

GROUNDHOG

November, 1991 Volume 9, Number 10

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

DeSoto Rescue Squad



DESOTO RESCUE SQUAD'S EMT's: (From right, first row) Darlene Smith, Sue Pullen, Ilene Green; (Back row) Jennifer Smith, Gary Brown, Trisha Kennamer, Mike Kennamer.

When a Sunday afternoon walk in the woods turns into a tragedy, the DeSoto Rescue Squad is called to join other county squads in a search and rescue mission. The DeSoto Rescue Squad based in Mentone is made up of 31 members, all local residents who share a common concern, care for the safety of the people of this area and of visitors to our county.

Calls for help come to the Rescue Squad sometimes on a daily basis. They have helped search for people who were lost in the woods, rescued those who jumped from DeSoto Falls, dragged nearby lakes for missing persons, assisted in the annual Canyon Clean-up and been on hand to provide emergency medical services for football games, the June Jam, Mentone's festivals and other gatherings.

Jesse Crabtree, the director of the squad, was recently found at the American Legion Hall in Mentone, pouring concrete for an addition to the Rescue Squad's meeting area. The addition will give the squad a place to store the vehicle and equipment used in the many different missions they are called out for. Squad members are providing the labor for the addition and soliciting donated materials.

The Rescue Squads grew out of Civil Defense in the early 1960's. At that time, threat of Cuban missile attacks alerted the whole country to defense. A number of people built bomb shelters and locally, emergency supplies and food were stored in caves, Sequoyah, Manitou and the cave at the bottom of Lookout Mountain near Highway 117.

Fortunately, the Cuban missile crisis was never realized. Linda Brown, GROUNDHOG columnist and member of the DeSoto Rescue Squad commented that a terrible traffic jam would have occurred if everyone had been directed to the caves at the same time.

DeSoto Rescue Squad was formed at about that time drawing members from Mentone, Valley Head and Hammondville. The members trained in first aid and rescue techniques and have been called on many times to put their training into action.

In recent months, the DeSoto Rescue Squad, along with other county squads, the Fort Payne and Mentone Fire Departments and DeSoto State Park officials were called to rescue two women who had jumped off DeSoto Falls and been injured. Rescuers had to rappell into the area at the base of the falls to bring the women back to ambulances at the top.

"All the squads work together, there are no boundaries," commented Jesse Crabtree. "We all attend training together so that we know how to work as a team."

Training is provided year-round for various aspects of the squads' work. A Search and Rescue School is planned for the first weekend in November at DeSoto State Park.

Past fund-raisers provided money for four of DeSoto Rescue Squad's members to be trained as Emergency Medical Technicians.

A Piece Of History

BITS AND PIECES
From Zora Strayhorn's History of Mentone

Like the stars that come out at night to brighten the night sky and to fade at dawn, so in a way is the town of Mentone, Alabama, ep-hemeral. At times past it has sparkled brilliantly; at times faded, only to return and radiate its quiet charm.

The name Mentone is from two root words: The Latin "mens" meaning mind; the Latin root word "tonus," and the Greek root word "tinus"; a stretching, i.e., the name Mentone means "Toning of the Mind" or "Mind Stretching." Maybe "Mind Boggling" would be a better word to describe this tiny place in the sun.

The French city of Mentone has been described as meaning "Musical Mountain Spring." Mentone, Alabama, was named by Alice Mason, young daughter of John Mason, father/founder of the town, who in 1884 at the request of Dr. Frank Caldwell, builder of the Mentone Springs Hotel, gave the town its name.



Brush Fires Threaten Mentone

Smoke billowed across Lookout Mountain and into the valley from fires which burned on Wednesday, October 30 from two different locations. It is believed that both fires were deliberately set.

One of the fires, burning near Bankhead Cemetery had both Don Morgan and Ed Jones up early Wednesday morning fighting the blaze which threatened their supplies of hay as well as the home of Jones' daughter Tricia and her husband T. C. Blansit.

Another fire on the brow of Lookout Mountain burned nearly 400 acres of woodland along the North Brow Road leading to Ponderosa Bible Camp.

Crews from the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Department in Mentone, Valley Head Fire Department and the Alabama Forestry Commission along with others worked throughout the week to extinguish the fires.

Rain on Friday morning put an end to the wild fires.

Colorfest Success

Profits from the October Colorfest brought the Mentone Area Preservation Association over \$2,000 this year as record numbers of visitors enjoyed the activities of the weekend in Mentone.

MAPA elected to donate \$1,000 to the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Department for their use in purchasing needed equipment.

Plans are already underway for the May, 1992, Rhododendron Festival. Wanda Simmons will serve as chairman for the event. Terry Hutcheson and Don Castleberry will head up the Rhododendron sales committee. The Rhododendron Festival is planned for the third weekend in May.

Winners of the Groundhog Classic were:

WINNERS, GROUNDHOG CLASSIC 1991

Overall winners Andy Blackburn, 22:04 min., 34 years old, Rome, GA

Rosemary Hurayt, 29:11 min., 43 years old, Chattanooga (ran in Boston Marathon 1989) third time here.

