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Volume 6 — Number 7

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# GROUNDHOG

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

## Judge Paul Thomas

### An Appreciation Of Humanity

During his adventure of living a year in the wilderness on the banks of Walden Pond, Henry David Thoreau wrote: "There is just as much beauty visible to us in the landscape as we are prepared to appreciate, — not a grain more . . ." This appreciation of the nature of the outdoors could be translated by those who know Paul Thomas to reflect his appreciation of the beauty visible in the human heart, and he is prepared to not only see and appreciate it, but to touch that beauty on a personal level.

Paul Thomas is the Probate Judge for DeKalb County and has recently been reelected to that office with no opposition. The office of the Judge of Probate is a very important one in the life of any community, and Judge Paul Thomas takes his job very seriously. He firmly believes that he is a servant of the people and that their best interest must be served. The office takes its name from the duty of probating wills, but there are many more facets to the position. Judge Thomas makes the final decision in adoption cases: "It is one of the most important things I do and one of the most rewarding — to see a child placed in a caring and loving home, to see the happiness of parents and to know I have made a positive difference in the lives of these people." Alabama is still a state in which adoption records are not a matter of public record.

Judge Thomas appoints guardianships of minor children and adults unable to care for themselves. He appoints conservators of estates and can commit the mentally ill to hospitals. He has the often unpleasant duty of invoking the right of eminent domain that sets a value on property that an owner does not want to release to the government in order for such things as highways to be built for the common good of the citizenry.

The office of Judge of Probate issues licenses of all sorts, including business, hunting and fishing and driver's licenses. Deeds and mortgages are recorded there, and the records date back to 1836 when DeKalb County was founded. Marriages are recorded there as well.

Near the end of the Civil War, the courthouse was in the Lebanon community and Judge Franklin presided over the Probate office. There was fear that the Union soldiers and carpetbaggers in the area would destroy the records, so Judge Franklin buried them on his farm where they remained for several years. Judge Franklin, along with other county officials, was arrested after the war and put into prison. Their positions were filled with officials picked by outsiders who had taken control of county government. The records remained buried until things stabilized, and a permanent place was found for them when it was safe.

Judge Thomas and his staff are responsible for sen-



ding copies of the voters lists to all the polling places in an election year. The Probate Judge is by law the Chairman of the election commission in the county.

Paul Thomas comes from a family that has been a part of the history of this county from many generations. His mother's family, the Powells, have a small community, Powell's Crossroads, on Sand Mountain named for them. Pauline Powell Thomas grew up on a farm near the crossroads that consisted of thousands of acres of land and a large, rambling antebellum-style home. She was one of 15 children born to Mr. and Mrs. D. W. "Doc" Powell who added to their home as they added to their family.

D. W. owned what was once the largest merchantile store in the area. He began to be known as "Doc" this

Continued on Page 9



## New Owners At Cragmere



The Cragmere tradition of hospitality began in the middle 1800's when a freed slave and his wife built the original structure there. Uncle Ned and Aunt Margrett Jackson were respected members of the community and were called upon for a variety of services from delivering babies to dressing hogs. On Sunday afternoons friends and neighbors from miles around would gather at the Jacksons' to visit and enjoy Aunt Margrett's cooking.

Through many owners the charming structure built just a stone's throw from the brow of Lookout Mountain has retained a reputation for welcoming guests and making them feel like family. The flowers, trees and shrubs were planted in the 1950's by Nina Ferrel, wife of F. W. "Hello" Ferrel who was an Alabama State Representative.

Cragmere was for a time a part of the Cloudmont Ski Resort properties and was the private home of Jack Jones Jr., now deceased. Bruce Bon Fleur of Daytona Beach, Florida, developed the home into a restaurant. Randy Still, a chef from Chattanooga known as the "Country Gourmet," then purchased the restaurant and added his own creative touches.

Now, the tradition continues as Ronnie and Bonnie Barnett, owners of Fort Payne Wholesale Tire, have become the new owners of Cragmere. When they heard the place was for sale, the idea of owning a restaurant was the furthest thing from their minds, but when they visited Cragmere it was as if it was meant for them. Already, the restaurant has become an important part of their lives as they begin the process of making needed changes, while being careful to rest in the flavor of the place.

The restaurant is taking on a fresh look as the staff scrub, steam clean, repair and add equipment to the building. From the new carpet in the lobby to the new microwave in the spotless kitchen, Cragmere is looking and feeling great. Ronnie and Bonnie and the staff have been working very hard, and their labors are evident.

The new owners welcome one and all to come to Cragmere so that new friendships can be forged. Roy Strickland, Jr. will stay on as Executive Chef and most of the staff who worked for Randy will also remain. Tony and Dana Goggans will be a part of the Cragmere family, and everyone is invited to come and hear Tony's down-home style of picking and singing.

Bonnie and Ronnie are taking reservations for holiday parties and banquets and want to stress that the restaurant is available for almost any type of get-together.

The hours will remain the same for now, Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday Buffet at lunchtime. The menu will also stay as it is at this time, but some changes are planned for the Spring, both in menu and opening hours as well. There are some exciting plans afoot for entertainment and use of the restaurant.

The Barnetts, including children Bryan and Jennifer, are a welcome addition to the community as they add their names to the list of gracious hosts who have had the good fortune to own the beauty that is Cragmere.

## To Reach Chief Bill Willingham

Mentone does not have a base station for Police Chief Bill Willingham. However, the Sheriff's office in Fort Payne has a 24-hour dispatcher on duty and will contact Chief Willingham should the need arise. Citizens in need of assistance should call 845-3801 and the staff at that number will contact him immediately via radio.

## M.A.P.A. CHRISTMAS DINNER

Dec. 13, 6 p.m.

DeSoto State  
Park Restaurant

\$8<sup>33</sup> Each

Everyone Is Welcome!

Phone 634-4435

For Reservations (Maggie Cordell)

## Community Park Dedicated And Renamed

On Nov. 5, the Mentone Community Park was renamed the Edward Mason Community Park in honor of the town's founder, Ed Mason. The history of how the Park came into being is found in the following letter to the Rhododendron Garden Club, sponsors of the event.

(This brief history is excerpts from a letter written to our Garden Club president from Mrs. Jessie O'Neil Whitehead, a niece of Edward Mason).

Edward Mason was born at Vinton, Iowa in 1848, was the oldest child of John Mason, who is called the "Father of Mentone." Since he had bought the whole general area in 1874 or 1875; John Mason gave the Mentone area (one house, now part of Episcopal church) to his son for development.

