

the

GROUNDHOG

Volume 5 Number 7 A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association October 1987

Bernise Crow

Music From A Light Within

"I have always loved to laugh," Bernise Crow said as she recounted some of the most memorable things about her childhood, "and I have loved music all my life." Bernise grew up in a home where both of these things were commonplace: "My father, Robert Lee Cooper, was a singer, and that always was an important part of our lives. We never went to bed at night without devotionals and singing."

Bernise's father ran singing schools at various churches and schools. This was a unique part of Southern rural life in the first part of this century, and most natives of this area who are over forty years of age remember attending the week-long sessions. The hymns were learned by note, and often "sacred harp" singing was done in which the note itself was sung. Usually, those who attended the schools were asked to sing in church to show what they had learned. Bernise and her family were well-acquainted with singing in church for this was a big part of their lives.

Robert Lee Cooper did all sorts of odd jobs to supplement the family income, and Bernise's mother made a beautiful garden and canned the harvest. "This was her life's work," Bernise remembers fondly, "and she was so good at it." Bernise's mother sewed quilts, embroidery on pillowcases, and scarves and other decorative stitchery. "We have a trunk full of her lovely work."

Bernise's early life was greatly influenced by another member of her family, her uncle Bill Taylor. "He had a car and we did not, and he would pick me up to go Christmas shopping at Kresges in Chattanooga," Bernise recalled, "and it seemed the store was more crowded then." Bill Taylor loved to laugh and had a genuinely optimistic outlook on life. He traveled with a minstrel show that also played silent movies. "I learned to read at those movies," Bernise smiled, "and loved every one of them. There were comedies and westerns, and my uncle would travel around to the little towns and play them at the schools and meeting places."

Bernise began her life in Rising Fawn, Georgia, and

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TOWN GETS NEW POLICEMAN —PAGE 1

MAPA TO FURNISH TOWN HALL

MEETING ROOM —PAGE 1

MAPA To Furnish Town Meeting Room

At its October sixth meeting members of the Mentone Area Preservation Association voted to spend some \$3,000 to renovate the meeting room in the Mentone Town Hall Building. The project is headed by treasurer Harrell Jenkins, who has secured bids for the refurbishment.

MAPA plans to repair the flooring and to build a counter for serving purposes. There will be a new refrigerator, stove, and folding chairs. Director Bill Riedesel stated that Mayor Rob Hammond will furnish a double sink for the project. The room will then be available for use by local civic and social groups for regular meetings or for special occasions.

The building was erected during the tenure of Mayor Clarence E. Harvey, who served the town from 1948 to

1961 when ill health forced his retirement. The first meeting of the Town Council in the building was on June 4, 1956.

From 1957 until January first, 1982, the Post Office occupied the space that will now be used for public and private functions. Later Ellis Clark had his Mentone Hardware there until it moved last year to its new location several hundred feet east, just before the Little River bridge.

MAPA Director Bill Riedesel points out that the modest fees charged by the Town Council for use of the meeting room will become part of the town treasury and will ultimately benefit all Mentone residents.

Gary Dobbs To Be MAPA Speaker In November



Gary Dobbs, popular "Eye on Weather" meteorologist of television station WAAY, Channel 31, in Huntsville, will be the speaker at the November third MAPA meeting at the Mentone Springs Hotel. Dobbs is the focus of the "Gary said it would be like this" advertising campaign. He will answer questions about Mentone and Valley Head weather and give his views on the severe droughts of the past two summers. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

Colquitt Jones Resigns As Police Chief

Council Hires Replacement

Police Chief Colquitt Jones resigned his position, and the town council has approved the hiring of Cal Smith of Sulphur Springs as his replacement. Smith is known to area residents through his position as guard at the Citizen's Bank of Valley Head. "He has attended the Police Academy, and is highly qualified for the position," said Mayor Rob Hammond. "We are lucky to get him." The decision to hire Smith was unanimous.

In further business at the council meeting, a local resident expressed concern over the dangerous intersection at the caution light at the top of the mountain and asked that something be done about parking. The council agreed to look into the matter and to try and find a solution to the problem. They agreed to ask Mr. Tidmore of the highway department to come out and survey the situation.

Speeding traffic is another problem the council addressed, and everyone voiced concern about the trucks and cars speeding on Hwy. 117. The new police chief is expected to make some changes where this problem is concerned. His schedule will rotate, so that every effort can be made to catch the lawbreakers.

Some local citizens who live on Wells Road asked for help in maintenance of their road, and the council agreed to look into the matter soon. There probably won't be cable TV for Mentone, as the man in charge of the project will not return Mayor Rob Hammond's calls. "I don't see much hope for it," Mayor Hammond responded.

The highway patrol has been very helpful in patrolling the area and will be asked to continue and increase this support whenever possible and to set up roadblocks if necessary.

MAPA Gives \$300 To Fire Hall

Mentone's Fire Chief, Hershell Pruitt, spoke briefly to MAPA members at the October sixth meeting at the Mentone Springs Hotel. Despite the fire department's annual drive for funds each May, it is always short of cash to keep standards up to state specifications. The immediate need is for a secure door on the garage. MAPA members voted \$300 for the door in order to finish the building where the fire truck will be housed this winter.

Various members told Pruitt of their suggestions for better ways to reach volunteer firemen in an emergency. These included paging devices, a telephone number similar to the 911 number used in cities, and cooperation with surrounding communities. He promised to investigate the suggestions and thanked MAPA for its generosity.

Our Town With Linda Brown

Have you noticed that the seasons do not give us a warning of their coming anymore? Do you remember that suddenly one day it was summer and stayed hot for five months? Now cold winter-feeling weather is suddenly upon us without those nice balmy warm days of fall. No matter, whatever the weather, it is always nice to be in Mentone, Ala.

There are so many fall festivals happening that it is almost impossible to keep up with them. Attend all of them that you can and please support the Harvest Festival coming up at Moon Lake School. This is their main fund-raiser and one of the reasons that this school is able to remain open.

The Rhododendron Garden Club helped with the flower show at the VFW DeKalb County Fair. There is so much work to getting the fair ready that it requires the help of many people. The garden club and the Valley Head Women's Club met at Nippersink in September. Gerry Disney likes to remain open to host these clubs before the cold weather. It is a nice treat to visit this Mentone landmark.

Halloween will be here soon. Please make it a safe one for all. Welcome the ghosts and goblins to your home. This is one of the pleasant activities of childhood and will be remembered by the children for a lifetime. My children still talk about Eloise (Mimi) Burnett's popcorn balls. You never

know who's watching you so set a good example for our youth.

I have a request; recently while volunteering at Mt. Manor Nursing Home, I was talking with a group of residents and the conversation turned to old songs. We could remember some of the words to some of them. The residents could even sing some of them (I can't carry a tune in a bushel basket) but they did very well. We all agreed that we would like to have copies of some old ballads; "Barbra Allen," "Clementine," and "John Henry" were some that we thought of. If you have the words to any of these or others, get them to me and I will take them to the nursing home and share them. If you would like to go and help the residents sing them, let me know that too. There is no way you could spend a better afternoon; the residents are so appreciative.

For those of you who know Stan and Christa Brown, former residents of Mentone, they are the proud parents of a baby girl, born Sept. 30, nine pounds and one ounce, named Abigail Ruth. Grandparents are Raymond and Mary Brown.

Have you noticed that it takes the same amount of time to sweep a dirty floor that it does to sweep a partially dirty floor?

Linda Brown 634-4755, Rt. 1, Box 271, Mentone, AL 35984.

No Perfect Diet, Wilks Says

"There is no perfect diet," said Aimon Wilks, dietician at Baptist Medical Center in Fort Payne, guest speaker at the October sixth MAPA meeting. Each diet depends on individual needs, and special diets for special needs should be only under a doctor's orders.

"Everyone wants to die young as late as possible," Wilks stated. In as far as diet is concerned with longevity, a well balanced diet is important. People should maintain their ideal body weight and work to keep it so.

One of the dietician's main concerns was the \$5,000,000 cost annually in this country for dental decay, caused by poor hygiene and by poor diet.

Wilks was especially adamant against simple sugars in the diet. He urged his listeners to use whole wheat bread and to increase the amount of fiber in their diets further by using raw fruits and peas and beans. He said that high fat and low fiber cause half of the citizens of the United States to have some form of diverticulitis, or inflamed colon, problems. Colon cancer is the second highest cause of death among men in the U. S.

Stating that there is more abundant food and variety in this country than in any other in the world, Wilks disparaged special or fad diets such as those whose promise rapid weight loss by use of high protein and low carbohydrates. He particularly bemoaned the practice of families procuring dinner from the fast food drive-in windows, evening after evening.

Those present asked questions of Wilks. As to the importance of exercise, he said that people nowadays have to make special effort to get enough exercise, whereas in our parents' and grandparents' time they got a great deal of exercise plowing, splitting rails, and doing the sundry other chores required for day to day living. They also had desert only after Sunday dinner instead of every day as most people do now. In conclusion, he again urged his listeners to switch to whole wheat bread if they were not already eating it. "The secret of good diet is high fiber, low fat, few simple sugars."

Construction Underway At Citizens Bank



According to Tom Jones, Jr. and "Buzz" Jones, officers of Citizen's Bank of Valley Head, the new addition to the bank will offer better service to the business's many customers. "We are building three new offices, a conference room and making a bigger lobby area, plus mak-

ing way to install two drive-throughs at a later date," "Buzz" Jones told THE GROUNDHOG, "and we feel this is something we have needed to do for some time. The front of the bank will take on a new look, and the new addition will complement those changes."

From the Editor...

by Mickey Strickland



When I was a small child attending Five Points School in Cloudland, Ga., my teacher at that time, Mrs. Zora Strayhorn, gave as a class assignment an essay on what we wanted to be when we grew up.