MEN, 14 & UNDER:

1. Phillip Hake
2. Ken Miller
3. Ryan Drake

MEN, 15-19:

1. Michael Dryer
2. Randall Jones
3. Chad McElrath

MEN, 20-29:

1. Freddy Naranjo
2. David Beach
3. Mark Mackey

MEN, 30-39:

1. Andy Blackburn
2. Jamie Doss
3. Mike Mullins

MEN, 40 +:

1. Rodgers White
2. Ralph Maples
3. Larry Pell

WOMEN, 14 & UNDER:

1. Sandra Lamb
2. Kim Twilley
3. Jessica Walker

WOMEN, 15-19:

1. Emily Crow
2. Joy McLain

WOMEN, 20-29:

1. Kim Wohlenhaus

WOMEN, 30-39:

1. Linda Porter
2. Becky Maples
3. Lisa Cates

WOMEN, 40 +:

1. Rosemary Hurayt
2. Sherry Paige
3. Sharon Pell



SWIRLING KILTS of Scottish folk dancers entertained record crowds at MAPA's October Colorfest.



MENTONE BOYS TOOK HONORS IN GROUNDHOG CLASSIC. Ken Miller (right) and Ryan Drake of Mentone along with Philip Hake, who placed first, of Huntsville took home trophies in the Boys 14 and under age division of the Groundhog Classic.



COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT Donna and Johnny Bares who directed the Groundhog Classic. The Bares kept up with the times of the 100 runners with a recording electronic race clock. MAPA has donated the clock to the Fort Payne High School Track Team for use in their track program.



THE BEST TIMES FOR THE GROUNDHOG CLASSIC were made by Rosemary Hurayt of Chattanooga with 29:11 minutes and Andy Blackburn of Rome, GA with 22:04 minutes. This was Ms. Hurayt's third time to enter the Groundhog Classic.

American Legion Post 215

welcomes all Veterans and their spouses

to a

Veteran's Day Covered Dish Supper
Monday, November 11, 6:30 p.m.

at the American Legion Post 215 in Mentone
Speaker: The Hon. David Rains

Valley View

By Eloise M. Brown

The Sunshine Club met October 24, at the home of Bess Bauerle, with the following members and guests present: Karen Freeman, who presided, Ruth Pickett, Secretary, Gladys Cobble, Geraldine Hawkins, Jewell Palmer, Vernitice Young, Dot Blackburn, Evelyn Clark, Opal Tatum, Lily Bowden, Jean Jones, Sadie Cooper, Jo Ann Hawkins, and Eloise Brown, who gave the devotional. A nominating committee was appointed composed of Evelyn Clark, Vernitice Young and Bess Bauerle. Jo Ann Hawkins gave an interesting exposition of her and Tammy's trip to Europe. She showed pictures, a beautiful table cloth, and other articles, and some of the coins and compared their worth to U. S. currency. She also played a tape of beautiful music. We are very proud of the first prize our booth won at the DeKalb County Fair.

The Valley Head U.M.W. met for the October meeting at the home of Mary Louise Holleman. Eloise Brown presided and Elizabeth Coleman gave the secretary's report and led the pledge service. Venna Livingston concluded the Bible study with the sixth chapter of Galatians. Others present were Gladola Holleman, Vesta Hawkins, Frances Tate, Janie Longshore, Helen White and Evelyn Phillips.

Venna Livingston, Geraldine Hawkins and Eloise Brown attended the Annual District Meeting of the U.M.W. at the First Methodist Church in Gadsden, Oct. 20. Congratulations to Mentone U.M.W. for winning a membership award!

Edith and Alvin Cox have had many guests in their home recently: Betty and Pete Wills and Susie and Roy Pepper from Ontario, Canada; Claudine and Robert from Blairsville, Ga., and their daughter, Sandra Thompson of W. Palm Beach, Fl.; Ann and Jim Mayberry, Emma and Harold Gooden and Margaret and Howard from Opelika, Al. They are thankful to report that their grandson, Chris Cox, is recovered amazingly well from a serious car accident in Lake City, Fl.

Rachel Manning has returned from a visit with her sister, Frances Rodman, in Canby, Oregon. She visited the mountains of Eastern Oregon and Hell's Canyon. She was amazed at the huge six hundred year old trees in Pinchot National Forest.

Becky Barrier and children Jessica and Bo from Ft. Walton, Fl., have been the guests of her parents, Billie and Floyd Harper.

Ansley and John McGinnis came from Florence, S. C., and took her mother, Laura Margaret Alison, home with them for a visit. She also visited her son, Tom Alison and Irma at Asheville, N. C., who brought her home.

Lora Brown Hulan's brother, Horace Hulan, of Cullman, Al., has been her guest. She entertained with an afternoon tea for him and some of his classmates of the 1927 graduation class of Valley Head High School. Those present were: Adis and John Barnard, Peggy Howe, Velma Hammond, Katherine Bailey, Janie Longshore, Brownie Tuttle and Vivian Ellis.

Essie and Morris Longshore of Jacksonville, Al., visited his sister-in-law, Janie Longshore, recently. Ann Climer, formerly of Mentone, now residing in Jacksonville, Al., was also a recent visitor and, Lillian and Tom Rowan of Lakemont, Ga.