Edward had been a student in Iowa State College, Grinnell, Iowa, majoring in surveying. At the time John Mason came south permanently, Ed Mason was working in Arkansas; he later came to his father's new home now Moon Lake, but at that time it was farm-land.

Letters to John Mason show that Edward was always interested in some promotional ideas since a letter was asking his father to invest money in a peach orchard in Arkansas that he felt would become profitable; his father didn't do so. Wanting to keep his son occupied here, John Mason gave the area here of Mentone to Edward to develop as he wished, so Edward began a promotional campaign, advertising in Northern and New England papers — even in English papers. One English and one Irish family came here.

At that time Edward's idea was to have a cultural center — possibly a college, lecturers, etc. — generally offering higher education and knowledge of "polite society" to local people, if they desired, but to be a center along with all mountain advantages — fresh air, good water, etc.

Dr. Frank A. Caldwell from Ohio, having inherited some money and wanting to invest it, had seen some of the ads and came down to really see what Ed Mason was offering. He became enthused and invested his money in building the Mentone Springs Hotel. His idea, though was for a summer resort, so Ed Mason apparently gave up his idea of a new hotel which really prospered for many years — guests being from among the wealthier people in Birmingham, Atlanta, New Orleans. Changing conditions, the First World War, etc., caused its closing.

When Ed Mason laid off Mentone, (as everyone knows, named by my Mother, Alice Mason O'Rear) he designated a certain area of his property for a park to be developed but he did little, if anything about it. As nearly as I can remember the little park here in town is the area designated though as I think back as we used to ride along the "ole road" and Mother would point to an area and say, "That is where your Uncle Ed gave land for a Park." The present park isn't exactly like it was then or rather it included a larger area — where the Mentone Superette is now.

Edward Mason was presumably burned to death in 1920 in a fire which consumed a small two-story building at Moon Lake where he had an apartment. No remains were ever found in the ashes.

**CALL MAGGIE CORDELL 634-4435 NOW FOR  
M.A.P.A. CHRISTMAS DINNER RESERVATIONS**

## Town Hall Vandalized



On the night of Oct. 29 between the hours of 4 a.m. and 6 a.m. the Mentone Town Hall was vandalized. Thirty-seven window panes were broken and must be replaced. A reward of \$1,350.00 has been offered to anyone who can give information which will lead to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this crime. "If someone should come forward and help in this matter, their identity will be kept in strictest confidence," Chief Willingham said. "This sort of vandalism is a reflection on the entire community. When someone does something like this, he or she hurts not only a few but everyone who lives here. This is the kind of senseless destruction that hurts everyone." Chief Willingham continued, "and if the person, perhaps something can be worked out to allow them to make restitution."

## Angelia Walker Honor Graduate



On Sept. 28, Walker Technical Institute held commencement for 58 students. Dr. Mary Tanner, head of the department of Human Ecology at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, gave the graduation address. Dr. Tanner advised the graduates that this commencement would be only one of many new beginnings which would occur to each student present. Her speech included tips for handling new beginnings, and throughout, it stressed the importance of having a positive attitude. For several years Dr. Tanner has donated an annual scholarship for a student to attend Walker Tech.

Angelia Walker, from Mentone, Ala., is an honor graduate of the business education department.



## Letter To The Editor

The Fort Payne Yoshukai International Karate Class would like to thank the people of Mentone for allowing us to do a demonstration at this year's Colorfest. The Class was joined on Saturday and Sunday by Black Belts and students from Atalla and Albertville.

I would like to correct one of the statements in the October Groundhog that read: "Ginn says her Black Belts are 'super' and that part of their show will include breaking baseball bats in mid air." This statement should have read: "There will be Black Belts from other cities coming to help with the demonstration, and one of the Black Belts is planning to break a baseball bat with his shoe."

Yoshukai International Karate is a unique family organization headed by Sensei (Instructor) Mike Foster who lives in Daytona, Florida. The state of Alabama is lead by Sensei Mike Sadler of Montgomery, and North Alabama is directed by Sensei Jerry Cox of Albertville.

I would like to thank all of the Black Belts who brought their students and participated in the demonstration, and I apologize for the error that was made by the paper. I did not call you my Black Belts because you are not, you are my friends.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Fern Fitzgerald for suggesting that a karate demonstration be part of the entertainment this year. I hope everyone enjoyed the demonstration. Yoshukai International is a family organization and would like to be considered a useful and respected part of our community. Again I thank the people of Mentone for inviting us this year to the Colorfest, and hope you will invite us back again next year. May God Bless all of you. Thank you from Instructor Deborah Ginn and the students of the Fort Payne Yoshukai International Karate Class.

## MAPA Minutes

NOV. 1, 1988

Ray Froehler, Co-director of MAPA, presided over the November meeting of MAPA in the absence of Jack Jones, Director.

An invitation to the dedication and changing of the name of the Mentone Community Park to the Edward "Ed" Mason Community Park was read. It was from Betty Johnson, President of the Rhododendron Garden Club.

A committee was selected to set up new goals for MAPA.

Plans for a Musical Mountain Christmas were discussed.

The speaker for the evening was Jonni Justice from CASA in Fort Payne. She gave a very informative talk about the very worthwhile work that the organization is involved in.

— Condensed from the minutes of Frances Rosario, Secretary.

OCT. 4, 1988

The Oct. 4 meeting of MAPA was a business meeting. The by-laws were read by Bruce Bon Fleur and discussed.

The bike trail that will be from the center of Mentone to the Post Office was on the agenda. A vote was taken to cover the existing part of it with gravel instead of paving it until later.

Reports on the progress of the Colorfest were given by the various committees. A couple new events will be included this year. They are a karate outfit and a living history group from Mobile.

— Condensed from the minutes of Frances Rosario, Secretary.

## In Memoriam

Louis F. "Pete" Kirby, 81, of Mentone, Ala., passed away Friday, Oct. 28, at BMC DeKalb, Fort Payne.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Oct. 30, from the Burt Funeral Home Chapel, Valley Head, with the Rev. Wayne Wells officiating.

Interment followed in the Barkhead Cemetery with the Burt Funeral Home directing.

Survivors include one son, Louis Franklin Kirby Jr., daughters, Ann Hunt, Mentone, and Wanda Ogles, Valley Head; one sister, Lela Belle Pullen, Mentone; four grandchildren, Shannon and Angela Hunt, Ray Ogle and Sherril Kirby.

He was a native of DeKalb County and a retired sawmill worker. He was also a member of Moonlake Baptist Church.

## Upcoming Community

### Christmas Dinner

Last year the Community Christmas Dinner served more than 200 people who would not otherwise have had a special holiday meal. The dinner is not sponsored by a church, club, business or other institution, but is a joint effort by a group of concerned private citizens.

