

GROUNDHOG

Vol. 8 — No. 4 October '90

A Publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association

October Colorfest — Fall Weekend Fun



In celebration of autumn leaves, the Mentone Area Preservation Association is sponsoring the October Colorfest, Oct. 19-21.

The weekend kicks off with the traditional bonfire, marshmallow roast and storytelling at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 19, at the corner of Highway 119 and DeSoto Parkway. This is a favorite activity for all ages and is free to the public.

Saturday morning, Oct. 20, begins with the Groundhog Run. The Fun Run starts at 9 a.m., the Groundhog Classic at 9:30 a.m. and awards will be presented at 10:30 a.m.

Booths selling handicrafts, food and drinks, and other items will be set up around the festival site. Tony Goggans, the Mentone Minstrel, will present music throughout the day.

Boat rides along Little River will leave from the DeSoto Falls area during the day both Saturday and Sunday. This is a wonderful way for visitors to Mentone to see foliage along the river in its Autumn colors.

Sunday afternoon, Oct. 21, booths will still be open and Tony will be back again with his music. The Festival concludes Sunday with a drawing for a queen size handmade quilt at 4 p.m.

Groundhog Run Set October 20

By Jean McGehee

One of the highlights of the October Colorfest sponsored by the Mentone Area Preservation Association is the Groundhog Run beginning at 9 a.m., CST, Saturday, Oct. 20. Last year 114 runners participated, from all over Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Florida.

Two-thirds of the runners have run before, and some have run in all seven previous races. Couples and families participate, some running in the one mile fun run before the Classic. Last year the largest age group, both men and women, was the 40-50 years old division.

MAPA serves Gatorade and bananas after the race. Trophies are from DeSoto Athletic in Fort Payne. Michelle Gilbreath of Fort Payne, has won the overall women's division for the past two years. Her husband jokingly asked whether MAPA would give anything other than jackets for top prizes. That prompted this year's race directors to offer \$100 each to the top man and woman runners. This would prohibit their running in the Olympics, but if that is their goal, they can refuse the \$100. Last year's men's overall winner was Jamie Doss of Rome.

In charge the day of the race will be Larry Hooks of Camp Skyline Ranch. He will be assisted by Mark Pickle. Jean McGehee, in charge of registrations, publicity and prizes, will be assisted by Donna Buckley on the day of the race.

This year instead of the usual T-shirts, Brant Craig of DeSoto Athletic arranged for Russell sweat shirts. On the backs will be printed the names of the Mentone and Valley Head and Cloudland sponsors: Log Cabin Deli, Mentone Superette, White Elephant Galleries, Valley Head Hardware, Nippersink, Lookout Mountain Camping Association, Crows Nest Antiques, Mentone Realty, Cragmere Manna Restaurant, The Citizens Bank, Mentone Hardware, Burt Funereal Home, Mentone Springs Restaurant,



Cooper-Lee Appliance & TV, Tiger's Inn Restaurant, Triangle Gas & Groceries, Mentone Reproducers of Fine Art, Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort, Ruby's Variety, The Gourdie Shop, The Mentone Inn, Morgan Drugs and Cloudland Trade Center. Everyone who enters will receive a shirt.

The race will begin at the Hitching Post, go to the turnoff to the Falls, and back again, a distance of 4.2 miles. The DeKalb Ambulance Service will be on hand in case of emergencies, and the Mentone Police Chief will bring up the rear of the race. Entry forms are available at the Hitching Post, from Jean McGehee, and on the day of the race.



J. L. and Essie Downer: Retiring this month

Downer's Retire

It has been said that one man's trash is another man's treasure. For J. L. and Essie Downer trash has been a career for the past 20 years. This month, they will retire from their trash collection business which they sold to Judge Paul Thomas and Bobby Hicks recently.

In 1970, Downer's Solid Waste started in Hammondville with 50 customers.

