

the GROUNDHOG

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

Head,
Hands,
Heart,
Health



These are the familiar themes of 4-H. They are also central to the objectives, talents, and roles of Joyce Hawkins Smith, advisor to 4-H Girls' Clubs and elementary teacher at Moon Lake School.

There are 33 4-H Clubs in DeKalb County. During her fourteen years as advisor, Joyce's group has won the award for best club eight times. Her girls have won best president's awards, best secretary, safety awards, and VFW fair booth awards.

In addition, Joyce has been named outstanding leader for several years, and in 1979 she received the top leadership award in DeKalb County. In 1981 she participated in the Alabama state leadership recognition program.

In 1970 when she arrived at Moon Lake School as third and fourth grade teacher, Joyce was asked by Principal Kathryn Jones to sponsor the girls' 4-H Club. She's been busy ever since. "I rarely sit during the day except to call the roll, make out the lunch report, and eat lunch," she laughs.

In her pleasant classroom today, Joyce teaches fourth and fifth grades. Her favorite age group is fourth grade: "Nine going on ten seems to mesh better with my own personality," she explains. That she enjoys her work is obvious from her enthusiasm. Social studies are her favorite subjects, with Alabama history taking priority.

After graduating from Jacksonville State University, Joyce taught for four years in Atlanta. The school was departmentalized, and she taught students only in reading, language, spelling and history. At Moon Lake she is responsible for all subjects in fourth and fifth grades.

Once a month for 4-H Club meetings, boys in the fourth through sixth grades go to Principal Charles Bell's room,

(Continued On Page 6)



Fall Colorfest All Set For Oct. 18, 19, 20..... Page 1
Mayor Hammond Announces Neighborhood Center..... Page 1

Neighborhood Center Hearing Scheduled Monday, October 21

Mayor Rob Hammond announced a proposed grant application for a neighborhood facility center at the October seventh Town Council meeting. There will be a public hearing on the proposal at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church at 7 p.m. Monday, October 21st.

This is similar to the water grant procured with the help of Senator Lowell Barron last year under the Community Development Block Grant Program. The mayor can secure the same firms that saw the water grant through to its completion. There is no application fee for the grant of some \$150,000. The town's share would be \$15,000, of which part can be "in kind," or the property itself.

The town property is some seven acres on the site of the old dump. The building plans call for a large meeting room — gymnasium, two or three smaller meeting rooms, a portable stage and rest rooms. Estimates must be in by November eleventh, with the application itself ready by the first week in December.

Further council business included the unanimous adoption of the proposed budget of \$38,940 with Water Department budget of \$52,000. The complete budget was published in last month's **GROUNDHOG**. Essie Downer asked for an increase of \$1 per month for garbage pickup in the town limits. This is necessary because of increased cost of parts, equipment, insurance and postage. She pointed out that the county went up \$1.50 a year ago on its collection fees. The new rate of \$5.50 per month inside town limits and \$6 outside the town will begin in November. The council unanimously passed this rate hike.

Also passed unanimously was the motion for the mayor to look into the feasibility of a Saturday morning's pistol firing instruction for local women (See story elsewhere).

Herschell Pruitt will secure a bush-hogging attachment for his tractor to trim roadsides. The mayor reported that the inside of the two water tanks may have to be re-painted. Vandals continue to damage the gates around the tanks, and measures are being studied to prohibit this. The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. — JDM

Moon Lake Harvest Festival

On Saturday, November 16th, the annual Moon Lake School Harvest Festival will begin at 6 p.m. There will be games, food, items for sale, auctions, and the crowning of the king and queen. Gay Godbois, kindergarten teacher and P.T.A. president, is in charge of the festival. All proceeds go toward completion of funds for the new gym.

"Hopefully, we will make enough money that we will not need to borrow the balance we need," Mrs. Godbois states. "The county school board cannot help in erecting the gym because we are not a 'state approved site.' To become state approved we must have a library (which we are currently setting up) and three acres of land."

Committee chairpersons are Food, Cheryl Crane and Delight Pruitt; Games, Nancy and Bill Rutledge and Linda and Glenn Miller; Publicity, Bill Berry; Prizes, Eddie Kirby; Set-up and clean-up, Amy and Leonard Keith; Solicitation, Vonda Lee and Sibill Hopper.

King and queen candidates are chosen by each room, which in turn helps its candidates to make the most money so they may be crowned at the festival. Candidates for each class room are Mr. Bell's room, Jeff Crow and Jennifer Furgerson; Mrs. Smith's room, John Chambers; Mr. Berry's room, Jeff Hopper, Cayla Bell; Mrs. Bobo's room, Curt Miller, Kerry Blalock.

Everyone in the area is invited to the Harvest Festival. There will be food and fun for all ages.

Classic Run, River Rides, Prizes, Highlight Octoberfest



Proudly holding a copy of **THE GROUNDHOG** and a flyer for the upcoming Mentone Octoberfest is Angelo Rosario, chairman of the committee on arrangements. He came to Mentone with his wife Frances last year, after 36 years as products planner for Eastern Airlines in Miami. He attended Dade County Junior College and the University of Miami. Last spring he coordinated the parade for the Rhododendron Festival.

THE EVENTS

Visitors and Mentone citizens can expect colorful and festive happenings at the Colorfest on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 18, 19 and 20.

The foliage should be at its peak for the Third Annual Groundhog Classic Run, boat rides along Little River above DeSoto Falls, arts and crafts displays at old Hotel Square.

Add to these events costume awards, cloggers, pony rides and hay rides, good food and drinks and entertainment by emcee-singer Tony Goggans.

Plus an impressive array of merchandise donated by regional merchants for raffling.

Here is the complete schedule of events:

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

7-9 p.m. — Amateur and Professional Story Telling and appearance of ghosts at the Mentone Inn.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

9-10:30 a.m. — **GROUNDHOG CLASSIC RUN.**

9:00 — Fun Run.

9:30 — Runners depart at Hitching Post.

10:30 — Race Awards.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. — Arts and Crafts Displays and sales at Mentone Springs Hotel.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. — Food and Drinks Available.

1-2 p.m. — Hayride and Pony Ride, Cloggers.

2-4 p.m. — Boat Rides at DeSoto Falls.

12:30-4 p.m. — Entertainment by Emcee Tony Goggans, singer-guitarist.

2 p.m. — Costume Parade at Hitching Post.

3:45 p.m. — Costume Contest — Junior.

3:55 p.m. — Costume Contest — Senior.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

9 a.m.-5 p.m. — Arts and Crafts Displays, Sales.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. — Food and Drinks.

12:30-4 p.m. — Tony Goggans Entertains.

1-2 p.m. — Hayride and Pony Ride.

2-4 p.m. — Boat rides up Little River from DeSoto Falls.

4 p.m. — Costume Awards — Junior.

4 p.m. — Costume Awards — Senior.

6 p.m. — Free Marshmallow Roast at Mentone Inn.

The Costume Parade at the Hitching Post Saturday afternoon is of special interest. Judges are Lydia Speed and John Cooper. Two awards of \$25 each will be made to categories under 18 and above 18. The awards will be made Sunday afternoon.

Pony rides are coordinated by Gay Godbois, PTA



President, with all proceeds going to the Moon Lake School Library.