Anyone interested in becoming a part of this worthwhile enterprise can send contributions to the AM South Bank for the Community Christmas Dinner. Toy and gifts may be dropped off at Whitley's Stained Glass, 103 Gault Avenue North in Fort Payne or at Parker's Cleaners, 2129 Gault Avenue North. If you would like additional information, call Andy Parker at 845-0841 or Bert Carson at 634-4256.

# The Groundhog

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205-634-4198 or 4185

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## Our Town With Linda Brown

On Saturday morning before Halloween, someone broke most of the windows out of the town hall. On the following Wednesday, rhododendron bushes were planted in memory of J. Allen Lowman, by his friends and family. These were planted on the little patch of soil in front of the town hall. This paragraph may seem incomplete, but think about it.

So much seems to be happening at this time of the year. The busiest part of the year arrives with Halloween. This holiday is lots of fun for the young and the young-at-heart. There was a "haunted woods" in Hammondville, the ghosts and goblins collected funds to help with projects at Moon Lake and Valley Head schools. The Mountain Manor Nursing Home in Fort Payne was turned into a "haunted house." The proceeds went to the active fund, much of which will be spent to assure all of the residents a merry Christmas. I certainly enjoyed all of the trick or treaters who came by my house this year. I am now into "second generations." The children who used to come by now bring their children.

Right on the heels of Halloween comes Thanksgiving, the season of giving thanks. Should we have to set aside a season (not to mention ONE day) to give thanks? I think that we just need to be reminded.

We have just elected a new president and some state and county officers. Now let's all get behind them and push. We can have a voice in the way our county, state and national government operates and we have just spoken. Incidentally, the majority of the Mentone box voted for Bush for president and for Democrats in the county and state offices.

Hats off to the ladies of the Rhododendron Garden Club! They have pledged themselves to keep the mile from Mentone Superette to the east city limits, along Highway 117, CLEAN. They joined the Adopt-A-Mile program in conjunction with the DeKalb County Beautiful campaign. Let's all help them by not littering. Carry a litter bag in your car and use it.

A word of caution, now the colder weather has arrived and we have to heat our homes, please BE CAREFUL.

## The Lookout

"Alop Lookout Mountain"  
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## MOUNTAIN WATCH

BY CHARLES WHITE MCGEE

Many of us had similar thoughts to those expressed by Linda Brown in her August "Our Town" column in The Groundhog. Her first thought was "that's good; everyone is satisfied with the local government and has full confidence in the local administration." Then she went on to conclude, "No, that's bad; someone should have been interested enough in Mentone to think they could help make it a better place to live by serving on the town council. Someone should have signed up to run. Apathy can be a dangerous thing." Linda concluded that she was bouncing between two trains of thought.

It must be admitted that this indicates a complete confidence in our local government. But it also points to the low ratio of voters at all levels of government who just do not vote at all. The end result in Mentone is that for an eight-year period, all vacancies are chosen by the council itself — an enormous power — rather than the voters themselves. This is a result of voter apathy, which is not at all a fault of the present council.

An additional factor was that the 1984 election in town was a rather heated one. Potential candidates could well have thought, "I just don't want to get into that sort of thing." It can scarcely be denied that during the past four years this town has developed into an attitude of greater cooperation and unity. If this continues, perhaps by 1992 we can have a healthy election in which issues are openly considered, without rancor, to the benefit of the entire community. Good government requires participation, cooperation, and a larger ratio of the populace involved in programs for the common good.

As coordinator of the Groundhog Run, a feature of the October Colorfest, my wife had many details to worry about. As time for the race neared, she became concerned that the stopwatches for timing the racers might not be sufficient for Saturday morning. I went to the trusty top drawer of our bedroom bureau and brought forth a Timex watch which I no longer use.

"This has a second hand, just in case," I said. "Take it to the drugstore in Valley Head and have Don Morgan put in a new battery." When Jean entered the drugstore, she said, "I hate to bother you with this but Charles insisted." Don removed the back and broke into laughter. "Tell Charles that this is a newfangled watch that runs without a battery. You just wind it up."

Indeed we are living in a wondrous age. Take for instance the child who rushed home and said excitedly to his father, "Our new neighbors have a lawn mower that cuts grass without a motor!"

"Good fences make good neighbors." These familiar words of the poet Robert Frost voiced the importance of knowing what our boundaries are, pride in our property, and clarity in our human relations. It might be said with equal eloquence that "good walkways make good communities."

Mentone has long been disadvantaged by the disconnected, almost isolated nature of our downtown area. For instance, to go to the Post Office or Blackburn's store from Old Hotel Square, one had to either risk life and limb by walking along busy Highway 117, or get into an automobile for this relatively short distance.

More important, Mentone seemed more like a hapless crossroads than the warm small town that it actually is. For several years it has been one of the major goals of the Mentone Area Preservation Association to do something about this — to build a walkway-bike trail to connect the various areas. Now it has come to pass. It's amazing what a relatively simple project could do to make Mentone a friendlier, safer place. The next time you have visitors, introduce them to a new dimension of this unique community of ours by walking through town with them.

Recently we had a visit from a dear, talented friend, whose husband died several years ago. In search of something to do during the day she went to one of the political parties in Fort Payne, offered her services during the campaign, and no one seemed interested. She said, "I wish there were a place in Mentone where we could go during the day, for companionship, games or just talk."

After she left, Jean said that this pointed up the need for a community center in town. This has been one of the major objectives of the Mentone Area Preservation Association and of the Crafts Festival. Now that the Highway 117 wall has been resurfaced, the Town Hall Meeting Room completed, and the walkway-bike trail nearing completion, perhaps attention can be focused on some approach to a community center.

What about expanding the Fire Hall, where there is already a cozy fireplace? Or expansion of the Town Hall, where there is already a kitchen and two bathrooms? Such a gathering place could not only be available to adults during the day, but after school, with adult supervision, constructive activities — long a need — could be arranged for young people after school.

It could be done if the Town Council, MAPA, the Garden Club, the Crafts Fair and other organizations joined forces. The best little town in America deserves such a project — and it can be done.

## Want The Hog?

Through June 1989

THE GROUNDHOG is the official newsletter of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, and is given free to all members of that organization. To receive your copy, send \$10 to MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, Ala. 35964.



## Garden Club In Adopt-A-Mile Program

Instead of talk-talk-talk about the disgusting amount of litter being dumped on our highways by uncaring and uninformed people, Mentone's Rhododendron Garden Club decided to act. It became the first Garden Club in the District, comprised of DeKalb and Jackson Counties, to apply to the State Highway Department for authorization to keep a segment of a State Highway free of litter for two years.

