

the GROUNDHOG

VOL. 3 - NO. 8 - NOVEMBER 1985 A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Cooperative: That's The Word For Carmichael

He remembers how tough it was to study in the dim light of an open fireplace and a kerosene lamp. He was envious when he looked out across the fields to see the heartwarming electric lights in Hammondville, which was served by Alabama Power. He remembers the sheer joy of the first family purchase after the advent of the Rural Electric Cooperatives — a refrigerator which made possible ice cream and iced tea.

These things are important to Jim Carmichael, new president of the Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative. He became a member of the SMEC board of directors in 1970, was elected vice-president in 1982, and elevated to the presidency at the annual meeting in September.

It was in 1983 that Carmichael received a Director's Certificate Award from the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association. The award is result of completion of a specified number of courses, sometimes offered at various places in the nation, at irregular times. Thus a considerable amount of travel and study were involved. The categories covered involve board responsibility, planning, finance, member and public relations, employee relations, and financial report analysis.

Following the death of his mother, Emma Lou Jones, he was raised by his sister Pauline, who was 14 years older. Most summers were spent in Mentone with his uncle Ernest and Aunt Minnie Jones. He and their son Guy, now president of Citizens Bank in Valley Head, were like brothers. They both remember going to The Hitching Post with baskets of eggs and buying candy.

Graduating from Valley Head High School in



1944, he served in the Merchant's Marine for two years, occasionally encountering Jimmy Berry and Guy Jones who were in this service. He went as far east as the Philippines and in the Atlantic twice to France to bring home troops.

After leaving the service his first jobs were with Kingsberry Homes and later a chemical cotton laboratory in Chattanooga. He married Doris Helms and in 1952 bought a gasoline station-grocery and Greyhound bus stop in Hammondville from his wife's father.

(Continued On Page 6)

The First Thanksgiving In Mentone	Back Cover
Musical Mountain Christmas	Page 1

New Applicant Files For Mentone Cable TV

At the November fourth Town Council meeting Boyce Dooley of Clear-Vu Cable TV Company asked permission to establish his services in Mentone. He has already purchased the Hightower place on the north brow as a recreational facility for his employees. Mr. Dooley's company provides cable TV for Menlo, Summerville, Lysterly, Trenton and two towns in Tennessee.

Mayor Rob Hammond and council members questioned Mr. Dooley about the extent of the channels Clear-Vu Cable would offer. The basic service includes 12 channels, including ESPN and Nashville. However, HBO and Showtime would be an additional \$10-\$11 each per month. The basic fee is \$11 monthly. In order to get Cinemax, a movie channel, it is necessary for customers to purchase a converter, which costs from \$20 to \$65. Mr. Dooley stated that it would be from four to twelve months after people have signed up before the service begins. The town of Mentone would receive 3% of the base fee charged each customer.

Although Mr. Dooley would like for 200 of Mentone's 484 residents to sign up for his service, "I am committed to take the risk," he said. Since the council had already heard a similar proposal from Bill Kidder, the mayor will make the decision as to which company will receive the Mentone business. "It's not going to cost the city anything," Hobson Kirby stated.

In regular business the council voted unanimously to purchase fog lights for the police car. Bill Russell, Richard Meadows, and the mayor will examine business licenses to determine correctness of fees. The town has recently re-filled pot holes. The damaged water tanks are being repaired.

Council members unanimously passed a resolution formalizing the grant application for the new neighborhood facility building. Catherine Bailey, town clerk, was empowered to renew membership in the Alabama Rural Water Association and in TARCOG.

Mayor Hammond urged as many councilmen and citizens as possible to attend State Senator Lowell Barron's Nov. 23 dinner at Northeast Ala. Junior College. — JDM

Musical Mountain Christmas, 1985



Full community participation is expected at the annual Musical Mountain Christmas celebration on Saturday, December 14th. Church ministers, choirs, town officials, Moon Lake School students and others should gather at the Post Office parking lot at 4:30 p.m.

Using flashlights instead of candles, the procession will walk to Old Hotel Square. Santa Claus (Walter Sumner) will follow the procession in Dorothy Crow's Mentone Maggie vehicle. At the Mentone Inn parking lot, each church will have one special song, followed by the lighting of the community tree, singing by everyone present, and distribution of goodies by Santa to the children. There will be a collection barrel present for contributions to Moon Lake School.

Angelo Rosario, who organized the parade for the Rhododendron Festival this year and successfully directed the October Colorfest, is in charge of arrangements.

Mentone Area Preservation Association CHRISTMAS DINNER at CRAGSMERE MANNA

Tuesday, Dec. 3

6:30 p.m.

\$7.50, including
tax and tip

Phone President Amelia Brooks at 634-4836
by Friday, Nov. 29, for reservation.

Harvest Festival Nov. 16

On Saturday, November 16th, the Moon Lake Harvest Festival will begin at 6 p.m. There will be hayrides, fortune telling, a country store, spook house, and crowning of the king and queen. There will be games and food for everyone.

PTA chairperson Gay Godbois announces committees: Food, Cheryl Crane and Delight Pruitt; Games, Nancy and Bill Rutledge and Linda and Glenn Miller; Publicity, Bill Berry; Prizes, Eddie Kirby; Set-up and Clean-up, Amy and Leonard Keith; Solicitation, Vonda Lee and Sibil Hopper.

King and queen candidates for each room are Mr. Bell's room, Jeff Crow and Jennifer Furgerson; Mrs. Smith's room, John Chambers; Mr. Berry's room, Jeff Hopper and Gayla Bell; Mrs. Bobo's room, Curt Miller and Kerry Blalock.

Everyone in the area is invited to join in the fun and to help Moon Lake School in its drive to secure three additional acres needed to become state approved and thus eligible for funds to help in erecting the gym.

Political Dignitaries Attend MAPA Meeting



MAPA Director Amelia Brooks and Ray Bass.

A virtual Who's Who of office holders in northeast Alabama was present at the November fifth meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association at the parlor of St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Church. The principal speaker, State Highway Director Ray Bass, expressed interest in the proposed Lookout Mountain Scenic Parkway, agreed to have a center line painted down DeSoto Parkway, and gave a thorough overview of the Alabama highway system. Director Amelia Brooks presided.

Numerous office holders were present: State Senator Lowell Barron, Representative Ralph Burke, DeKalb County Commissioner W. C. Buttram, Mayor Rob Hammond, and representatives from Georgia, Tennessee, and Etowah and Cherokee Counties in Alabama, including James Young, Robert L. Smith, Billy Ray McKee, Roger C. Ellison, Danny Crowder, Jesse Burns, Billy McDow (Chairman, Lookout Mt. Parkway), Charley Baker, Bob Elmore (Chattanooga Visitors Bureau), Carl Gibson (Ruby Falls, V. P. for Tenn.), Jackie Weaver, Harvey A. Flamholtz (DeKalb County Engineer), Jerry L. Gladden, Joe Barnes (Noccalula Falls), Bob Douglass (Gadsden-Etowah Chamber of Commerce), Charles R. Moody, Richard J. Lindsey, Janice G. Smith (Pres., Property Owners Association, Cloudland), and Bill O'Neal (V. P., Ga. Parkway).

