

GROUNDHOG

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

Nippersink Lodge: You Always Want To Return



Mentone with its wealth of natural beauty lends itself to country inns and Nippersink Lodge has been a permanent part of the attractiveness of Mentone since 1945. It is operated by Ed and Gerry Disney and their children, Teresa Cox and Desmond Disney.

The Disney's discovered Nippersink in 1975 after Desmond made a field trip to Mentone with his geology class at Georgia State University. The professor suggested that Des might like to photograph some of the interesting rock formations around Mentone. Des was "bitten" by the "Mentone Bug" and returned to Atlanta where the Disney's owned a photographic supply business to tell his parents that they all needed to move to Mentone.

Nippersink is located on the west bank of Little River about one-fourth mile upstream from DeSoto Falls. Native rhododendron and mountain laurel abound on the lodge's grounds.

At that time George and Osceola Hauge owned Nippersink. The Disney's were able to get reservations for Mother's Day weekend, 1975. They returned in July for a week and also for Labor Day weekend that year.

"We began to look for a place then and heard about 'RiversEdge' (a house on the Little River)," Mr. Disney said. "RiversEdge" was owned by the McSpadden family and came on the market in October, 1976. The Disney's bought the house and began coming to Mentone every weekend. They became close friends of the Hauges and visited the lodge, meeting lodge guests on each trip.

According to Mr. Disney, their son, Desmond, was the real driving force behind the family's acquiring of Nippersink.

The Hauge's were experiencing some health problems and felt that they would not be able to continue running Nippersink.

Desmond and Kathie, his wife, made the trips to negotiate with the Hauge's on the possible purchase of Nippersink.

"Des told us, if we would buy Nippersink he would take over the photographic supply store we had operated for 40 years," Mr. Disney said.

Centenary Methodist Church in Chattanooga had an option to buy Nippersink and would have used the Lodge as a private retreat center. The option was not exercised and the Disney's received a call from the Hauges "just after midnight on the day the option ended!"

The Hauges reported that Nippersink was available if the Disney's were interested. In April, 1978, they signed a sales agreement and Nippersink became theirs.

The Lodge has had an interesting history. In the beginning it was built as a summer home for Mrs. Eugene Taylor of Murphreesboro, Tenn., in 1935. The name "Nippersink" is a Cherokee Indian word meaning, "little river."

It was built entirely of native materials — except the large cedar posts used across the front of the lodge, which were shipped by flat car from Lebanon, Tenn. The four-

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CLASS REPRESENTATIVES FOR MOON LAKE'S HARVEST FESTIVAL COURT are: (top row, from left) Ginger Grey and James Thomas, Mr. Bell's class; Frankie Wesley and Mandi Browder, Mrs. Smith's class; (bottom row, from left) Matt Hilliard and Jana Goss, Mrs. Moseley's class; Ashley Foster and Jessica Pless, Miss Lehman's class.

Mentone Memories: Vennie Pearce

When Mentone enjoyed its first "boom" as a tourist resort between 1918-1930, Vennie Low Pearce's family became a part of the permanent scene of the town.

Mrs. Pearce, who first visited Mentone in 1918, and now lives in the center of "downtown" has fond memories of the exciting times she and her family enjoyed in our unique area.

"We used to have worlds of people here in the summer," she said. "Every one of the four hotels in town would be full all summer long."

"Tourists would come by train to Valley Head and be met by taxis that would bring them up the mountain. Most of the houses on the brow were owned by people from New Orleans," Mrs. Pearce remembered.

Mrs. Pearce's father, Marion Wallace Low, bought what is now the Hitching Post in 1922.

The Low's were from Savannah, Ga. Mr. Low's father and uncle came to Savannah from England as cotton factors, buying cotton for English mills.

Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of the Girl Scouts, was Mr. Low's aunt.

"All five of the girls in the family were Girl Scouts," said Mrs. Pearce. "We met in the carriage house at my aunt's home."

That home is now a nationally recognized landmark and is visited by 1,000's of Girl Scouts each year.

Mrs. Pearce spent most of her young adult life in Atlanta where Maxine's Military Shops were headquartered. She became a buyer and manager for the shops and worked in Knoxville, Nashville and Montgomery. Her husband was a state auditor for Georgia and served in the U. S. Army.

"I love hats," Mrs. Pearce said. "I have a house full of them — big ones and little things. My sister, Catherine, and I, used to model hats. Hats are coming back, more people are buying them now."

She opened the first gift shop at the Mentone Springs Hotel, specializing in imported linens and antiques. She also sold local crafts like hats made of corn shucks and gourds.

"There was always a string orchestra at the Hotel. They played every evening during dinner. People always dressed up for the evening in Mentone," said Mrs. Pearce.

Music was a big attraction in Mentone and the dances held on the weekends at the Hitching Post were well attended by the summer crowd of young people.

Mrs. Pearce's brother, Buck Low, who lives in Mentone, and her niece, Madeline Porter, who now lives in Selma enjoyed the dances often.

Mrs. Porter remembers that they often held "Sunrise Dances."

"The dance wouldn't start until midnight. We would dance all night until sunrise," she said.

When the Low family moved to Mentone in 1922, they made an impact on the area. Mr. Low led fox hunts, acting as the master of the hounds, from the Mentone Springs Hotel. Mrs. Pearce still has an old English painting of a fox hunt hanging in her living room that belonged to her father.

Mrs. Pearce had been an active volunteer for many years and still has her first Red Cross pin from the 1920s. She has received a number of citations from the organizations she served.

"The Rotary Club in Fort Payne wanted to honor me at a luncheon, but I just forgot to go to it," she remembered. "Graham Glover (the former rector of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church) came by and we laughed about my memory."

She has framed a certificate signed by President Roosevelt on Jan. 16, 1943 for her volunteer service during World War II.