President Betty Johnson appointed a Committee to work with the State Highway Department on its Adopt-A-Mile program. The Committee (Ferne Fitzgerald, chairman, Betty Chapman, and Jackie Skelton) selected approximately a mile-and-a-half on State Highway 117 East, running from the Mentone town limits to the Superette. Within an hour after a telephone call to Greg Dobbs, Assistant District Engineer in charge of the Adopt-A-Mile program for the District, Mr. Dobbs came over from Dutton and brought all the necessary papers for application, signatures (including that of Catherine Bailey, Town Clerk, representing the sponsorship of Mentone), and release forms to be signed by workers. Approval from Montgomery is expected to take about three weeks.

The State will supply fluorescent vests, traffic cones, and signs crediting Rhododendron Garden Club with participating in the Adopt-A-Mile program; the State will also pick up the bags of trash gathered by the workers.

A serendipitous by-product of this operation was the unanimous agreement of the Rhododendron Garden Club to donate all collected aluminum cans to the DeKalb County SPCA (Animal Shelter).

Immediate support for the Club's action was received from Mayor Rob Hammond and from Chief Willingham, who offered to supply police protection to the workers.

So-o-o-o, if you see a string of "li'l ole ladies in tennis shoes" out picking up trash along the highway, think twice and keep that sandwich wrapper, soft drink bottle or cup, and beer can in your own car instead of tossing it on the highway.

Alabama does have an anti-litter law, and responsible citizens are being asked to report to the police license numbers of cars seen littering.

It seems appropriate at this time, also, to congratulate Sid Holcomb and the DeKalb County Commission for their efforts in having the county crews clean up dumps along the DeKalb County roads.

## Groundhog Classic VI

Hans Ulrich, from Switzerland, was visiting friends in Huntsville — Larry and Nona Sheaks — and all three ran in the Groundhog Classic VI on Saturday, Oct. 15, of the Colorfest weekend. Runners came from Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee. Entire families ran together. In all, 103 ran; the Classic course from the Hitching Post to the turn-off to the Falls at the top of Tutwiler Gap and back again is 4.2 miles. Thirty-six of the 103 ran in the one mile Fun Run just prior to the Classic.

Randall Harris, of Huntsville, won the men's division for the fourth year. His time, 23:06, he has bested on two other occasions, but never topping John McCartney's time of 21:17 in 1983. Randall said, "It gets more difficult every year!" His wife Ellen also runs and won for her age division with a time of 31:17.

The most popular age group for women was thirty something, while more men ages 40 and over ran than any other age group. Michelle Gilbreath, of Fort Payne, won the overall women's title for the second year. She beat her last year's time by three seconds, at 28:14.

In the women ages 14 and under, Sandra Lamb of Rome, Georgia, 9 years old, won with a time of 46:39. Justin Manning, of Valley Head, age 11, came in third for his men's division with a time of 38:05. His sister, Suzanne, won second in her age division (she's 15) with a time of 33:10. Both their times were beaten by their father, Richard Manning, but he didn't place in his age division. David Bosworth, of Mentone, placed second in his group (he's 15) with a time of 35:36.

Most runners had run at least twice in the Groundhog Classic before this year. Only one pre-registered couple failed to show, along with Jim Tate, of Mentone, home from school for the first time since August, but stopped by a flu virus. Ages of runners varied from 5 to 64. Allen Ballinger, who was a year old Oct. 8th, is walking, but not quite running yet. However, he went the course in his stroller.

Each of the 106 registered runners received T-shirts with area sponsors' names listed on the back. These local merchants generously support this community, and residents are grateful to them for assisting in the run.

The weather was perfect, and everyone thought it the best run yet. Larry Hooks and Mark Pickle were assisted by Gay Godbois, Paul Purvis, Donna Buckley and Jean McGehee. First, second and third place winners in each of five age groups for men and women received gold, silver and bronze medallions; and Brant Craig, of Desoto Athletic in Fort Payne, gave handsome jackets to Randall Harris and Michelle Gilbreath.

DeKalb Ambulance Service was present along with Mentone's police chief Bill Willingham.

## Valley View With Eloise Brown

Marie Dooley has received "Lollipop Logic," a children's book. According to the publisher, "It was written with great care, love and a sense of humor to delight children and grown ups alike with fresh ways of looking at their world." It was especially appreciated by Marie because it was written by Louise Denton of Falkville, Ala., who was her roommate at Jacksonville in 1943.

Cindy Meadows was awarded a weekend vacation for her family at Gulf Shores. It was given by Princess House for her sales and recruiting.

Gladys Cobble, Ruth Pickett, Sadie Cooper, Theresa Cooper, Martha Stanley, Louise Hammonds and Jean Jones represented Valley Head Baptist Church at the WMU conference in Guntersville.

John and Jean Jones were called to Hackleburg, Ala., due to the death of Jean's sister-in-law's mother as the result of a car accident.

Jim Carmichael is recovering from triple bypass surgery at his home.

Jim Gifford has been in a Birmingham hospital.

Loy Blansit has been a patient at BMC DeKalb.

Geraldine and Howard Hawkins have returned home after a visit with their son, Robert, and family at Brewton, Ala.

Patti and A. J. Brown and children, Amanda and Robert, and friend, James Ferguson, enjoyed a trip to Cleveland, O., for a visit with Patti's mother and other relatives. They enjoyed Seaworld and the zoo and other attractions.

"Spelunkers" from the National Speleological Society had their T.A.G. Fall Cave-in at Sequoyah. They visited A. J. Brown (who is a member), and explored some caves at Battelle.

Rev. Robert Wolcott and wife, Sylvia, and their three children, visited Valley Head Baptist Church. They have been missionaries to Mexico for 12 years. He brought an interesting and thought provoking message that asked the question, "Will You Be Comfortable In Heaven?" His wife gave a beautiful message in music. It was a very inspiring service.

Venna Livingston suffered a broken leg in a fall at her home. She is the last one you would expect to fall. She is so agile and alert but she stepped into a little hole in her yard, which proves falls are no respecters of persons.

Eloise Brown was notified that she had been selected as a Best New Poet of 1988 by the American Poetry Association. (New? maybe to them!) She was also a winner of a Golden Poet Award from the World of Poetry for her poem, "To a Good Book." She had a special invitation from Phyllis Diller and Red Skelton (Did you know they are poets?) as well as the editor Eddie-Lou Cole, to attend the Poetry Convention in Anaheim, Ca., to be honored, but did not attend. Looks like she doesn't have much ambition, but maybe some day, some time will be found that can be spared, to write and compile from the dresser drawer's contents, at least one book!