Food booths will be at Old Hotel Square, under the supervision of Dorothy Crow.

Portable toilets will be available at appropriate places.

Chairman Angelo Rosario urges the people of Mentone to be planning unusual costumes for the parade, in order to win one of the two \$25 awards — one for above 18, another for those under 18.

Will the records be broken?

John McCartney of Fort Payne won the first Groundhog Classic run with a time of 21:17. Last year's winner was slightly above, Robert Florio of Huntsville with 22:28.

In the women's division Caroline Melson of Trussville holds the record of 26:47, surpassing her 1983 record of 27:53.

Coordinator Marty Griffin says an automatic electric timer will be utilized for the 1985 run at 9:30, Saturday, October 19. The distance is four miles, from Old Hotel Square down DeSoto Parkway to the DeSoto Falls turnoff, and return.

For this classic, down one of the most beautiful stretches in the nation, when the foliage is at its peak, each pre-registered participant will be given a specially designed T-shirt on the day of the race; late registrants may receive theirs by mail. First, second and third-place medals will be awarded in each division.

Splits will be called at the half-way mark, with water available along the route. A one-mile fun run will be held preceding the race at 9:00 a.m. Entrants in this race will also receive a T-shirt.

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

Area merchants are donating an imposing array of gifts to be raffled during the Mentone Octoberfest. Tickets are on sale for \$1.00 at Mentone merchants. The raffle awards will be made Sunday in the late afternoon at the corner of the Mentone Inn. Here are some of the principal items some lucky persons will win:

Zenith TV from Gary's.

Two nights for a couple at the Best Western Motel in Aberdeen, Mississippi.

35-millimeter camera from Cooper's Appliance.

Coleman Lantern from Wal-Mart.

Spice Rack and Soup Crock from Harco.

Stained Glass Balloon from Whitley's.

Movie Video Disc, donated by Video Park.

Potato Bin from Woodmasters.

Ceramic Duck by Maggie Cordell.

Two Dinners at Cragmere Manna Restaurant.

Three days and two nights at Chalet Village, Gatlinburg, Tennessee, for 2 adults. January through May (not Easter). By Kathy Lupa, Madison Travel Agency.



Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held at the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. on October 21, 1985 to discuss the Town's proposed Single Purpose Project to be submitted under the Community Development Block Grant Program. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Burglars, Beware!

Criminals, burglars, and thugs beware! On Saturday, October 26th, at 10 a.m. at Camp Skyline Ranch pistol firing instruction will be given to all concerned Mentone women. Because of increased break-ins and one incident of exchange of gunfire in the daytime, council members expressed a concern for the safety of Mentone residents, particularly women.

Councilman Max Cash mentioned a similar program held in Huntsville that proved to be extremely effective in reducing criminal activity. The council unanimously adopted a proposal for Mayor Hammond to facilitate the details of the instruction day.

NOVEMBER MEETING Mentone Area

Preservation Association

The Speaker: Ray Bass,
Highway Director, State of Alabama

Presiding: Amelia Kirk Brooks, Director

Everyone Welcome
Refreshments Follow

The Parlor

ST. JOSEPH'S ON-THE-MOUNTAIN CHURCH
Tuesday, November 5, 1985 7:00 p.m.

MAPA Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association was held at the Mentone Inn on October 1, 1985. Following approval of the minutes the treasurer reported a balance of \$5,254.59 as of 10-1-85, with THE GROUNDHOG reporting \$881.82 as of that date.

Bernice Crow, secretary of the Lookout Mountain Parkway Association, reported the good progress of that project. According to Director Amelia Brooks, progress is being made on the triangle at Blackburn's and a telephone booth will definitely be installed at the Town Hall. She also showed items donated by Fort Payne merchants to be raffled off at the Octoberfest.

Angelo Rosario played a tape by Tony Goggans to be used by regional radio stations to promote the Octoberfest. \$100 was approved for expense of the tapes. Approval of \$75 was also given for a young lady to play guitar at the festival provided it is coordinated by Goggans. Chairman Rosario told of plans for a costume parade and prizes and emphasized need for police help during the event.

At the request of President Gay Godbois of the Moon Lake PTA, which is coordinating the pony rides, it was voted to present all those proceeds to the new Moon Lake School Library. Decision was made to hold winter meetings of MAPA at the parlor of St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Church.

— Digested from the Minutes of Secretary Bill Riedesel.

Groundhog Finance Report

September Issue

INCOME	
Balance on hand	\$886.85
Ad sales	670.00
Donations, Hitching Post	13.42
	\$1,570.27
DEBITS	
Angelo Rosario, photo	\$5.00
U. S. Post Office, stamps	22.00
Donna Bukley, sales & delivery	140.50
U. S. Post Office	69.20
Summerville News Co.	351.75
McGehees, editing	100.00
	\$688.45
Balance on hand	\$881.82

Small World

Claire Brisson is Lifestyle Editor of *The Sampson Independent*, a newspaper in North Carolina. One day recently she received a visit from Stan Brown, a young student at the Duke Divinity School who is serving as student minister of the Salemburg, Beulah, and Andrews Chapel United Methodist churches. It seems he wanted publicity for the anniversary of one of his churches.

When he mentioned that he was from Mentone, Alabama, Claire Brisson said, "My uncle, Charles White McGehee, lives there." Whereupon Stan said, "He was the last person to interview me before I left Mentone; now you're first here."

A former member of the town council, Stan was once sports editor of *The Fort Payne Times-Journal*, which printed the article in its entirety. Stan's wife Christa is teaching at Beavertown School. Their sons Matthew and Luke are doing well. His work at Duke will require four years.

Attention MAPA Members

Members of the Mentone Area Preservation who have not yet paid their dues for 1985-86 are reminded of some privileges they may miss by being delinquent.

The Christmas dinner will be here before we realize it.

Important items are likely to come up for decision, on which only dues-paying members may vote.

Get your check in to Treasurer Shurleen Froehler, or simply mail it to MAPA, Box 50, Mentone, Alabama. It is not advisable to hand checks at meetings to officers of the organization. They are often delayed in transit. In such circumstances, out-of-town members often complain at delays in receiving THE GROUNDHOG.

To: MENTONE AREA PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, BOX 50 in support of the objectives of MAPA, desiring to join with others in preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area. I enclose \$10 for voting membership for one through June 1986.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

The Groundhog

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

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Amelia Brooks, Director
Donna Bukley, Associate Director
Bill Riedesel, Secretary
Shurleen Froehler, Treasurer
Homer Crow, Past Director

Brow Briefs

Following the resignation of H. P. Goss, Tony and Juanita Blalock have been named co-custodians at Moon Lake School.

On a recent weekend 56 members of the Disney family gathered at Nippersink Lodge for a reunion, guests of the Lodge operators Edward and Gerry. It is an annual affair.

Congratulations to the Sand Mountain Electrical Cooperative on its election of Jim Carmichael of Valley Head as its new president.

John and Anne Morrison, operators of the Lookout Mountain Conference Center, are justifiably proud of the accomplishments of their son, John Jr., in his second year at the University of Alabama. For *The Crimson White*, the daily campus newspaper, (9-27-85) he wrote a moving front-page article about the Bryce Mental Institution, which is just across from the university grounds. "So close," he wrote, "yet so far." John is an active member of the Alabama U. Rugby team and has been quite successful in promoting its acceptance and effectiveness.