There was no question in my mind, so I wrote a lengthy piece about my future as a cowgirl. Now, I didn't care much for cows, but I would have put up with anything to be near a horse. I thought about owning my own horse constantly and even spent a year trying to sell enough Cloverine Salve to get a pony as a prize.

Years passed, times changed, and I never really had the chance to realize at least a fragment of my dream until recently. I've long since given up the desire to get on a horse and herd cattle all day, but I still wanted to have the opportunity to get to know a horse personally.

A few weeks ago, I heard about Valley View Ranch in Cloudland offering riding lessons for a surprisingly small fee, and as they have such beautiful views from their perch on the brow, I took the plunge and began lessons.

Not too keen on going it alone and wanting to spend more time with my oldest grandsons, Buck and Trevor, I signed up the three of us. It has been quite an experience. The boys do great — Nancy and Bo say they are "naturals," and as for me, I am naturally sore all over. The hardest part is the part you sit on.

But I am learning, and I've been introduced to several horses, and that is what I set out to do. In fact, several of us are already on a first-name basis.

M.A.P.A. Meeting

Director Bill Riedesel called the meeting of the Mentone Area Preservation Association to order at 7:05 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6, at the Mentone Springs Hotel. Visitors Hershell Pruitt, Mildred Linder, Mr. and Mrs. White, new residents, and Mr. and Mrs. Gough, of Miami, prospective residents, were welcomed.

Bernise Crow gave a report on the Colorfest. Amelia Brooks made a motion seconded by Olive Jones for the expenditure for prizes for the Costume Contest. Motion carried.

Amelia Brooks reported on the status of the asphalt bike path. Unable to reach the director of the State Highway Department, she had spoken to executives of Alabama Mountain Lakes and of the Alabama Tourism and Travel Bureau.

Bruce Bon Fleur made the motion seconded by Angelo Rosario to underwrite renovation of the Town Hall meeting room. Motion passed to spend some \$3,000.

Director Riedesel announced that anyone wishing to join a group for practicing relaxation techniques with Dr. Susan Heape please tell Bill (634-4857). The group will begin after the first of the year.

A motion was made by Mickey Strickland and seconded by Rick Chapman to have the MAPA Christmas dinner at Cragsmere once again. Motion carried.

Refreshments were served after the meeting to the 33 persons present by Shurleen Froehler, Maggie Cordell, Mabel Kirk and Dorothy Crow.

Condensed from the minutes of Jean McGehee, secretary.

Want The Hog?

through June 1988

THE GROUNDHOG is the official newsletter of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, and is given free to all members of that organization. To receive your copy, send \$10 to MAPA, P. O. Box 50, Mentone, Ala. 35984.

The Groundhog

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Mountain Watch

by CHARLES WHITE McGEHEE

On my first visit to Mentone in 1945 I came from Birmingham on a train propelled by a steam locomotive. It was late afternoon and I was driven up the mountain, I think, by a Mr. Hammond in an old taxi. From the beginning there was a magic. The 1600 foot ascent was so gradual, yet attained in such a short time — heavy greenery to the right, the steep slope of Lookout Mountain, and the peaceful valley descending below.

Something almost immediately caught my attention and affection. After the weekend I had made up my mind that somebody I would live here. This happens to many visitors. What is this magic? Is it that immediate contrast of the architecture of the stately Mentone Springs Hotel and the rustic Hitching Post (and now St. Joseph's Church)? The discovery of such natural sites as DeSoto Falls and Park, Howard's Chapel, Taylor's Ford and the other attractions comes.

There is a friendliness about Mentone people. Sometimes it is said that one can live here a lifetime and not be accepted by the older natives. I've never had this feeling. One does not have to be descended from the Mayflower Pilgrims to be a real American — it's now when one takes out citizenship papers. One becomes a real citizen of Mentone when permanent residency is established and when that first ballot is cast.

Certainly we have our differences among us — political differences, differing opinions about what we want the future of the town to be. There is a certain magical quality here that can never be basically changed. Some fear too much tourism. Others point out Ruby O'Rear's saying that she didn't mind the happy, busy sounds of summer, knowing that we natives will have the entire place to ourselves the remainder of the year.

Lately I sense a new harmony in town. Many of my best friends were gained when Jean and I joined the Mentone Area Preservation Association about a year after it was formed in 1982. Its meetings each month are a combination of social exchange between new and older citizens, good programs, and important community decisions. In such a short time MAPA has accomplished so very, very much. A complete listing is not possible because of lack of space.

Foremost in my mind is publication of **THE GROUNDHOG**, now a monthly recording of our happenings, our tradition and our hopes. It is placed in every mailbox, goes to as many as 150 families throughout the nation who become members of MAPA to receive the publication. Its issues are also placed in many businesses, the Welcome Center, and throughout DeKalb County.

Charles and Phil Green, owners of the Cloudland Nursery, have for sale a large selection of many kinds of shrubbery, including rhododendron, azaleas, spruce, junipers, arbor vitae and all sorts of hollies; a complete landscaping inventory.

Continued mountain watch

A significant accomplishment was publication of Zora Strayhorn's history of Mentone. All citizens have enjoyed the repairing of the stone wall beside the highway down the mountain. MAPA arranged for the State Highway Department to provide workers, with stones provided by MAPA.

Our organization cooperated with the Crafts Fair board and local businesses in reissuing the superb Mentone brochure, now widely distributed. With the Crafts Fair Board, MAPA also provided funds for rebuilding the shelter at Brow Park.

At present, some \$3,000 of MAPA funds and volunteer workers are in process of transforming the old post office (hardware store) into a Town Hall meeting place, where many community gatherings can be held (see page one). MAPA leadership and the Town Council worked together in making this possible.

More and more of our citizens are participating in the events and the staging of our four seasonal festivals. The Crafts Fair in July has been joined by the spring Rhododendron Festival, the Musical Mountain Christmas and the October Colorfest.

Earlier I mentioned politics. I'm excited about the many events on the national scene as the candidates announce for the 1988 presidential election. This is also the time of Mentone's local election, when we elect the mayor and town council. There's no reason why we can't constructively enjoy our own election. It's a time for evaluating our status, getting to know our community.

THE GROUNDHOG will be, I'm rather certain, informing you of the new candidates who announce, and the intention of the current office holders. Already, off the record of course, one councilman whom I happened to meet at dinner at the Lookout, said he was not likely to run for reelection. He hoped some "new blood" would take the plunge.

It's not likely to happen, but I'd like to outline for any candidate who approached me for help in devising his/her platform the following thought about Mentone's needs. Many of these suggestions require additional funds, and means must be found for these things, whether from Federal and State grants or new tax levies. I hear more and more people contend that they would be willing to pay minimal increased taxes to attain certain things.

(1) More assistance to our volunteer fire department. It needs new equipment and more volunteers. Fire Chief Hershell Pruitt at the last MAPA meeting outlined these needs.

(2) Round-the-clock police protection. We now have one policeman who cannot remain awake 24-hours. (One can call the sheriff's office when he is not available. But our own coverage would be better).

(3) A resolution of the water problem. Progress has been made, but there are constant expressions of uncertainty.

(4) A sidewalk of some kind from the Hitching Post to the Post Office. Those who attempt to walk along that highway stretch are risking their lives. Such a sidewalk would aid businesses along the route and give a greater sense of community to the town.

(5) Any candidate with a solution to the litter is a winner. There must be a way to get rid of the beer cans, fast food cartons, and other unsightly mess.

Other possible campaign promises might include much needed recreational projects and facilities for our young people; a central telephone system for police and fire protection — possibly a convenient expansion of the 4-4444 party number that can be used mornings while Mrs. Catherine Bailey is in the council office; a library in the new Town meeting room; a Welcome Center for summer tourists somewhere in Old Hotel Square.

This writer will absolutely not serve as campaign manager for any candidate. But he will use whatever influence he has with Editor Mickey Strickland and the editorial board of **THE GROUNDHOG** to prevent any **Washington Post** or **Miami Herald** expose stories.

Arise, citizens of Mentone — Democrats, Republicans, Independents alike. Let's have fun with the 1988 election, not leaving all the excitement to the presidential candidates.



This character was spotted on the lawn of a home on the Valley Head Highway. Looks as if he too is enjoying the beautiful autumn weather.

COUNTRY JOURNAL

By Bernice Crow

This was our year to travel the New England states. We have always wanted to see what the fall colors were like in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine, and we were not disappointed with the scenery even though we were about a week early.

We left here with the intention of going all the way to Maine, up the East Coast, but when we got on I-75 in Chattanooga we decided to continue to Detroit, Michigan, and visit Homer's sister, Mildred, and her husband, Dennis Burgess. We enjoyed the countryside all the way up there — Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio.

The lovely fall wildflowers were blooming in profusion and the purple hue of the edge of the Smoky Mountains never ceases to fire me with a deep appreciation for the things of nature.

After spending the night and a refreshing visit with Mildred and Dennis, we continued traveling from Michigan up to Port Huron into Canada. We were surprised to find so many apple orchards and grape vineyards in Canada along Lake Erie. Being lovers of fresh fruit, we stopped at a colorful little roadside market and bought wonderful apples and concord grapes. I didn't know grapes could be so luscious and sweet. They seemed to be larger than our concord, also.

We enjoyed very good food in Canada and were served huge portions. We had a tasty breakfast at a family restaurant just before we crossed the river into the United States and were served some of the best Canadian bacon we had ever eaten, along with eggs and hash browns.

We spent a half a day at Niagara Falls and were amazed again at the enormous cascades of water flowing over Horseshoe Falls on the Canadian side. What a breathtaking sight!

The American side is not nearly as spectacular but is beautiful also.