The leaves have been frosted with beautiful colors and the sky is so clear and blue — Enjoy! I hope when you read this, that the scene has not change to snowy white!

## COUNTRY JOURNAL

By Bernise Crow

From Montana, we continued our drive into Canada — what beautiful country here. We had been to Ontario before, but had never been to Alberta and British Columbia. The cleanliness of the western United States and Canada is very nice. It made me ashamed of the roadside litter in the southeast. Maybe we are becoming more aware of the situation and will do something about it.

We saw small villages filled with some of the most beautiful flowers I ever saw. We spent a night in Cranbrook and drove on to Kootenay National Park. The views of the Rockies here is even more breathtaking — every turn of the road presented an entirely different vista of cathedral-like peaks and unusual rock formations.

We arrived at Lake Louise, famous resort area, is mid-afternoon on the day following a light snow. The fir trees were sparkling like a sea of lovely Christmas trees. This was probably the highlight of our trip. The lake is one of the most beautiful natural lakes in the world. The large Chateau there is fabulous. I believe a summit conference was held there a few years ago.

We traveled from there through Kamloop Park, Branniff Park, and Yoho Park — all beautiful places. We kept seeing signs to watch for elk, but did not see any in this area. We saw only one Moose. We hoped to see more, having never seen any in the wild. It started snowing and we drove a little longer that day, not stopping till we got out of the higher elevation.

The next day was nice. We were out of the snow country and into farm country. Neat rows of fresh corn looked so good, just ready for picking. We turned left into Washington state where the beautiful farms continued for a time. I love them. The old barns are especially interesting. One trip, I want to just make pictures of country barns, and lovely old churches in the cities — the old ones with many spires, seemingly reaching toward heaven. We saw many of both things, but could not stop to take pictures of them.

I drove for 60 miles, viewing one large mountain called Mt. Hebron. I would think I was right near it, but would drive a good distance and find that I was farther from it than when I first noticed it. It was very impressive — no words to describe it.

We stopped a few times to rest and picked fresh berries that looked like Boysenberries. They were growing wild on the roadsides, and were very tasty. We also picked blueberries in the mountains, near Mt. Rainier. On to San Francisco. We spent the night at a place overlooking the San Joaquin Valley, and went into the city just at daybreak. Homer thought he could miss the heavy traffic, but no such thing. We drove around, but the traffic was bumper to bumper, and we got out as soon as possible. We did see the Golden Gate Bridge, though.

From there we drove to Sacramento and headed toward Yosemite National Park. There we found a wonderful place with different rock formations from any we had seen. We thought we had seen enough mountains, but



Bernise at Lake Louise, Alberta, Canada with Chateau in background.



Homer at Petrified Forest in Arizona.



## Old Cureton House Antiques



When Gracie Oliver Sewell returned home from several years in South Georgia and Texas, she and her husband, Richard Paul, began to search for just the right place to open an antique shop. The Old Cureton House was their first choice, but at that time, it was not for sale. Instead, they bought and remodeled a home on Sand Mountain. Then Gracie got a call from Bernice C. Allen, owner of the house. It was now for sale, and Gracie and Richard became the new owners of the historic old place situated in the heart of Rising Fawn.

Bernice Allen is in the process of compiling a book about the Rising Fawn region, and sent the following information to Gracie and Richard:

BERNICE C. ALLEN  
P. O. Box 111  
Carmichael, CA 95608

(From "The History of Dade Co. page 140) James William Cureton came to Dade County in 1849, via the Tennessee River. He met and married his bride, Nancy E. Boy (Boyd) as he was enroute through East Tenn. Six children are mentioned as having been born to this couple, one of whom was George W. Cureton, (born Feb. 20, 1852, died Oct. 6, 1939).

George (pg. 141) succeeded his father in operating the Cureton Mill and later built and operated the "Fox Mountain Distillery at Rising Fawn, Ga. The distillery was liquidated after the passage of the Prohibition Amendment in 1919 and the mill continued operating until the 1930's.

George married three times. His first wife, Mattie Christian, was the mother of Walter, Winifred, Lillian and May Irene Cureton.

George's second marriage was to Judith Christian, sister of his first wife. No children was born to this union.

George married Bonnie Steadman as his third wife and they had four children, Lillia (Lillian?) Elizabeth, known as Bess, Edna and Grace.

May Cureton became well known for her many years of work as a home demonstration agent for the state of Ala. Bess, who worked for the welfare department of Dade County is still remembered by Dade County residents who feel gratitude towards her.



The house built by George was built in 1872 and still stands today. Through the years it was added to as the family grew and new needs arose. The large dining room today once served as a sort of children's dormitory, and the current living room was the parent's bedroom at one time, doubling as a sitting room by day. The current kitchen is an addition of this century, as the original kitchen (Info. supplied by Mrs. R. C. Thomas) was in the rear of the house and reached by an open hallway, where the well was located. After the death of George in 1939, an annex was built and the hallway enclosed to make a rear entrance and two very spacious bedrooms and a bath.

The house sported one of the first bathrooms of the day, due in part to the water system that George had devised, bringing water from Fox Mountain to the little town of Rising Fawn. A private system of electricity was also installed, made possible by the same water system and supplied the premises until 1930 when Georgia Power brought power to Dade County.

The property was bought in 1972 from the Cureton Estate by Bill and Mary Wilson and they sold it in 1987 to Bernice C. Allen. In 1988 the property changed hands again to the present owners, Richard Paul Sewell and Gracie Oliver Sewell.

The Sewells love the victorian look of the house, and it serves as their home as well as their place of business. Customers are guests in their home, and are treated as such. Gracie is always ready to show the 14 rooms full of antiques and collectibles which can be purchased at very reasonable prices. In every nook and cranny, items ranging all the way from old books to handkerchiefs to all sorts of furniture can be found.

"I love old things," Gracie reflected, "for they have a history of their own. I also love to meet people and to share my collections with them."

The Old Cureton House with its 200 year old tree in the yard, its beautiful architecture, its lovely belongings and even its three cats and two dogs gives one a feeling of coming home. The Sewells are the perfect hosts for such a lovely setting.

## The Commissary Antiques



Lorraine Hansard is a collector, and she buys only those things that she loves. She selects items for The Commissary as if each piece were to be part of her home forever, and when she sells something it is with the knowledge that she would have liked to have kept it. Beautiful antiques and collectibles are arranged to best display their special quality, for not only is The Commissary an antique shop, but it is Lorraine and her husband P. R.'s home as well.