Although the Low family was first attracted to Mentone during that initial tourist boom, they stayed. All the family, including Mrs. Pearce's four sisters lived in Mentone during their lifetimes. Her sisters, now all deceased included Lila Van Zant who married Homer Van Zant from Gadsden, their daughter is Madeline Porter of Selma who is a regular Mentone visitor. Edris Barrett, another sister, married to former Mentone mayor Sam Barrett. Two other sisters, Catherine Low Harvey and Madeline Warren were regular Mentone visitors.

Mrs. Pearce's brother, Ralph Wallace Low — Buck — lives next door to his sister.

"I love Mentone. It's a quiet, nice place to live with nice people. The climate is just right, not as cold as Atlanta," Mrs. Pearce said.

Moon Lake's Festival Nets Nearly \$6,000

Moon Lake School's Harvest Festival, held Saturday, Nov. 3, raised nearly \$6,000 for the school this year. Mandi Browder and Frankie Wesley, representing Mrs. Joyce Smith's class were crowned Queen and King of the Festival. Their class raised the most money in the class competition.

The Harvest Festival provides funds used for improvements at the school. In the past the money has built the gym and additional classrooms.

"We really appreciate everybody who supported the school this year," said P.T.A. president Larry Gray. "Moon Lake is important to Mentone and the good response to the Harvest Festival proves that again."

Colorfest Weekend Big Success

The 1990 Colorfest drew hundreds of visitors to the Mentone area last month and was named a success by Mentone Area Preservation Association members who organized it.

Beginning with the bonfire on Friday night, Oct. 19, festival goers had a taste of Mentone's crisp fall weather. Terry Hutcherson emceed the evening of singing and storytelling assisted by his brother-in-law, T. A. Miller. Tommy Thomas kept the crowd of both children and adults enthralled with his stories.

Saturday morning, the Groundhog Classic got the day off to a good start. Nearly 100 runners participated in the 4.2 mile race and the one mile fun run. Overall winners were Neal Stubblefield and Betsy Cofer. They received prizes of \$100. All registrants in the race received an official race sweatshirt.

The runners reported that the course which begins at the Hitching Post, follows DeSoto Parkway to the DeSoto Falls Road and back to the start, is one of the more difficult. The rolling terrain and brisk morning wind tested the endurance of all participants.

Winners by age divisions were:

Men, 14 and under: first place, Jason Smith; second place, Curt Miller; third place, Ken Miller; fourth place, Jeremy Horn. Women, 14 and under: first place, Jessica Walker; second place, Sandra Lamb.

Men, 15-19: first place, Marak Benzig; second place, Jeff Eberheart; third place, Chris Belyou. Women, 15-19: first place, Emily Crow; second place, April Margene.

Men, 20-29: first place, Freddie Naranjo; second place, David Beach; third place, Billy Vance. Women, 20-29: first place, Romaine Mackey; second place, Michele Weems.

Men, 30-39: first place, Neal Stubblefield; second place, Jamie Doss; third place, Bruce Conrad. Women, 30-39: first place, Betsy Cofer; second place, Becky Maples; third place, Sue Dickey.

The festivities ended Sunday afternoon with a drawing for a queen-size quilt. The quilt was won by Emily Smith of Mentone who had purchased one chance. Over 900 chances were sold.

Men, 40 and over: first place, Rodgers White; second place, Robert Taylor; third place, Larry Pell. Women, 40 and over: first place, Sharon Pell; second place, Linda Chandler; third place, Mary Longshore.



SHADY GROVE LODGE GRAND OPENING: The Lookout Mountain Parkway Association meeting celebrated Shady Grove's Grand Opening on Oct. 24. It was a perfect evening for some Dude Ranch fun with great barbecue, wagon rides, and songs around the campfire.



VENNIE PEARCE

GED Classes At Moon Lake

Free Adult Basic Education classes are offered at Moon Lake School every Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

According to Mrs. Eugene Smith who coordinates the program in Mentone for the Northeast Alabama Area Adult Education Program, you may enroll any Thursday. All materials are free and there is no deadline either to enroll or to complete the course.

The only requirement is that you must be 18 years of age or older to enroll.

Classes are designed to help you improve your skills in English, math, social studies, science and reading, and to help you prepare for the GED Test. High school graduates may attend for brush-up also.

For more information, call Moon Lake School, 634-4113 or Mrs. Eugene Smith, 635-6821.

From The Editor

By Emily Smith

The controversy surrounding any expansion of the Downer's Landfill should cause all of us to face up to a very dirty problem — our own garbage.

The United States is often called "a disposable society." We have approximately 5 percent of the world's population yet we create 15-38 percent of the world's garbage! Some statistics show that the amount of garbage each of us generates in our lifetime is 600 times our adult weight.

The Alabama Conservancy, a group affiliated with the Nature Conservancy, has suggested the answer to our trash problems lies in three key words: reduction, reuse and recycling.

Reduction, the first step reminds us to eliminate unnecessary packaging like foods double wrapped in paper and plastic. Reuse is as simple as keeping a "string drawer," saving string, rubber bands, paper clips, anything that you can use again.

Recycling is being done more and more in communities all around our country. It takes a conscious effort to separate the items that can be recycled: aluminum, glass, newspaper, and plastics but, over half of the garbage we produce can be recycled. That's a significant reduction in the amount of trash we put out each week.

The letter to the editor in this issue of *The Groundhog* gives another avenue that is open to us. Let our elected officials know what we want. This is true on other issues as well as the garbage one.

Speaking of politics — we hope everyone voted in the Nov. 2 election. We heard the shocking statistic that most elections are decided by less than 1/2 of the eligible voters! That means that many potential voters are not even registered to vote. Voting is a privilege of U. S. Citizenship — and a responsibility.

The *Groundhog* does not take a stand on party politics. Questions have been raised as to why we accepted advertising from only one political party. The answer simply is that candidates from both major political parties were contacted and only one party responded within our time limitations. We hope next time there is an election, every candidate running will choose to buy advertising space in *The Groundhog*.