I hoped to see a rainbow, but we were not there at the exact right time for the rays of the sun to hit the mist and produce one. The landscaping of the area is almost as lovely as the falls. We were there 36 years ago at about the same time of year.

Leaving the falls, we traveled through the middle part of New York state to Massachusetts where Homer had a business appointment. We were both astounded at the size of the Catskill Mountains of New York. Somehow, I always think of Rip Van Winkle coming down from a small mountain. We drove for something like 100 miles through these mountains and we found some color there.

I wanted to stop in Boston and see the historic sights, but Homer was driving (I'm glad he was!) and when we hit that traffic at 3:00 in the afternoon, it was horrid. Homer wanted to get away from there as soon as possible.

We drove over a bridge from there to Kittery, Maine, a small community with a naval base nearby. I found out that my brother, Don Castleberry, was stationed there about 15 years ago while serving in the Navy.

We spent the night in Kittery and did some "antiquing" the next morning in Wells and York, both pictures-



Flowers On the Square — New England Style

que little typical New England towns. Kennebuck, Maine, was one of the prettiest small villages we saw. It had many small craft shops with quality merchandise — much like I like to see in Mentone. There were blooming plants in front of the shops and a large circle of them at a street intersection. Everything was very neat and attractive. The visit was made to the Amish community near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was very interesting. (See buggy picture).

We drove from New York across the line into New Hampshire and loved seeing all the beautiful farm houses — huge ones with the barn attached to them. The New England winters are very cold and produce heavy snows so the farmer wanted the animals sheltered where he wouldn't have to face bitter cold and shovel snow to milk the cows and feed the horses. All of those we saw had been kept in good condition — painted nicely — which would be expensive.

We drove through New Hampshire and Vermont. The Green Mountains of Vermont were pretty — beautiful, high and very colorful in places. We bought Vermont cheese and maple syrup. Then we came back through New York to Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, and then home to Alabama.

We live in a scenic land from coast to coast. I love the song, "This Land Is Your Land, This Land Is My Land." Surely God made a wonderful world and wonderful people. We stress our Southern hospitality, but we found the New England people to be very cordial. Our mountain look-
ed so good and we were glad to get back home.



Amish Barn

In Memoriam

VIVIAN SHERROD
Born May 13, 1905 — Died Dec. 1, 1986
(MISS VIVIAN)

I've been lately thinking about my lifetime
All the things I've done and how it's been
And I can't help believing in my own mind
I know I'm going to hate to see it end.

I've seen a lot of sunshine, slept out in the rain
And spent a night or two all own my own
I've known a lot of pleasures
Had myself some friends
And spent some time, too, in my own thoughts.
I have to say it now, it's been a good life all in all
It's been really fine to have a chance to hang around . . .
To lie beside a fire and watch the evening die . . .

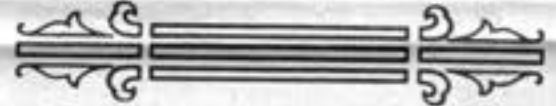
And talk of poems, and prayers and promises
And things that we believe in
How sweet it is to love someone, how right it is to care . . .

How long it's been since yesterday,
and what about tomorrow?
What about our dreams and all the memories to be
shared?

The days they pass so quickly now, the nights are seldom
long.
Time around me whispers when it's cold.
The changes somehow frighten me —
still I have to smile.

It turns me on to think of growing old,
and though life's been good to me,
there's still so much to do . . .
So many things my mind has never known.
I have raised a family
and I'd like to sail away
and dance across the mountains on the moon.
I have to say it now, it's been a good life all in all
It's really fine to have the chance to hang around . . .
Talk of poems and prayers and promises
and things that we believe in . . .
How sweet it is to love someone
How right it is to care.

John Denver
"Poems and Prayers and Promises"



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Bernise Crow Continued from Front Cover

moved to the mountain when she was eleven. Her family made its home in various places on Lookout Mountain, but Mentone has always been her favorite. "When we lived at Adamsburg, we would walk the seven miles to Fort Payne and sell our eggs to get the money to go to the movies. They were 'Talkies' by that time and were wonderful to us." Bernise and her sister Jean sold the eggs at a store owned by a Mrs. Monroe who had her store about where the post office sits now. She also had a tabernacle there where different services were held. Mrs. Monroe donated the tabernacle so that people would have a place to hold a service no matter what the denomination.

Bernise's father and mother divorced and Bernise and her sister stayed with their father. "I did the housework from the time I was ten years old," she remembered, "as it was just the three of us for several years. Then, when I was fifteen we came to Mentone to live with Mother." During that time Bernise's mother had remarried and a little brother, Don Castleberry, was born. "We were just tickled to death with Don; we thought he was the most wonderful thing."

Bernise attended several area schools, Rising Fawn, Adamsburg, and Ruhama, before completing the ninth grade at Moonlake. She went on to graduate from Valley Head High School in 1945 before attending a year at the Wesleyan College at Central. "There were sixteen graduating seniors in my class," Bernise recalled the war years, "because a lot of the area boys were in service."

A lot of items were rationed during the war including coffee, gasoline; there were no autos being produced and Coca-Cola and ice cream were only available once a week. "When the day came when we could have ice cream, I ran down to the store and ate a whole pint. I didn't care for Coke, but drank one anyway because it was so scarce."

Bernise and several of her friends and classmates worked during the summers at the DeSoto Hotel, which is now the Mentone Inn. Hal Howe and his wife Nelda owned the Inn at that time and she loved both of them: "That was one of the best times we ever had," she said. "There was a group of us including Grace Huron, who later married Guy Jones, Betty Smith, now Davis, Louise Cash Hammonds, Charlotte O'Rear (Mrs. Howard Carson), my sister Jean (Elrod), and Peggy Patterson whose mother was the cook. My goodness, that was the best food I had ever tasted. Mrs. Patterson could make cream pies to melt in your mouth and on pie-baking day, would line the kitchen windows with them."

The vegetables were bought locally as much as possible and the meat also. A Mr. Willie Perkins would bring chickens and Mr. Howe would kill them and Homer Crow's aunt Mary Jones would dress them for dinner. The Inn was usually full, with a waiting list and the food was a part of the attraction. "Mrs. Howe was a wonderful cook and made the best chicken pot pie. Mrs. Patterson was excellent also and the Inn's baked corn, spaghetti and cornbread had no equal." The tea was iced, cooled with ice from Elwin Crow's ice plant in Valley Head. "The plant was on the little stream near the bridge, and the ice was delivered in 100 lb. blocks. We chipped it off with an ice pick for drinks, and it tasted so much better than ice does now. I guess it's because the stream that the water came from was so pure and clean then."

Guests at the Inn would ride the train to Valley Head from mostly parts south such as Birmingham and Louisiana. "Mead Hammonds had a taxi and would bring them to the Inn for fifty cents. There was also a Mr. Hall who ran a cab."

Bernise attended Bankhead church and that's where she met Homer, her husband of 36 years. "He was so shy then," Bernise grinned, "and even though we sat on the same bench, it took him three weeks to move close enough to say he was sitting with me." The young couple dated for four years before marrying at the Wesleyan Church in Mentone because Homer was in the Service for three years. "We had a lovely wedding, and it was extra special because we had a double wedding with Betty Jones and James Johnson. Betty and I had attended the Wesleyan college together."

After the wedding the couple lived in a trailer on the brow, then with Homer's grandmother, Mrs. Ovaline Magnussen. Homer's dad, Lee Crow, lived nearby and was known as one of the finest rockmasons in the area.

After the birth of Barry, Coy and Joyce, the family moved to Chattanooga. "Barry and Coy were born at home with Dr. Cantrell attending," Bernise recalled, "and Joyce was born at the new hospital in Ft. Payne the first year it was built. Then Doreen was born in Chattanooga two years after we moved there." Bernise told **THE GROUNDHOG** "My children and grandchildren are so special, and wonderful, I miss them so much when we're apart."

Bernise was a housewife and worked diligently with garden clubs, P.T.A. and various charities. They still own their home in North Chattanooga near Highland Plaza.

Bernise returns there every Thursday to do her laundry and to enjoy her old home. She takes that day to hunt purchases for the Crow's Nest.

The Crow's Nest is a combined effort of Bernise and her sister Jean. After returning to the mountain to care for her terminally ill mother, Bernise and Jean would take turns nursing her. They needed something to take away some of the grief and to fill painful hours. They rented the spot where the Gourdie Shop is now. Jean was attending college, but they managed to do it all, and do it well.

The shop began with a few copper pans from Bernise's house. Then Mary Wiegand left some items on consignment. The business grew from there. They rented the structure, then purchased it from Doc and Kyle Long. Now they are co-owners of the whole Hitching Post which houses several shops such as the Gourdie Shop and Nightingale Artworks.

"We loved Mentone, and would never have left if Homer had not needed to move away to make a living," Bernise talked of leaving the mountain she loved, "and that is why I want Mentone to flourish, to bring in people to keep the ones who live here in business and to enable them to stay here where their home is."

There is more to it than that, too, for Bernise loves for others to share the beauty of this place. She knows God did not make Mentone and shut the door for a chosen few. "I want an alive and prosperous place, not a ghost town for just a few."

Bernise would love for the town to be planted in flowers like other towns she has visited, and flowers are an important part of her life. She has a greenhouse which keeps her in blooms all winter long.

"Mentone is hard to describe; there is a quality about it which is unique and lovely. It is serene and the scenery is beautiful. I love the changing of the seasons here on the mountain," Bernise talked of her home, "and I am always glad I live here."

Henry David Thoreau wrote: "There is just as much beauty visible to us in the landscape as we are prepared to appreciate — not a grain more." Bernise Crow does not let the beauty of the earth escape her, for she sees loveliness in all things and from this inner vision comes a life dedicated to the joy of living. Thoreau also said, "There was a time when the beauty and the music were all within, and I sat and listened to my thoughts, and there was a song in them."