Bob and Kay Blackwell, Hunter and Elizabeth, are welcoming Katherine Lloyd, born September 23rd. Bob is rector of St. Joseph's-on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church.

Mary Lou and Bud Fielder of Mentone and Melbourne, Florida, phoned to say that their family has increased this summer. Son Mike and his wife Monique of New Smyrna Beach, Florida, have a son born July 12th. Mike began his law enforcement career as a deputy in DeKalb County. The Fielders' daughter, Paula Leftwich and husband Jim welcomed twin sons Sept. 26, Jake and Sam, who join three year old Hank. The Leftwiches live between Eleanor Moerlins and the Springers on DeSoto Parkway.

Hearty congratulations to Scott Tate and Jeff Bain for their starring roles in Valley Head's 46-6 Homecoming win over Spring Garden, the team's first victory of the year.

New Telephone Booth



Seen above is the new public telephone installed outside Mentone's Town Hall. James Sullivan, public utilities commissioner for the state, facilitated the installation at the instigation of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, which had the telephone on its list of current goals.



Mountain Watch

By Charles White McGehee

What is it about celebrities?

Why is it that in their presence we are filled with such awe, respect, and reverence?

It could be, of course, that it's because they have more talent, money and personality than we do.

The other day I went to Dr. George Weatherly for a potassium check. In the waiting room there were about a dozen of us awaiting our summons.

In one of the chairs at the end of the room sat a young man, with familiar features, a dark beard, wearing running shoes, reading a magazine. Jean whispered the information I already had concluded. "You know that's Randy Owen, don't you?"

All of us in the room exercised a magnificent reserve. No one asked for an autograph or feigned acquaintanceship. We were determined to give him the privacy he deserved.

It's like that everywhere he goes, I thought. People wanting to express their admiration for him, yet usually holding back. There must be other extremes when he is showered with attention. But in situations like this, was he ever lonely, feeling a strange sense of isolation?

There he sat, this young man, fabulously wealthy, who could afford to live anywhere he chose, yet he has remained at the source of his beginnings, in Fort Payne. I know of his talent, having heard some 60 selections recorded by the Alabama band, in preparation for a GROUNDHOG cover. His fame is no freak. He is enormously talented.

There Randy Owen sat, waiting his turn in the doctor's office, like the rest of us ordinary people, human like the rest of us, yet giving a quiet magic to the room.

Except for a couple of sneaky glances, I tried not to look again at him. Instead I began thinking about other celebrities I had experienced. Each time there was an inexplicable presence: the time I had a drink with conductor-composer Leonard Bernstein; interviewed actress Maureen O'Hara, was in a room when Willy Mays came bounding youthfully in; had long conversations with singer Pete Seeger; really knew fighter Jack Dempsey; on two historic occasions, close enough to reach out and touch Dr. Martin Luther King. Being in the presence of each of them, perhaps others I can't recall, cast an inexplicable spell. I resent the usual connotations of hero-worship. Yet I confess the reality of the feelings I have had in the presence of these celebrities.

Finally the door opened. The nurse looked across the room and simply said, "Randy..." He arose, slowly favoring what might have been a sprained ankle, walked down the hall to the office of Dr. Michael Lyons, orthopedist who shares the building with Dr. Weatherly.

When he was gone I broke the silence, although I knew none of the people. "We were good, weren't we. We'll be telling people about this for years." The tension was lifted and feelings were expressed.

Shortly thereafter the nurse appeared to notify me that my moment had arrived. Was it a sweet and simple "Charlie...?" No, my summons was a solemn "Mister McGehee..."

Continuing History

Grady Perkins, who owns and operates three oil companies in Denver, Colorado, grew up in Mentone and is associated with the history of the Hitching Post. His father, Ras Atlee Perkins, was a religious man who financed the entire operation of the Hitching Post with the exception of the dance hall from January first, 1937 through December 1939.

After Lee Davenport left in 1941 to move to Atlanta, the Hitching Post closed. Then Mrs. Sam Graham and Mrs. Earl Jackson persuaded the young (17) Grady Perkins to open the place for the summer. He hired his friend Jim Mallicoat to help him.

Grady Perkins says that the summer season was from the Rhododendron Festival and Ball until the Fox Hunters Ball, after Labor Day. He has fond memories of these elegant affairs, of running the soda fountain, and of the dance nights, like that of the Fourth of July, which began at two minutes after midnight and ran until four or 4:30.

Grady's older brother Atlee now owns the old Perkins' home, the first place south of Moon Lake School. He is in business in Missouri.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All readers are urged to assist in compiling as complete as possible accurate historical information. Send your suggestions or corrections to THE GROUNDHOG, Box 50, Mentone, Alabama.

Information

Each community in our 16 county region is a true reflection of the growth the region has experienced: new hotels and motels, expanded convention facilities, ground breakings for new attractions and museums, an increase in the number of visitors to the area, and thus an increase in the amount of dollars spent in North Alabama.

Jenny Brownlow, Executive Director
Alabama Mountain Lakes Tourist Association

Business News

Ruby Stalvey has moved her business establishment to Valley Head in the store beside the football field. There Ruby has her name brand clean used clothing, toys and gifts. In front of her "Wishing Lounge," as sister Annie Watkins has named it, is a grocery store presided over by Ruby's sister Naomi Potts and her husband Hoyt. They have recently moved to Valley Head from Chickamauga.

Moon Lake Attendance

Because funds are made available to schools on the basis of average daily attendance, not enrollment, Principal Charles Bell is justifiably proud of those students with perfect attendance during the first month of the new school year.

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

Grade 1, Brenda Bobo, teacher: Brian Blalock, Kerry Blalock, Amy Crane, April Gold, Ginger Gray, Cassidy Hudgins, Angie Hunt, Heather Jackson, Nathan Keith, Bootsie McGee, Curt Miller, Renee Pruitt, Emily Rutledge, Brian Smith, Nikki Smith, Brandon Taylor, Lee Worthey.

Grade 2, Mrs. Bobo: Shaun Flannigan, Adam Hilliard, Chad Smith, Chris O. Smith.

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

Grade 3, Mr. Berry: Nichole Cash, Angella Coots, Terry Durham, Lyndall Elkins, Holly Gardner, Josh Godbois, Jennifer Hale, Cheri Keith, Eric King, Joseph Lee, Flynt Purvis, Chris Smith, Matthew Smith, Cyle Springman, Christy Tillman.

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

Grade 5, Mrs. Smith: Carla King, Whitney Smith, Shaun Wheat, Kelly Johnson, Kip Taylor, Stacie Worthey.

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

Grade 6, Mr. Bell: Dwayne Cash, Tiffany Coots, Jeff Crow, Denise Hilliard, Michele Hopper, April Hunter, Carlotta McGee, Clark Smith, Christopher Stallings, Jeremy Webb, Spring Wimberly.