Letter To The Editor

Letter to the Editor,

I am urging all citizens of DeKalb County who are concerned about the expansion of a landfill in Hammondville, that will certainly compromise our water supply to write letters to:

Senator Howell Heflin, P. O. Box 228, Tusculum, AL 35674; Congressman Tom Bevill, 1804 4th Avenue, Jasper, AL 35501; and Senator Richard Shelby, P. O. Box 2627, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403.

Helen Rockenbach
Valley Head, AL 35989

Letter to the Editor:

We the Board of Directors of Friends of Little River join with the members of CARE, Mayor Gordon Jones on behalf of the citizens and council of Hammondville, Ed Ringer on behalf of the Valley Head Water Board, and Mary Summerville on behalf of the relations of the county, the garden clubs of the county and the Keep DeKalb County Beautiful Commission in opposing the expansion of Downers Landfill into a county, multi-county, or regional landfill.

Mrs. Maurine B. Donahue of Valley Head in a letter to Gary Gengozian, editor of the Fort Payne Times Journal stated, "God has endowed northeast Alabama and DeKalb County in particular with great natural beauty. The county is becoming a mecca for people retiring from all parts of the country because of its natural beauty and congenial people. They are contributing greatly to the economy and culture of this region. Will retirees want to come to this area if a county wide, and perhaps several counties landfill is in their midst? Will an expanded landfill make a beautiful gateway to a national park?" We agree.

We also support Fort Payne Mayor David Stout in his belief that, "We might resist the trend to privatize public services. Waste disposal, just as water, sewer and other utilities is best left in the public domain. You are going to have to pay the bill no matter what. If it's public, you'll have to pay what it cost; if it's private, you'll have to pay what it cost plus profit." DeKalb County's proposed 10 year solid waste plan "does not provide a way to deal with the need for landfills in a way that protects the interests of the citizens."

We urge the DeKalb County Commission to appoint a citizens committee to work on the county's solid waste problem.

And finally we urge the adoption of a strong recycling program in DeKalb County. Recycling saves energy, natural resources and landfill space.

DeKalb County clean-ups are gaining recognition state and nation wide. Last year's clean-up of Little River Canyon was selected as a finalist in the Take Pride in America competition in Washington, D. C. The effort is among the 170 finalist chosen from 680 environmental projects nominated from all over the country.

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The Groundhog

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

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DeKalb County is becoming known as the "clean-up county in other ways also. The annual Clean Sweep campaign to a pick up litter from the county's roadsides is already a success.

DeKalb County is also a leader in the state in the Adopt-a-Mile program. Dozen of miles have been adopted under the program sponsored by the State Highway Department. Dozens more have been adopted under a campaign plan established by the DeKalb County Commission. DeKalb County is one of the few counties in the state to take on a program for county roads. Rainsville is a standout in the program, having gotten all major streets in the city adopted.

DeKalb County is also one of only a couple of counties that has our own "trash cop." Billy McDow the Solid Waste Supervisor for DeKalb County, is also a DeKalb County Sheriff's Deputy. Putting arrest powers on the trash beat is a strong statement on behalf of the environment, and it is another action that is bringing credit to the county.

There is no better time than now for the citizens of DeKalb County to take the lead and to set an example for the rest of the state in developing a comprehensive solid waste management plan with strong emphasis on REDUCING, REUSING, and RECYCLING our solid waste.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Friends of Little River,

Sincerely,
Desmond Disney



How To Get A Groundhog
To Your Home or Office

The Groundhog is the official publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association. It is provided by them as a service to the community at large. Dues are ten dollars per year which will insure the arrival of the Groundhog to your doorstep, come rain or shine. For your very own copies send ten dollars to: MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

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Valley View

By Eloise M. Brown

The Valley Head U.M.W. met at the home of Mary Louise Holleman for their October meeting. Venna Livingston completed the Study and Laura Margaret Allison conducted the Pledge Service. Others present were: Velma Hammond, Geraldine Hawkins, Frances Longshore, Brownie Tuttle, Frances Tate, Gladola Holleman, Janie Longshore, Adelaide Biddle, Evelyn Phillips, Eloise Brown and little Wade Mercer.

Doris and Jim Carmichael visited Martha and Jack McGlinchey at Bainbridge, Ga. Martha has serious health problems but has a wonderful outlook on life and is doing great. Doris and Jim went on to Florida for a few days.

P. W. Roberts has returned home after treatment at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga. His daughter, Martha Killian, is visiting them. P. W. is much loved and admired by many boys that he taught and influenced for years at Valley Head High School.

Nelda Johnson of Dutton, Ala., was a recent guest of her daughter, Melinda Adkins, and Jeff.

Irma and Thomas Allison of Arden, N. C., visited his mother, Laura Margaret Allison. They returned home by Nashville, where they attended the National Retail Drugists' Convention.

Mary Louise and Ted Holleman and Katherine and Jimmy Crumbley went to Ellijay, Ga., and returned with apples galore.

Gladys Cobble is afflicted with shingles. We hope for her a quick recovery.

Ruth Pickett has returned home after surgery at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga.

Helen, Laurie and Larry Longshore were weekend guests of Helen's mother, Lena Jarrell, at Clarksville, Tenn.

Barbara and Neil Salter of Houston, Texas visited Martha and "Hoot" Gibson for a week. They went to Gatlinburg for the weekend. They reported gorgeous foliage and too many people.

Dot and Bill Blackburn went to Memorial Hospital to see Bill's sister, Vera Crabtree, who is seriously ill, and they also visited another sister of Bill's, Ruby Humble in Hixson, Tenn. She is recovering after a stay in the hospital.

Ed Ringer is recovering nicely after surgery at Gadsden Surgery Center. He spent a week with his sister, Joyce Allen, and Harold at Centre, Ala., to convalesce.