Ray Bass was first appointed state highway director in 1972 and has since been re-appointed twice. He stated that 1990 will mark the end of the federal interstate programs. Portions in Alabama still being completed are 65 North and 20 East out of Birmingham, Huntsville spur 565, 210 connector in Mobile, and 759 connector in Gadsden. "Fifty percent of the population doesn't remember when there were no interstate routes," Mr. Bass said. Today some \$58 million is spent annually on six or eight road projects in the state. After 1990 \$160-170 million can be spent on primary roads like 35, 80, and 72.

Stating that he is "interested in" the proposed Lookout



W. C. Buttram, Harvey Flamholtz, Bob Douglass, Richard Lindsey, Senator Lowell Barron, Ray Bass, and Representative Ralph Burke with the proposed routes of the Lookout Mountain Parkway.

Mountain Parkway that "will put Lookout Mountain on the map," Bass got his first look at the routes suggested by the directors of the parkway, composed of representatives from the three states involved.

Carl Gibson, vice president of the Tennessee directors of the Lookout Mountain Parkway, stated that in six weeks all of the signs will be up in his state. Representative Ralph Burke said that the three Alabama counties involved have all passed resolutions supporting the parkway. Bill O'Neal, another vice president, from the Georgia delegation, reported that Georgia "is ready to pave to the Alabama state line," those unpaved portions of the proposed route.

There remains some 20 miles of unpaved roads, 14 miles near Cloudland, and the rest near Mentone. Three alternate routes are proposed, DeSoto Parkway on to Ponderosa Road; Cove Road through Mentone; highway 158 in Georgia along the top of the mountain. The plan calls for an atop-the-mountain loop or oval route to and from each end of Lookout Mountain, some 90 miles long.

John Morrison asked why National Guard truck loads of chert were not sent to Lookout Mountain as requested by MAPA, and County Engineer Harvey Flamholtz replied that there were two major disasters last year, that he was short-handed, and that DeKalb County has more roads than any other county in the state except Jefferson County. There are some 800 miles of roads; each needs re-surfacing every 7-8 years, requiring the county to re-surface 100 miles of road annually.

Jack Jones, owner-operator of Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort, said that last year there were 55 skiing days that brought 10,000 paid skiers and 100,000 visitors to Cloudmont. He was promised five loads of chert for the road leading off DeSoto Parkway into the resort.

Angelo Rosario received applause for his directing of the October Colorfest. The Third Annual Groundhog Classic Run reported approximately \$553 profit. Refreshments prepared by Dorothy Crow and Mabel Kirk were served to some fifty persons attending the meeting.

Fire Chief Cash Resigns

Fire chief Sammy Cash resigned his position effective November first, although he will still hold office on the Fire Department Board of Directors. Mr. Cash has held the position since 1979. Acting chief is Hershell Pruitt.

In announcing his resignation Mr. Cash said to *The Groundhog*: "It was always my intention to resign when the indebtedness for the truck and building were paid off. Now that this has been done I am ready for the leadership to fall into other hands. I plan to remain active."

Mayor Rob Hammond expressed regret at the resignation. "We hate to see him resign," he said, "but we hope he will remain active."

One of Chief Cash's last announcements was that the Fire Department is planning construction of a small building to be added onto the Fire House which will be used as quarters for a small truck which has been procured. Construction will be underway within the month.

Enthusiastic Gathering For Community Center

There was enthusiastic support of the Town Council's grant application for a "neighborhood facility center" at the public hearing held at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church Oct. 21.

Mayor Rob Hammond and councilmen Richard Meadows and Max Cash were present. Attorney Steve Noles was a visitor. Citizens present included Frances and Angelo Rosario, Linda and Bobby Brown, Donna Bukley, Betty Harris, Homer Crow, and Jean McGehee.

Mr. Hammond stated that the town made "three or four applications on the water grant to get it funded," and that it may be necessary to try more than once for the community building. Initially, the site being considered is the seven acres owned by the town where the old dump was located.

Those present suggested other site possibilities — the vacant lot adjacent to McGee's Gulf Mart and property adjoining Moon Lake School. Should an alternate site become available, the application may be amended, Mr. Hammond said.

Mr. Cash noted that there had been a "good bit" of opposition some years ago when a proposal to build tennis courts alongside the Town Hall building was defeated.

Donna Bukley suggested that council members might want to volunteer to work for the June Jam in order to be eligible for applying for funds from its proceeds. The town must furnish ten or fifteen percent of the \$150,000 proposed for the community center.

All Mentone residents are urged to write their legislators for their help toward securing the center. Their addresses appear in the Directory on the back cover of *The Groundhog*.

Following the November fourth Town Council meeting, Mayor Hammond is compiling a list of organizations which might make use of the new community building. This information has to be on file by the middle of December.

MAPA Minutes

The MAPA meeting was held at St. Joseph's Church Nov. sixth. Amelia Brooks, director, presided. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$5,300.60, and **The Groundhog** balance was \$847.81. Although all committees have not yet reported on the October Colorfest, everyone felt it was a success. An impressive number of dignitaries was present from three states involved in the proposed Lookout Mt. Parkway. Angelo Rosario described the Musical Mountain Christmas festivities. A motion was voted to have the Christmas meeting a dinner at Cragmere Manna again. Guest speaker was Ray Bass, Ala. Commissioner of Highways.

Condensed from the minutes of
Bill Riedesel, secretary

Groundhog Finance Report

OCTOBER ISSUE

Income	
Balance on hand	\$881.82
Ad sales	755.00
	\$1,636.82
Debits	
The Summerville News	\$415.75
Campbell's Florist	18.73
U. S. Post Office, bulk & stamps	92.08
Ken Pennington, drawing	10.00
McGehees, expenses & editing	100.00
Angelo Rosario, photo	5.00
Donna Bukley, sales & delivery	147.45
	\$789.01
Balance on hand	\$847.81

Letters To Editor

Enclosed is my payment for **THE GROUNDHOG**. I must say it's one of the best monthly publications I get, including magazines — especially magazines. I treasure each copy. I was lucky enough to live up there (my late husband and I) for three years, next door to Eleanor and Pete Moerlins. My husband left his mark with a stone wall built on the brow of our property. Congratulations on your legacy to Mentone, Alabama.