Moon Lake Expansion



Shown above is the Moon Lake Baptist Church parsonage, recently made available to Moon Lake School for use as kindergarten and library. During the past three years there has been a 14 percent increase in enrollment at the school. More space is an obvious need. Principal Charles Bell states that the school is expanding its services to the community with the adult education classes from 6 to 9 p.m. each Thursday evening. The county school board has approved the construction of the new gym. Applications for bids are being taken in Fort Payne. The most pressing need for the school now is for land adjacent to the main campus. This is necessary for the school to become a "state approved site." Without an additional three acres, the county school board cannot give funds for the new gym. Mr. Bell has issued this statement: "We at Moon Lake School would like to express our gratitude publically to Moon Lake Baptist Church and to Superintendent Franklin Kellett of the DeKalb County school system for cooperating in allowing us to expand in the church parsonage for our growing student body. Naturally, this will allow us to serve our students better with adequate office space in the large building, with kindergarten room in the parsonage, and with a library where our students will begin to learn library science and usage."

The Mayor's Report

Last time the Town of Mentone applied for a Community Development Block Grant, the grant was to be used to correct our most pressing need — the renovation of our water system. The new tank is in use, all new lines are in operation, and the new fire hydrants have been placed. Our system is in good shape. Down the road we will have to try to secure additional water if we want to be able to serve many more new customers.

After talking with many members of the community, I feel now the most pressing need of the community is a building for citizens of all ages to use. The town is going to apply for a CDB grant to build a Neighborhood Facility Center. In this facility we plan on having a large meeting room that can also be used as a gym, some smaller meeting rooms, and restroom facilities. At present we plan on using the old dump site which is about 7 acres. The town is applying for \$150,000 with \$15,000 in matching funds from the town. If you support this project, please contact Senator Lowell Barron and Rep. Ralph Burke stating the need for such a facility in our community.

— Rob Hammond, Mayor

Garden Club

The Rhododendron Garden Club of Mentone met at Nippersink Lodge for its October eighth meeting. Hostesses were Gerri Disney, Mickle Cooper, and Nelda Howe. After a devotional by Mabel Kirk, Jane McRee of Chattanooga gave the program on "Terrariums." She was introduced by her friend, Vice President Bernice Crow.

President Beverly Hoyt thanked Alyce Springer, Grace Howard, Ginny Bosworth, Betty Chapman, and Frances Rosario for helping at the VFW Fair. Mabel Kirk won two blue ribbons with plants, and Betty Harris received three blue ribbons and red, yellow, and pink ones for her sewing crafts.

Members will vote in November on whether to change the meeting time to 11 a.m. in March. The group voted unanimously to plant evergreens in the planters at Mountain Manor Nursing Home for the winter. Mrs. Kirk is chairman of this garden therapy project. The club will meet on November twelfth at the home of Virginia Bosworth.

Community Center



Progress moves along on the Community Center at the foot of the mountain. It's a project of the Valley Head Promenaders, a clogging group of which Mentone's Ovie Blalock is president. The 50 x 70 structure should be completed by Christmas, says Blalock. In addition to dancing-meeting space, it will have restrooms and kitchen.

An Essay On Water



Attention must be paid!

The mass starvation recently witnessed in Ethiopia may not be as far away from Mentone as we may think. Perhaps in 20 years a crisis could be upon us. This warning is given by The World Watch Institute in a recent study.

First, the local council is to be commended for its progress in handling our water problem. Throughout last winter and this past summer there were no major cutoffs. Water employee Leroy Snider is diligent in providing maintenance. Although our town must find grants, government or otherwise, or tax sources, to bring our system up to average, there is a limit to what small municipalities can do.

The proposed water budget for 1986 in Mentone is \$52,000. This is more than all other combined expenditures — \$33,435. This indicates the importance our local officials place on the water supply of the community.

If a worldwide water crisis lies ahead, which could threaten civilization as we know it, where basically does the solution lie? The World Watch Institute Report, entitled *Conserving Water: The Untapped Alternative* spells it out in no uncertain terms: "Only by managing water demand rather than carelessly striving to meet it, is there hope for a truly secure and substantial water future."

The world's existing sources of water for drinking, cooking, bodily sustenance, agriculture, and industry are reaching their limits. "Pervasive depletion and overuse of water supplies, the high capital cost of new large water projects, rising pumping costs and worsening ecological damage call for a shift in the way water is valued, used and managed."

So, it is not enough for us to rest secure in the knowledge that Little River flows through our midst, sometimes pouring untold tons of water over DeSoto Falls, or that it is a simple matter for Leroy Snider to throw a switch and shoot our way illimitable water from the Fort Payne system which is now our source.

Remember last spring when the gardens were planted and the tempestuous rains came, causing us to be fearful that water would wash the seed away; and conversely, in the mid-summer when there were so few rains that the gardens were in danger of being parched away?

Remember also winter before last when the water was off for days at a time? Bathrooms were unpleasant places and dishes piled in the sink and body

odors mounted. Remember how valuable a bucket of water was, how grateful you were when a friend came to the door with a tubful?

Now about conservation . . .

Roughly, a toilet can adequately be flushed with one gallon of water. Most flushing apparatuses in our bathrooms use three gallons. There are available, but not well advertised, toilet fixtures which use only one gallon. Equally, there are shower heads available and not vastly expensive, which use well under half the amount presently used by most heads.

Days of summer, many of us watered our gardens, freely using a standard garden hose. There are now available flat-type hoses that methodically apply slow drops at a time, onto the specific area needed by the seed or plants. At the larger industrial level, there are available methods of recycling water, for reuse.

The task lies in many areas. We must adopt attitudes of conservation of water — not merely how long we allow the faucet to run for the minimal amount necessary for a tooth-brushing, nor the length of time we enjoy the luxury of a shower, nor the amount of time we allow ourselves to sprinkle the flowers or the garden. It involves some intelligent analysis of the type of fixtures we buy.

At the municipal and national level, more sophisticated techniques must be applied, based on the latest of research standards applied for the kind of plumbing fixtures that are placed on sale; public relations to promote the use of more efficient fixtures.

The importance of water needs to be kept in mind. The Ancient Mariner of Coleridge is adrift on a parched sea, quoting, "Water, water, everywhere, but not a drop to drink." Three-fourths of the surface of the earth is covered by water. To remove the salt is not enough — it would have to be distributed economically. New dams and wells alone will not solve the problem. The water needs to be transported from the source of supply to the place of need.

How important is water?

It's good to bear in mind that familiar statistic, that about 95 percent of the content of your body is just plain ole water. This is something we need to be giving a lot more attention to, if we are to survive and thrive as human beings.

A movie once dramatically chronicled the complex nature of water as it relates to our lives. Its title was "The Island" and dealt with a Japanese family which eked out its existence on a tiny rocky island. A drought came and they were forced to haul water in buckets in a tiny boat from a pump on shore. Just as the vegetables began to sprout, an intense rainstorm came, washing away the entire crop. The poor man stood, cursing fate, tears streaming down his cheeks. The water he had so badly needed, now was destroying his sustenance. This tiny island, surrounded by the vast waves of the ocean, so useless for drinking or irrigation — yet there, taunting, undulating, mocking. — CWM

Moon Lake PTA Calendar

November 11 — Veterans Day Holiday.
November 12 — PTA Meeting. Program: Mrs. Juanita Smith.
November 19 — MOON LAKE HARVEST FESTIVAL.
November 28-29 — Thanksgiving Holidays.

The Mentone Inn

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A History Of Mentone, Chapter 9, The Camps Part I

By Zora Shay Strayhorn

INTRODUCTION

President Charles Eliot of Harvard once said: "The organized summer camp is the most important step in education that America has given the world."