There is no better way to describe Bernise Crow.

Old Garage Building Has Interesting History



Across from Mentone Superette sits an old building owned by local resident Sammy Cash. It is unobtrusive and sits near the highway in the heart of Mentone. The big silver-painted garage doors don't open for area vehicles anymore, and haven't for some time, but the old building is full of memories of the useful life it once lived.

It began as a garage operated by Lewis Hall in the '30s. "Things were done a little differently then," Sammy told **THE GROUNDHOG** as he pointed out a structure under the floor where the mechanic had stood as he worked on the underbelly of the cars that were pulled on the ramp in the building. This was many years ago, but it still looks about the same as it did then.

Charlie Hall constructed the building as he did most of those in the area known as the tourist court. The red house nearest the garage was built about the same time, as was the green one adjacent to it.

Sammy purchased the garage building in 1950 from D. L. Jones.

Sammy owned and operated a grist mill there in which the mill and the corn crusher were pulled by a motor. "We made meal for the public and for every bushel took a scoop in toll. I sold that to the two grocery stores in Mentone. Jesse Crabtree Sr. helped at the mill and was a very good hand at getting the meal just right. That is something that not everybody could do."

When Sammy went to work for the state he gave up the mill and leased the building to be used as a telephone company. "It was the first phone company in this area and stayed in that building for ten years until Mr. Guy, the owner, sold out to a bigger company." Mr. Guy hired local people, but there was just a switch board in the building for it was mostly a relay station to send the signals to a central office. "I got fifteen dollars a month rent on the building," Sammy said, and he always paid what he owed.

Sammy has plans to convert the old structure into an antique shop sometime in the near future. "I will use the red building first, then after fixing up the garage, will move the store over there."

CRAFTS CORNER

By Helen Turner

In our closets we all have T-shirts we no longer wear — T-shirts from a favorite city, with a favorite phrase or joke. You can easily make quick pillows from them in no time at all, even if you can't sew very well.

Simply sew the sleeves and bottom together and stuff with fiber-fill. Then stick the neck together at the base of the trim.

These pillows look great in a grouping on a sofa or can be used to decorate children's and teen's rooms.

Quick Holiday Decoration start with a styrofoam wreath base, available at most craft stores. Gather greenery such as boxwood, (my favorite) cedar, pine or some such.

Using florists pins, also purchased at a craft store, cover the wreath completely with greenery.

Place toothpicks in the side of about five lemons, then force the other end of the toothpick into the wreath, spacing for desired effect.

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Ben Franklin For A Day

Constitution day was the culmination of a learning program presented at Moon Lake School by Mrs. Juanita Smith. The children learned the history of our United States Constitution, as well as its application throughout our years as a nation.

To accent the day, Matthew Kilgore dressed as Ben Franklin, to the delight of teachers and students.



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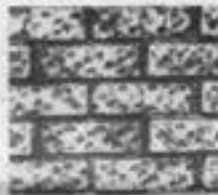
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The Park In Autumn

Getting Ready For Winter

According to Talmadge Butler, there is a purely logical reason for the changing of the colors in the Fall, but he would like to believe it is all part of some magical process that begins in the heart of the forest itself.

"As I understand it, the chemicals for the colors are present all the time in the leaf, but the abundance of chlorophyll and its green hue overshadow and hides the other ones. When the days grow shorter in the Autumn, the chlorophyll starts to fade, the sugar moves to the roots to nourish the tree during the coming winter, and is trapped in the leaves as the nights grow cooler. This combination gives them their bright colors." But he still likes to tell the children who come to the park that maybe fairies spend the long hours of darkness painting the leaves their brilliant shades.

Talmadge chronicles the changes in the park as the approaching winter makes the activity of life take on a sudden urgency: "The insects become very active, for each winter is their last one. The squirrels work to store food and it is abundant this year with wild grapes, seeds and lots of nuts for the long winter's waiting."

"I have watched the doddling little turkeys grow into maturity, and the quail grow in the wild meadows of the park. The young deer are barely out of spots and are venturing into the campground and into the feeding area planted for the animals. The bluebirds seem to have moved out for the season, but before long we will see more hawks. Migratory birds are beginning to show up, and V-formations can be seen overhead as ducks and Canadian geese fly further south."

"Mice are hunting warm buildings to get into, and snakes are sluggish as the cooler weather slows them down. We found two trap-door spiders and are keeping an eye on them."

Fall wildflowers are coming into full color with goldenrod, asters, cardinal flowers, daisies, horsemint and many others in profusion in the park. There are plans afoot to plant redbuds and wildflowers next year so that there will be even more color.

The river is slow and drifting lazily through the rocks and fields as there has not been enough rainfall to fill its banks. This is the season when the worst of the fire hazard begins, so people are urged to be very careful with any fire. One serious fire could destroy what it took Mother Nature many years to build up.

The Country Store has gifts and interesting items of many kinds such as wildlife prints for only \$2.50, T-shirts, Golden Field Guides to all the plants and wildlife in the area, and souvenirs of every description. There is also firewood available for campers. The gift shop in the lobby of the restaurant is so full of treasures it would be futile to try and name them, let me just say that the selection rivals those found in expensive malls, and at a much lower price.

"We like to think of the park as a neighbor waiting for friends to come visiting," Talmadge Butler told the Groundhog. "the welcome mat is always out and the table spread."

And Mother Nature is a gracious hostess indeed.

Bridge On Azalea Cascade Trail



Copyright, E. L. Holland, 1980

Sophie McDaniel



Sophie McDaniel has been coming to Camp Skyline Ranch for 25 years. As this summer marked this outstanding anniversary, the owners, Edmond and Edward Cash, and the directors, Susan and Larry Hooks, honored Sophie at an end-of-session banquet.

The honoree was presented with a commemorative plaque and a complete set of American Tourister Luggage. Sophie accepted graciously, vowing to return to cook again.

The campers at Skyline look forward each year to Sophie's culinary treasures, and the staff loves the variety of dishes she prepares with seeming ease.

Sophie is a special part of Camp Skyline — one that represents tradition and a personal commitment to young lives.

Someone once said, "Sophie McDaniel is Skyline." If Skyline is love and dedication, then no truer words were ever spoken.

Photo Essay About Alabama

Journalist Bill Verhine of the Scottsboro, Ala. Daily Sentinel was chosen as one of those whose work will be featured in a new book, Alabama, The Great Surprise.

During the week of Oct. 4-10, Verhine and some of Alabama's best photo-journalists were given assignments throughout the state. Verhine's assignment was the ski resort and fall foliage of Mentone for the "Quality of Life" category.

"We have some of the nation's leading photographers here in Alabama and they have been given the challenge to help create a hard cover book that will not only sell the state to potential businesses and industries, but will stand alone as a contemporary photo essay of Alabama," Governor Hunt proclaimed.

Jack Jones hosted Mr. and Mrs. Verhine during their two-day stay in Mentone. He showed them about the area and introduced them to local citizens who represent a cross-section of the kind of people who live here.

Verhine took many photographs and did interviews. "They are a lovely couple," Jack said, "and I really enjoyed meeting them. It was an honor to be their host," he continued "and I'm looking forward to the publication of the book."



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Auto Points & Plugs

By Sam Whatley

One of the most important and inexpensive things in maintaining your automobile is anti-freeze. The cost ranges from \$3 a gallon up. An anti-freeze tester can also be bought for about \$2 up.

Before installing anti-freeze, check all hoses, including heater hoses. Check for cracks and leaks at all clamps. You can also have the system checked at any full service station. A pressure tester should be used.

On most anti-freeze containers there is a chart, telling how much anti-freeze is needed if you know the water capacity of your vehicle cooling system.

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Memories Of The

October Colorfest was definitely an apt description for the festivities held at Mentone over the weekend of Oct. 15-17. Color was everywhere, running the gamut from lemon yellows to bittersweets, and from bright oranges to deep cranberry reds.

DeSoto Parkway was a canopied study in autumn hues as visitors and local folks alike enjoyed the blue skies and warm weather.

The hometown holiday began Friday night with a huge bonfire next to the Mentone Inn, across from the Hitching Post. An appreciative crowd of adults and children were entertained with "haint tales" and anecdotes told by some of the best storytellers in the area.

Saturday was bright and full as the day began with the annual Groundhog Run on DeSoto Parkway. Crafts people, artists and vendors filled the square with a multitude of wares as shoppers and strollers ambled throughout the area.

Tony Goggans kept the spirit alive as he sang his special kind of music and talked to the crowd. Sprayberry proved himself a singer of considerable talent as the mellow notes of old favorites rang across the square.

Several groups of gospel singers kept the hymns rolling over the grounds as people sang and applauded. Clear and beautiful notes rang from the harmony of Bernice

Crow and Jean Elrod as they sang gospel favorites.

Cloggers danced a quickened drumbeat of flying, tapping feet in time to country music; little faces were painted to resemble clowns, cats, Indians and such; Robert Lee cranked up the forge and for all the world looked like he stepped out of Mentone's Past.

On the porch of the White Elephant Galleries, a beautiful group of senior citizens played stringed instruments and sang hymns as shoppers prowled the rooms and hallways throughout the huge structure.

Riverboat rides were a big hit as boat loads of leaf-watchers were not disappointed with the foliage reflected in the green waters of Little River.

The Log Cabin Deli had a waiting list pages long of would-be diners waiting to sample the sumptuous country fare. Country gourmets showed up in droves at Cragmere Manna as this landmark restaurant did a record-breaking business.

Local crafts people and shop keepers showed the best of their wares to admiring shoppers getting ready for Christmas giving.

All in all, MAPA can count the sixth annual October Colorfest a great success, and plans for a Musical Mountain Christmas should be underway soon.