Frances Longshore had as her guests her daughter, Mary Lyle, and son, Chris, Ben Cashen and his daughter, Sunny, from Haleyville, Ala. Mary Lyle won a trophy in the Groundhog Classic Run.

A larger water line is being laid by the Violet Hill Church and down the Railroad Valley to Valley Head. That road is also being improved, which was badly needed.

Ghosts, goblins and witches turned out in full force at Valley Head Baptist Church and Lea's Chapel Church on Halloween.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Wednesday, Nov. 21
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preaching

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November MAPA

Meeting Held

The Mentone Area Preservation Association held its regular monthly meeting on Nov. 6. The meeting was held in St. Joseph's Episcopal Church because the Town Hall was used that day for the November elections.

The report from the Colorfest committee showed that a profit was made for the event. Sherman Gough reported that they sold 1,076 chances on the queen-size handmade quilt that was won by Emily Smith of Mentone.

Rick Chapman announced that the "Keep DeKalb Beautiful" committee had been given 38 dumpsters by J. L. Downer.

"They plan to place them around the county to be used for recyclable glass, aluminum and plastics," Mr. Chapman said.

Keep DeKalb Beautiful is looking for community groups to supervise the placement of the dumpsters in each town.

MAPA joined the Mountain Lakes Association which supports tourism in our area and they rejoined the DeKalb County Tourist Association.

A Christmas Party for the children of Mentone is in the planning stages. A MAPA committee including Harrell Jenkins, Bernise Crow, Sherman Gough and Ray Frohler will be working with the North DeKalb Ministerial Association to coordinate the party. The Rev. Jeff Adkins, representing the Ministerial Association said that they would like to participate with volunteer help, a Christmas service for the children, and possibly an ecumenical choir.

"We want to give this a spiritual emphasis," Rev. Adkins said.

The next Adopt-A-Mile clean up is Nov. 19 at 9 a.m. MAPA members will meet at Sutton's Place on Highway 117 to pick up the trash along the highway. Sherman Gough reported that they picked up 21 bags of trash the last time they worked.

The next MAPA meeting will be the annual Christmas Party to be held Dec. 4 at the new Mentone Springs Hotel Restaurant. Sandra Padgett, restaurant owner, presented several alternatives for the banquet menu.

Wesleyan Church Celebrates Anniversary

The Mentone Wesleyan Church celebrated its 75th anniversary on Sunday, Oct. 21, with 111 people present for services and lunch.

The church was started in the fall of 1915 when Mr. H. Frank Shigley decided it was time to take a stand relative to his religious views and to provide a permanent place of worship for his family, according to the Rev. Blaine Derck, Wesleyan pastor. Mr. Shigley is listed as a charter member of the church.

The members numbered about 10 for the first several years of the church's existence, principally consisting of young people. They first met in the upper room of Mason Hall near Moon Lake. The group was led by Mrs. Kate Shaffer.

Later, Mrs. Ruth Brown gave the church three acres of land for a building. The community became interested and offered to help by giving both money and labor to the project.

In 1917, "The Little Brown Church in the Wildwood" was built. In 1922, the group was able to build a parsonage next to the church. The church is now painted white. A fellowship hall was added to the campus in 1973 and the present parsonage was built in 1980.

READY — SET — GO: The 1990 Ground Classic Run takes off.



AND THE WINNERS ARE:



NEAL STUBBLEFIELD receives his award from Larry Hooks and Mark Pickle.



TOP LADY RUNNER Betsy Cofer is congratulated by Coach Hooks.



WINNERS IN THE BOYS 14 and under division formed a congenial group. From left: Ken Miller, Jeremy Irons, Curt Miller and Jason Smith.



COLORS SAND in small bottles drew young and old at a "make your own craft booth" at Mentone's Colorfest.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS: The Mentone Springs Hotel Restaurant officially opened during the Colorfest weekend. Sandra Padgett, owner, and Wayne Chattin, chef, welcomed hungry festival goers. The Restaurant is open Thursday-Sunday.



BEAUTIFUL TWO STORY LARGE HOME — This home has 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, living room, dining room, kitchen and great room with stone fireplace. All floors are wood except bedrooms and baths. There is also a 10 x 36 screened-in back porch for summer living. Located inside the town limits of Mentone with 300 feet on the brow (bluff), \$125,000.

MENTONE CHARM — This rambling home is nestled in the woods and one of Mentone's most unique cottages. It has a stone fireplace for winter and large sunny room for spring. Also, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and screened porch, \$65,000.

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From The Pastor's Study

By The Rev. Jeff Adkins
Mentone and Valley Head Methodist Church
(The Pastor's Study will be a regular feature of The Groundhog. Each month a different pastor from our area will write a devotional column for us. The North DeKalb Ministerial Association is coordinating our writers).

My memory was jarred a few days ago as I glanced by the blue decanters on the kitchen counter. Seeing them, I remembered how appreciative my wife was when I gave her that shirt she liked at that outlet store but we didn't buy because we weren't sure if we could afford it, since we hadn't been married long and were in school, which can be quite expensive. Are you following me? My wife, Melinda, and I were married in August of 1984. Two weeks later we were in school at the University of Alabama. Funds were quite tight at the time but with both of us working we were able to pay our bills but not much extra. One day we were looking around in an outlet store in nearby Northport and came upon a pretty shirt that matched a pair of pants that Melinda had. The cost was less than \$10 but we decided to wait. A few days later I found the blue canisters that we needed for the flour, meal, and tea. Then the idea hit me! I could buy the canisters and the shirt but put the shirt in the canister box. I like surprises! The result was magnanimous! Melinda was surprised, I was happy, and the flour had a home. Melinda was so thankful. This made me want to surprise her again. The neat thing is that Melinda is thankful for everything that I do for her. Whether it's a glass of tea to take with her to work, the fact that I remembered to mow the yard, or telling her how pretty she looks there is always a sincere appreciation and a word of gratitude that awaits me.