Jeanette H. Alexander
Trussville, Alabama

Non-Profit Publishers

Dave Marion, publisher of **Sand Mountain News** (10-17-85) wrote the following in his column "Main Street": I enjoyed spending last weekend visiting friends in Mentone. The leaves up there are just now starting to turn and in a few weeks they will really be something to see. My friends Amelia and Bob Brooks own and operate the Mentone Inn, a Bed and Breakfast lodging on the mountain at Mentone. Several couples were up there from Birmingham for the weekend and to see the autumn leaves. Amelia said they stayed booked in advance this time of year. It was also fun to walk over a few blocks and spend some time with Jean and Charles McGehee, editor and publisher respectively of **THE GROUNDHOG**. Charles and I have one thing in common . . . we both publish non-profit newspapers. The only difference is, Charles plans it that way. **THE GROUNDHOG** is published by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. . . . While Charles and I visited, Jean made one last trip to the garden, gathering greens before the frost gets them.

Winter Sports

As you've probably noticed, it's getting colder as we move into November in Mentone. With cold weather on us, and snow not far behind, the young-at-heart are already preparing for a variety of winter sports. After all, who says that snow and ice can't be fun?

In the Mentone area one might find several interesting and entertaining winter sports. As soon as it gets cold enough to produce snow, Cloudmont Ski Resort will begin its new season. But don't worry. For the more budget-minded, fun can still be found on the mountain. There's always sledding, skating, repelling, hiking, and, of course, hunting. So hurry up, get ready for some outstanding winter fun this year. But for the most entertaining sport yet, try warming yourself by a roaring fireplace. It's sure to please. — Gregory Purvis

Rescue Squad News

The Desoto Rescue Squad would like to inform its members and the public of their new meeting time: the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

The Rescue Squad would also like to announce a Christmas party to be held at Fergusons Restaurant the first Monday of December. At this party, the members will elect new officers.

Camps Accredited

Two Mentone camps, Laney and Saddle Rock, have received accreditation by the American Camping Association, a professional organization dedicated to programs in leadership, ethics, standards, education, and management of youth camps.

Certificates of accreditation provide a mechanism for evaluation of operation and programs. The ACA publishes "Parent's Guide to Accredited Camps," listing over 2,000 accredited camps.

The Groundhog

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

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

Brow Briefs

Mentone people are doing something about support for the Alabama Symphony Concert at the Opera House in Fort Payne, April 8, 1986. Mary Weigand, Ruby Sully, and Ed and Gerry Disney were recently photographed for the **Times-Journal**, urging purchase of tickets at Harco Drugs.

Senior attendant at the Fort Payne Homecoming festivities was Shala Barron.

Boy Scouts Bryan Bobo, Pack 70 of Fischer, and Flynt Purvis, Pack 165 of Mentone, were shown in **The Fort Payne Times-Journal** giving an award to Alabama band members for their generosity and dedication to scouting. Bob Dunaway, district scout executive and director of Camp Comer, was also pictured.

Material for various stories in this issue was gathered by our new student reporter, Greg Purvis. Greg is a junior at Fort Payne High School and seriously interested in writing. Bobbie Riedesel, wife of MAPA's secretary and a retired nurse, is assisting Jean with the layout now.

Mentone students in the Valley Head Homecoming Court were Rusty Chambers, Mary Ann Furgerson, Queen Bonnie Blalock, Dianne Smith, Richard Green, and Keith Langston.

Congratulations to Therese Disney Cox and Gail Worthey for inclusion of recipes in the Fort Payne **Times-Journal** holiday cookbook.

Celebrating



Celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary during the October Colorfest were George and Doris Capps, Fairfield, Alabama, former residents in Mentone. They lived in the home now occupied by Mrs. Monroe Crowe. Mrs. Capps was a friend of Colonel Milford Howard, often entertaining him in their home. She is a talented artist and writer.

Business News

The Gourdie's, Sharon Barron's cottage industry creatures, continue to get nation-wide media attention. The October 8 issue of **Globe** ran a photo of Sharon and a story quoting her describing the individuality of each Gourdie. "They can be anything their owner wants them to be," she said.

Willo and William Blackburn are having an attractive new roof put on their Mentone Superette. "The last flash floods really hurt the old roof," William said.

According to owner Randy Still, Cragmere Manna Restaurant will be on a revised schedule during the winter months, effective immediately. The new schedule is Friday and Saturday, 5-9; Sunday, 12-3. Parties may be scheduled anytime during the week.

Both Whatley's and Furgerson's are having new canopies installed over their gas pumps.

Mountain Watch

By Charles White McGehee

No year is complete without a visit to First Monday in Scottsboro. It was that first cold November day, sharp wind and dismal sky. While Jean shopped for groceries at Piggly Wiggly, I wandered around that courthouse square, so fraught with the terrible memories of the trial of the Scottsboro boys. Behind the tables were friendly people who seemed more eager to talk than sell their goods. There was a variety of wares: the usual old rusty tools; jewelry; potters' works; the frightening guns and knives — all a far cry from the days when First Monday was specifically for the trading of mules. My principal purchase was two Frank Sinatra cassettes. Then, shivering from the wind, I saw a sign **HOT PEANUTS — BOILED AND ROASTED**. A 50c bag of the boiled warmed my spirits.

Woody Hays, the salty former football coach at Ohio State, was recently asked why he never considered leaving the relatively small city of Columbus to go to New York. He replied that he preferred small towns because "there were so many people to take care of you." Here at Mentone I have independently avoided any need or reason to be taken care of. Yet there is such security in knowledge of the people who care. It was a mighty good feeling to have the mayor call during the bad ice storms to know how we were; to have Randy Still suddenly appear at the door with pails of water when no water otherwise was available; people who check with you by phone when the weather is bad; the many who offer to drive you to the doctor in Chattanooga. It's a network of care, plain and constant of which many people are both involved and who are recipients. That's what the best little small town in America is all about.

Progress moves along at the bottom of the mountain on the community center of the Valley Head Promenaders, the clogging group of which Ovie Blalock is president. Drivers along 117 first saw the clearing of the underbrush; the digging of the septic tank lines; foundation; framing; and at this point, the siding. Because the volunteers work only on Saturdays, one tends to ask, "What did they do this time?" Ovie has said that the facility will be available to groups other than the cloggers. This was especially important before announcement that Mentone is applying for a grant for a community center, which could be over a year away. Until then there might well be need for certain uses by Mentone groups. Mentone and Valley Head already share a family physician, barber, bank, drugstore, and other services. Would there ever be a time when conditions called for the sharing of combined police and fire department at a location near the cloggers' center?

FIRST-TIMERS OF AUTUMN: That first new apple, so sharp and sweet to the taste . . . Those first peanuts, an entire batch boiled for eight hours in salt water in the crockpot; the second batch roasted mellow and addictive in the oven . . . That first squirrel in the yard. For weeks none had been sighted. Does this mean a heavy or a light winter? We'll soon know. There have been years when our grounds were swarming with squirrels during summer and fall . . . That first banana nut bread baked by Jean, with a prime basis of tediously extracted hickory kernels . . . The seasons change and there is ecstasy with the changes. The elements of the First Times of each season should be relished to the utmost.