"It took about 30 minutes to pick up all the garbage," he commented. Prior to Downer's Solid Waste business, there was an open dump in Hammondville. Regulations controlling dumps required them to be covered and that prompted Downer to consider the trash business.

Soon after that, he expanded to Mentone, Valley Head, DeSoto State Park, Ider and the Henagar area. DeSoto State Park was subsequently incorporated into the Fort Payne City Limits and not serviced by Downers.

"We were asked to come into each place," he said. "We never had any problems and we've worked hard to be steady and reliable. This is a neighborly business and we've missed very few days."

Downers now provides trash collection service from Ider to the Georgia state line. They have two employees, their daughter Brenda Hunter and Michael Tucker.

"We are working seven days a week," he said adding that all self-employed people find running a business is a full-time job.

The Downers own and service all their own equipment. Mr. Downer has even made the large trash containers on wheels that many area businesses use. Their trucks haul approximately 18 cubic yards of trash.

They say that new regulations and guidelines for landfills have made the business more strenuous in recent years.

Much of the dirt that has been dug out of the landfill to make room for the garbage has gone to area building projects including the new gym at Moon Lake School and to several churches. People building ponds use the clay from the landfill.

J. L. and Essie have learned through their 20 years experience that some people are "pack rats" and others throw away everything, even and especially things they wish they still had.

"We get calls a lot (from customers) asking 'Has Jay buried the trash yet?'" said Mrs. Downer. She said people are always looking for money, checks, car keys and important papers that may have gone out with the garbage.

"Once we had a call about a pistol that a man put in the trash. He was looking for a 'safe' hiding place. That load did get buried and the man came to the dump and tried to dig it out. He never found it though," she related.

They said the most bizarre thing they ever encountered happened several years ago.

"The family of a missing man from around Rising Fawn were searching both the Fort Payne and Hammondville dump area for any sign of a body. They wanted to dig up the landfill."

Judge Paul Thomas and his partner Bobby Hicks of Stevenson, Ala., will be taking over the business this month.

"We want to congratulate the Downer's on their retirement," Judge Thomas commented. "And we want to assure the people in the North end of DeKalb County that we plan to continue the excellent service the Downer's have provided and that we plan to offer the same low monthly rates to customers."

He said there will be "very little change in the operation" adding that both Brenda Hunter and Michael Tucker will work for the new owners. Bobby Hicks who will actually oversee the day to day operation of the business has had 12 years experience with his father who runs a service in Jackson County.

"I know people will like Bobby when they meet him and get to know him," Judge Thomas said.

Along with the Downer's Solid Waste, the Downer family has operated other businesses throughout the years "to make ends meet" according to Mrs. Downer. They are both natives of DeKalb County and have seen times change from "Model-T days to the Space Age."

Mrs. Downer grew up on Lookout Mountain, her family's home was on what is now the Comer Scout Reservation. She attended school at Col. Howard's "Master's School" when she was four years old.

"We had some boys at school there from the reform school. Once the teacher was trying to discipline one of those boys and had to take his coat off, go outside and fight the boy. The teacher won and we never had any more trouble," she said.

Mrs. Downer says she will never forget the time she was most embarrassed in her life. It was at the Christmas program at the school.

"The fires were going in both fireplaces at either end of the school building. Even though I was only four, I knew how to read. They had given me a little poem about a gingerbread man under the holly tree that I was supposed to recite. But when they called me up they wanted me to read instead. I got so flustered I couldn't do it."

"When I went back to sit down, the big boys had eaten the gingerbread man that was mine for the poem. It was the worst thing that ever happened to me!" she related.

She also remembers visiting Granny Dollar's house and Granny Dollar's dog, Buster. Buster was a mongrel and a very good watchdog. After Granny Dollar died, Buster had to be shot so someone could get into the house to close it up according to Mrs. Downer.

"Granny would say, 'Don't move child, the dog will bite ya,'" Mrs. Downer said. "I would stand as still as I could and that dog would walk around and around me. I don't know if he really would have bitten me but I wasn't going to move to find out."