Doris and Jim Carmichael visited Lucile and Ralph Hixon at Greensboro, N. C. They said the drive was so beautiful!

Glen and Dorothy Finster and their daughter, Janice, and her daughter, Jennifer, of Bunker Hill, Ind., were weekend guests of Sue and Foyl Cooper. They attended the color Cruise at Shellmound, Tn.

Arnold Hulan and his wife, Pilar, from San Francisco, spent ten days with his sisters, Velma Hammond, Vesta



PICTURED ARE TAMMY HAWKINS and her mother, Jo Ann Hawkins, and Helen Ooms, an exchange student from Amsterdam, Holland, who lived with them for some time. Jo Ann and Tammy visited her and her family in Amsterdam as the family had presented them with a nice tour of Europe. They traveled fifty-four hundred miles and saw twelve countries. They had a traditional Dutch dinner and folklore show in Amsterdam at the Terrace Restaurant. (They brought back some lovely wooden shoes). They enjoyed a Tyrolean Evening in Innsbruck. They took a Lagoon Cruise in Venice to the island of Murano and the Hermitage of San Francisco del Deserto and Burano. In Rome, they saw the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel, the ancient town of Tivoli, Ancient and Christian Rome, the Catacombs and the Pantheon. In Lucerne, they drove along the Lake of Lucerne, to the village of Stans, terminal of one of Switzerland's oldest mountain railways, and climbed to the top of the mountain by funicular railway and modern cable car to 6,300 feet and viewed the breathtaking scenery of Alpine Switzerland. In Paris, they enjoyed dinner in a typical Parisian restaurant and saw the Eiffel Illumination, and the Louvre and other points of interest. This picture was made on the second level of the Eiffel Tower. Quite a joyful and educational tour!

Hawkins and, Geneva Smith. Nancy and Paul Roberts and, Lynn and Cindy and Charlie Hawkins of Birmingham, spent Sunday with them.

I know that the thoughts and prayers of all of Dr. Dale Stierwalt's patients are with him as he is a patient at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota.

How could Summer plummet so suddenly into winter? — from eighty-four degrees to the teens! I hadn't begun to be ready for it!

Shine McNew

Clyde McNew was not a wealthy man, but he liked to share what he had with others. He worked for years in Bell's Store, cheerfully and helpfully and delivered groceries in Valley Head and Mentone. Back when we cared for our sick ones at home, he was good to "sit up" with them at night, and help every way he could. He was called "Shine," which was appropriate, for he shined and brightened the corner where he was, with his smiling, happy friendliness. Yes, he was wealthy in important things — he loved everyone and everyone loved him. Our deepest sympathy is with his wife, Pluma, and his daughter, Kathryn, son-in-law, Glen Carden, and grandson, Slade.

Support Local Volunteer Efforts

By Emily Smith

The Emergency Phone Number at the Mentone's North Lookout Mountain Fire Department has really been busy in recent days. Brush fires are breaking out all over Lookout Mountain and the Mentone area. Many of the fires, it is believed have been set deliberately, often by land owners hoping to clear away leaves and underbrush from their lands.

However, with the weather conditions all across the southeast (there was no rainfall at all here in October making it one of the driest months on record), the small fires have spread and ignited nearby woodlands causing damage to thousands of acres.

Smoke filled the air, Wednesday, October 30 as every available firefighting unit battled fires around Mentone. Common sense should dictate safe practice to all of us this time of year.

We all owe a big debt of gratitude to our local fire fighters who have worked day and night to respond to the emergencies in the area. After several continuous day and nights of fires, our local volunteer fire department finds itself with equipment that needs to be repaired or replaced. One of the fire trucks for Mentone is not running at this time.

Volunteer fire departments depend on the local community for their support. The North Lookout Mountain unit is totally dependant on donations to pay the expenses of providing fire protection for us. They are working toward training their volunteers to achieve a better rating and thereby lowering the cost of fire insurance for Mentone residents.

The volunteer firefighters are another example, along with the DeSoto Rescue Squad featured in this issue of THE GROUNDHOG of caring neighbors who sacrifice their time to make our lives better.

We encourage our readers to support these local volunteers through tax-deductible gifts of money.

MENTONE'S

GROUNDHOG

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The deadline for all material for The Groundhog is the last day of the month preceding publication.

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Country Journal

By Bernise Crow

The sun shines bright on my Alabama home. 'Tis autumn, and the skies are brilliant. We have had dry weather for some few weeks, which gives us time to enjoy the outdoors. The brisk cool air is invigorating, the trees are making a last spectacular display for our pleasure. We can enjoy them for about a month now. We have beautiful pumpkins and many good apples to pick up at the roadside produce stands; sweet potatoes, turnips, and greens add to our eating pleasure. This is my time of year. I like it when it is just right for wearing sweaters, and sitting by the fireplace. The smell of wood smoke is wonderful, as it curls from the chimney at the Log chimney Deli. What a nice atmosphere for a cozy luncheon.

Homer and I have just returned from Baton Rouge, where we visited our daughter, Doreen and her husband, Jerry. When it was cold enough there to wear a jacket, we knew it was much colder in Mentone. But when we left here on Thursday, it was very warm. I even had the windows open at home. When we returned on Monday, all my flowers were frozen — what a sad sight!