It is this appreciative attitude of my wife that keeps me looking for ways to surprise her, keeps me doing things I wouldn't normally do, and keeps me noticing things I wouldn't normally notice. There is power in thanksgiving! Giving thanks nurtures relationships and recognizes the importance of others in our lives.

I feel this is the heart of this Thanksgiving season. It is wonderful to set aside a holiday to give thanks. Yet, if we are only aware of our good fortunes in this season we have lost the more important aspect of the season. We need to give thanks on a daily basis to those around us but more importantly we need to give thanks to God who has created us and given us the opportunity to know Him on an intimate basis through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ. It is too easy to concentrate on the benefits of this life and forget the Source of these benefits, God Himself. Once this happens we lose the joy and fullness of this life and become enslaved to the pursuit of the very things that were meant to enhance life. Think about it. Do we express gratitude to Jesus Christ on a daily basis for all that we

Town Council Notes

Issues including the Mentone Cable television system, property lines, water pressure, garbage concerns, and support of a regional hospice were discussed at the Nov. 5 meeting of the Mentone Town Council this month.

Gary Haas reported that things are "moving along" on the completion of the cable system for Mentone. Mr. Haas along with Bill Kidder are working on the project. A specific date for completion was not given but Mr. Haas indicated that the antenna is up and work is progressing on it. He said that Mr. Kidder has run eight miles of strand. "It is taking longer than we imagined," Mr. Haas said, "but, we are moving along."

A petition to vacate a street in the Mentone Springs Hotel subdivision was presented by Gayle C. Chambers. The street which exists only on paper runs through Mrs. Chambers garage. The city agreed to the petition.

Bob Daniels voiced concerns about property line definition in his neighborhood, especially relating to Alabama Street. Two conflicting surveys which were made in the past differ by 45 feet, east and west. One resident of the neighborhood, John Fox, is planning to make a new survey based on the original description of the area in the deeds that were held by Mrs. Ben Cameron of Meridian. Mrs. Cameron, originally from Valley Head, was the first owner of property there.

Inconsistencies in water pressure and the extension of water lines to various parts of Mentone were also discussed.

The subject of the possible closing of Downer landfill was brought up.

Max Cash, Mentone's mayor, reported that Mayor Gordon Jones of Hammondville had indicated that "they would try to close the landfill. The Mentone town council is taking a "wait and see" position on the issue.

Council members commented that people (in Hammondville) "might change their minds if they get a \$20 per month garbage bill" if garbage had to be taken out of the county.

"Garbage and water will be the biggest issues we'll be facing," the council said, in the future.

The mayor received a letter from the Hospice of Northeast Alabama urging his support in increasing community awareness about Hospice and its services for the terminally ill and bereaved.

The Hospice is located in Scottsboro and serves DeKalb and Jackson counties. They offer pain and symptom control, counseling and spiritual support, grief support and education.

enjoy in Him. Try praying with only offering up words of praise and thanksgiving without asking anything of God. If we all do this we all will experience a renewal in our prayers and our relationship with God. Have a happy Thanksgiving.



ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITY for the care of the mules that pull their wagons from Pennsylvania to Florida is one of the key lessons young people learn on the Vision Quest Wagon Train. The Vision Quest group passed through Mentone recently. Vision Quest works with hundreds of troubled youngsters each year.

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My Dog Freckles

By John Baty

It was back around 1948 that we made a fox hunt with Harrison (Bear) Lusk near Portersville, Ala. We carried several hounds on the back of my Brother's flat bed lumber truck and drove to the Lusk home across the ridge west of Portersville.

My female hound, Freckles, had puppies that were in the process of being weaned, so we decided to take her on the hunt.

We cast the dogs at the west side of the ridge and they "struck" and crossed the ridge out of hearing in the direction of the town of Portersville. We heard them top the ridge several times during the night but they were too far away for me to tell if my dog was with them.

Next morning all dogs were back at the casting grounds except Freckles, so we returned home without her.

The hunt was on Saturday night and on Monday morning when I fed the puppies, Freckles was in the house with the puppies looking a bit tired but otherwise O. K.

Did she travel all the way from Portersville to Mentone by foot, or did someone find her and bring her home? We will never know, but I feel that she came the distance to her puppies and climbed the low fence that enclosed them.

That is the way it happened at Mentone some 42 years ago.

Country Cooking

With Nova Dean Kilgore

This series is brought to you compliments of Morgan Drugs in Valley Head which offers a complete selection of old-time Watkins Products.

BREAD DRESSING

3 cups dry white bread (remove all crust, crumble into pieces)
 1/2 cup butter (melted)
 1 tablespoon chopped onion
 3 tablespoons finely chopped celery
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 Watkins Pepper
 Watkins Onion Seasoning
 Watkins Sage
 Watkins Celery
 Salt

Mix all ingredients together, fry onion in little butter

before adding to mixture. Toss lightly with a fork to blend. For Celery Dressing use 1 cup chopped celery for 1 cup bread crumbs.

Sufficient for one 5-pound fowl.

BREAD DRESSING OR STUFFING

2 1/2 cups grated soft bread crumbs
 1 tablespoon white onion, chopped
 1/4 cup chopped celery
 4 tablespoons butter
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon Watkins Poultry Seasoning

Cook onion and celery in the butter to a light brown. Cool. Add bread crumbs and seasoning. Mix well. Will make 2 cups. Use for meat or poultry.

CHESTNUT DRESSING FOR A 10-POUND TURKEY

2 pounds chestnuts
 1 tablespoon olive oil
 1/2 cup melted butter
 4 cups bread crumbs two days old or (2) cups freshly mashed potatoes and 2 cups bread crumbs may be used)
 1/4 teaspoon Watkins Pepper
 Watkins Onion Seasoning

Make an opening in each chestnut using a sharp knife. Pour olive oil over the chestnuts and bake for 10 minutes in a hot oven. Remove the chestnuts and take off the shell and scrape off the skin. Cook in boiling salted water until soft, drain and put through a potato ricer twice. Add the remaining ingredients and blend thoroughly.