Recently in the study I've been rearranging books on the shelf. The purpose is to get some books where I can reach them more easily. For instance, books on philosophy, psychology, and theology are being pushed farther down the shelves in order to more easily get at volumes on chess and music. So the song, "What Are You Going to Do With the Rest of Your Life?" is relevant. The old word "retirement" is involved, a word I find most uncomfortable. It has connotations of going to sleep, withdrawing. Potter Charles Counts said it well, "I may resign, but I'll never retire." Somewhere a business woman expressed it this way: "I'm going to improve a few more years and then slide down the hill gracefully." Retirement-resignation is different now. The median age for "retirement" is now 62. So there is a vibrant new culture out here in the world, to be heard, reckoned with, people with more time and some expertise. More and more they will be interested in more issues than the protection of Social Security. There are other social securities being neglected, and an increasing vigilance is mounting. Right on!

We should all express our appreciation to Sammy Cash on the occasion of his resignation as fire chief. He was one on the first cover people of the **The Groundhog**. It was his enthusiasm and background as a forester that gave impetus for development of the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District. He has right to be proud of having accomplished his goal of paying off the debts of the department. Obviously he will still be busy with duties on the county democratic committee and on the Baptist Hospital Board. When Jean and I moved to Mentone he was one of the first persons to extend a warm hand of friendship.

From The Editor

Because of an error the October edition of **THE GROUNDHOG** was listed as "November" on the masthead. Historians and readers should note that there were not two Novembers on the calendar for 1985. The current issue is indeed November. Apologies especially to the Libras.

Mentone Honor Roll Students

With the end of the first six weeks' grading term at Valley High School, several Mentone students earned positions on the Honor Roll: Twelfth Grade: Bonnie Blalock (all A's) and Kim Langston (all A's and B's); Eleventh Grade: Joy Bain and Lisa Huskey (all A's and B's); Tenth grade: Lea Smith (all A's), Karen Bain, Holly Day, Brinin Bain, and Frankie Hall (all A's and B's); Ninth Grade: Laura Harrison and Jennifer Prestwood (all A's), Paulette Goss, Jennifer Sutton (all A's and B's); Eighth Grade: Holly Brown (all A's), Angie Bell and Georgette McGee (all A's and B's).

Several new members entered the Beta Club from the Mentone area: Karen Bain, Holly Day, Lea Smith, and Lisa Huskey. Congratulations to all of these outstanding students.

Happy Birthday!



Maude Elizabeth Colquitt, born in Polk County, Georgia, October 22, 1892, came to Mentone with her family in 1915. In 1918, after the war, she married Hardy Jones, son of Thomas and Almada Crow Jones. Because of their health, her parents moved to Rome, Georgia. The story goes that "the fire didn't go out in the fireplace" before Hardy and Maude Jones moved into the home where she had lived before her marriage. Their last two children were born here, and she prefers to be in this home today. Rufus Colquitt, the oldest son, is Mentone's police chief. Daughters Elizabeth Romans and Mary Louise Cauthen, both retired nurses, alternate in caring for their mother. Mrs. Jones' other children are Ed and Lovejoy (deceased). Mr. Jones passed away in 1977. Mrs. Jones was the oldest of eleven children. At her birthday party in Rome recently, three of her sisters were present. Since she was 27 when she married, her younger sisters remember her "just like a mother." She is the only living charter member of Moon Lake Baptist Church.

Mayor's Report

I attended the November meeting of MAPA to hear state highway director Ray Bass speak. Mr. Bass spoke of the near completion of the main interstates in Alabama, and the plans for future improvements on state routes. One positive and concrete result of Mr. Bass' speaking in Mentone was that he promised to line the DeSoto Parkway even though it is a county maintained road.

Also present at the meeting were representatives from three states interested in the proposed Lookout Mountain Parkway which would run from Gadsden to Chattanooga. There was a recent article in the Times-Journal about the parkway, but no one to date has contacted the town about the proposal. Before a route is decided, the public that is affected ought to have some input. From what I understand, the parkway route, which would be marked by special signs, would come through Mentone in one of two ways. One route would come from the north down the now dirt Ponderosa road, by the water tanks, Log Cabin Deli, Mentone Springs Hotel, across AL 117, and follow the DeSoto Parkway south. The other route would come down the Cove Road (from Walker Co., GA) by Camps Skyline and DeSoto, west on 117 to Mentone, and then south on the Parkway.

Promoters of the parkway are asking the county to pave the Ponderosa road to the state line (approximately 5.6 miles). The estimated cost would be about \$250,000. County Commission Chairman W. C. Buttram and County Engineer Harvey Flamholtz were present at the meeting, and pointed out that DeKalb Co. is second in road miles only to Jefferson Co., and that the county is not in position to pave the road at this time. Mr. Bass said the state is not interested in taking control of the road.

I urge all interested citizens to express their support or opposition to the proposed routes of the Lookout Mountain Parkway to: Senator Lowell Barron, P. O. Box 65, Fayette, AL 35971, and Rep. Ralph Burke, P. O. Box 876, Ft. Payne, AL 35967. **ROB HAMMOND**



**CRAGMERE
MANNA
RESTAURANT**

WINTER HOURS
Fri., Sat. 5 to 9
Sun. 12-3
634-4677



Moon Lake School News

Perfect Attendance

Moon Lake School students who have perfect attendance records for two full months of school are:

Kindergarten, Grace Godbois, teacher: Mandi Browder, Krissy Brown, Teri Campbell, Starla Crowe, Ryan Drake, Brad Hale, Haley Hilliard, Grant Meadows, Jennifer Smith.

Grade 1, Brenda Bobo, teacher: Brian Blalock, Kerry Blalock, Amy Crane, Ginger Gray, Casey Hudgins, Heather Jackson, Renee Pruitt, Brian Smith, Mikki Smith, Brandon Taylor, Emily Rutledge.

Grade 2, Brenda Bobo, teacher: Shuan Flannigan, Chad Smith, Chris O. Smith.

Grade 2, William Berry, teacher: Jon Baggett, Joseph Bain, Shaunathan Bell, Crystal Bettis, Timmy Brown, Shirley Collins, Yon Hopper, Jeffrey Hopper.

Grade 3, William Berry, teacher: Nichole Cash, Angelia Coots, Lyndall Elkins, Holly Gardner, Josh Godbois, Jennifer Hale, Cheri Keith, Eric King, Joseph Lee, Glynt Purvis, Chris Smith, Matthew Smith, Cyle Springman.

Grade 4, Joyce Smith, teacher: John Chambers, Heath Blalock, Heather Blansit, Michael Flannigan, Jeremy Hope, Bridgett Blalock, Duane Blalock, Sally Sharp, Junior Smith, Greg Wheat.

Grade 5, Joyce Smith, teacher: Kip Taylor, Carla King, Whitney Smith, Kelly Johnson, Stacie Worthey.