Master of Ceremonies Tony Goggans

Groundhog Classic V Results



Shown above are Randall Harris and Michelle Gilbreath, over-all winners in their jackets from DeSoto Athletic, courtesy of Brant Craig.

Randall Harris, of Huntsville, won his third consecutive Groundhog Classic Oct. 17. His time of 23 minutes for the 4.2 course is in the middle of his time of 22:29 in 1985 and 23:15 in 1986. His wife Ellen also ran in the race, winning first for women in her age division.

Michelle Gilbreath was the women's winner overall this year with a time of 28:17. She lives in Fort Payne.

Best time ever was the first year of the run, 1983, when John McCartney won with 21:17. In 1984 Carolyn Melson of Trussville won with 26:47.

Polly Cameron, race director, and her helpers including Larry Hooks, Mark Pickle, and Marty Griffin, heard many compliments from the runners about the race course. It was a beautiful day, cool, and the leaves were never more magnificent.



Winners in the various age groups were women, 20-29: Michelle Gilbreath, Connie Lea and Wanda Knots. Ages 30-39: Ellen Harris, Sherri Hughes, Missy Rymanowski. Ages 40 and over: Sharon Pell, Jean Elrod, Mary Ann Furniss.

Men's ages 14 and under: Nathan Harrison (27:20), Steve Gilbert, and Kyle Duke. Ages 20-29: Glen Cox, Doug Smith, and Mark Eccleston. Ages 30-39: Randall Harris, Jamie Doss, and Steve Lea. Ages 40 and over: Sammy Morris (25:47), Dean Johnson and Larry Pell.

Fifty-two runners ran in the official classic run, with twenty-plus in the one mile Fun Run which preceded it.

October Colorfest



Old-Time Hymns at White Elephant Galleries



Local Potter Linda Biddle of Morning Glory Farm



Friday Night Bonfire and Ghost Stories



Young Andy Still Attends First Festival



Rolling On the River

Photos By Donna Bukley



Wanda Simmons was the winner of the lovely quilt hand-made by Maggie Cordell. Wanda's name was randomly selected from hundreds of tickets on Sunday, Oct. 18. Master of ceremonies Tony Goggans read the name of the lucky person after a tot from the audience drew the winning ticket.



OLD-FASHIONED LIGHT FRUIT CAKE

- 1 pound butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 cups flour (unsifted all-purpose)
- 1 dozen eggs
- 1 large glass strawberry preserves
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice
- 3 tablespoons almond extract
- 3 tablespoons Sherry extract
- 2 pounds candied pineapple, cut in chunks
- 2 1/2 pounds candied cherries, whole
- 2 pounds mixed fruit and citron
- 2 pounds pecan halves
- 2 pounds white raisins
- 2 small coconuts, grated

Combine all fruit and coconut together. Cream butter and sugar and add 2 eggs at a time. Beat well. Add preserves, honey and flour, then flavoring and pineapple juice. Mix in fruit and nuts lightly. Cook 2 hours at 275 degrees. DON'T overcook. Makes 3 large cakes or 7 loaf.

This was given to me by Louise Sharp, Valley Head, Ala.

LEMON CRINKLE COOKIES

- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon grated lemon rind
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon soda
- 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- Pinch of salt

About 2 tablespoons sugar
Cream shortening and brown sugar until fluffy; add egg and lemon rind, beating well. Combine flour, soda, cream of tartar, ginger and salt; stir into creamed mixture.

Roll dough into 1-inch balls; roll each in sugar. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes. Yields about 3 1/2 dozen.

SPICED PECANS

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup whipping cream
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Dash of ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon grated orange rind
- 2 teaspoons orange juice
- 1 1/2 cups pecan pieces

Combine first 4 ingredients in a large saucepan; stir well. Place over medium high heat, stirring constantly, and cook to soft ball stage (235 degrees). Stir in rind and juice. Remove from heat; add pecans, and stir until coated.

Spread pecans on waxed paper, and immediately separate into clusters with a spoon. Let cool.

OLD-FASHIONED WALDORF SALAD

- 5 cups chopped unpeeled apples
- 2 1/2 cups chopped celery
- 1 1/4 cups chopped walnuts or pecans
- 1/2 to 1 cup mayonnaise
- Lettuce leaves
- Apple wedges
- Pecan halves

Combine first 4 ingredients; toss gently to coat, and chill 1 to 2 hours. Spoon salad into a lettuce-lined serving bowl. Garnish with apple wedges and pecan halves. Yield: 10 servings.

PECAN PRALINES

- 2 cups firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 1/2 cups mixed pecan pieces and halves
- 1 tablespoon butter

Combine sugar and water in a 2-quart saucepan; heat to boiling, stirring constantly. Stir in pecans; cook until mixture reaches the soft ball stage (235 degrees). Remove from heat; stir in butter.

Immediately drop by tablespoonfuls onto waxed paper; let stand until firm. Yield: About 1 1/2 dozen.

TANGY CHEESE BALL

- 2 cups (8-ounces) shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 6 (3-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 medium onion, grated
- 3 tablespoons Worcestershire Sauce
- 2 drops of hot sauce
- 1/2 to 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Combine all ingredients except pecans; mix well. Chill overnight. Shape into a ball and roll in pecans. Serve with crackers.

CHOCOLATE-PECAN BROWNIES

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 2 (1-ounce) squares unsweetened chocolate
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup chopped pecans

Combine butter and chocolate in top of double boiler; bring water to a boil. Reduce heat to low and cook until the chocolate melts.

Combine sugar, flour and baking powder in a mixing bowl; add chocolate mixture, mixing well. Add eggs, beat well. Stir in vanilla and pecans. Pour mixture into a greased 9-inch square baking pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes. Cool and cut into squares. Yield: 3 dozen (1 1/2-inch) squares.

PUMPKIN CAKE

- 2 cups sugar
- 1 (16-ounce) can pumpkin
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 cup flaked coconut
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans

Frosting (recipe follows)
Combine sugar, pumpkin, oil and eggs; beat 1 minute at medium speed of electric mixer. Combine next 5 ingredients; add to pumpkin mixture. Beat 1 minute at medium speed of an electric mixer. Stir in coconut and pecans. Pour batter into three greased and floured 8-inch round cake pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes or until cake tests done. Cool in pans 10 minutes; remove from pans and cook completely. Spread frosting between layers and top of cake.

FROSTING

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 (16-ounce) package powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/2 cup pecans, chopped
- 1/2 cup flaked coconut

Combine butter and cream cheese; beat until light and fluffy. Add sugar and vanilla, mixing well. Stir in pecans and coconut.

HOT COCOA MIX

- 2 cups non-dairy coffee creamer
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup cocoa
- 1/2 cup instant nonfat dry milk powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup boiling water

Marshmallows (optional)
Combine first 5 ingredients in a large bowl, and mix well. Store mix in an airtight container. To serve, place 2 tablespoons mix in a cup. Add 1 cup boiling water and stir well. Top with marshmallows, if desired. Yield: About 36 servings.

FREEZER SLAW

- 1 large head cabbage
- 1/2 green pepper
- 6 large carrots
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1 teaspoon celery seeds

Shred the vegetables. Sprinkle with salt; let stand 1 hour. Drain mixture, if water accumulates.

Combine remaining ingredients in a saucepan. Bring to a boil; boil 3 minutes. Cool. Pour over cabbage mixture and let stand 3 minutes. Stir well. Freeze in plastic freezer bags or containers. To serve, thaw in refrigerator.

FRESH APPLE SPICE CAKE

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 3 cups peeled, finely chopped apples

Glaze (follows)
Combine oil and sugar; beat well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine flour, soda, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg; stir. Add dry ingredients to sugar mixture, beating well. Add vanilla; mix well. Stir in pecans and apples. Pour batter into a greased and floured 10-inch tube pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until cake tests done.

Using a toothpick, punch holes in cake while hot; spoon glaze over cake. Cool; remove from pan. Yield: One 10-inch cake.

GLAZE

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup buttermilk
- 1/4 teaspoon soda
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Combine all ingredients in a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil; boil 4 minutes stirring occasionally. Yield: About 1 cup.

A Bird's Eye View



Two Ft. Payne residents chose a unique way to see the DeSoto Falls basin on a warm October weekend. They tied a rope across the chasm and zip-lined across, pausing to do a few acrobatic swings along the way. Jeff Williams and Darrell Green said it was quite an experience.



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Darlene Clifton Keith

An Earthy Touch

Darlene Keith grew up on Lookout Mountain, and never intended to go away to stay: "All during the time I spent in college and working in Atlanta, I planned to eventually come back to my farm, build a house and stay forever." And since 1982, she has been working on that goal.

Darlene's roots sink deep into the heritage of this place, for her family has been here for generations. Her great-grandmother, Emma J. Smith, owned and operated the Nightingale Store and Post Office at the turn of the century, and was such an intelligent and versatile lady that the legend of her life is as relevant today as it was decades ago.

Darlene and her sister Dowe now live on a portion of that farm, and it is one of the most hauntingly lovely places on the mountain. Darlene and husband, Lew, are hand-building a dwelling and are also constructing a studio for Darlene to make the pottery that is in such demand. "I knew that someday I would live and work on my land, but I had to wait until the time was right, and I had the opportunity to create something that would enable me to make a living."