We had a good short visit with our children, and stopped in Centerville to spend the night with my cousin, Kenneth King and his wife Lib. We always love visiting with them.

We left there on Friday morning and drove to Meridian, Miss., stopping for lunch, and to visit the Jimmy Rogers Museum. This was the first time I knew Jimmy was from Meridian. When I was a child, all us grandchildren loved to play the old 78 recordings by Jimmy Rogers on my Grandmother Taylor's crank-type victrola. All of us tried to learn to do the blue yodeling, for which he was famous. This summer Homer has been teaching our grandson, Lee Cooper, these old tunes. He loves it! He called me recently, and when I answered he just started yodeling. So we bought tapes to send to him so he can learn some more of them.

Jimmy Rogers has been called the father of country music, but to me he was more of a folk singer. His songs, many of which he wrote, tell a story. And a great many of them were about his own life. He recorded 110 songs in about three years. He died a young man, only 35 years old. He had tuberculosis, and in 1933, there was not much medicine could do for it.

We enjoyed the town of Baton Rouge, a fascinating place, with Cajun influence. I enjoy Cajun food, with its hot, spicy taste, and seafood is good and plentiful. Justin Wilson is one of my favorite entertainers, and his cookbooks are not only full of good recipes, but are filled with much wit and humor. I have one that is a delight to just read.

We had breakfast at Frank's on Saturday morning — one of the most popular breakfast food places in Baton Rouge. The coffee was rich and flavorful, and so were the big biscuits.

Then we were off to River Road to visit old plantation antebellum homes, filled with antiques of pre-civil war vintage. One's imagination runs wild and you can almost visualize the activities of the time when these huge plantations were in operation. The houses are facing the Mississippi River, and originally contained thousands of acres of farm land where cotton and other farm products grew. Probably the most popular form of transportation was primarily by boat, because the long alleys of trees went to the river's edge. There would not have been roads suitable for much travel then, in the pre-civil war period.

Moon Lake Harvest Festival



CLASS REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE HARVEST FESTIVAL were Joshua Hughes, Jonathan Tate, Samantha Berry, Ken Miller, Jeffrey Bullock and Jessica Pless.

The annual Harvest Festival raised over \$6,000 for Moon Lake Elementary School. Mrs. Joyce Smith's class raised the most money and was represented by Ken Miller and Samantha Berry.

New equipment has been installed in the kitchen and a breakfast program will be implemented soon. Moon Lake was one of 16 Alabama schools which received \$171,000 in grant money from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The school is participating in the Food World "Apples for Students" program and is collecting the red cash register receipts from the store. The receipts can be redeemed for credit toward computers for the school.

Houmas House was a most interesting, beautiful mansion, in the Greek revival type of architecture built between 1800 and 1840. Dr. George B. Crozat spent the last 25 years of his life restoring the home and gardens. The heirs have opened this home to the public, to all who appreciate fine architecture and outstanding furnishings. The gardens contain large live oaks that are over 200 years old.

This house has been featured in all major magazines, and was the scene of the making of the movie of "Hush-Hush Sweet Charlotte."

We saw many more lovely ones — big houses that were not open to the public. It was a fascinating way to spend a weekend.

Mentone Inn Featured On Newscast

The Mentone Inn was featured recently in a segment on Chattanooga's Channel 9 newscast. The Inn, a bed and breakfast, is owned and operated by Amelia Kirk of Mentone.

Hundreds of guests stay at the Mentone Inn each year, many returning time after time. During October, the Inn hosted Stella Nyhan, past international president of Altrusa International, Inc. Altrusa is a professional women's service organization with 18,000 members worldwide.

Ms. Nyhan is a native of Dublin, Ireland and says that Mentone is one of her favorite places to visit. She travels to 17 different countries in her position with Altrusa and was here to meet with the Fort Payne Altrusa Club which met at the Inn.

Town Council Notes

Six Mentone residents were appointed to a planning committee for zoning at the November Mentone City Council meeting. The committee will include Linda Brown, Jean McGehee, Jimmy Wright, Angelo Rosario, Ed Disney, Blaine Derck, Mentone policeman Johnny Ferguson, Mayor Max Cash and Councilman James Johnson.

The committee will hold an organizational meeting in the near future. House Associates, a consulting firm in Birmingham, will assist the city in the zoning process. Public hearings will be held before any zoning ordinances are passed.

The issue of the rock wall along Highway 117 was discussed at the Monday night meeting and the matter was tabled until next month. At an earlier meeting, the council decided to send a letter to the Alabama State Highway Department District Engineer Tony Camp requesting that the rock wall be removed and replaced with steel safety guard rails.

The removal of the rock wall was opposed by the Mentone Area Preservation Association. The Highway Department informed the city that funds for repair of the rock wall were not available at this time and asked Mentone to draft a resolution directing them to leave the rock wall where it is strong enough to remain.

Policeman Johnny Ferguson reported that an accident occurred last week on Highway 117 where a car went off the side of the mountain. There is no wall at the point where the accident occurred.

In other matters, Mentone Cable submitted a proposal for a franchise for television cable service. This will generate some income for the City.