SOUTHERN CORN BREAD STUFFING

For Chicken Or Turkey

4 cups dry corn bread
 1 cup chopped celery — crisp in ice water then dry
 1/2 cup chopped onion
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/8 teaspoon Watkins Pepper
 5 eggs, beaten slightly

Blend all the ingredients lightly with a fork. Any dressing not used as filling, place in the roasting pan and baste frequently when basting the fowl.

BAKED CRANBERRIES

1 quart cranberries
 3 cups sugar
 2 cups water

Pick over berries, wash, drain. Dissolve sugar and water. Add cranberries, blend well and bake in slow oven until tender. Do not brown. Stir occasionally, but do not break. Serve fruit with roast chicken or turkey.

CRANBERRY SAUCE

1 quart cranberries
 2 cups water
 2 cups sugar

Pick over, wash berries, put through coarse grinder. Add water, cook to boiling and boil 10 minutes. Add sugar, let mixture come to boil and boil 5 minutes. Pour into molds.

SWEET POTATO PIE

2 cups cooked sweet potatoes
 2 tablespoons butter, melted
 1/2 teaspoon Watkins Vanilla
 1/2 cup sugar
 1 unbaked pie shell
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 3 eggs
 1/2 teaspoon Watkins Cinnamon
 1/2 cup cream
 2 tablespoons brandy

Scrub potatoes, boil with skins until tender, peel, mash, put through strainer. Add beaten eggs, one half of sugar, cream, melted butter, 2 tablespoons brandy. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake in hot oven, 450 degrees F., 10 minutes, reduce heat to 350 degrees F., bake about 35 minutes longer until knife will come out clean. When cool, cover with meringue made of stiffly beaten whites of eggs, remaining sugar and Watkins Lemon Extract. Brown lightly in oven, serve hot.

GINGERBREAD DESSERT

1 cup sugar
 1/2 cup butter
 2 eggs
 1 cup sour milk
 1/2 teaspoon soda
 3 tablespoons molasses
 1 teaspoon Watkins Ginger
 1 teaspoon Watkins Cinnamon
 1/4 teaspoon Watkins Cloves
 1/8 teaspoon salt
 2 cups flour (sifted)
 1 1/2 teaspoons Watkins Baking Powder

Sift all the dry ingredients together in a bowl. Cut in the shortening. Add remaining ingredients and blend thoroughly. Pour into a buttered square 9x9 pan bake about 25 minutes in a 350-degree F. oven. Reserve 1/2 cup of flour, butter, sugar and spice mixture and sprinkle over the top of cake before baking. Serve with sweetened whipped cream adding a few drops of Watkins Vanilla.

Country Journal

By Bernise Crow

(Editor's Note: The account of Bernise and Homer's trip to Germany and the Netherlands will be run in three parts.

Soon we crossed the line into Germany, where the farms are immaculate, and the neat houses are very picturesque, with steep shingled roofs — some tile. Our guide informed us that we would have to pay to use toilet facilities in public places in Germany. He reminded us to have at least 50 cents in German money. He said a very stout German woman would guard the toilets, and you would not use it without paying. We found that he was right when we arrived in Cologne.

The main attraction in Cologne is the large Gothic-style cathedral. It is an awesome sight, second only to one in New York City I believe. We could hardly see the top of the building. It took 600 years to build this massive, very ornate church, with twin spires seeming to reach for the skies. What a treat to go inside and watch the ladies arranging huge urns of flowers for the altar. The stained glass windows were massive and most beautiful. Everyone was hushed and stood in awe while inside, and there were a lot of people there. Our guide said the R.A.F. bombed Cologne during World War II, and leveled most of the city. But not a single bullet hit the cathedral.

From Cologne, we drove several miles along the Rhine River, seeing many beautiful old buildings along the way. Very soon we started seeing the grape vineyards on the left side of the river, extending up steep mountains. They are a beautiful sight. It looks impossible to get to them and cultivate or pick them. What a privilege to see these vineyards I had heard so much about. We took a boat ride down the Rhine for several miles, viewing vineyards and old castles all the way. The old castles are on the highest peaks, and are huge. One wonders how in the world they transported building materials to the top of these mountains.

The ride on the river was refreshing, after being on the bus for five hours. We were told there are 150,000 acres in grapes for making Reisling wine. The brothers Grimm, who wrote so many fairy tales were from this area, where the idea for Snow White and The Seven Dwarfs originated. One of the large castles was built in the 1100's. The statue of Lorelei is nearby on a high peak at the bend of the river.

We got to our hotel in Darmstadt at 6:45 p.m. This is a very clean city, and was very pretty at twilight. We had very nice accommodations, a good bed, with down com-

forters. The dinner was served in a nice dining room, where the food was served in good china. Our luggage was handled by men at all our hotels at no extra cost. That was nice.

Aug. 18: Our wake-up time was 6 a.m. this morning. I am not an early riser, but I got going because of the excitement of seeing more lovely scenery. We had a meeting last night of all the people on two buses, and we changed to a different tour guide, Eileen, who is British. She was very good, and kept a running banter with humor along with important information. She gave us much history of the country of Germany.

The country has provinces — the Bavarian part is Catholic, and the other part is protestant. Our first stop today was at Heidelberg, where the famous university is located — the largest one in Europe. She said this city was not bombed during the war because of an agreement to spare the university. Konrad Adenauer was born here. Heidelberg is a lovely, very old city, with narrow streets. We drove down one and could not get past a small parked car, so the driver and some of the men picked the car up and moved it over on the sidewalk and we proceeded.

