN CHURCH

The Rev. A. C. Clemens, minister
Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship: 10:50 A.M., 6:00
P.M.
Wednesday Evening Service: 7:00
P.M. Telephone: 634-4210

ST. JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Graham Glover, minister
Sunday School: 10:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship: 11:00 A.M.
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 P.M.
Telephone: 634-4210

MENTONE REVIVAL CENTER

The Rev. James Bates, minister
Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.
Worship Service: 11:00 A. M., 6 P. M.
Wed. Prayer Meeting: 6:30 P. M.
Telephone: 634-4212

CAMP SADDLE ROCK: Marty Griffin, director; Girls' Summer Camp; June 19, July 17, July 31. 634-4608.

CAMP WOODMONT: Jane Bennett, director; Boys' and Girls' Summer Camp; June 26, July 10, July 24. 404-284-5369.

CAMP SKYLINE RANCH: Susan C. Hooks, director. Girls' summer camp. June 16-29; July 1-26; July 29-Aug. 11. 634-3201.

CAMP ALPINE: Richard O'Ferrall, director; Camp for boys; June 13 and July 11. 634-4200.

CAMP DeSOTO: Sue Henry, director; Camp for girls; June 14, July 14. 634-3411.

CAMP LANEY: Rob Hammond, director; Camp for boys; June 18, July 2, July 17, July 31. 634-3561.

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PONDEROSA BIBLE CAMP: Glenn Miller, director; Christian Youth Camp, June 13 through July 30. 634-3795.

CAMP JULIETTE LOW: Kathy Holly, director; Girl Scout Camp in Cloudland, Ga., four two-week sessions from June 19 to Aug. 13. (404) 428-0446.

COMER SCOUT RESERVATION: Bob Dunaway, director; Boy Scout Camps June 12-July 16. 634-3445.

VALLEY VIEW RANCH: Nancy Jones, director; Cloudland, Ga., three sessions from June 19 to Aug. 14.

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