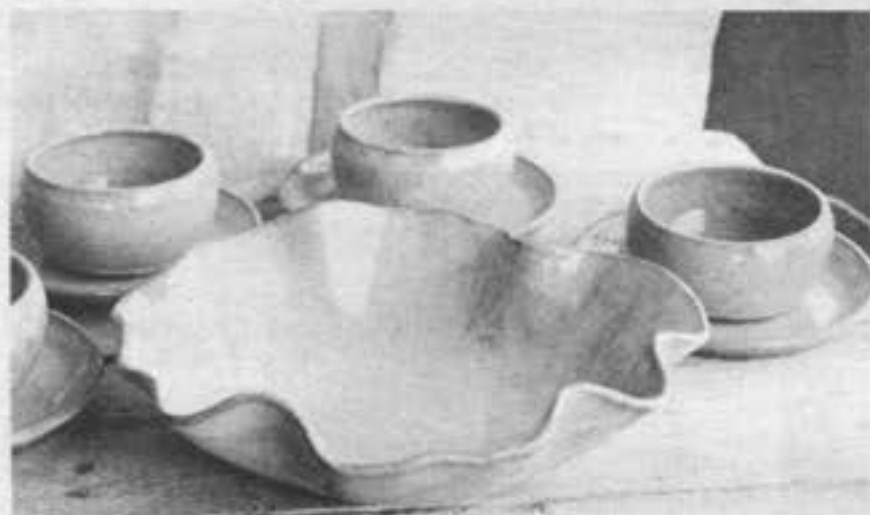
That something is a line of stoneware that is an extension of the creative individual that is Darlene Keith. "I like to use Georgia red clay because it is earthy-looking and is suited to the natural colors that I like to work with — colors that represent the natural world — such as sky blue, the green of mountain river water, the purple of the sunset across the horizon beyond the brow, and the browns of the land itself."

After finishing high school at Valley Head, Darlene attended the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn. She obtained an A. B. in psychology from Emory University in Atlanta before switching to art at the Callenwald Arts Center in the same city. She also attended Georgia State University where she took classes in art. Before going on to graduate school, Darlene decided to take a break and to try the different types of artistic endeavor that she felt drawn to, such as painting, photography and pottery-making.

She served as an apprentice for three years at Callenwald and learned the rudiments of pottery making, and developed a love for this medium. She also began to develop a style that represented the way she felt about her art, and after marrying Luther Keith, made plans to come back to Nightingale farm.

Darlene operates her own shop in the Hitching Post in Mentone, and each weekend finds her there surrounded by the things she had made from the clay of the land and the love of her heart. No two pieces are exactly alike for each one is a work of art in its own right. "My pottery is a part of a process that changes and evolves to something different each time I touch the clay." It is a constant process of change and growth, for Darlene constantly experiments with different glazes and clays.

Darlene's pottery is totally functional, dishwasher and microwave safe, and is made to be used and handled. "I don't like something that looks like it can be used, but can't be. I want people to hold my pottery in their hands and to feel the warmth it has, that all things from the earth have." And growing and living in unison with the earth and its warm heart are a part of what Darlene Clifton Keith is all about.



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Ruffner Mountain

United We Stand

When Kathy Stiles Cooley and her family moved to the East Lake area of Birmingham, she was aware of the desire on the part of developers to make a 24-acre section of Ruffner Mountain into a concrete and asphalt housing tract. She had heard that the South East Lake homeowners had tried every way possible to block the proposed development, but the opposition had worn down mere arguments, and the mayor had to make a decision soon as to the future of the property. She is an avid naturalist and wanted to be near the woods and have her son Fenn grow up with nature at his doorstep, so this area was ideal, being just minutes from downtown Birmingham.

As she drove home from work one day, she heard blasting as "progress" destroyed another wild area, and the thought came to her that "Ruffner will be next if we don't do something. So I made a personal commitment to try and find a way to join with the homeowners and fight the development." She talked with friends who were in the Nature Conservancy and proposed a plan at the next meeting to make the area into a nature park for the whole city of Birmingham. "There was a moment of silence as the idea sank in, then the enthusiasm was tremendous as the people realized that they at last had an alternative to destruction."

over two million dollars. Dale Allen is at this time negotiating for an option on an additional two hundred acres owned by the Jim Walter Corporation. There is reason to believe that the corporation will continue to be supportive of the project, and additional land be made available to those who love the idea of a wild and lovely area in the heart of a bustling city.

The Board of Directors hired an architect to design a new building and it will replace the decaying structure that now houses the center. It will have classrooms, an auditorium for programs, nature exhibits, library, and greatly expanding parking. There will be additional staff for programs that have had to be dropped because of lack of space, and new educational programs will be added. The new building will cost approximately \$2 million, and fund-raising is going on now.

Ruffner Nature Center will sell birdseed on Oct. 24, and feeders as well. There are all kinds of nature items for sale, and this money helps the Center to keep going.

When people become a supporting member of the Ruffner Mountain Nature Coalition, they receive a newsletter called *The Shooting Star*. It is full of the activities going on year round at Ruffner, plus environmental facts.

Land acquisition, of necessity, has demanded the majority of the Coalition's funding and attention. However, a fledgling Nature Center program was begun out of a dilapidated small residence located on the first 28 acre acquisition.

For the last 9 and 1/2 years, Ruffner Mountain Nature Center has offered the following type programs:

Guided tours and programs: School groups, day care centers, and Scouts utilize programs from a Five Senses Hike for k-2 grade to a 3 mile trek to the quarry to study fossils;

Family-oriented nature programs: Wildflower walks, Night Hikes in the Forest, Salamander Walks, A Frog Walk in a local swamp, Halloween Forest Hike are examples of the weekend and sometimes weekday night programs offered by Ruffner to encourage family participation.

Off-Site Adventures: Ruffner staff lead trips to local natural areas, i. e. Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, the Bankhead Forest in North Alabama for a Wildflower tour, and a canoeing trip on the Cahaba River.

Traveling Naturalist: Ruffner staff takes a program to a school, hospital, nursing home or civic group. Using native snakes and turtles this program is also a hit with libraries in the summer months.

Natural History Daycamps: Within weeks of announcing the schedule for this popular program for 6-13 year olds, the natural history daycamp sessions fill to capacity and a waiting list develops. A week of studying the outdoors, seeing nature films, taking long hikes on the mountain, and even visiting other local sites is a perfect adventure for children. It is also the best way for Ruffner to encourage an awareness of the natural world in the young.

Urban Environmental Education Program: Seeking to expand the natural history daycamps in spite of lack of space, Ruffner began a pilot program in 1986 to go into a local neighborhood. 60 children in the Marks Village Project in Gate City learned about nature in their own community, spending one day at Ruffner Mountain. Three week long sessions were held and a Junior Naturalist Program was established as a follow-up. This program was so successful it will be repeated.

Exhibits: Although space does not permit large numbers of exhibits, the present Center building contains a live beehive, aquariums of native turtles and snakes, a model of Ruffner Mountain, a Children's See and touch corner encouraging youngsters (and their parents!) to examine various natural objects, and a seasonal exhibit, and a bird chart.

Bird feeders are located outside the Center and birds flock to them for easy observation. A wildflower garden has been developed adjacent to the building to exhibit native flowers. It will be incorporated into the plans for the new building.

Nature Trails: 7 miles of trails have been developed by staff and volunteers. Boy Scouts have been particularly helpful in trail construction. There are several improvements that need to be made to existing trails, however, and a trail especially for the handicapped visitor is required.

Nature Shoppe: Ruffner's small Nature Shoppe is not only a funding source for Center programs, but is an educational tool itself.

Encouraging birdfeeding through sales of feeders and seed, the Center is able to help people become aware of not just birds and their lifestyle but other natural happenings in their backyard. Once a person begins observing one form of nature, they cannot help but become observers of all natural happenings.

All of these programs require reservations because of lack of space in the building, inadequate parking and enough staff to handle large numbers of people who may appear for a guided walk or program.

Other programs have been halted altogether due to lack of space, i. e. a Christmas Open House with over 150 people attending when it was stopped due to lack of space, nature films and other indoor activities due to lack of interior space. The present building only seats 30.

Ruffner's annual visitation of 35,000 from the general public plus another 6,000 schoolchildren is just a tip of the iceberg of the potential visitation that can be accommodated by appropriate facilities, parking and adequate staffing.

The neighborhood group found a friend in Mayor David Vann, for he loved the idea. The city gave \$180,000 to purchase the 180 acres and the structure that is now the Ruffner Mountain Nature Center. The Ruffner Mountain Nature Coalition was formed with Kathy as the first Board President.

The rest of the mountain was owned by the Jim Walter Corporation which wanted to sell the 500 acres for \$6,000 per acre. There was no way to get this kind of funding, so Kathy searched for another solution.

From 1977 to 1981 Kathy and her group tried to work with the corporation to devise some plan that would save the mountain. Nothing seemed to come together until Kathy met someone at a Nature Conservancy annual meeting who was to change the course of the quest. His name is Dale Allen and he works for the Trust For Public Land which is a non-profit organization with offices all over the country. Their area of expertise is in showing corporations how to preserve nature areas for public use through outright donation or partial donations for tax purposes. Dale Allen negotiated with the Jim Walter Corporation and obtained an option for four years on 480 acres. It was to be paid for in four installments, 120 acres a year at \$3,000 an acre. This was half the value of the property, and a way was made at last.

There was still the problem of raising a half million dollars. Kathy had resigned in 1979 as board president to assume the position of Director of Ruffner Mountain Nature Center. She and her friend Maggie (a naturalist at the Center) began to provide nature programs for area schools. This and other public awareness programs enabled the organization to get a thousand members by the time the fund-raising began. The city of Birmingham and its executive branch fully supported the Ruffner effort. The city gave \$175,000 toward the purchase of the land. The state of Alabama gave \$50,000, the members gave generously and private corporations, citizens and school children all helped financially to raise the other \$200,000 needed to make the first purchase. "To give an idea of the depth of feeling of the city for this project, this was at a time when the city was in a bad recession, so each person who gave did so when money was scarce and they often needed all they had," Kathy said. In 1983, the organization again raised \$200,000 and the city gave another \$175,000 to make the next parcel a part of the existing nature center. The Center was operating beyond capacity, so Kathy and her group asked the city to purchase the next two parcels, and all of the land would be owned by the city, even though nearly one-half million dollars had been raised by the coalition. "We wanted to plan and build a new structure to meet the increased demand, and the city was supportive as usual, so we were able to get the whole acreage ahead of schedule."