The Heidelberg Castle is a very pretty one. It would have been nice to go inside, but time was of the essence. We made many pictures of it. Our next stop was at one of the most picturesque, old, interesting of all the villages we saw on the entire trip. The old stone fortress wall is still standing. There is an interesting story about the burger saving the town from destruction. The enemy told him if he could drink a large tankard of wine with one swallow, he would spare the town. The burger did just that and the village was spared. The large clock on the square in the center of the town has a figure (life-size) of a man drinking from the large tankard that comes out at 12:00 noon and maybe every hour-like a cuckoo clock. There were so many people waiting to see this phenomena that it was hard to get close enough to take a picture.

The streets and village squares in all German towns are cut limestone, and have been there for centuries. They are very clean — no litter anywhere — not a piece of paper. There are all sorts of horse-drawn carriages for tours of the sights. There is a beautiful church here named St. Jacob. We did not get inside because a wedding was in progress.

We passed through a small village called Nesselwong — very picturesque. The townspeople were complaining that buses and heavy traffic was coming through their town, and had signs up everywhere. But there was no choice but to proceed through it, in order to reach our destination. The province had promised a super highway that would by-pass them, but had not followed through with it. We met a farmer driving his cows right down the main street. There was nothing we could do but pull over and wait for him to pass.

What excitement passed through our group when we first viewed the Alps! The Alps make our little mountains look like hills. The sharp granite peaks with shadows and light intermingling was enough to give one goose pimples.

We saw many meadows filled with cows or sheep. There are fields full of very good looking corn, making the farms look very prosperous. The whole of West Germany seems to be thriving. Our tour guide said loden cloth is made here, which is a very good material from which suits and coats are made and they are expensive.

We were told of King Ludwig II — the mad one of Germany. He died very young but not before building several magnificent castles. We stopped at a little village called Schwangau where we could see one of the most famous of these castles. On the left side on a very high peak, was the castle where Ludwig's parents lived, and where he grew up. Then a short distance away, and even on a higher peak, he built his castle. It is white and glistens in the afternoon sun. It looks like something out of a fairy tale — much like the replica at Disney World. While looking up to see this magnificent sight, we could make out hang-gliders way above this scene. We drove out a little further and the driver stopped briefly to let us photograph the castle from another angle, and the hang-gliders were landing in the meadow right near us.

On this day, we arrived at another very picturesque little village, surrounded by Alps, to spend the night. We stayed at the Gaststatte Forsthaus Hotel, which meant "Forest House." Our room was lovely, with hand painted furniture and down duvets on the beds — truly Bavarian style. The village is called Oberau, and is not far from Oberammagau. Accommodations are hard to find when it is the year of the Passion Play. The manager, Martin, was most cordial. He served us a very good German dinner, and a good breakfast next morning. He waved a white flag to us when we left. I should like to return and spend a week.

Sunday, Aug. 19: What a wonderful day! We left Oberau early — about 8:00, and drove the short distance to Oberammagau. Beautiful scenery all the way. Again this little village is filled with neat buildings, with window boxes full of bright red geraniums, petunias, and some impatiens. Everywhere we went we saw these neat window boxes full of the most prolific flowers I have ever seen. It made me want to come home and dig mine up, or work hard to make them look better. The play started at 9:30, and we got out for a long lunch break at 11:30. We had good seats, in a very good location. The performance of the actors was excellent. We could not understand what they were saying, but as Homer said we were familiar with the script! We bought a little translation book at the noon break and were able to follow better.

We had lunch at a pre-arranged restaurant in the village, and then shopped the many pretty establishments filled with the marvelous wood carvings they have in this area. They are the best in the world, but of course are very expensive. And we wanted to purchase some Hummels, but the price has soared on them, and are prohibitive to most of us. I finally got one for \$60, which is about the cheapest one they have — and it is a small one. We got carved wooden plates from most places we visited at a reasonable price.



The Disney Family



NEW ARRIVAL: Curt, Ken and Keith Miller announce the arrival of their sister, Kara Rebekah, on Sept. 14 at 9 a.m. She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and was 21 inches long.

(continued from Cover)
dation and living room walls are of stone. Lee Crow did the masonry work and the big stone fireplace with its two old mill stones on the hearth are an excellent example of his skill.

"He never cut stones," The Disneys said. "He would pick out stones and fit them in to place."

The remainder of the structure is built of wood cut and milled on the mountain. Local builders, including Jimmy Jones' father and Leonard Shigly worked on Nippersink. The two story lodge contains nine rooms with baths, a living room, dining room, kitchen and a screened porch overlooking the river.

The rustic hickory furniture in the lodge predates Nippersink and was brought from a Taylor, N. C., home.

Mr. Disney reports that old photographs of the lodge interior show that "very few things have changed."

"Each owner has added their individual touches, but the furniture and the structure have remained the same," he said.

In October, 1944, Nippersink was sold to Annelee Tucker and Elizabeth Lowe of Thomasville, Ga. It was their idea to convert the summer home into an inn.

Miss Tucker and Miss Lowe were school teachers who had spent a number of summers as supervisors of girls' camps in the area and had been looking for property suitable for a country inn.

They built Tuclo (Tucker and Lowe) cottage in 1952 and in 1960 added Hope cottage. It was named "Hope" because at the time they hoped they could pay for it. The furniture in the cottages was made by Ted Holloman in Valley Head. Mr. Holloman made furniture after serving in World War II. He later was a partner in the Valley Head Hardware store.

"The Teachers" as Miss Tucker and Miss Lowe were affectionately known by Nippersink guests and Mentone residents retired in 1973 and in January of that year the Hauges bought the lodge.

Miss Tucker died in August, 1989. Miss Lowe still lives in Thomasville. The Hauges now make their home in Spanish Fort, Ala.