The Downer's were married in 1937 by 'Uncle Doc' White in Valley Head.

"He told us 'y'all are just kids, I won't charge you,'" remembers Mr. Downer.

In 1939 they opened the "Rock Store" at Alpine. The store walls are standing though overgrown with ivy. This grocery provided a needed service to people on the mountain for a number of years.

At the beginning of World War II, the Downer's moved to New Mexico to work on a ranch.

"Just before they put a freeze on transportation, I wanted to come back to Alabama. I was afraid I'd never get home again," Mrs. Downer said.

They later operated another grocery in Hammondville and ran the Greyhound bus franchise from 1960 until this summer.

The Greyhound bus strike has caused the bus company to discontinue the route from Birmingham to Chattanooga, thereby closing the bus station in Hammondville.

"So many people have depended on that bus, it's a shame they shut it down," said Mrs. Downer.

Although the Downers are retiring they say they will stay active.

"When you've worked all your life you can't just sit down," says Mr. Downer.

"The good Lord's been good to me, we've always been well and able to go," he said. "My rule has always been to be friends with folks. That's the best way to be."

Receipts Buy School Computers

Moon Lake School is participating in the Food World Supermarket program to provide Apple computers and related computer equipment to area schools. Red cash register receipts from Food World may be turned in to Moon Lake between now and March 6.

Moon Lake hopes to collect at least \$100,000 in cash register receipts which would enable the school to obtain an Apple Macintosh Plus System.

Give your red receipts to any Moon Lake student or drop them by the school office.

Festival Set Nov. 3

The Harvest Festival, Moon Lake School P.T.A.'s major fund raising activity is set for the evening of Saturday, Nov. 3, according to P.T.A. president Larry Gray.

This event which always draws a large crowd of school supporters, both children and adults, is a community-wide affair. Not only do those families with children at Moon Lake support the festival but everyone in the community takes a part.

"We hope everyone will participate," said Larry Gray. "If you have never come and helped in the past, come and be part of the fun this year."

The Festival which last year raised nearly \$10,000 for the school will include games, food, an auction and the crowning of the Harvest Festival King and Queen. Each year classes compete to be the top money raisers in order to win the title of Harvest Festival Royalty.

All the funds raised benefit Moon Lake School. The P.T.A. has been able to build the gymnasium, additional classrooms, and to make other improvements in the school because of the money from the festival.

This year there are approximately 115 students in the kindergarten through sixth grade at Moon Lake School.

"We can't say enough times how proud we are of our school!" Mr. Gray said.

Emily Smith Named Groundhog Editor

Emily Smith will take over the responsibilities of **The Groundhog** editor starting with the November issue. She is a resident of Mentone and moved here two years ago. She and her family live on Alpine Road.

"I am really looking forward to working on **The Groundhog**," she said. "This paper is an asset for Mentone and the people who live, work and visit here. We have an active and growing community."

Emily has a strong newspaper background and has worked for both daily and weekly newspapers. At her first job, a reporter for the Jackson, Mississippi **Clarion Ledger** she wrote both news and feature stories, served as the religion editor and assistant State editor.

From there she moved into the Mississippi Governor's office serving as Gov. Bill Waller's chief staff writer for a period of six months. Then she went to work for the Mississippi State Department of Welfare as their public relations officer.

Marriage to Tim Smith, then a young attorney and now the minister at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in Mentone interrupted her career for a short time. After moving to Destin Florida in 1980, she worked for **The Destin Log** as a reporter and advertising sales executive.

She is a graduate of Memphis State University with a degree in Radio, Television and Film and she is the mother of three children: Jason, 14; Stephen, 12; and Emily, 8.

"I have also worked at a few non-media related jobs," Emily told us. "While Tim was in seminary, I worked at a large pre-school as the assistant director and my most fun job was at the Birmingham Zoo as the coordinator of the volunteer program."