Probably nowhere else in the United States is there a more highly concentrated group of youth camps than in the vicinity of Mentone. Jim Russell, Administrator of the DeKalb County Health Department stated that the camps are a million dollar business, serving 9,235 campers in 1983 alone.

The youth camps represent beyond doubt Mentone's most important economy factor. They provide year-round employment and are a boost to local businesses in the summer. Jack Jones, Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort owner, in talks before civic clubs in the Georgia-Alabama area, delights in pointing out that the gold early explorers were seeking was not in the ground to be mined, but is found in the business of recreation, tourism, the summer camps and similar activities.

There are twelve camps: eight in the general Mentone area, four on the mountain just across the Georgia line: three are boys camps, three for girls; two are for boys and girls; two are Scout camps and two basically Christian oriented.

Before cataloging the camps existent at the time of the Centennial celebration in 1984, it is in order to reach back and examine some of the pioneers that no longer exist.

Camp Alanita for Girls was established in 1922, situated on a ledge below Eagle's Nest Rock on Mentone's brow. It was limited to 100 girls which were said to be from the best homes in the South. "Lookout Mountain," a brochure claimed, "is the ideal spot for developing the girl with a mind that thinks, a body that acts, and a heart that loves."

The Council Hall was a sixteen-sided structure with a fireplace, piano, record player, writing desks, and an enclosed porch equipped with swings, extending almost to the brow. Each cabin accommodated eight campers and one counselor; drinking water was from wells; chemically treated toilets were used but electricity was available.

There were tennis courts, athletic field, riding ring, archery range, swimming beach and diving board and a large bath house with curtained dressing rooms. Little River was used for aquatic sports. There was a craft studio, office and living quarters for the camp staff, plus a camp post office and commissary. The camp closed after a few years probably because of water or economic problems.

Adahi, a Girl Scout summer camp north of Cloudland near Little River, was originally homesteaded by Thomas Truly Brown and Louisa Rodgers Brown. They reportedly lost their wealth and large plantation in McLemore's Cove, Georgia, after the Civil War, around 1875. Union troops had ravaged the place. Brown died in 1897 and is buried at Bankhead Cemetery.

In the early 1950's Delores Morgadanes purchased 80 acres from the Crow family. The property was one mile from Little River Church. Miss Morgadanes had a dam built on the river and for several years ran Camp Laurel Dell for Catholic girls.

In January, 1974, Laurel Dell was sold to Honey and Alexander Glover and to Bess and Frank Mason. The land was divided and the Glovers renamed their portion Camp High River. The camp consists of 15 buildings and a gymnasium, but is no longer in operation.

Camp Cloudmont was founded in 1924, purchased in 1947 by Jack and Olive Jones, and is now operated as Saddle Rock Camp for Girls on the property of the Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort, still owned and directed by the Joneses.

CAMP JULIETTE LOW

In 1921 a mule team brought Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America, to the Georgia-side ridge of Lookout Mountain. She was in search of a site for a leadership training center in the southern wilderness. John and Will Ledbetter, who were developing Cloudland, offered her ten acres for the project. Her choice was an area on Little River with rugged terrain and a natural rock swimming pool. Juliette Low was the aunt of Marion Wallace Low of Mentone.

Juliette Low Camp was expanded to 340 acres with a lake. The first season was in 1922. Joint founder was Director Dorris S. Hough, who served for the first ten years. The camp was advertised as Girl Scout Training School at Cloudland Park, Georgia. During the first year there was only one permanent building on the site. The first camp was for girls 18 years and over, cost \$6 a week, and was run on a strict military style. By 1935 the camp included younger girls.

In the summer before Mrs. Low died, she transferred the campsite to Camp Juliette Low, Inc., a holding company, neither owned nor directed by the Girl Scouts of America. Its philosophy emphasizes response to the impact of nature and ecology and a concern for the environment. A nonprofit organization, it is managed by a board of trustees.

There are four two-week sessions each summer, with 100 campers each session. In 1985 Cathy Bennett Holley was Director.

CAMP DeSOTO FOR GIRLS

Mentone's oldest camp is probably Camp DeSoto for Girls. It was originally a boy's camp, built in the late 1920's by a Mrs. Newton, who operated it until her death in 1935, when it was leased to Eloise Hart Temple. Because of Mrs. Temple's youth, Mrs. Frazier Banks, a director, was sent to assist her. It became a camp for girls.

Martha Berry, the educator, was helpful in an advisory capacity. She sent girls from the Berry School to work in the dining room. In 1944 Camp DeSoto was purchased and operated by Norma Bradshaw and Bess Herron.

Sue McLaurin Henry became a staff member in 1947, teaching English in the winter. She had come to DeSoto as a tennis instructor and counselor. A graduate of Mississippi State College for Women, with graduate work at North Carolina University, her full-time duties began in 1972, and she purchased the complex in 1975. She became a full-time resident in 1980. Norma Bradshaw is director emerita.

Located on Little River, about a mile east of Mentone, Camp DeSoto consists of 48 buildings, three separate and distinct camps within one larger unit. There are two four-week sessions each summer. The camp has a stage and is used for team sports, informal parties, and Sunday church services.

Camp DeSoto strives to develop girls physically, socially, and spiritually through the many sports programs, arts, and other activities. There is instruction in horseback riding, tennis, archery, riflery, swimming, canoeing, and crafts.

Horses were first provided by Hardy Jones, then by his son Ed Jones. Until her death, Ruby O'Rear maintained the flower beds and supplied flowers for the dining room and for other occasions.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER

The Lookout Mountain Camp for Boys, organized in 1927, opened in June 1928 under the guidance of Dr. Jacob Gorman and his son-in-law Gray Morrison, who had married Ethel Gorman. Dr. Gorman had a dream to build a summer camp for boys. He bought property on Little River a few miles east of Mentone. The site was bought from a Mr. Pounds who was developing the Lake LaHusage area, building a huge hotel.

A lodge was built on the bluffs above Little River and the Lookout Mountain Camp for Boys was begun. In 1958 because of the death of Mr. Morrison, his two sons Gray D. and John assumed operation. Until 1974, the Morrisons lived in New Orleans and came to Mentone summers to conduct the camp.

In 1974 John Morrison and his wife Anne Sewell Morrison moved to the camp at Mentone to live year-round, along with their children Anne Dixon, Edith Gorman, John II, and Bennett Sewell.

Because of strong religious conviction, John and Anne Morrison founded Lookout Mountain Christian Conference Center. It is a year-round retreat for various religious groups, family retreats, and group activities.

At the center of the facilities is the historic lodge with a well-stocked library, a huge fireplace and wide

spaces. Basketball, volleyball and running are activities available in the open-air gymnasium. A dam on Little River provides safe swimming for entire families, with canoes available for cruises down the river.

Twenty-four log cabins provide facilities for housing. The dining room seats 150 people, with kitchen facilities for many more. There is a book store and gift shop.

It is indeed unusual that one family would operate a camp for such a long period.

ALPINE CAMP FOR BOYS

In 1928 Colonel Milford Howard and his wife "Lady Vivian," after a European trip, built a Swiss-type lodge on Little River about a mile from his Master School site. Until 1934 it was operated as a resort. At that time Alpine Camp for Girls was founded by Alice McVicar of Miami, Florida. It was designed to accommodate about 85 campers.