Another important ingredient in the success of Nippersink is the staff. The Disneys are active innkeepers. Mr. and Mrs. Disney greet guests upon their arrival and make sure they are comfortable throughout their stay. Teresa Cox their daughter is the head cook and Desmond assists with clean-up and landscaping. Teresa and her family, husband Ples and children, Marlin and Kara, live at Nippersink year-round. Desmond and his wife, Kathie, live in Mentone. They have two daughters, Ragon and Ellen. The Disney's youngest son, John, lives in Atlanta and helps out at the lodge when he visits his family.

Polly Chambers has been with Nippersink since the 1950's and is the head housekeeper.

"Polly alone used to do it (the housekeeping chores) all," said Mrs. Disney. "She does have some help now."

Other members of the staff are Kathy Phillips, Luther Keith, Spring Wimberly, Jason Smith and Heather Blansit.

Nippersink's guests, most of whom return year after year are the other special ingredient in the mix that makes Nippersink so unique.

"One of the first registered guests was Dr. O'Ferrell from Jackson, Miss. He was bringing his son, Dick, to Lookout Mountain Camp for Boys," Mrs. Disney said. "Dr. and Mrs. O'Ferrell came to Nippersink every year until Mrs. O'Ferrell died."

The O'Ferrell's ties to Mentone remained strong. Dick O'Ferrell is the owner of Alpine Camp for Boys and moved to Mentone in the 1950s.

Not only do individuals return but, large groups as well, requesting reservations for "the same time next year."

Mrs. Disney said the hardest time to get reservations are May and October and some people have waited as long as three years to come in May.

It seems to be a rule with the guests that "once you come to Nippersink you have to come back."

Nippersink closes in winter as the lodge is not heated. Also there are no telephones or televisions in the lodge rooms. "Not everyone wants the kind of accommodations we offer," admits Mrs. Disney.

Mrs. Disney tells the story of a couple who flew to Chattanooga in their private plane and put the pilot up at the Holiday Inn.

"The pilot would call every day and ask me to connect him with Mr. 'X's' room. I put the phone down and went to look for him, it often took 10 or 15 minutes to locate him. We never told the pilot that the only phone was the one on my desk in the office!" she related.

Many camp parents stay at the lodge and this opens the door for happy reunions.

"Lots of camp parents were campers themselves and they remember each other from childhood. I am often asked what a guest's maiden name is by another guest who remembers her camp friend but can't think of her name," said Mr. Disney.

The style of Nippersink is casual and while there is no strict dress code, the Disney's often get questions about appropriate attire for dinner.

"We do not require a coat and tie," laughed Mr. Disney.

They told another story of a lady who came to Nippersink with six long dresses to wear to dinner. This took place when the Hauge's were innkeepers. When the lady found out she would not need her formal dresses, she put them in the back of the closet and then forgot to take them home with her. The Hauge's packed them up and returned them.

The lodge has 17 rooms. The small number of guests make the atmosphere of warmth and friendly hospitality happen.

"Nippersink is unique," the Disney's say. "There is not another place like it in the world."

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POSTER CONTEST WINNERS: Winners of the poster contest for Moon Lake's Harvest were: (top row, from left) Heather Jackson, sixth grade; Mandi Browder, fifth grade; Shelley Ingram, fourth grade; (bottom row, from left) James Tipton, second grade; Jason Sammons, third grade; Peter Hurt, first grade. There were 26 entries in this year's contest. Winners received a \$5 book gift certificate from members of the Rhododendron Garden Club.

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Jean Elrod — Bernise Crow

Mountain Almanac

Hunting season is in full swing and the search is on for that big buck. However, we don't like to find deer in our gardens or chewing on newly planted rhododendron. Try hanging small cloth packets of 1/4 cup bloodmeal and 1 cup hair clippings on the branches of trees and shrubs where deer are a problem. If this doesn't work, mix up a solution of 1 teaspoon of bloodmeal to 1 gallon of water and spray the area.

There is no secret to growing African violets if you understand their needs. They will bloom for you all winter long and provide a bright spot of color for your enjoyment. Violets grow best in a north or east window. Don't over water them but don't let them get droopy either. How often you water will depend on the humidity level in your own home. They can be fertilized every week with African violet food. Start new plants with leaf cuttings. Place the leaf cutting in water and when roots appear, plant in a small pot filled with African violet potting soil.

Keep your compost heap going this fall with all the kitchen wastes left from your holiday presentations. Just remember, no meat or fat should go into the compost — vegetable wastes only!

Curtis O'Daniel, DeKalb's County Agent advises us that the numbers for his office are: 845-3323 or 3324 or 3837. If you live outside the Fort Payne phone area, call 1-800-637-9102.

"This is a toll-free number and will come in on any of the three lines we have," he says.

"I continue to mention the name and phone numbers for our office because people around the county continue to have trouble finding us in the phone book and I can understand why. Most folks know us as the County Agent's Office and that's what we were for years and years. Then we changed the name to DeKalb County Extension Office; then Alabama Cooperative Extension Office; then Auburn University Extension Office. You would think the logical place to look for Auburn University Extension Office would be under the A's in the phone book but it is not listed there. It is listed under DeKalb County."

OLD TENNESSEE RECIPE FOR WASHING CLOTHES

1. Build a fire in the back yard to heat kettle of rain water.
2. Set tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is pert.
3. Shave one hold cake of soap in bilin water.
4. Sort things, make three piles, pile white, 1 pile cullord, 1 pile work britches and rags.
5. Stur flour in cold water to smoth, then down with bilin water.
6. Rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard, then bile. Rub cullord but don't bile, just rench and starch.
7. Take white things out of kettle with broom stick handle, then rench, blew and starch.
8. Spred tee towels on grass.
9. Hand old rags on fence.
10. Pore rench water in flower bed.
11. Scrub porch with hot soapy water.
12. Turn tub upside down.
13. Go put on a clean dress, smoth hair with side comb, brew cup of tee, set and rest and rock a spell and count blessings.

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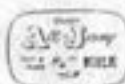


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