Grade 5, Charles Bell, teacher: Charlton Bell, Shannon Blalock, Ivy Godbois, Clay Green, Allison Kirby, Laura Schoen, Sam Whitley.

Grade 6, Charles Bell, teacher: Dewayne Cash, Tiffany Coots, Jeff Crow, Denise Hilliard, Michele Hopper, Carlotta McGee, Clark Smith, Chris Stallings, Spring Wimberly.

Children who had perfect attendance for the second month only are **Kindergarten**, Rene Brendle and Johnathan Tate. **Grade 1**, Anna Crow, Christy Ferguson, and Misty Ferguson. **Grade 2**, Shelly Holland, Cayla Bell, Lisa Drake, Josh Goss, and Trevor Strickland. **Grade 3**, Jason Goss and Nicky Langston. **Grade 4**, Loretta McGee, Darrin Smith, and Joe Combs. **Grade 5**, April Langston and Marian Crane. **Grade 6**, Nathan Baggett, Jennifer Furgerson, Richard Harrison, and Shane Ingram.

Valley Head Radio Station



At the bottom of the mountain, just off Highway 117, radio station WQRX is expected to begin broadcasting sometime in December. It will broadcast from sunup to sundown at 870 on the AM dial, stereo, at a power of 5,000 watts. Owners are Jeff Cook and Tom Crowe who will be manager. The station fulfills a dream the two have had for several years. Manager Crowe states that the best solid state equipment is being utilized. "Our station will have an adult contemporary format with a mixture of oldies." **DONNA BUKLEY**

Seminar For Retirees

A seminar open to the public will be held at Williams Avenue School, Fort Payne, December third at 6:30 p.m. on "Retirement — How to Get There and Enjoy It." AARP, RSVP, COA, Auburn Extension, RTA, and Edward D. Jones and Company are sponsoring the seminar. The objective of the program is to educate pre- and recent retirees on where to go for help and answers to problems they might encounter.

There will be three speakers: Dr. Will Reid, a family life specialist at Auburn University; John Darnell, CPA with Borders and Associates, will speak on retirement and Uncle Sam; Louise Hodges, a health and insurance specialist, will speak on Medicare; David Brouwer, financial planning and investment counselor for Edward D. Jones and Company, will moderate.

The Hitching Post

CROWS' NEST
ANTIQUES

Jean Elrod — Bernice Crow



Proud Winners

The Mentone Baseball Team won first place in the Mentone-Valley Head Dixie Youth. They had good practices and sweated a lot. But all that paid off. The practices won them a tall shiny trophy. The players who won this trophy are Charlton Bell, Clay Green, Sam Whitley, Allison Kirby, Carla King, Kelly Johnson, Darrin Smith, Shaun Wheat, Heath Blalock, Duane Blalock, Kip Taylor, Brian Blalock, Jeremy Hope, John Chambers. All the players worked hard and played hard. Thanks to the coaches, Billy Cash and Tony Blalock, they won. **Allison Kirby, fifth grade.**

Book Drive - Important

Moon Lake School is planning to have a Book Drive to increase the number of books in the library and to raise money for it. Nancy Rutledge and Kathie Disney, chairpersons, request any books at all. Donors should bring books to the school during the Harvest Festival, November 16th. A book sale will be held later. Volunteers are needed to help with the library once it is organized. Phone Nancy (634-4837) or Kathie (634-4510).

Moon Lake 4-H News

The Moon Lake Girls 4-H Club met Oct. 14th for their first meeting of this school year. New officers are President, Michele Hopper; Vice President, Marian Crane; Secretary, April Langston; Reporter, Andrea Powell; Devotional Leader, Denise Hilliard; Song Leaders, Sally Sharp, Jennifer Furgerson, and Spring Wimberly; Publicity Chairperson, Shannon Blalock. Local leader is Joyce Smith.

October 19th, the club attended Pumpkin Day at the Farmers Market in Fort Payne. The 4-H'ers participated by painting Halloween faces, serving as hostesses, and distributing pumpkin recipes and Halloween safety tips. Dressed in costumes were Shannon Blalock, Michele Hopper, Marian Crane, Andrea Powell, Jennifer and Gabby Furgerson. Also costumed were Junior Leader Lea Smith and leader Joyce Smith.

Several 4-H members from this area attended the Officer Training Workshop held Oct. 29th at Broadway Baptist Church in Rainsville. Joyce Smith taught the workshop for the offices of secretary and reporter. Tentative date for the November meeting is the 18th.

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1985 Mentone Colorfest A



Emcee Tony Goggans and L. M. Flannigan.



Patti Reny, professional story-teller, at the Friday evening bonfire.

The cameras of Angelo Rosario, Don present to capture the flavor of the various near and afar. The various committees Cragmere Manna, the Log Cabin Deli, as downtown merchants, reported volume Rosario wishes he could thank everyone, credit goes to Marty Griffin and her Sado the Groundhog Classic Run, which made rides; Gay Godbois, the pony rides; Ed music and outstanding emcee diplomacy and arts and crafts; Bernise and Doroti quilting; Milton Howard, signs; Ray and Springs Hotel dining room, lobby, and nation; and many, many others too numerous to list. Lucky winners in the raffle at the Oc Color TV from Gary's TV in Fort Payne; weekend at Best Western Motel in Cloudland, Georgia; stained glass balloon; Rouland, Rossville, Georgia; Coleman la W. C. Taylor, Fyffe, Alabama; camera from Ruby Stalvey; spice rack from Harco Drugville; soup crock from Harco; Betty Rag given by Madison Travel Agency; Mr. an



"The Lady in the Garden" composers: Carolyn Peterson Brawner, Terry Hutcheson, Ron Brawner.



Dracula (Paxton Harper) and the Scarecrow (Andrea Powell) won \$25 prizes for costumes.



Tony Goggans and the Rev. Bob Blackwell.



A week later, at the Night of the Tenth Moon Costume Ball at Ray and Sandra Padgett's Mentone Springs Hotel are Charles Parker and Clara Harris, Donna Bukley and John Cooper.



Gay Godbois and Honey for the Moon Lake Sch



nd Groundhog Classic Run

na Bukley, and Jean McGehee were us events. Visitors were there from s had done their work efficiently. nd Furgerson's restaurants, as well business. Event coordinator Angelo ut that would be impossible. Special le Rock staff for superb handling of e a profit; Homer Crow for the boat ones, hayrides; Tony Goggans, the Shurlee Froehler for the raffle gifts y Crow, food; Maggie Cordell, the andra Padgett, use of the Mentone ounds; Colquitt Jones, police coo- nerous to mention. ober Colorfest were the following: Kathy Higdon, Sacramento, Califor- berdeen, Mississippi; Julia Battles, i from Whitley's in Fort Payne; Odie ntern from Wal-Mart in Fort Payne; Cooper's Appliance in Valley Head; in Fort Payne; Marlene Dunn, Hunt- dale, Scottsboro; trip to Gatlinburg d Mrs. C. L. Tate, Rome, Georgia.