The camp was sold in 1959 to Rufus Hyde of Dallas, Texas, and Richard C. O'Ferrall, of Jackson, Mississippi, who established Alpine Camp for Boys. Richard and Alice O'Ferrall purchased the full property when Mr. Hyde retired in 1962. With their daughters Toy and Carter they made Mentone their year-round home.

Richard O'Ferrall graduated from the University of Mississippi and served two years as a lieutenant j. g. in the U. S. Navy. Alice is a graduate of Newcomb College, Tulane University and the University of Wisconsin.

Camp Alpine is situated on the crest of Lookout Mountain about seven miles from Mentone. A total of 52 buildings is on the banks of Little River. There are two four-week sessions and one two-week sessions each summer. A well-rounded camping experience is provided, including horseback riding, tennis, crafts, camping, and swimming. There is an open-air gym and an athletic field. Many rustic cabins are throughout the expense of the camp.

In 1985 Mrs. Leonard "Bea" Crow was honored for fifty years of service to Alpine, principally as dietician. When Miss McVicar operated the camp the caretaker was Joe Keith. B. C. Webster served for about twelve years, succeeded in turn by Luther Kerby, Jim Kerby, and Ron Godbois.

SKYLINE RANCH CAMP

Eloise Hart Temple founded Skyline Camp in 1947, after a career in girls' camp work that began in 1935. For 25 years she operated Skyline, developing most of the traditions and clubs which have prevailed there. She maintains a home at the edge of the campus.

In 1984 the owner-directors became Susan and Larry Hooks, who acquired Skyline through family ownership. In the first year of their leadership, a property of approximately 60 acres of land. It lies on both sides of Little River, with Riverside Bridge connecting the senior camp to the main grounds. The main campus consists of riding trails through mountain terrain, with many properties available for outdoor activities.

There are 17 cabins near the main dining hall, an area called "Hut Row." The camp is divided by age groups or living arrangement and competition. The senior division consists of sixty campers, girls 14, 15 and 16 who live in an eight-room cabin called "Summerplace."

Overlooking the river, Skyline Lodge contains the camp library, practice pianos, and is a meeting place and home of the assistant director and nurse. Situated nearby is a dining hall. The counselling staff consists of college students from throughout the Southeast.

The camp program points toward self-confidence, companionship, and improvement of skills through riding, swimming, and tennis, badminton, swimming, lifesaving, dramatics, crafts, hikes, archery, and related activities.

VALLEY VIEW RANCH FOR GIRLS

In 1954 Jack and Olive Jones founded Valley View Ranch for Girls. At that time they operated Cloudmont Camp for Boys, but in 1984 leased a large portion to Saddle Rock, continuing to operate Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort on a year-round basis.

About 18 miles from Mentone, on the Georgia portion of Lookout Mountain near Cloudland, Valley View Ranch is a vast area of more than 1,000 acres. In 1974 it was purchased by Nancy Jones and her sister Marsha Hair and her husband Doug. The ranch became a family activity. Nancy is director and recruiter. Marsha and Doug became year-round residents. Sisters Angela Jones and Janie Jones Carrier are instructors in horseback riding during the summer sessions, with Frank Carrier assisting in ranch operations.

At this year-round working ranch quarter horses are raised for use of the campers in the English, Western, Hunt, Rodeo and Gymkhana styles. There are two four-week sessions with a limited enrollment of 120 girls. Each rancher is assigned a horse or pony, or may bring her own. Horse and rider are trained in equitation, pleasure, problem clinics, trail classes, reining, and bareback. Emphasis is placed on care and responsibility for the horse, as well as on riding skills.

Other recreational programs include swimming, canoeing, crafts, tennis, archery, gymkhana, and horseshoes.

At Valley View Ranch the girls live in lodges. There are about 25 buildings, a foreman's house, four riding rings, a lighted horseshoe arena, six stables for 150 horses, the Chuck Wagon, which is a dining lodge, tack rooms for 150 saddles, recreational buildings, infirmary, ranch house, and office.

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CAMP LANEY

A famous name in Alabama football, Malcolm Laney, assistant coach at the University of Alabama and head coach at Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, was founder of Camp Laney for Boys. Coach Laney and his wife Louise began the camp in 1959 and operated it for the ensuing 15 years. The camp is located about one mile east of Mentone on Little River on the former site of Riverdale Lodge which burned in 1930.

Following Coach Laney's retirement, the camp was bought in 1974 by Rob Hammond. A graduate of Vanderbilt, he taught for four years at the Darlington School in Rome, Georgia. He began at Laney as a camper, then served as junior and senior counselor. Operation of the camp is shared by his wife San. They have a son Jordan. Rob Hammond became mayor of Mentone in 1983.

The Laney facilities include a gym, swimming pool, riding ring, athletic field, and archery and riflery ranges. There are four two-week sessions each summer with an enrollment of 160 boys per session. Objective of the camp is to give each boy an exciting camp experience under close supervision, experienc-

ing close friendships and gaining self-confidence in a setting of natural beauty.

History of the Camp Laney site began in 1887 when Dr. John Edward Purdon and his wife Katherine came from Athlone, Ireland, with their servants to Mentone. He had been a Major Surgeon in the British army, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin.

In Mentone he practiced medicine, often without pay. The Purdons' friends, Mary and Thomas Sproule also brought Irish servants and a parrot to Mentone and built a house on the adjoining property. They are buried in Bankhead Cemetery.

The remains of an old fireplace still stand as the only evidence that the Purdon family lived on the Camp Laney site.

CAMP COMER SCOUT RESERVATION

About four miles south of Mentone on the DeSoto Parkway, the eleven county Choccolocco Council of the Boy Scouts of America owns over 1,000 acres, including a 90-acre lake. It is divided into two camps, one section for tent camping and one area for families. The reservation contains thirteen camping sites.

The land was purchased in 1962 and named after Hugh Ross Comer of Sylacauga, a long-time scout worker, who was serving as president of the Choccolocco Council at that time. M. M. Beck, council vice-president, suggested the name.

In 1965 a fund-raising campaign was successful in developing the lake and camping area. Stumps were removed from the lake and the dam was raised. The lake was named Lake Republic in honor of Republic Steel of Gadsden, a financial supporter of the camp.

On June 8, 1965, Camp Comer was officially opened. Work continued on the reservation and a year later 3,000 scouts and leaders attended camp.

An important event was the 85th Anniversary Camporee on the weekend of May 3-5, 1985, which also was the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. In 1985 the director was Bob Dunaway; assistant director was Mike Bobo; and Ray Johnson was business director.

(Continued Next Month)

The Lady Of The Garden

The Story

In the spring of 1888, as the wild mountain rhododendron were in full bloom, Rachel Johnston, a beautiful young lady of eighteen, traveled by rail from Philadelphia to Mentone, Alabama, the lovely, quaint resort town atop Lookout Mountain. Rachel was accompanied by her "aunt and uncle," Dr. and Mrs. John Colter MacDonald. Dr. MacDonald was a prominent Philadelphia physician, who had raised Rachel as his own since her unwed mother had died in childbirth. The purpose of their journey was to spend the summer at the Mentone Springs Hotel at the invitation of Dr. Frank Caldwell, who had built the hotel a few years earlier as a health resort.