The council also approved the extension of water lines to the Shady Grove Dude Ranch upon a request by owner Jack Jones.

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Our Town

By Linda Brown

I've been welcoming ghosts, goblins and ghouls into my home all night! Yes, it's Halloween and we have had some of the cutest trick or treaters I've seen in years. I enjoy them all and appreciate them coming by. Some are children of the children who grew up with my children. These I really enjoy because the family resemblance is so strong. It is surprising how many young people stay in Mentone to rear their family. Mentone is a favorite place of many people. In the last week, I have talked with two people who have retired here, no family, no close friends, they just chose this as the place they want to live.

The recent forest fires have been distressing. Much land has been left scarred and a few houses were in the path of the flames. None were damaged because of the fast and efficient action of the fire department. I'm sure that everyone appreciates the efforts of our local department and all others who helped. They did a super job! As the chief of police of a long ago TV show always said, "Let's be careful out there."

The Harvest Festival was held at Moon Lake School recently. This project involves more people and requires more cooperation than any other event in Mentone. Many years ago it seemed as if all small schools would be closed. The parents of Mentone wanted to keep their school and decided to fight to do so. It became evident that the community would have to bear a lot of the expenses incurred by the school. The challenge was accepted with no complaints. The residents of Mentone still support the school and the Harvest Festival is the major money making event of the year. Keep up the good work Moon Lake!!!

I am so excited by something that is happening in Mentone! The idea of having our own library has been in the back of many minds for a long time. The idea is starting to become a reality. A committee has been formed to study the situation. It was decided that the next step should be to determine if the majority of the people in town want a library. Watch your mail for a questionnaire to arrive soon. The rough draft is for it to be a branch of DeKalb County Library. This would be much more than just a place to check out books. The facility would be a community activities center with space for meetings and other services. It would also serve as a community information center.

Imagine having the availability of a popular materials library and an up-to-date reference library. Included would be a research library with students of all ages in mind. One section would be developed as an independent learning center with information on hobbies, cultural interests and career development available. This would be a place where children were welcomed. Books and games would be there for their enjoyment. Videos and tapes could be enjoyed there or taken home. Special emphasis would be placed on research material for elementary grades to facilitate the use by Moon Lake students.

A story hour would be a high light of the summer program. I'll keep you posted as to the progress being made. Aren't you excited!

November is the traditional month to give thanks. But let's give thanks for our many blessings every day. Someone described salt as what spoils the potatoes, when you leave it out. Thankfulness spoils everything when you leave it out. Your outlook on life is spoiled, your relationship with others is spoiled and your peace of mind is spoiled. So what if you don't have as much money to spend as your neighbor? You don't have as much to worry about losing either. Be thankful! So what if you're not as pretty or as popular as others in your class at school? You don't have to maintain a perfect image every day. Be thankful! The list goes on and on. Get the idea? Don't leave thankfulness out because of what you don't have. Be thankful for what you do have.

Church Calendar

THE MENTONE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY will celebrate Homecoming on Sunday, November 17 beginning with Sunday School at 10 a.m. Dinner will be served at noon. The Watson Trio of Cleveland, TN., will sing in the afternoon. Friends, visitors and the public are invited to join. The Church of God of Prophecy is located on Highway 117 across from the Mentone Post Office. Don G. Brock is the pastor.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH CONFERENCE and Revival of Dedication will take place at the Mentone Church of God of Prophecy, November 18-22 at 7 p.m. nightly. Dr. James Stone, national teacher, author and minister will be teaching on the Book of Romans. There is no charge, bring your Bible, pen and paper. For more information, contact pastor Don G. Brock in Mentone 205-634-4792.

FALL REVIVAL MEETING at Lea's Chapel Baptist Church in Hammondville will be held November 11-14 at 6:30 p.m. nightly. Speakers will be Bro. Scott Gossett of West Huntsville Baptist Church Monday, November 11; Bro. Gary Moore of Lea's Chapel, Tuesday, November 12; Bro. Denny Mashburn of Faith Baptist Church, Wednesday, November 13; and, Dr. David Wood, Evangelist, Thursday, November 14. Special music will be featured each night. There is a nursery provided. Contact Pastor Moore for more information at 205-634-4523.

NARFE Outing

The DeKalb County Chapter of National Association of Retired Federal Employees has chartered a bus to visit Buck's Pocket and Guntersville State Park to view the returning eagles. All Federal retirees and spouses are invited to join us at no charge for transportation. Bus will leave from St. Paul United Methodist Church, 9th and Alabama, NW, Ft. Payne, at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, November 19. Cars may be left on the Church parking lot. Dutch luncheon will be served at the Lodge for \$5.70. For reservations (bus accommodates 49 people) please call Leland Cox, 634-4807, or Hoyt Houston, 845-0426.

Page 4



Daniel Jacob Stone celebrated his third birthday recently. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Danny E. Stone of Mentone.

Church News

An old chicken house seems an unlikely place for a life-changing experience but hundreds of young people chose the spot to participate in Judgement House, a dramatic production presented by Moon Lake Baptist Church along with Friendship and Second Baptist Churches of Fort Payne.