Since their move to Mentone, Emily has become active in several areas. She works as a substitute teacher at Moon Lake, Valley Head, and the Fort Payne schools, serves as president of the Friends of the Library, assists at St. Joseph's as a Sunday School teacher and leads Brownie Scout Troop 793.

Emily commented, "I think all news people share a curiosity and interest in a wide range of topics. All kinds of 'news' are exciting to me. The diversity of Mentone is a real challenge I hope will be reflected in **The Groundhog**."

**The Mentone Springs Restaurant
Will Be Open
Colorfest Weekend Oct. 19-21**

Downer's Solid Waste

Thank you to all our customers from J. L. and Essie Downer.

From The Editor

By Mickey Strickland

I have resigned as editor of *The Groundhog*. The decision was a difficult one, made after much deliberation and soul-searching. I have enjoyed tremendously the effort we have made together as a community and as friends.

The Groundhog of the last three and a half years has not been a solitary accomplishment. Dedicated columnists, generous and supportive advertisers, loyal and hard working staff members, helpful and faithful readers and helping hands from near and far have made *The Groundhog*, I merely put it to print.

The new editor, Emily Smith, collaborated with me on this issue — in fact, she did most of the work. She is competent intelligent, dedicated and has a generous helping of the commodity needed most — a sense of humor. It is my hope that all my friends and supporters will give her the trust given so generously to me over the years.

Times change and with them, circumstances. Nothing can remain the same, and we would not want it so. But each special moment, each special person is a chapter to be read again and again as the book continues to be written. These years as your editor will be worn from the reading and from the remembering.

I thank you for the writing.

By Emily Smith

One of my first introductions in Mentone was to *The Groundhog*. Tim picked up a copy at the Deli when we were eating lunch there in October two years ago. We shared a favorable first impression both to the paper and to the community. It was not difficult to leave the big city and move to Mentone and its beauty, peace and quiet.

When MAPA approached me about possibly taking the editorship of *The Groundhog*, I was so excited. It is a wonderful paper and represents a wonderful place. I know how I look forward to each edition of the paper as so many of you do. Also, I realized that my college degree was actually going to prove useful as I got back on my original career track.

The continued success of *The Groundhog* depends not only on me, but on you, its readers, as well. I am counting on you all for lots of ideas — what you want to see in the paper. Please let me know when important events occur in your families, at your churches, or in our community that need to be covered in *The Groundhog*. I want to do a good job for you.

And, leaving the most important thing until last, thank you Mickey for all your hard work these past four years. You have been so gracious during the transition. *The Groundhog* will miss you.

The Groundhog

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Area Ministers Set Day of Prayer

The North DeKalb Ministerial Association is calling for a Day of Prayer on behalf of our young people on Wednesday, Oct. 31.

This call for a Day of Prayer will extend not only to churches in our immediate area but to all other churches in DeKalb County as well, according to Ministerial Association president, Tim Smith.

"We care deeply about the youth of this area and are very much concerned about their well-being — physical, mental, moral and spiritual," Rev. Smith said. "Thus, a call is being issued for all Christians to intercede on behalf of our youth, their parents and families, the various local school systems and their personnel and the churches and ministers of this area. All of these influence the lives of our young people."

The North DeKalb County Ministerial Association has been active since the 1989 National Day of Prayer service held in Mentone in which all area churches participated.

"After the service that night, the ministers talked and realized we needed to meet together and support one another in the further proclamation of the Gospel on the mountain," Rev. Smith explained.

The Rev. Don Brock, pastor of Mentone's Church of God of Prophecy served as the first president of the group. Community services sponsored by the Ministerial Association have included, Thanksgiving, Easter Sunrise services and a second National Day of Prayer service.

Along with Rev. Smith, the current officers are: The Rev. Ron Johnson, vice-president and pastor of Mentone Church of God; The Rev. Blaine Derek, pastor of Mentone Wesleyan Church; and The Rev. Curtis Bridges, pastor of Moon Lake Baptist Church.