The Commissary is located near Rising Fawn, Georgia, and is dated back to the 1830's — a time when slaves were used to fashion the bricks that make up the two-foot thick walls. Prior to the War Between The States, the building belonged to the Empire State Coal and Iron Company which was formed to produce iron for the Confederate government. By 1903 it was owned by the Georgia Iron and Coal Company where it continued to function until 1925 when the furnace was dismantled. The compound consisted of numerous cottages, well-equipped offices, machine shops and the stately Commissary which served Rising Fawn and surrounding communities.

After several years of neglect, the property was purchased by Dr. William Simeon Russell Hansard. He was a prominent physician of the time who loved the area's natural, rugged beauty. He acquired 6,000 acres in the purchase.

Dr. Hansard maintained the property until 1952 when a large part of it was sold. After his death in 1970, the property was held by his heirs until one of them, his son P. R., bought the building and several acres. At the time, the only life in the imposing structure was the mice and snakes that lived among the cane, hay and livestock feed that filled the rooms. P. R. Hansard has always felt the same love for the farm that his father did, and every spare moment in his busy life has been spent as close to the land as possible. His plan was to restore the building to its original character, and in that quest he has been joined by his wife, Lorraine. Much work has been done, and now the Commissary rooms are full of those lovely and treasured things that reflect the lives of the people who are long since dead — but not forgotten. Gone are the bonneted ladies searching for the right piece of muslin and the farmers buying feed for their cattle. Now, the relics of their time stand framed in the structure that mirrors their existence and gives us a glimpse into not only their way of life, but into the foundations of ours as well.

The Commissary is a bit off the beaten path, but this only adds to the feeling of having discovered a treasure hidden away from the ordinary. The sun-lit fields and the quiet solitude somehow are an important part of the beauty and serenity of the place as a whole. This is a place to meditate, to reflect, and to savor.

(Special thanks to Mountainview Magazine, 1982, and Sandra Duncan Padgett whose article helped greatly in the formulation of this feature).

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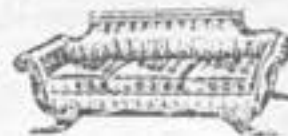
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## Valley Antiques

Janice Rains likes old things, and she particularly enjoys young people coming into her shop and showing appreciation for those things which have withstood the rigors of time and have developed a character not found in the new.

Valley Antiques is located on Old No. 11 Highway in Trenton, Ga. Going north, it is just past the Courthouse Square. Janice and husband David are very familiar with owning a business. They have owned and operated Trenton Tire and Auto Center for years.

Janice has always been a collector of beautiful treasured things, so when the building became available two years ago, she decided to share some of her collection with the public.

The shop is not large, but every foot is taken with antiques and collectibles in excellent repair: Golden oak, handmade Battenburg lace, hand-sewn quilts, lamps, picture frames and much more adorn Valley Antiques' floors and walls.

Janice accepts consignments and also rents out space to others.

Janice has lived in the Trenton area all her life. Here she married a local man and raised two children. "I cannot conceive of living anywhere else," Janice said. "This town has a sense of togetherness and warmth that is special. I love it here." Janice's husband David serves on the City Council.

Valley Antiques is for those people who seek the out-of-the-ordinary found off the beaten path. Janice is a gracious hostess to customers she feels are her guests, and the bargains and the hospitality are well worth the short drive.

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## 1988 October Colorfest - Working Together Toward A Better Community

The 1988 October Colorfest is an event sponsored and produced by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, but is one that could not be such a success without the cooperation and support of the community. From the well-sponsored Groundhog Run to the food sold by local civic organizations and churches, to the citizens who graciously allowed the autumn guests to park on their property, the event was a culmination of the efforts and dedication of the most giving and thoughtful members of the community.

In his best country-lawyer/mountain musician style, Terry Hutcheson emceed the events of the Friday night kickoff celebration which was punctuated by a huge bonfire. Ghost stories were told: Jim Conner, well-known songwriter and singer, joined Terry in a memorable performance. A costume contest brightened the night, and hot dogs and marshmallows were free to the guests. Jack Jones, MAPA Director, sold popcorn to the crowd to help MAPA raise money.

A highlight of the weekend was the Living History group who set up a tent in Log Cabin Craft Village and gave a glimpse into the lives of the soldiers of the Civil War era.

These people come from all walks of life, from housewives to doctors, and have in common a shared interest in the history of the United States, especially the Civil War. They have costume and will travel, often thousands of miles per year, in order to be a part of bringing a slice of the past to the present.

The American Civil War attracts living history participants from all over the world, and it is a curious phenomenon that there are many more participants who represent Confederates than any other. Children and adults make up the actors, and each is devoted to presenting the most accurate account of the era as possible. It is a lot of fun and provides a unique way of being a part of history.

Tony Goggans and his Malibu Mountain Band was a hit as usual, with local citizens such as Bernice Crow, Jean Elrod and Angela Wilson joining in the musical fun. The Mentone Springs Hotel now houses the Mentone

Center for the Arts and if the opening day enthusiasm was any indication, the organization is here to stay. Artists like Rick Long and Lucy Mitchell along with crafts people and artisans from the tri-state area have on permanent display examples of their work that are for sale to the public. There is a variety of different items, including clothing, jewelry, pottery, paintings, sculpture and much more. A special "Creation Station" was operated by Rick and Debbie Long for the children to participate in the hands-on expression of the arts.

The days were mostly bright and sunny, although the color had not quite reached its peak. But there was beauty everywhere, for the translucence of the emerging colors was evident all over the mountain. The river offered an especially beautiful view as many visitors and local people alike joined in the boat rides offered by MAPA.

The bike/walking path was completed enough to allow its use, and the proceeds from the Colorfest will be used to finish the project. The Colorfest is an event which was begun in order to benefit the community, and that is just what has been accomplished.



Lots of folks enjoy Colorfest.



The Weavers — Owners of The Elephant's Tail, a new shop in the White Elephant Galleries.



Sunni Mays teaches Bill Pilson of Mentone Hardware the fine art of basketry.



Tony Groggans — Emcee



Jim Conner and Terry Hutcheson



Many Thanks to DeKalb Ambulance Service



Costume Contest contestants

## Moon Lake Harvest Festival - Fun And Games FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Charles Bell, Principal



## Winners Of The Scarecrow Contest



The winners of the 1988 October Colorfest Scarecrow contest were first place — Clayton and Crystal Coats with their creation, "Lazy Louie." Runner-up — "Hank" fashioned by The Crow's Nest Antiques, and Most Creative went to The Log Cabin Deli Staff for "Romeo, Juliette and Kim, The Wedding Party."