Days were lonely for Rachel at the hotel. Her aunt and uncle amused themselves with bowling, horseback riding and bridge, while her favorite pastime was walking in the garden admiring the beautiful flowers, especially the crimson roses. It was in this very garden that she met Chauncey Edwards, who was to become her secret lover.

One sunny June morning as she picked a bouquet of roses, Chauncey walked up to her and introduced himself. She was instantly enamored by his powerful presence, for he was a handsome man of thirty-two, a force to be reckoned with, tall and dark. He told her that he was the violinist in the hotel orchestra and asked her to meet him in the rose garden that night at midnight by the wishing well. Before she could agree or refuse.

Each night for the rest of the summer they continued their midnight rendezvous amid the sweet fragrant flowers. No one knew of their love, for they would not approve. The fear of being discovered only heightened their passion. On the last night of her vacation, Rachel went to the garden to meet her beloved Chauncey to tell him that she was with child. A soft rain fell as she picked a fresh bouquet of crimson roses as she waited. As she neared the wishing well, she saw a note tacked to a post marked, "My Darling Rachel." Tears fell on the note as she read by the light of the moon the words Chauncey had written: "I have deceived you, Rachel, for I have a wife in Cincinnati and I am gone forever. Please forgive me, Chauncey."

They found Rachel's body the next morning on the rocks below the western brow still clutching the bouquet she had picked for Chauncey. To this day she has been seen on many a rainy night standing where the garden was once planted, holding a spray of crimson roses, searching for Chauncey in the moonlight — the lady of the garden behind the big hotel.

The Song

In the middle of November at the Mentone Springs Hotel I was staring out my window as the raindrops softly fell. It was there that I first saw her standing in the rain, And the time has dulled my senses, the memory still remains, Soft as autumn's colors was the color of her hair, In her hand a spray of roses, and her skin was soft and fair And I knew I had to meet her as I ran down the stairs. When I reached the wishing well, the lady wasn't there.

Chorus:

She's the lady of the garden, behind the big hotel, She walks among the roses beside the wishing well. What passion burns within her no one could ever tell. She's the lady of the garden, behind the big hotel.

I stood there in the garden; my mind was in a whirl. Was I only dreaming that I had seen the girl? But as I turned to go inside, her roses I found, The petals washed with rain drops, lying on the ground. The old desk clerk he told me of the lady and her fate; Long ago her lover jilted her beside the garden gate. She jumped from the western brow with roses in her hand. And from time to time she returns, searching for her man. Repeat Chorus.

Copyright 1983. Terry Hutcheson, Ron "Tubby" Brawner, and Carolyn Peterson Brawner

Editor's Note:

In the year 1982 Thanksgiving night at Mentone was a dreary, rainy occasion. At the Mentone Springs Hotel Terry Hutcheson, Ron "Tubby" Brawner, and Carolyn Peterson Brawner were sitting around the stone fireplace in the hotel lobby. As the flames flickered in the semi-darkness and eerie sounds occasionally drifted down from upstairs, it occurred to them that the hotel deserved a ghost. So they wrote a ballad, entitling it "THE LADY OF THE GARDEN." From the song, Terry Hutcheson developed a short story. Now preparing for the legal profession at Cumberland Law School, and a frequent weekend visitor to Mentone, Terry hopes to practice law and live fulltime at Mentone. He gave THE GROUNDHOG permission to publish both the story and the song. If you have any similar tales of Mentone, ghost or otherwise, send them to Box 50, Mentone, Alabama.



Drawing By Ken Pennington

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OCTOBER HARVEST



and girls come to Mrs. Smith's classroom. Outside speakers present programs on various aspects of 4-H work and give particulars for any contests that may be forthcoming. Joyce particularly likes taking students to county meetings, usually held in Rainsville. This social contact with girls just beginning their 4-H involvement adds a further dimension to her relationship as teacher.

The 4-H clubs are sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service from Auburn University, in conjunction with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the various counties throughout the state. Club meetings are held from October through April; county meetings continue throughout the summer.

In June there is a district (11 counties) roundup in Cullman, and a state congress in July in Auburn. Also there are 4-H camps during the summer. This past summer at the 4-H center in Columbiana, Joyce took three teenagers from DeKalb and Jackson counties to Camp to study electricity.

"In 4-H work, you can be as involved as you want to be," Joyce says. It is evident that she has given generously of her time and talents. She has spent countless hours beyond school days helping girls with various projects. She has participated in officer training workshops, in speaking on 4-H history and work to civic groups, and has done her share of chaperoning, too. The clubs are open to students from 9 to 19.

Each year Joyce's girls have a booth at the county fair, usually winning a top award, such as this year's second place ribbon. She has secured such gifts as the \$100 from the Raymond Hale Oil Company toward a trophy case for the proposed new gymnasium at Moon Lake School.

She takes girls on tours such as of Merico Bakery, visits nursing homes with them, and regularly ar-

ranges awards programs and achievement nights. Cathy Kerby Stephenson, 1979 state 4-H leadership winner, says of her former advisor, "The most outstanding of her talents is the ability to make young people feel that they belong and that they have talents. She has done this by her long and dedicated service... She works so that her young students can develop into successful people; she knows 4-H is the key to their success." Helping girls to experience achievement and success, Joyce thrives on her leadership role.

Mrs. Smith is grateful for time spent with her family. The daughter of Clyde and Thelma Hawkins of Valley Head, she and husband William Hoyle Smith own a 49 acre farm in Mentone. They have a daughter Lea, 15, a sophomore at Valley Head High School, who is also active in 4-H work. Son Clark, 11, is in the sixth grade at Moon Lake School, and a member of the group sponsored by Mr. Bell.

Although she taught in the Head Start program one summer, Joyce prefers to spend her summers gardening, canning, freezing and enjoying her family. Still, she finds time for 4-H conferences and camps. Two years ago she participated in a state leadership workshop for local leaders, constantly striving to "Make the Best Better."

"I've had an average of 25 club members each year," Joyce says. "I've always had excellent cooperation from my girls, and parents have trusted me to carry their children to many county events." Smiling, Joyce says, "I've been repaid many times over by a smile or a breathless 'I won!' from one of the girls."

Joyce was co-editor of the Moon Lake School yearbook from 1973-81. The *Laurel* was resurrected after 20 years' absence. She has worked with P.T.A., fund drives, festivals, and graduation ceremonies. She belongs to several professional organizations: D.E.A., A.E.A., N.E.A., and Alpha Zeta Kappa, the honorary society for women educators.

Principal Charles Bell states succinctly: "Joyce Smith is a dedicated 4-H Club leader and a fine teacher." Valley Head and Mentone are proud to have one of their own return to give so much of herself, as in the 4-H pledge, "to clearer thinking... to greater loyalty... to larger service... and to better living for my club, my community, my country, and my world."

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(2) *The Groundhog* is not a profit-making operation. Any proceeds above expenses go to the activities of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, of which it is an arm. MAPA is dedicated to "preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area."



Donna Bukley is advertising coordinator of *The Groundhog*. Donna is associate director of MAPA, board member of the DeKalb County Tourist Association, coordinated the 1984 Rhododendron Festival, and was advertising coordinator for the Centennial Celebrations. She likes to paint and is married to Charles Bukley, an electrical supervisor at the TVA Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant.