The city purchased an adjoining twenty acres, and in all this gave the nature center 530 acres which had cost



Ruffner Trail

Ruffner Mountain is a perfect example of how much can be accomplished when people work together in a just cause, whether they be members of a huge corporation or a small neighborhood league. The common denominator is concern and caring and willingness to give forth the effort it takes to make a difference in the lives of others and in the life of the earth.



Kathy Stiles Cooley
Ruffner's Director

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Emma J. Smith (1864-1937)

Nightingale Essays

We at this place had a great misfortune Saturday evening. We had a fine garden full of all kinds of vegetables usually raised in this climate. It was our pride, and we might say a great part of our living. We have been eating of its abundance every day since early spring. It seemed a source of supply almost inexhaustible, as each day something nice graced our table.

We are all fond of vegetables and felt repaid for all the labor spent in the garden and our garden showed up fine. But alas! while we were calmly sleeping the sleep which only working people know, the cattle and sheep did break in and steal. Sunday morning we arose to look out on a beautiful day, when horror of horrors! there were 10 head of cattle and about 20 of sheep browsing around in our garden, after having eaten everything eatable. They had broken through a side gate which leads to garden from the lot. It was sad to have our garden snatched from us in one night. What was a pleasing sight to look upon Saturday evening was only a dreary waste before the sun arose Sunday morning. All our delicious vegetables disappeared in just one night. I tried to cry but knew it would do no good. If crying would have restored my garden to its former grandeur I would have been crying. I long ago learned there is "no use grieving over spilt milk," so I tried to make the best of it. I felt too sad to go to Sunday School and tried to pass the day as best I could at the organ and with my books, but music had lost its charm to me and books their attractions, for when I would look toward the east then would my eyes fall on the desolate waste and I couldn't refrain from sighing, and as visitors came in they could but notice my doleful face from which all smiles had vanished. Yet I remembered we still had many things to be thankful for, and thought of the people who had had all they possessed destroyed in the day or night, even their loved ones taken from them, and I thought how selfish to let the trouble take the song out of my life for a single moment. I bade my soul cease its repinnings and "let the sunshine in," so this morning I arose with a determination to rebuild the torn down, to replant my garden anew. A kind neighbor furnished me with what seed I was lacking and I proceeded with the help of the children to start anew. We planted our garden and set out plants and tonight as I write I feel better reconciled about our calamity. Another day's work done. Another obstacle surmounted. We can only work, trust, hope and pray and leave the future to God. "Sorrow remaineth for the night but joy cometh in the morning." So mote it be.

Changing Seasons:

October — Robert Frost.
O hushed October morning mild,
The leaves have ripened to the fall;
Tomorrow's wind, if it be wild,
Should waste them all.
The crows above the forest call;
Tomorrow they may form and go.
O hushed October morning mild,
Begin the hours of this morning slow.
Make the day to us seem less brief.
Hearts not averse to being beguiled,
Beguile us in the way you know.
Release one leaf at break of day;
At noon release another leaf;
One from our trees, one far away.
Retard the sun with gentle mist;
Enchant the land with amethyst.
Slow, slow!
For the grapes sake, if they were all,
Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
Whose clustered fruit must else be lost —
For the grapes sake along the wall.

I Remember When

My earliest recollection of Mentone is in the summer after my second birthday in February. I went with my grandmother, Margaret Dalthia Houstin Jones and my mother, Ida V. Lee Jones, to call on Mrs. Sproul, one of my grandmother's dearest friends. The Sprouls had a parrot, the first I had ever seen. I was fascinated. As well as I can remember, the porch was high off of the ground, and when I would go too close to the edge, my mother would say, "Come back Eunice, you will fall." Of course, the parrot began to repeat the warning. It was a game to me. Finally, my mother caught on and sat me on her lap.

My grandmother was called Aunt Maggie by everyone far and near. My grandfather was fondly called Uncle Billie. He was the most gentle man I've ever known. He was so kind; I was always in awe of him. My father, Oliver Jones (No. 2), said that when he was young, Grandfather Jones would sit in a straight chair leaning against an apple tree and read the Bible on Sunday afternoons. He must have been a saintly person, because pretty soon birds would come and sit on his shoulders. I likened him to Saint Francis. He was a very rare person, I believe.

My next memory was in the fall before my fifth birthday. My father worked for NC and St L Railroad, and we lived in Gadsden. We went by train to Valley Head and hired a hack to take us up the mountain. There the river was up so my father carried me and a suitcase across, then my sister and mother. My grandfather and grandmother were living in a cottage on Cousin Fred and Cousin Bert's place. They had butchered that day, and grandfather stirred the cookstove into action. They fried the best pork liver I've ever eaten. I remember my sister and I slept on a straw mattress. What fun! Every time we moved it rattled loudly.

Of course some of the Jones clan are my double sixth cousins, so that would make them my third — I think. My great-grandmother was Julia A. Lane Jones and is buried there on the mountain at the Mt. Olive Church cemetery. She married my great-grandfather, William Jones, brother to Eldredge. G. G., mother Julia's father, was Jesse Lane. Her sisters were Betsy Lane, who married Eldredge Jones, Almeda and Tabitha. Almeda married Bill Taylor (My father had seen him kick his heels together and say "Wild Bill, never worked and never will." He didn't as he was a professional gambler). Tabitha married a Mr. Wynn. Cousin Fred gave a lot of information on the four Lane daughters. I'm very grateful for the info on Granddaddy William Lane Jones, Julia's oldest son. There were also Great Uncle Oliver, Uncle Almon and Uncle Earl, Uncle Jack, and Uncle Lee. There was only one daughter, Fanny, who married John Barker in 1881 (from the Lane book of genealogy, published 1969). Grandfather and Grandmother Jones' children were Aunt Lily, Aunt Laura, Uncle Foster (married Mary Crow on the mountain), Aunt Julia, my father Oliver — named for his Uncle Oliver, and Maude Augusta. I could tell many more facts, but at another time.

My father was born at Alpine down the mountain on May 21, 1884. He is buried at Bankhead.

Clara Jones Brewer in Menlo, Georgia, had information as to the birthplace of my great-grandmother, Julia A. Lane. She was born in Ireland. Great-grandfather was born in Jonesborough, England. Clara was the daughter of great uncle Oliver, senior.

Graham Glover told me, "Eunice, you have the salt of the earth as a background. I can't think of the mountain without a Jones."

You may print this in **THE GROUNDHOG** if you'd like.
— Eunice Jones Hall
Brandon, FL

"October"

By Robert Frost

By Jean Powell



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FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1891.

OUR NEW DEPOT.

Fort Payne Proud of Her New Station House, and Well She May Be.

Last Wednesday evening as soon as the 4:27 train pulled out, C. E. Warren, depot master, commenced moving the office furniture and set cases from the old to the new depot. Linemen were busy putting instruments in place and connecting

the wires, so that by 6 o'clock everything was in working order, and the first train after that time stopped at the new depot.

This structure was built by Messrs. Franches, of this place, for the Alabama Great Southern Railroad Company, and is in every way as fine a building as is on said line of road.

The main building is of gray sandstone trimmed with pink rock. At the southeast corner is an ele-

gant circular tower, which adds greatly to its appearance. The grounds are nicely graded, with a good roadway for carriages, and a nice walk for footmen. There are two spacious waiting rooms, one for ladies and one for gentlemen, with toilet rooms connected with both departments, and a large ticket window to each. The interior of the building is finished in native pine and plastered.

We learn the business of the old station during these dull times

averaged \$10,000 per month and when times were better frequently reached the sum of \$50,000 as a months receipts.

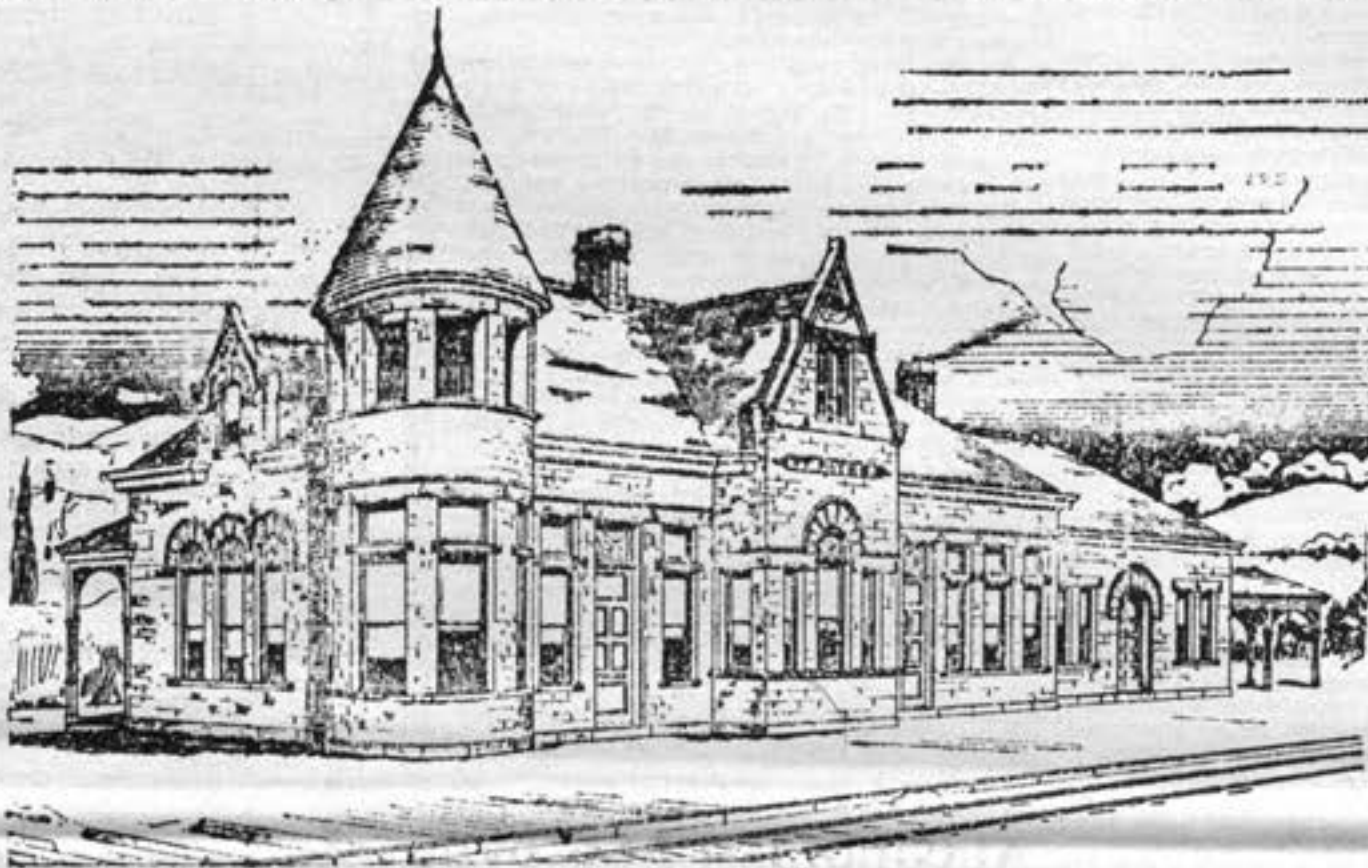
Notwithstanding the fact that but few people are pleased with the location of the new depot still they are all pleased with it.