Judgment House ran for three nights in Mentone and was seen by over 800 people during Oct. 29-31. The churches worked for two months preparing sets and stages in the chicken house.

Signs posted along Highway 117 directed the audience to a field where they were met by a tractor-pulled hay wagon. The wagon transported groups to the chicken house.

Inside, a story of two young teenagers unfolded. The first scene took place in a school lunch room. Other scenes included an automobile accident, a hospital room, the teenage girl's bedroom, a funeral home, heaven and hell.

The audience moved as a group from scene to scene and participated in some portions of the drama.

At the end of the play, counselors from the churches distributed tracts to the audience and gave viewers an opportunity to make Christian commitments.

Club Meetings

The October meeting of the Valley Head Women's Club was held at the beautiful log cabin home of Mrs. John Jones with Mrs. Jones, Mrs. R. J. Burt, Jr. and Mrs. Jack Cooper as hostesses. Mrs. Ted Holleman, club president presided.

The theme of the General Federation of Women's Clubs for the year is "Lighting the Way."

Mrs. R. J. Burt, Jr. gave the devotional based on 1 Thessalonians 1:4: "Now we exhort you brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men."

The subject of the program was "Lighting the Way, Out of Domestic Darkness." Mr. Mike O'Dell, Assistant District Attorney of the 9th Judicial Circuit was the speaker.

Mr. O'Dell quoted John Unruh who said that the conservative, moral mind set of the American people has degenerated into liberal, immoral, everyone do his own thing type of mentality.

The root of our problems is the breakdown of the family. We need to know where we have come from and where we are going. Domestic darkness includes child abuse and divorce.

From Charles Swindell's works Mr. O'Dell said it is at the family level that life makes up its mind.

In this country we have an increasing number of old people, divorce and one parent families. The effects of this are child abuse, teenage pregnancy, venereal disease, teen age alcoholics and suicide, smoking, abortion and abuse of elderly parents.

Many families are so involved in other things that they do not share their experiences and love at the dinner table.

Often teenagers spend most of their free time listening to rock music and watching television. Heavy metal music has one or more of the following themes: drug abuse glorified, suicide, violence, satanic worship and sexuality.

In 1960-65 the main problems in schools were talking, chewing gum, noisy, running in halls and not putting paper in waste baskets. Now the problems are drug and alcohol abuse, pregnancy, suicide, carrying guns, rape and assault.

To cope with these problems we should put Jesus in the center of our lives and let this flow to the community.

Parents today don't want accountability for their children. You should share your love with your children and when they are grown they will bring love and life back into your lives.

Things recommended for you to do are working at Child Development Centers, at churches and at schools.

Mr. O'Dell closed by reading two poems, "Cat in the Cradle" and "God Let the Door Be a Gateway to Eternal Life."

Mrs. Herbert Stanley and her committee were commended for their excellent job in erecting the historical marker for the churches of Valley Head and the inspiring dedication program.

Two guests welcomed to the meeting were Mrs. H. R. Blackburn and Mrs. George T. Bauerle, Jr.

June Jam Raises Half A Million

Country Music Group ALABAMA has announced distribution of over one half million dollars in funds raised by the band's annual hometown benefit concert, the June Jam. Group members gathered recently at their Fort Payne, Alabama Fan Club Headquarters to disburse monies requested by local and state charities and public service agencies.

The lions share of funding was directed towards the Fort Payne area school system with over \$250,000 being given to Fort Payne City Schools, DeKalb and Cherokee County Schools and other educational related concerns. Since 1982, more than \$2½ million dollars has been donated through the June Jam to various agencies. Also benefiting were many area groups which receive little or curtailed outside funding. Among those are the Fort Payne Chamber of Commerce, Fort Payne Police Department, DeKalb County Sheriff's Department, county rescue squads units, local and regional fire departments, Big Oak Ranch, and the Chattanooga-Hamilton County (Tn.) Speech and Hearing Center.

A check for \$125,834.37 was also given to the Alabama Sheriff's Boys and Girls ranches on behalf of funds raised through the Randy Owen Celebrity Golf Tournament, which is held each Friday before Saturdays June Jam concert.

June Jam XI will be held on June 13, 1992 with the following artist confirmed thus far: Ricky Van Shelton, Travis Tritt, Mark Chesnutt, Doug Stone, Neal McCoy, Mike Reid, Wet Willie, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers, Eddie London and Ray Kennedy. June Jam Festival Week begins on June 5 and concludes on Sunday, June 14 this year with the Jeff Cook Celebrity Bass Tournament.

A complete listing of funds distributed from June Jam's (1990-91), past Jam entertainers and a schedule of events for June Jam 1992 are available upon request.

Rhododendron Garden Club Meets Oct. 8

The October meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held Oct. 8 at Kirkwood, the home of Mabel Kirk. Hostesses for the meeting were Betty Chapman, Jean McGehee and, Mabel Kirk.

President Hope Walker called the meeting to order. Elizabeth Anne Stephens gave the devotional. Emily Smith made an announcement concerning the Moon Lake School Harvest Festival and the school's collection of cash register receipts for Apple computers. Club members contributed prize money for the Harvest Festival Poster Contest.