"We call on all Christian people of Mentone to mark their calendars for this Day of Prayer for our youth on Oct. 31," said Rev. Smith.

Valley View

By Eloise Brown

By Eloise M. Brown

Jo Ann Bain came from Jacksonville, Fla., to visit her parents, Earl and Printie Phillips, and planned a party for her father's 87th birthday. Those present were: Marie Dooley, Sarah Moon, Brownie Tuttle, Bonnie and Floyd Phillips, Willadean Phillips, Leatha and Clyde Phelps from Atlanta, Maggie and Willie Phillips, Norma, Janie and Matthew Hulgian, Judge Paul Thomas, Mary C. and Clyde Barnett, Altha Sells from Trenton, Estie Robinson and daughter from Bryant, Bernice, Joyce, Denny Benzie and David West from Sylvania; Lela Atkins and Martie Abercrombie from Trenton; Barbara Silver and two daughters from Sylvania; Jesse and Audry Lee Moore from Henagar; Opal Tatum, Ray and Mary Jo Anderson from Henagar; Wayne Williams from Jacksonville, Fla., Beatrice Crow and Mary Ann Smith from Mentone.

Some grandchildren of N. S. Davenport met for a reunion on Aug. 28 at Mentone Inn. On Saturday night, they met other relatives at the home of Mary Louise and Ted Holleman. Those present were Ann and Lawson Hamilton of Charlotte, N. C., Thomas Hayes and Ann Brown Davenport of Tuscaloosa, Lucetia and A. H. Sifai of Berea, Ky., Jane Davenport of Nashville, Adelaide Biddle, Elizabeth and Nelson Ellis of Rainsville, Laura Margaret Allison, Eleanor and David Cearley of Houston, Texas, John Holleman of Huntsville.

Tillie Schlicher has returned home after a visit with the Rev. Howard Finster and wife, Pauline, Beverly and Ron Roland and family and other relatives in Pennville, Ga.

Pauline Wright of Knoxville is a guest of her sister, Emily Brown and Barry, and other relatives.

Evelyn Phillips is recovering from serious surgery. She is a guest of her sister, Dot Casey, in Fort Payne for a while.

Linda and Mickey Cobble and family came from Chattanooga to help Gladys Cobble celebrate her birthday. Also present were Gladys Stott, Becky and Jesse B. Stott and family, Brenda and Harold Loveless and daughter, Holly.

Ruth and Bert Pickett entertained the Card-Cobble reunion at their "Out Back Inn." There were 69 present from four states, with five generations represented.

Venna Livingston had as her guests, her daughter, Sue Mosely, and children and her sister, Zula Waddell, and daughter, Marcie Norwood, of Guin, Ala. They attended the annual Hawaiian Pig Roast at the Sparks Farm at Fort Oglethorpe. They were entertained by a magic show by Brad Sparks.

Billie Pickett and Gladys Cobble have returned from a visit with Gladys' son, Donald Cobble, and family in Columbia, S. C. They also visited Gladys' sister-in-law in McDonough, Ga.

Sue and Foyle Cooper enjoyed a day at Little Mountain Resort in Langston, Ala.

Sadie Cooper and her son, Chris, and Amy Holleman have returned from a weekend trip to Gatlinburg.

Melinda and Jeff Adkins had as recent visitors, Jeff's sister, Melanie Adkins from Scottsboro, Cindy and Andy Kennedy from Fort Worth, Texas, and Tiquana Collins and Terry Wright of Fort Payne. Tiquana is a niece of our former pastor, J. Vester Pope.

The Valley Head U.M.W. met at the parsonage for their August meeting. Eloise Brown presided; Laura Margaret Allison gave the Secretary-Treasurer's reports and Adelaide Biddle taught a chapter of the study, "Hallelujah Anyhow." Others present were: Velma Hammond, Elizabeth Coleman, Geraldine Hawkins, Mary Frances Tate, Brownie Tuttle, Venna Livingston, Janie Longshore, Mary Louise Holleman, Helen and Arno White and Melinda and Jeff Adkins, the hosts.