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Leftovers

By Jean McGehee

Clyde Phillips phoned to say I'd goofed in the last column about taxi service from Valley Head to Mentone in the '40's. Jim Hall, brother of Mrs. Harry Davenport, never married. I confused him with Meade Hammond, who did drive a taxi, and whose daughter Merle worked for Mr. Bell in his grocery. When Mr. Phillips told me, my husband reminded me that Mr. Hall had driven a bus from Georgia to Fort Payne. The bus was rather decrepit and had a weak ah-oo-ga horn.

Harry Gibbs, Jacksonville, Florida friend, responded to our sending him a Groundhog: "Makes us wonder about living in a town like Mentone. I couldn't find one murder or rape story in your paper."

Myrtle Brown in Valley Head taught us how to can vegetables the first summer we were married. She was cook at the old hotel where her husband Farce (now deceased) was caretaker. Last month Mrs. Brown put up 48 quarts of vegetable soup in one day all by herself. She is 85 years young.

We went to Birmingham last month both to hear Pete Seeger and to see Uncle Jimmy (87) in the hospital for stomach ulcer surgery. The afternoon before his operation, I asked him whether he thought young people today were worse than ever. Wisely, he replied that they're more open and honest, but that in his experience, during both world wars morals were looser. Probably this was because of the possibility of death's being near and people's wanting to live it up while they could, he said.

Pete Seeger is one of our favorite performers. He wrote, among many others, the folk songs "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" and "If I Had a Hammer." He sang a new song I liked. Its chorus was something like, "Mama, we're getting all mixed up." Then he listed some of the ways: men and women, black and white, pizza and tacos, Christian and Moslem, etc.

The drive to Birmingham and back is almost a straight shot, rather monotonous. Dr. Phil Livingston thinks morons make the best drivers because they concentrate on the driving. I reckon I'm not the best driver, because some of my best thoughts come while I'm driving. Pete Seeger's new song reminded me of all of the contradictions in our lives.

Some of the most glaring opposites are the differences between the city and the country. There are

the obvious advantages and disadvantages of each: the accessibility of shopping and of cultural events versus the beauty and solitude of being closer to nature, especially to these trees, gray rocks and hills.

Driving back from Birmingham I decided on other ways the city and the country differ: There is more hypocrisy in the city — but more honesty, too. There are more generous people, but more selfish ones. There are more conservative people in the city — more reluctant to change — but also there're more liberal people in the city — ones more willing to experiment and to grow. There are more educated people in the city, but more ignorant ones, too. There are more careless drivers there, but more polite ones. There are more educated people, but more ignorant ones.

In other words, the differences seem to be a matter of degree rather than of basic dissimilarities. Cities aren't all bad, but then the country isn't all good, either.

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DIRECTORY

MENTONE POLICE

634-4444 — 7-11 a.m. Monday through Friday (Town Hall).
634-4467 — All other times (Chief Colquitt Jones).
1-845-3801 — Sheriff's radio — constant contact.

MENTONE FIRE DEPARTMENT

634-4444 — 7-11 a.m. Monday-Friday (Town Hall).
All other times — 634-3745, 634-4446, 634-4600, and 634-4274.
Ambulance: 845-3200
Baptist Medical Center: 845-3150
Rescue Squad: 634-4864, 634-4166
Highway Patrol: 845-5109
Forest Rangers: 1-845-1331
or 1-800-392-5679
Poison Information Center: 1-800-292-6678

SCHOOLS

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

TOWN COUNCIL OF MENTONE

Rob Hammond, Mayor
Max Cash
Lee Davenport
Hobson Kirby
Bill Russell, Richard Meadows
Catherine Bailey, Town Clerk
Leroy Snyder, Water Department
Colquitt Jones, Police

THE CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY

The Rev. Billy R. Boozer, pastor
Sunday School: 10 A. M.
Sunday Services: 11:00 A. M., 7 P. M.
Thursday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 P. M.
Telephone: 635-6365

VALLEY HEAD PRESBYTERIAN

The Rev. Jerry Davis, minister
Services: 1st, 3rd Sunday, 9:30 A. M.
Telephone: 635-6283

CATHOLIC CHURCH

2813 Gault Ave. North, Fort Payne
Masses 5 p.m. Sat., 10:00 A. M. Sun.
Telephone: 845-4774

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (Traditional Episcopal)

The Rev. Edward P. Whatley Jr., Rector
First, Second, Third Sunday.
Communion Fourth Sunday.
11:00 A. M. Telephone: 634-3375
MENTONE CHURCH OF GOD
The Rev. Roger Stanford, minister
Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.
Preaching Hour: 11:00 A. M.
Sunday Evening Service: 6:00 P. M.
Wednesday Training Hour: 6:30 P. M.
Telephone: 634-4418

MOON LAKE BAPTIST Church

The Rev. William Steele, minister
Sunday School: 9:45 A. M.
Sunday Services: 11:00 A. M., 7:00 P. M.
Sunday Training Union: 6:00 P. M.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 6:30 P. M. Telephone 634-4587.

MENTONE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Rev. Ann Q. Lohr, minister
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Service: 11 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study Group: 6:00 P. M.
Telephone: 635-6561

MENTONE WESLEYAN CHURCH

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

ST. JOSEPH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Robert Blackwell, minister
Sunday School: 10:00 A. M.
Sunday Worship: 11:00 A. M.
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 P. M.
Telephone: 634-4476

UNITY STUDY GROUP

The Rev. Edwene Gaines, leader
7 p.m. DeSoto State Park Lodge
Every Tuesday

HOWARD'S CHAPEL

The Reverend Jeffrey Fuller, minister
Tourists and visitors welcome.

Sponsored by Fort Payne Baptist Church. (No services January-February).

10:30 a.m. — 1-845-2015

CAMP ALPINE: Richard O'Ferrall, director; camp for boys; 634-4200. June 1-Aug. 11.

COMER SCOUT RESERVATION: Bob Dunaway, director; Boy Scout camps June 17-July 14. 634-3445.

CAMP DESOTO: Sue Henry, director; camp for girls. June 19-Aug. 15. 634-3411.

CAMP JULIETTE LOW: Kathy Holly, director; Girl Scout Camp in Cloudland, Georgia. June 17-Aug. 11. 404-428-0446.

CAMP LANEY: Rob Hammond, director; camp for boys; June 16-Aug. 11. 634-3561.

LOOKOUT MT. CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE CENTER: Anne and John Morrison, directors; 634-3471.

BOYS' CAMP: July 13-Aug. 3. Free Day Camp, Aug. 5-9.

PONDEROSA BIBLE CAMP: Christian youth camp. Glenn Miller, director, 634-3795, June 16-Aug. 11.

CAMP SADDLE ROCK: Marty Griffin, director; girls' camp; June 16-Aug. 11. 634-4608.

CAMP SKYLINE RANCH: Susan C. Hooks, director; girls' camp; June 16-Aug. 11. 634-3201.

VALLEY VIEW RANCH: Nancy Jones, director, Cloudland, Georgia; June 17-Aug. 11. 404-862-2231. Girls.

CAMP WOODMONT: Jane Bennett, director; boys' and girls' camp. 404-284-5369, June 17-Aug. 5.



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