The program was on "Autumn." Jackie Skelton introduced Janet Rose Lyons of Valley Head who presented the program. She read the moving story "The Fall of Freddie the Leaf" by Leo Bascaglia.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12 at the Mentone United Methodist Church.

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"The first of last year, our squad had only one paramedic, Sue Pullen. Now we have two paramedics, one EMT intermediate and five EMT's," Crabtree said.

The squad depends on donations for their income. All money raised goes toward training, continuing education and supplies for the squad. Membership in the squad is open to men and women and all members receive training.

"Everyone in the squad has CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation). You can choose to go on with other training as well," said Linda Brown.

Crabtree commented that everyone with small children at home ought to know CPR in case a child chokes. You must be recertified yearly in CPR to keep up to date.

"Saving lives is the business of the rescue squads," Crabtree said. "It takes a lot of dedication and volunteer time but the rewards are greater than any price."

Two fund-raisers planned for the Rescue Squads are going on now. The DeKalb County Association of Rescue Squads is sponsoring a drawing on a guitar to be given away November 18. The guitar was autographed by all the entertainers at June Jam '91.

The DeSoto Rescue Squad is sponsoring a catfish fry at the Tiger's Inn in Valley Head Saturday, December 7, from 4-8 p.m. The cost will be \$5 per plate. For information on the catfish fry or the guitar, contact Linda Brown at 634-4755 or 634-4066 or any other member of the DeSoto Rescue Squad.

DeSOTO RESCUE SQUAD

To contact the DeSoto Rescue Squad please call the following:

Jesse Crabtree 634-4171
Leonard Shigley 634-4140
Robert Green 634-4770
Gary Brown 635-6844

Country Cooking

By Nova Dean Kilgore

EASY TURKEY CASSEROLE

2 cups cut up cooked turkey
2 packages (10-ounce each) broccoli, cooked and drained
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 can (3 1/2-ounce) French fried onion rings
1 1/2 cups milk
6 slices cheese (6-ounce)
Heat oven to 350 degrees. Arrange turkey in ungreas-

ed 11x7 baking dish. Top with hot broccoli; cover with cheese. Stir together milk and soup; pour over cheese. Bake uncovered 25 minutes. Sprinkle with onion rings and bake 5 minutes longer. Yield: 4 to 6 servings.

ALWAYS READY BRAN MUFFINS

3 cups Hodgson Mill unprocessed wheat bran
1 cup brown sugar
2 1/2 cups flour
2 1/2 teaspoons soda
1 cup boiling water
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup margarine
1 pint buttermilk
2 eggs

Combine 1 cup wheat bran and 1 cup boiling water; stir and let steep. In separate bowl cream, sugar and margarine. Beat eggs; combine flour, soda and salt. Combine the 1 cup of steeped bran with the remaining 2 cups of bran, the eggs and flour mixture and buttermilk, margarine and sugar. Mix. Store in tightly covered plastic container. Let stand at least 12 hours. Chemical action will cause the batter to turn dark on top. No problem just stir in before using. These muffins are mixed, stored in the refrigerator and baked whenever they are wanted. When preparing to bake, preheat oven to 400. Stir batter well and spoon into buttered muffin tins, filling 2/3 full. Bake 20 to 22 minutes and serve. (Optional) — Dates, raisins or chopped apples may be added.

BRAN MUFFINS

Mix:
1 1/4 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
3 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 cup sugar
Soak:
1 1/2 cups bran in 1 1/4 cups milk
Add:
1 egg to bran and beat well.

1/2 cup oil
Carefully stir in with flour mixture. Bake at 400 degrees for 25 minutes. Yield: 1 dozen.

CHEESE DIP

4-ounce cream cheese
4 heaping tablespoons mayonnaise
1 teaspoon mustard
2 teaspoons Hidden Valley Ranch original Party Dip mix
1 cup Velveeta
1/2 cup sour cream
1/4 teaspoon celery salt

Put into blender and blend until smooth. Adding the 2 teaspoons dip mix last mixing only until blended. You can add more dip mix according to taste.

CHEESE WHIZ

1 pound Cheddar cheese
1 teaspoon dry mustard
1 1/2 cups heated milk
2 eggs beaten
1 teaspoon salt

Cut cheese into small pieces and melt in double boiler, add the hot milk, salt and mustard. Mix well. Add beaten eggs and cook until slightly thickened. Remove from heat and cool, stirring ever now and then to prevent crust from forming. Pour into jars and store in refrigerator. Will keep a long time.

RED BEET JELLY

3 cups red beet juice
1 box sure-jell
4 cups sugar
1 6-ounce box raspberry Jell-O

Bring juice to boil. Meantime mix sure-jell Jell-O. Add to boiling juice to dissolve. Remove from heat. Add sugar immediately and stir till well dissolved. Pour in jars.