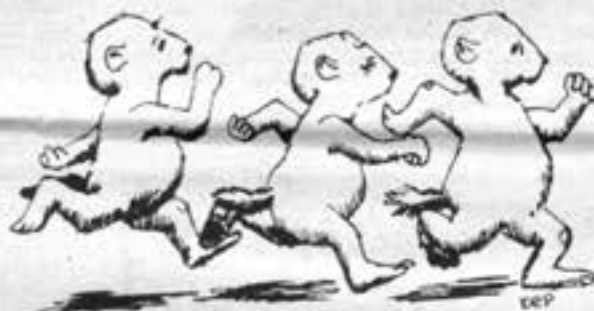
Quilter Maggie Cordell and admirers.



The Ft. Payne Rescue Squad received \$165 in donations for their boat rides.



The Lookout Mt. Cloggers performed. Pam Smith, teacher.



Randall Harris, of Huntsville, was winner of the third annual Groundhog Classic Run. Mr. Harris' time was 22:29 (The Classic record set by John McCartney in '83 was 21:17). Mr. Harris was raised in Ider and today is a computer programmer. His wife, Ellen Harris, came in second in the women's division of the race. Both Harrises run seven miles daily, but not together, since they run at different paces. Rosemary Hurayt, of Chattanooga, was winner of the women's division. Her time was 29:12.



suckle earned \$58 ol Library.



Cooperative

(Continued From Front Cover)

Four children were born to the Carmichaels. A daughter, Linda Thomas teaches at Forest Avenue School in Fort Payne and has two children — William, 9; Katy, 4. Another daughter, Emma, lives and works in Birmingham. Two sons have died of unfortunate deaths. Larry was killed in a bicycle accident in 1972 while a student at the University of Alabama. Gary died in 1979 of a heart attack. "I am proud to have close contact with both my sons' wives," Jim Carmichael says.

He has been Chairman of the Valley Head Baptist Church Board of Directors, affiliated with the VH High School Athletic Club; Valley Head Lodge F&AM, Zamora Temple, (Shriner), Royal Arch Mason 107, Commandry 46, and Eastern Star.

Jim Carmichael, a friendly man who is sometimes seen among his buddies at breakfast at Tiger's Inn, is justifiably proud of how electric power has ended rural darkness and farm drudgery and improved the quality of life for the people of our area.

Mentone's Congressman Miles Allgood brought President Franklin Roosevelt to Muscle Shoals and was highly instrumental in persuading the President to institute the Tennessee Valley Authority. He was present at the signing of the bill in 1933. Following formation of the Rural Electric Authority, the Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative was organized in 1940, with Fred Huron, mayor of Men-

tone, one of its original incorporators.

Headquarters were first in Fort Payne, with 1,603 customers. Today, there are spacious and modern headquarters in Rainsville, serving 20,763 consumers and maintaining approximately 2,234 miles of line. In addition to its extensive coverage of rural farms, SMEC serves the towns of Geraldine, Collinsville, Valley Head, Mentone, Fyffe, Section, Rainsville, Pisgah, Hammondville, Dutton, Henagar, Powell, Ider, Sylvania, and Langston.

In 1952 the cooperative was successful in organizing the Farmers Telephone Cooperative. It developed a public water system to make the area more attractive to new industry. In 1984 it paid \$61,095.53 in taxes to DeKalb County.

Primary objective of the Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative "is to make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management." But many other services are offered.

Through the member service department information is available on duct design and layout, heat loss calculations, electric wiring, electrical appliances and lighting. A weatherization program helps consumers in insulation and weatherization measures. A trained energy adviser will survey homes upon request and give recommendations, then provide inspection following work by contractors. A certified list of contractors is available. Arrangements are possible for the total bill to be prorated over 84 monthly payments.

A new Cycle and Save program provides installation of an automatic switch to be installed on electric water heaters and/or central cooling systems to cycle these units off during peak hour demand. In addition to energy savings, cycling customers receive a credit of \$2 a month year-round.

The Sand Mountain Electric Cooperative is constantly active in youth, civic, and senior citizens activities. Its day-long annual meeting at Rainsville is a sociable gathering.

"What about the future of SMEC?" **THE GROUNDHOG** asked. The new president replied: "We are a very strong COOP. We are currently doing studies projecting growth in stages from 2 to 20 years. We are constantly rebuilding — growing stronger."

Power from the cooperative is purchased from the Tennessee Power Authority. When asked about some of the TVA problems recently surfacing in the press, Carmichael said: "They certainly have some problems to clean up. I still believe the future is in nuclear energy. But I have absolute confidence in the future of TVA."

Jim Carmichael speaks highly of his friend Jimmy Berry of Mentone, former president of both the cooperative and the Alabama Rural Electric Association, and still a board representative of District 2 (serving Mentone). When asked his opinion of the new Sand Mountain Cooperative President, Mr. Berry said: "He was the best man for the choice. He has already shown he can handle difficult problems. I know he's the best man for the job — I nominated him."

A History Of Mentone, Chapter 9, The Camps PART II

By Zora Shay Strayhorn

PONDEROSA BIBLE CAMP

Located five miles north of Mentone and consisting of 80 acres along Little River, Ponderosa was founded in 1973 by the University of Alabama. Two professors of the Psychology Department, Dr. Henry Rickard and Michael Dinoff established a camp for emotionally disturbed children and for those with learning disabilities.

In the spring of 1976 Ponderosa Bible Camp was established on the property under auspices of the Children's Bible Mission, a non-denominational, non-profit Christian home mission organization with national headquarters in Lakeland, Florida. Although non-denominational, the CBM maintains a doctrinal position of evangelical, conservative fundamentalism.

Those active in beginning the Children's Bible Mission work in the Mentone area were W. B. Hunt of Sylvania, known as "The Bible Story Man," "Miss Bess" Robertson, and Elsie Bailey, who retired in 1985. Director Glenn Miller began serving in 1976, along with his wife Linda and sons Curtis and Kenneth, he lives year-round at the camp. Both are graduates of Southeastern Bible College.

Mr. and Mrs. John Evans joined the staff in 1980.

Mr. Evans uses a puppet to relate Bible stories and is known as "Donald Duck." Children earn partial scholarships through Mailbox Club Bible lessons.

The camp embodies twelve buildings for staff, a dining hall with huge fireplace, a chapel, and six cabins each serving sixteen campers. In addition to the Bible classes, camp activities include singing, volleyball, swimming, archery, canoeing, basketball, crafts, and music.

Ponderosa Bible Camp not only serves the Children's Bible Mission, but schedules and services camp rental groups. Next steps in a major development plan will be construction of an insulated multipurpose Gym-Chapel building and pool.