The old building will still be used as a freight depot.

C. E. Warren makes a popular depot master.

John Payne is a very popular day operator.

H. C. Rushmore, last but not least, holds the night office down.



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Fiction-IV In A Series

The Letter

By Howard Cash Marsh

Today, many years later, it remains the loneliest night of my life. Suffering, I sat upon the edge of the cliff looking into the valley below. Feeling self pity, I wondered if anyone inside the dimly-lit houses was as depressed as me.

A cooling breeze chilled the tears on my cheeks, and a half moon cast shadows of gloom through leafless branches of hickory and oak. Despondently, I decided against getting drunk, not only because I didn't drink, but because I figured that the hangover wouldn't be worth the few hours of false forgetfulness.

The stars looked forever away; the big dipper was as isolated in the sparseness of space as I was from her. She had left for no apparent reason — perhaps for another — I'll never know.

A single shooting star reminded me of my own burnt-out dreams. I was the "picture" of defeat; my heart was broken into as many pieces as the countless number of fallen leaves which rustled in the silent woods around me.

The rising sun brought with it the fatigue of spent emotions, and my prayer that morning had been "God, please don't let me dream about her." The escaping sleep lasted throughout the day and the following night, and with the morning after came the letter. Though long since lost, I'll never forget the memorized lines. It began:

Hello Friend!

I am so elated! You told me it would come, but I never knew it would be like this. Though it was just a first date, I just know it was meant to be. We danced the night away, but it didn't end there! We stopped by the brow and sat together enjoying the romantic scene. The twinkling lights in the little houses seemed to suggest the world itself was at peace.

The cool breeze that ruffled her hair actually enhanced the shadows from the half moon that were cast across her cheeks. Her whispers of love reached my ears simultaneously as the rustling leaves of the surrounding woods.

And the stars — they were so brilliantly close. The big dipper looked as if it were close enough to touch — absolutely beautiful. The highlight of the evening was a shooting star. It blazed across the heavens and we both made wishes; I believe mine was answered, because I really believe that she is my "other half."

Hope this letter catches you healthy and happy.

A friend,

Now I know that happiness is only a hair's width from the worst of depression; that from within one's mind comes emotional turmoil, or emotional bliss.

Both of us saw the same lights, moon and stars. We both felt the same wind. We both heard the same rustling leaves. But our attitudes were worlds apart, he was in heaven, and I was in hell.

43 Billion Dollars Down The Drain

The national estimate of loss to business and industry by the troubled employee has been placed at 43 billion dollars. Many companies are taking advantage of a "Broad Brush" Employee Assistance Program, designed to deal with any problem the employee may be experiencing. These problems may be legal, emotional, spiritual, marital, Alcohol and/or other drug abuse, etc.

Early identification of a problem is very important. Many valuable employees can be saved by implementing an Employee Assistance Program, getting the employee the help he or she needs. Although statistics vary, it is safe to assume that ten percent of any organization's personnel is impaired on the job because of personal problems.

Employees with problems associated with substance abuse are:

1. Absent from the job 16 times more often. 2. Have four times as many accidents. 3. Receive three times the sickness benefits. 4. File five times as many compensation claims.

Even when the employee harmfully involved with alcohol and/or drugs is on the job he or she will function at somewhere between 60 and 65 percent of work potential. In the United States an annual 18,000 deaths on the job (40 percent of industrial fatalities) involve alcohol, and an annual 10 million injuries on the job (47 percent of industrial injuries) involve alcohol. Of the ten million injuries, two million are disabling.

It is much less expensive to operate an efficient Employee Assistance Program and provide treatment to the impaired employee than it is to fire them and then train new workers.

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November, 1987

Events In Georgia's Rome

Nov. 1-30 — "Constitutions" — Chieftains Museum, a special exhibit tracing the comparison of Federal and Indian constitutions, Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., and Sunday, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m., free 404/291-9494.

Nov. 5 — Poetry Readings by David Bottoms, noted author — Rivers Place, 8:30 p.m., admission charged, 404/295-2787.

Nov. 7 — Coin Show — Riverbend Mall, over 40 exhibitors show and sell rare and collectable coins, 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., free, 404/291-7791.

Nov. 7 — "Orchestral Masterpieces" — a presentation of the Rome Symphony Orchestra, Rome City Auditorium, 8:00 p.m., admission charged, 404/291-7967.

Nov. 12-13 — Homemaker's Christmas Bazaar — Riverbend Mall, all types of crafts and homemade goodies for Christmas, 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., free, 404/295-6210.

Nov. 14 — "The Velveteen Rabbit" presented by the Children's Theater Guild, Rome City Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., admission charged, 404/295-2787.

Nov. 14-15 — Festival of Dolls — Riverbend Mall, collectors exhibit and sell handmade, antique and collector's item dolls, 10:00 a.m.-9 p.m., free, 404/295-4828.

Nov. 17-22 — "The Crucible" — by Arthur Miller, a presentation of the Shorter College Theater, Callaway Theater, 8:00 p.m., admission charged, 404/291-2121.

Nov. 19-22 — "Children of a Lesser God" — a Rome Little Theater presentation, DeSoto Theater, 8:00 p.m., Sunday matinee, 2:30 p.m., admission charged, 404/295-7171.

Nov. 20 — "Light Up Rome" — the beginning of the Christmas season in downtown Rome, free, 404/291-0006.

Nov. 21-22 — Lion's Club Christmas Festival — Coosa Valley Fairgrounds, over 100 exhibitors show and sell arts, crafts, food for the Christmas season, Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m., admission charged, 404/291-7050.

Nov. 30 — Festival of Trees — The Galleries at Rivers Place, handmade Christmas ornaments by Georgia Mountain Craftsmen, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., free, 404/235-7708.

SUBMITTED BY: Greater Rome Convention and Visitors Bureau
P. O. Box 5823
Rome, Georgia 30161
404/295-5576

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEKALB COUNCIL ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE

Those of us who work in the substance abuse field are perhaps more aware of the tremendous problem drug abuse has become here in DeKalb County. When we speak of drug abuse, we must include the drug alcohol and the other legal drugs. Most people think of drug abuse as being the illegal drugs. We even hear parents make statements such as: "I am glad my son or daughter only drinks alcohol and does not touch drugs." Alcohol is the most abused drug of all, just as it always has been.

Then we hear a lot of people say the real drug problem of illegal drugs is only in large cities, and choose to ignore what is all around us here.

Each day we see persons of all ages addicted to drugs and see the results. We see families desperate to find help for their relative, since the addicted person is not only destroying himself but is ruining the lives of the whole family. If the addicted person will not accept help we try to get help for the family to deal with their reaction to the addicted persons actions.

We see addicted persons charged with crimes committed while under the influence, and see the great amount of money spent in our legal system. We see jobs lost and the family being forced to use the welfare system at tremendous costs to the taxpayers. Child abuse is associated in a large number with substance abuse. Parent abuse is more prevalent than is generally known about. Again, a major factor is substance abuse.

The interactions between individual drug abuse and society are controversial. Drug abuse places a heavy burden on society in terms of its many human and monetary costs, while on the other hand, much drug abuse is motivated by such social factors as oppressive living conditions, lack of economic opportunity, and social acceptance of certain forms of drug use. Either society or the individual may be viewed as the victim, depending on one's point of view and the circumstances in a particular case.

In today's society drugs cut across all socioeconomic lines, no segment of society is immune to drug abuse. For persons of limited coping abilities any life style presents stresses that can motivate the abuse of a mood altering drug.

There are many theories as to why a person becomes addicted. Many recovering addicts have told me the reason is not important to them. The important part is that they recognize they have the addiction and have sought help with the illness and have learned to live happy, productive lives without drugs.

For more information or if you or someone you love needs help, or if you would like a presentation for your church, club, or school, we will be happy to hear from you.

Our telephone number is 845-5924. The office is in the Activities Building in Fort Payne, 107 Grand Ave. S.



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