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Guest Editorial : Power, Politics Special Interests

By Mickey Strickland

In 1988 Congressman Tom Bevill got a "party favor," — his very own national park unit. He went in search of a place to put it, knowing only that he wanted to promote tourism in the northeast Alabama area. He enlisted the aid of Jim Martin, head of Alabama's state park system, and Manuel Luhan, Secretary of the Interior of the United States, and his fellow Congressmen who gave him \$150,000 for the National Park Service to study the situation. Mr. Martin suggested several sites, including the Little River Area together with Cathedral Caverns to be one unit, "after all, they are only 50 miles apart," he told the NPS. In the beginning, landowners had only a vague idea of how the process works, and the majority affected did not even know their land was involved. Most have not been contacted personally by the park service to this day. Most did not know condemnation could be used to take land for a park. When the awful truth sank in — that the National Park Service could and would use condemnation, in fact it was an acquisition tool of choice, we became alarmed. In 1979 alone, there were over 10,000 condemnations. This trend abated in the 1980's because President Reagan restricted it. There is a push going on now to use condemnation more and more as parks are being carved out of private lands and citizens refuse to sell.

Miriam Wills Hellreich, a resident of Hawaii who was born and raised in the canyon area and whose family land is threatened, came here to organize landowners after being called by many local citizens and after she was informed that her land was vital to the park and there was no way out but to "negotiate" the loss of it. She was further alarmed when at an initial meeting with Mr. Bevill he refused to budge, saying no land would be taken by condemnation "because everybody would negotiate and get a fair price." She asked him about those who would not ever sell at any price and he had no answer. After he left the room, the NPS representative said they could not function without condemnation. She resolved that this was a travesty of basic American rights and she would fight it to the end. SAVE OUR LAND was born.

The best thing that happened for us was our affiliation with an organization devoted to protecting private property rights against the federal government — the National Inholder's Association. The director, Chuck Cushman, although swamped with other commitments, came here to advise us. He put us in touch with other land rights groups all over the country who are springing up like mushrooms in response to the aggressive action being

taken by the National Park Service and certain members of Congress as they seek to add thousands of acres to the 81 million acres the National Park Service already has. There are dozens of such organizations and we are now forming a national coalition.

SAVE OUR LAND has done extensive research and the results are frightening. Not only is Congress passing out park units like party favors, the National Park Service itself plays manipulative games with the rights of private property owners. If we want to continue to own and control our own property we are viewed as an adversary — one which is automatically anti-environmentalist. We have had to fight "tooth and nail" for every piece of information, every advantage we have gained. From our own representative, Tom Bevill, to the National Park Service, to some of our own here in our community, to state officials who are supposed to have our best interest at heart, we have had to fight on a lot of fronts. But our greatest weapon is information and we have tried to get the truth into as many hands as possible.

We had truly hoped Mr. Bevill would choose to do the brave and right thing and refrain from introducing this legislation. He did give us a chance to negotiate some of the wording, however, and we chose to do that rather than be left out of the process. If SAVE OUR LAND had not fought so hard from the very beginning, this legislation would contain the condemnation of thousands of acres and dozens of homes with the potential to expand into a 34,000 acre territory.

SAVE OUR LAND urges every citizen to read the \$150,000 Special Resources Study commissioned by Congress at Mr. Bevill's request and done by the National Park Service's Atlanta office. We were denied this study until right before the legislation was introduced and it outlines the park service's extensive intentions here. The Study can be found at the libraries and town halls of DeKalb and Cherokee counties.

With the state park fully protected, the Wildlife Management Area leased to the state and protected, and Canyon Mouth Park belonging to a county government, we question the "protection" angle. And Little River has a new designation which, if proponents have their way, will have statutory laws to enforce it soon, so how can this federal threat be justified?

It is the opinion of SAVE OUR LAND that it is not protection, it is politics, power and money — and we don't want any part of it.

NOTE: This editorial does not reflect the opinion of The Groundhog or of the Mentone Area Preservation Association. It is presented in the interest of fairness. Opposing viewpoints are welcomed to express their opinions through letters to the editor.

MAPA Meets

Dr. Pat Seymour, spoke to members of the Mentone Area Preservation Association at their November meeting. Dr. Seymour recently moved to Mentone after several years on the staff of the University of Alabama where she worked in the athletic department and as a speech writer for Coach Paul Bryant. She speaks to groups throughout the U. S. and has given over 2,500 speeches in the past eight years.

"Each one of you has the potential to produce, out of yourselves, wonderful things," Dr. Seymour told the group. She said struggle and suffering are the catalysts that move us to achieve our potential. Using the example of a pearl, a gem of great value that is produced under the most irritating circumstances, Dr. Seymour told the group that she knew many of the people there had been "making pearls all your adult life."

She recalled her association with Coach Bryant and the athletic program at Alabama.

"Coach Bryant was a very compassionate man," she remembered.

He often reminded the young men on the football team that they were "young men of class."

His definition of class included the understanding that a person of class "never runs scared, never makes excuses and realizes that good manners are just a series of small sacrifices you make for others."

He told people that class enabled a person to walk with kings and yet never lose the common touch.

"Everyone is comfortable with a person of class," Dr. Seymour said. "Here is Mentone, I am among people of class."

She encouraged the audience that "the best is yet to be."

"Let's do more," she said. "You haven't even scratched the surface yet. If you are alive, God isn't finished with you!"



Thanksgiving A TIME TO REFLECT

During this festive Thanksgiving holiday, let us remember to take time to bend our heads in prayer, to express our happiness and heartfelt gratitude for all of life's simple joys!

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