The Sunshine Club enjoyed their annual picnic on Sept. 8 at Ruth and Bert Pickett's "Out Back Inn." Those present were: Bess and Tom Bauerle, Samp and Evelyn Clark, Sue and Foyle Cooper, Tillie Schlicher, Gladys Cobble, Geraldine and Howard Hawkins, Karen, Mark, Katie, Matt, Luke and Ben Freeman, Willie Mae Palmer, Mae Card, Lilly and Herschel Bowden, Billie Pickett, Billie and Heather Harper, Doris Shaw, Stella Pierce, Kerie Wright, Jean and John Jones, Gladys, Becky and Jesse B. Stott.

Kathleen Thomas and Ann Mitchell of Rising Fawn, Ga., visited Laura Margaret Allison recently. Kathleen is 98 years young.

Many of you remember my step-mother-in-law, Thelma J. Brown, who used to live here. She is now in the Hamilton County Nursing Home. She was 95 years old Aug. 7.

I had a good Sunday lunch and afternoon visit with my cousin, Bill Fuller and his wife, Blanche, of Madison, Ala., and Emily and Barry Brown.

MAPA MEETING

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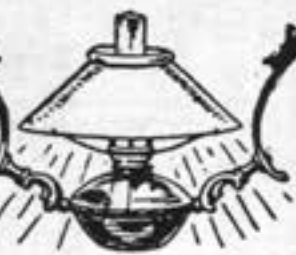
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Entry fee of \$10 must accompany each application. \$12 after October 15. Make checks payable to MAPA (Mentone Area Preservation Association).

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

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Age as of Oct. 31, 1990 _____

SIGNATURE _____

(If under 18, signature of parent or guardian is required).

Shirt Size S M L XL (Circle)

Division:

() Men
14 & under
15-19
20-29
30-39
40 & over

() Women
14 and under
15-19
20-29
30-39
40 & over

() Fun Run
() Groundhog Classic

NO ONE MAY ENTER THIS EVENT WITHOUT SIGNING THIS OFFICIAL WAIVER: In consideration of accepting this entry, I the above-signed, intending to be legally bound, hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators waive and release any and all claims for losses and damages I may have against MAPA and all other parties and their representatives, successors, and assigns for any and all injuries suffered by me in said event. I attest and verify that I am physically fit. Further, I hereby grant full permission to any and all foregoing to use photos, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings or any other record of this event for any purpose whatsoever.

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MENTONE CHARM — This rambling home is nestled in the woods and one of Mentone's most unique cottages. It has a stone fireplace for winter and large sunny room for spring. Also, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and screened porch, \$69,000.

GREAT WEEKEND MOUNTAIN RETREAT — This cozy cottage has everything even a small stream in the backyard. Three bedrooms, one bath, living room and large screened back porch. Wood floors and stone fireplace, \$27,500.

MINI RANCH — The grounds are wonderful with about 4½ acres of the five acres fenced with a pond and small barn. The ranch style home has four bedrooms, two baths and separate two-car garage with apartment possibilities upstairs. A great buy at \$47,000.

ONE OF MENTONE'S MOST UNIQUE COTTAGES — This two-bedroom, 1½ bath cottage has a combination kitchen. Great room with three nice extra-screened porch, garage and fenced front yard. Located within walking distance to the Mentone shops on 4 beautiful wooded lots, \$72,000.

85 ACRES ON LITTLE RIVER — With ¼ acre along the River. This is an outstanding piece of property, \$95,000.

Box 1-2-3, Mentone, AL 35984



Brownie Troop 793 Meeting Now

Brownie Troop 793 is underway for the 1990-91 school year. The troop meets every other Thursday afternoon at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church from 3-4:30 p.m. It is open to all girls in first through third grades and there are presently 13 girls registered in the troop. Most of the girls attend Moon Lake School but, Valley Head is also represented.