CAMP WOODMONT

One of the newer camps is Woodmont, about 15 miles north of Cloudland in the Georgia section of Lookout Mountain, just off highway 157. It is a privately owned summer camp for boys and girls 7 to 16. Summer sessions are from one to five weeks. It was established in 1981 by Jim and Jane Bennett, faculty members of DeKalb Community College near Atlanta.

The program at Woodmont is centered around four principal areas: aquatics, arts and crafts, sports and games, and nature lore. Campers choose from such activities as horseback riding, dancing and acting, nature lore, arts and crafts, swimming, fishing, gymnastics, archery, and volleyball. A computer class is offered for two weeks during the summer session.

A large dining hall lodge is center of much activity in the evening, as well as for meals and games. In the evening there is singing, campfire programs, folk dancing, talent shows and skits.

There is a swimming pool, central bathhouse, football-size athletic field, small lake for fishing and canoeing, and hiking trails. Cabins accommodate eight campers each, as well as one or two counselors.

Jim Bennett attended the University of Mississippi and Georgia State University. Jane Bennett has degrees from Georgia State University and the University of Georgia. Two of the Bennett children became staff members early in the stages of the camp. Alyson is Program Director and Girls' Unit

Head, and Tyran, Boys' Unit Head. Young college students are utilized as counselors.

SADDLE ROCK CAMP FOR GIRLS

One of the newer camping establishments is Saddle Rock for Girls, near Mentone just off DeSoto Parkway. Its 80 acres lie along Little River and are leased from the Cloudmont complex of the Jones family. Begun in 1984, Saddle Rock operates four sessions of two weeks each during the summer. Activities range from dance to riding. Each camper takes five activities daily, according to age group and development level.

Purpose of the camp is to contribute to the physical, spiritual, and mental development of the girls. Director Marty Griffin, native of Montgomery, Alabama, attended Mississippi University for women, with graduate work at the University of Georgia. After several years of teaching, she leased and directed Camp Skylin for ten years prior to establishing Saddle Rock. Her camping background represents 20 years of leadership.

History of the Saddle Rock site reaches back to 1924 when 40 acres was developed by the Young Men's Christian Association of Miami, Florida. It was operated by C. W. Able and L. B. Sommers and purchased by them in conjunction with Charles W. Edwards five years later. As a private camp for boys some 40 buildings were constructed and 5,000 acres purchased.

Around 1930 this was the site of Camp AHMY, spelled backwards YMHA — Young Men's Hebrew Association. There was a dining hall, ten cabins, and two tennis courts. Nearby was Ice Box Cave where ice-cold water was used to keep perishables. The old swimming hole on Little River still remains. The Depression probably caused this camp to close.

A new and thriving girls' camp, Saddle Rock rests in an area which was bought in 1947 by the Jack Jones family of Coral Gables, Florida, and developed into the vast Cloudmont Ski and Golf resort. Mr. Jones attended the original Cloudmont boys' camp.

CHEROKEE CAMP FOR BOYS

Newest in the area is Cherokee Camp for Boys, located on Cove Road in Walker County, Georgia, about ten miles east of Mentone. The camp property was first bought and built by Bob and Mary Harrison of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in 1954. The camp had separate facilities for boys and girls.

Jack Jones leased and bought the camp in 1964. He used it as a rental camp for groups and school bands. In 1985 the property is owned and directed by Donald Guinn, Jr., and his wife Becky.

Guinn is a 1968 graduate of Valley Head High School. With a full athletic scholarship, he attended Purdue University, graduating with a degree in Physical Education. He coached freshman football at Purdue, then did graduate work at Alabama University in School Administration. He was associated with Camp Laney and Camp Cloudmont. Becky Guinn, a Mentone native, attended Jacksonville University and the University of Alabama.

The main emphasis at Cherokee is sports activity, especially aquatics, tennis, golf and team sports such as football, basketball, wrestling and soccer.

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Leftovers

By Jean McGehee

Baby Boomers and Yuppies don't have a thing on me. I belong to the elite corps called Children of the Depression.

We fought the REAL war: underwear made out of flour sacks, cigar boxes for toys, walking miles to school — if you're past fifty, you know the battle plans by heart. My husband prefers store bought bread to my homemade whole wheat because white bread from the store was a luxury in his childhood. I didn't have a ready made dress until I was out of high school.

No wonder there's been a shortage of women artists, scientists, and executives — the ladies were too busy feeding, washing, and clothing their families. Fortunately the washing machine liberated us somewhat even before the formal Women's Lib movement.

The Great Depression had almost opposite effects on its children. Some became obsessed with material possessions. Homes, antiques, automobiles, clothes, jewelry all somehow reassure this group that all is well — no depression in sight. They want to conserve and keep all that they have, reassured that nothing can harm them while their wealth is so obvious.

The other group affected by the Depression is not bothered with things nor with accumulating them. Cars, houses, clothes are for the most part functional and not for show. Education, politics, religion are important and viewed rather liberally, generously. This faction doesn't want to suffer so much should they lose it all again.

One thing unites the two orphans of the Depression. Both groups are daily thankful for their blessings. Just as Thanksgiving unites all Americans, it is special to us Children of the Depression. Devoid of the commercialism of Christmas and Hanukkah, Thanksgiving has its own special magic, that created by family and food.

In order for Thanksgiving to be celebrated correctly, there should be a minimum of five or six people around the table. Otherwise, it's better to eat out at a restaurant. Preparing for Thanksgiving dinner is leisurely and fun.

Pumpkin, mince, pecan, apple pies are all fine. We like our extra dressing baked in muffin tins. Some like it crispy, others soft all through. Charles has to have sweet potatoes fixed like his Aunt Velma's: raisins, pecans, and marshmallows. There's celery stuffed with cream cheese and olives, corn pudding, cranberry sauce, and the salted mixed nuts — wicked!

Best of all is looking around the table and seeing the faces of the people who mean the most to us. Norman Rockwell couldn't over-sentimentalize this moment.

We hope for cool weather, but not too cold for some football or frisbee tossing after the dishes and naps. A walk is enjoyable, too.

Churches are more likely to have union services on Thanksgiving. Counting our blessings and being grateful for them unites us. Governor Bradford and President Washington realized how fortunate we are and made it formal: a holiday for which we are most thankful.



Burglars Beware

Shown above are Larry and Susan Hooks, Cassie Cash, Mr. and Mrs. Max Cash, Ruby Sully, and Donna Bukley. They attended a meeting on Oct. 26 of "Burglars, Beware!" at Camp Skyline at the home of Larry and Susan Hooks. Two members of the Sheriff's Department present were Sergeant Summerlin and Chuck Nelson. Among the things discussed were safety precautions and common sense in the handling of guns. A permit to carry a pistol can be obtained from the Sheriff's Office in Fort Payne for \$10. Without a permit it is illegal to carry a pistol in one's car. The next meeting of Burglars Beware will be in mid-November with range shooting and more instructions in the use and care of firearms. DONNA BUKLEY

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The First Thanksgiving

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING IN MENTONE
(As It Might Have Happened)

Indian summer came in in a blaze of glory. On the road up from the valley the autumn leaves had never been more resplendent. The dogwood, redbud, maple, and other trees had erupted in hues of gold and red. It was the second year of the new town. Among the citizens there was a sense of joy and fulfillment.