In the Costume Contest, Brittany Genelin of Fort Payne won first place, Jacob Parrish of Fort Payne won second place, and third place was taken by John Griffin of Ar-muchee, Georgia. All of the children who participated wore delightful costumes, so it was a hard decision by the judges. A special thanks to all who entered and to all those who assisted.



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(Continued From Front Cover)

way: A fast-talking salesman sold him an old dental chair and all the dental accessories to go with it — tooth pullers and all. He often wondered why he purchased all that paraphernalia, and for a few years it gathered dust in the corner of the store. One day a customer came in who was in considerable pain from a toothache. The time was during the Depression and most people could not afford to have a tooth pulled, much less filled. D. W. decided to make good use of the unused dental equipment, and when word of his prowess as a tooth-extractor got around, he had a new profession to add to that of store owner. He pulled teeth for years and never charged for the service.

D. W. was one of the earliest settlers in the area, and he gave the land for the local school there. He farmed also and took great care in his relationship with the land and with his family, friends, neighbors and customers. His word was his bond, and he believed in the need to serve others, just as his grandson Paul Thomas does today.

Paul Thomas grew up near the large house where his mother was born. His father, Glen, was in the construction trade and felt the same obligation to serve the people that was a Powell family tradition. "I did not have to stay out of school to work on the farm like many of my peers did, but I was expected to stay out and drive people to the polls to vote on election day. I did not care for it at first, but came to realize the importance of the event and came to really look forward to it," Judge Thomas talked of his early years. "I like people and always have. Even when kids were cruel in school and I would resolve to not ever speak to them again, I would find myself forgiving by the next day. I cannot hold a grudge, and I am glad it is that way. It would be difficult for me to be in an office and not have contact with people. That is why I love this job so much — I can help others and get to know them and try to make a difference for the better in their lives."

Judge Thomas now lives in the old family home. It has withstood the rigors of time and weather since 1906, when it was built. It has 20 rooms in all and each part of it has a special meaning for the Thomas family.

When Judge Thomas' grandmother died in the middle sixties, she left the house to her son, Alton, who had lived with her in the home. Alton Powell was a warm and gracious host to the many friends and family who visited him over the years. At his death, the remaining heirs drew lots to see how the property would be divided. Paul Thomas' mother, Pauline, drew the house.

Henry David Thoreau also said, "There was a time when the beauty and the music were all within, and I sat and listened to my thoughts, and there was a song in them." Paul Thomas not only hears the music within, but senses the beauty and music within all mankind and from that understanding and sensitivity comes the ability to respect and feel compassion for all he touches.



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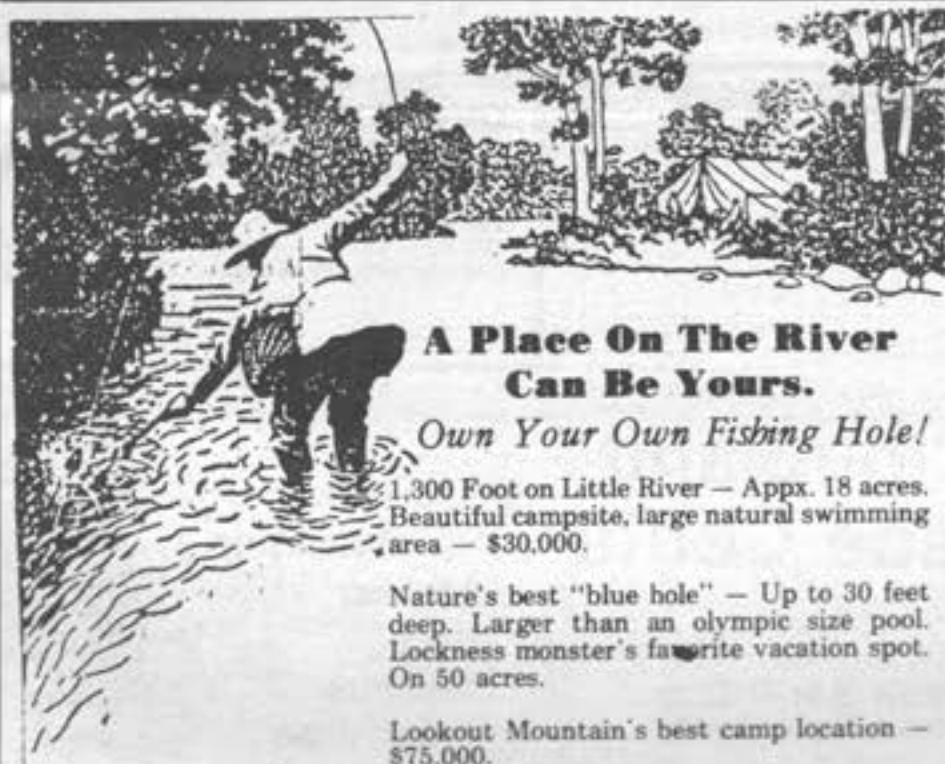
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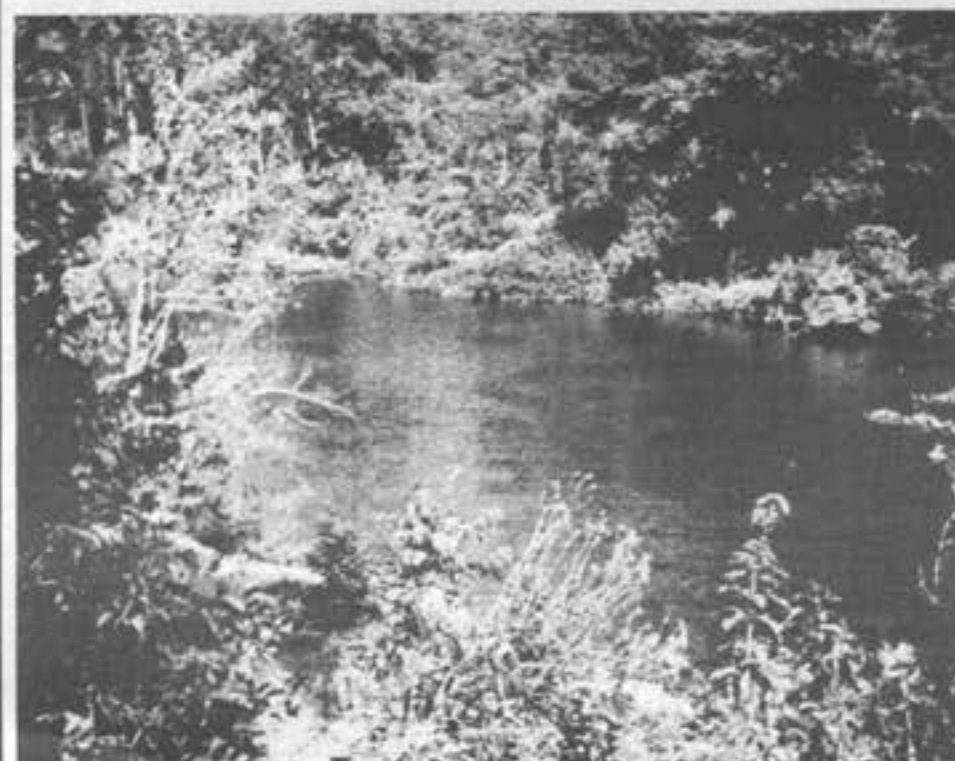
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- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 1/2 cups seedless raisins
- 1/2 candied peel, cut small
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups sifted flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- nut meats, if desired