President Grover Cleveland in his proclamation called upon the people of America to join in celebrations of Thanksgiving for the blessings they had received.

John Mason, the founding father of the town, had written glowing words to people in the East, extolling the advantages of coming to Lookout Mountain to live. The temperatures are pleasant, not too extreme, he wrote. The various kinds of timber, oaks, hickory, chestnuts and other forest wood furnish food for the hogs, while native grasses feed the horses, cattle, and sheep for nine months of the year.

Although farming is limited here as yet, he wrote, "every family has a good garden, where all the vegetables grow in great perfection. The woods are open and easily cleared, and when broken up will produce 30 bushels of corn, 30 bushels of oats, 100 bushels of Irish potatoes and 150 bushels of sweet potatoes to the acre."

In this second year of the town's existence, the people of Mentone had many things to be thankful for. They had carved out a village from the virgin mountain paradise. Sadly the Cherokee Indians had been driven west, and there were memories of Yankee soldiers who had marched through town during the great war.

John Mason's son Ed had laid out the town in a neat pattern of streets. His pamphlets circulated in the East and his ads in New York papers had attracted new settlers from far away. One of these was Dr. Frank Caldwell, who came and built the stately Victorian Mentone Springs Hotel. The building was brightly painted in 1885.

Dr. Caldwell had been staying with the Masons in their home near Moon Lake and the new covered bridge, which provided the short route to Georgia. One memorable morning at breakfast Ed Mason said, "What should we name this wonderful town?" His sister Alice had been reading in The New York Times about the visit of Queen Victoria to a French resort on the Mediterranean named Mentone. It was a popular watering place.

Because of the springs near the hotel which were alleged to have curative powers, and the emergence of the town as a resort area, Mentone was chosen as the name of both the town and the hotel.

So there was much to be thankful for. The hotel had been dedicated and during the summer there had been many guests from such faraway places as New Orleans and New York. The Vernons had built a cabin across the road and nearby was the two-story Grille home. There had been a big wedding for Alice Mason and Samuel O'Hear, with the reception at the new hotel. The dining room floor had withstood a ball which lasted past midnight.

It was decided that there would be in 1885 a community Thanksgiving celebration in the hotel dining room. The ladies in Mentone looked forward to this. They prepared oxtails, beans and peas, all recently dried. Ripe tomatoes were gathered from vines already pulled up and stored in cellars. Corn was ground for bread and mush. Into the woods the hunters went and came forth with venison, wild turkeys, squirrel, rabbit and quail. From the rivers and ponds the men had pulled trout, bream, perch, and bass.

The day before Thanksgiving, a steady procession of wagons and young men on horseback had delivered honey, butter, milk, and cream. Water had been hauled from the springs and pumped and carried into the kitchen of the new hotel.

Thanksgiving Day dawned chilly and windy. Fires were built in the huge three-sided fireplace in the hotel lobby, ready and crackling by 11 a.m. when the first guests began arriving. A coal stove heated the dining room. The kitchen was warmed by the huge ovens that kept food ready for serving.

A hush whistle was heard from the valley as a coach stopped on its way to Chattanooga. Someone had invited young Anthony Milford Howard and his bride Sally Langford, who had ridden on the train from Fort Payne.

Naturally not everyone in the area was able to attend the gathering. Many families in the hilly areas of Bankhead, Moon Lake, and Holly Springs had family guests from out of state and could not attend. But there were Browns, Cashos, Parkers, Joneses, Kirbys, Greens, Smiths, Youngs, Clarks, and Lobbys. They arrived in buggies, surreys, and wagons. Bahys, Blalocks, O'Rears, Johnsons, Keiths, Crows, Howes, Shipleys, Hurons, and Culbertsons were there by eleven o'clock.

The ladies were attired in blouses and skirts. Because of the cool weather, some wore long coats. There were a few umbrellas. Elaborate hats were greatly in evidence, featuring leathers, plumes, ribbons, and artificial flowers. Soon the temperature in the dining room rose, and several ladies were seen sporting fans they unlatched to cool their faces.

Gray worsted was the almost universal uniform for a few of the men such as Dr. Purdon and Dr. Winston. Overalls and dungarees were also worn with starched white shirts and stiff collared collars.

Three long tables covered with white cloths stretched from one end of the dining room to the other. The choices were difficult: roasted venison, smoked turkey, succulent hams, broiled trout, fried fish and chicken, pots of beans and peas; loaves of freshly baked bread; crisp cornbread, deviled eggs — and the desserts! There were sweet potato, pumpkin, apple, nut pies, and puddings of all sorts. There were jelly cakes and nut cakes, pound cakes, and fruit cakes.

The diners thought that the Rev. Summie Sherman Vernon, ordained two months before, would never finish his blessing. One man was surreptitious yawn to look at his pocket watch three times before Rev. Vernon ceased. But there was much to be grateful for and the long invocation only whetted appetites.

During dinner a reed organ was played, and afterward several of the younger people gathered around to sing the current hits, "Love's Old Sweet Song" and "While Strolling Through the Park One Day." Everyone pitched in to help with the cleaning and washing.

Some of the gentlemen went out onto the veranda to smoke their cigars. One of their chief topics of conversation was the new rule allowing overhand pitching in baseball. Several young boys in knee pants practiced on the lawn below.

The ladies in the kitchen swapped recipes from the year-old Ladies Home Journal and Good Housekeeping magazines. One of the women had recently read that four women teachers with doctor's degrees had been hired to teach at Bryn Mawr College near Philadelphia. Maybe more and more women would be going to college now.

A few guests wandered down the path to Beauty Springs where there was a gazebo. Conversation covered topics such as the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in New York and the recently combined Barnum and Bailey Circus. They were excited over the electric lights in New York and Boston.

Others went into their buggies and went for a view of the Falls. Some bundled up and strolled over to the brow to enjoy the view. They talked about the popular new novel The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, just out, and the charming story "The Lady of the Tiger." Robert Louis Stevenson's Child's Garden of Verses had just been published, and several families were thinking it might be a good gift for Santa Claus to pack on his sleigh. Everyone was excited about the first appendectomy and the first inoculations against rabies.

While the cleaning and tidying was taking place, the youngest children were entertained with stereoscopic viewing around the fireplace in the lobby. They took turns looking through the lens to see the colorful three-dimensional pictures of snow scenes, swimming holes, and fairy tales.

The celebration was a great success, warmly satisfying to body and soul alike, and the people of Mentone were determined to repeat it for many generations. They had so very much for which they were very thankful.

Charles and Jean McGeehan

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