Boil together for three minutes sugar, water, fruits, shortening, spices and salt. COOL. Add flour and baking powder, sifted together. Add vanilla. Mix well and bake in well greased loaf pan in slow oven (325 degrees to 350 degrees F.) about one hour. Cool in pan (upright) before removing — about 12 minutes.

Recipe from Mrs. Lula Blalock  
Mentone, Ala.

### PINEAPPLE FLUFF CAKE

- 1 box Duncan Hines Golden Butter Cake Mix
  - 1/2 cup Crisco Oil
  - 4 eggs
  - 1 can Mandarin orange slices, juice and all
- Mix above ingredients and bake in four round pans at 325 degrees F. for 25-30 minutes.

### ICING (DO NOT use mixer)

- 1 large can crushed pineapple, juice and all
  - 1 large instant vanilla pudding mix
  - 1 9-ounce Cool Whip
- Mix pineapple and pudding mix until thick. Add Cool Whip, frozen. Mix well. Spread between layers and on top. Keep in refrigerator.

Recipe from Judith Garren, Ider, Ala.  
and Louise Hulan, Valley Head, Ala.

### PUMPKIN DESSERT CAKE

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 cups pumpkin
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 1/4 cups Mazola Oil or melted shortening
- 1/2 cup nut meats

Place all the dry ingredients in a large mixing bowl. With spoon, make a deep well in center. In the well, add all the other ingredients. Stir carefully, just enough to dampen all the other ingredients. Pour into loaf pans. Makes two. Bake at 350 degrees F. for one hour. Delicious served with spiced tea.

Recipe given by Mrs. Brownie C. Tuttle  
Valley Head, Ala.

### ORANGE CAKE

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 4 eggs
- 3/4 cup oil
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 box orange Jell-O

Mix well and bake in tube pan at 350 degrees F. for about 45 minutes or until done. Remove from pan and cool.

### GLAZE

- 2 1/2 cups fresh orange juice (not frozen)
- 1/2 stick butter
- 1 cup sugar

Mix and boil until butter melts. Pour over cake. This cake is better if it sets for a day or two.

Recipe from Mrs. M. H. York (Doris)

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## Local Wildlife- Catamounts

By Seth Banks

Mountain lions, sometimes called Catamounts in the South, are large wild animals belonging to the cat family. They are found mainly in the western states, New England, and in the Appalachian mountains.

Mountain lions may be gray, red or a yellowish color called tawny. They have no spots. The underside is usually white. Their bodies may be five feet long when they are grown; this does not include the length of the tail.

The average number of cubs in a litter is three. The cub weighs about a pound at birth. It takes about two years to develop enough skill to find food alone.

The sound the cat makes is terrifying. It sounds like a person screaming in pain. They can also make a soft whistle call.

They are often considered pests. They rarely kill domestic animals. They have been known to attack people, but cases are rare.

They are endangered animals that deserve respect, not harm.



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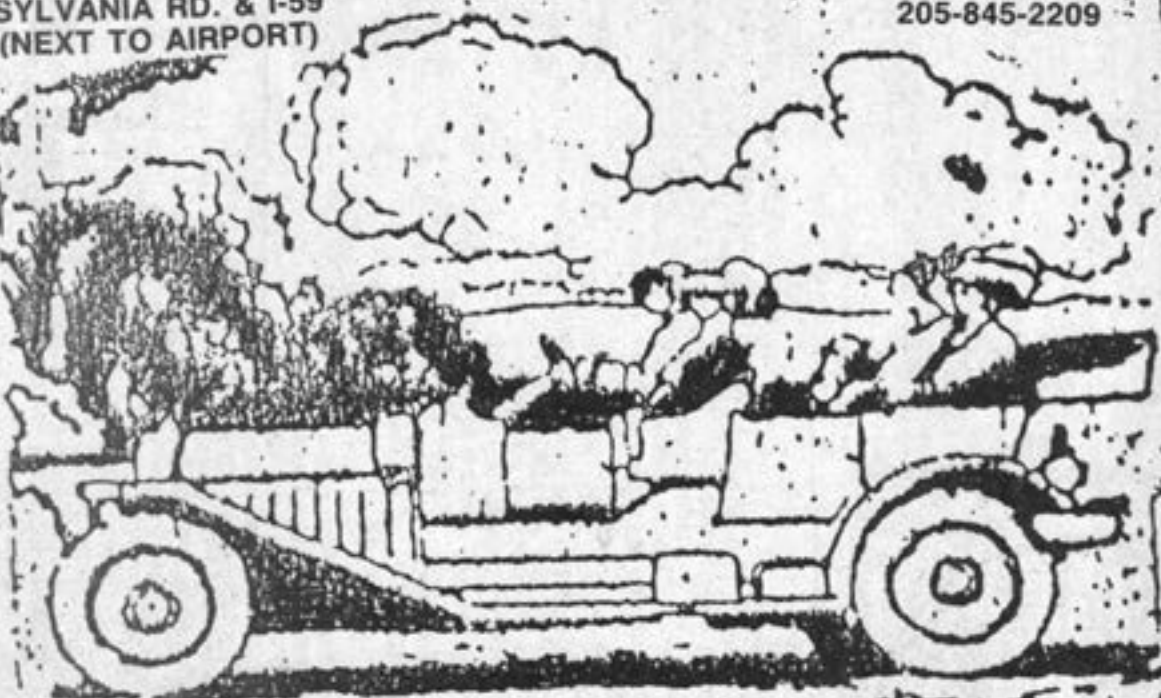
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