Brownie activities include exploring the areas of health, the world, technology, the arts and the outdoors. In January, the Brownies participate in the nationwide Girl Scout cookie sale which benefits the local troop as well as funds the Girl Scout program.

This year's troop includes: Prissy Blalock, Emily Collins, Chrissy Drake, Ashley Foster, Candace Fuller, Candace and Kristen Jones, Jessica Lee, Becky Mays, Jessica Pless, Laura Pullen, Emily Smith and Stephanie Worthey.

Leaders of Troop 793 are Cheri Pless and Emily Smith. Melissa Worthey is the troop's teen assistant. For more information on joining Brownies, call Cheri at (404) 862-2646 or Emily at 634-4731.



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Linda Woods, Broker 845-3574
Buddy Mullins, Sales Associate 632-3566

Mountain Almanac

The cool nights and sunny days of October bring beauty to the garden. Chrysanthemums and dahlias have an extra spurt of growth and reflect the bright gold and crimson hues of the changing leaves. These fall bloomers should be lightly fertilized to promote good flowers.

This is also a month of work. Now is the time to clear both garden and flower beds of debris. If debris is left through the winter it makes an ideal hideout for diseases and pests. Most garden debris can be added to the compost pile except for cornstalks and dahlia stems.

The fall offers more time than spring for garden construction projects such as paths, walls and terraces.

Wood ashes saved from the fire will deter snails and slugs when sprinkled around Hosta (funkia). This is a good time to divide large clumps of Hosta to assure well rounded plants next spring.

If you find you still have a few late green tomatoes you can ripen them by bringing the whole plant, root and all inside. Hang them where they will not freeze. Then harvest your tomatoes until Christmas.

As the weather continues to cool, you will see fewer and fewer reptiles like snakes and turtles as they go into hibernation. The eastern box turtle, who eats a large share of garden pests, is included in the reptile family. We hope they are not all killed on our roads.

If you still have hummingbird feeders up and find a straggler or two stopping by for a sip of nectar, keep the feeder filled. Some hummingbird experts now feel that there are a few late migrators who need the extra energy a feeder can give them as they make their way to the tropical breeding grounds. The ornithologists believe that hummingbirds can survive a mild freeze.

The fall and winter sunsets from the brow are more spectacular than ever due to the clear air. If you don't have a house on the brow to observe the beautiful display of afternoon color, try Brow Park. It is well worth delaying your supper plans for an hour to see one of these sunsets.

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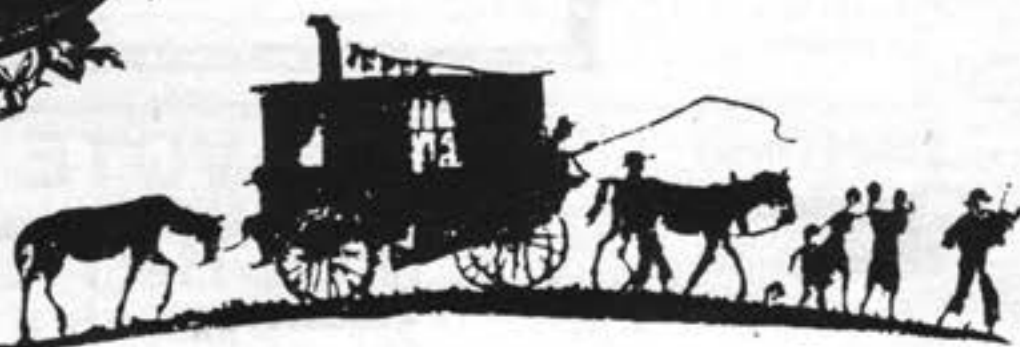
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BERNICE CROW
SECRETARY



Country Journal

By Bernise Crow

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

On Aug. 14, we left Chattanooga airport on our way to Atlanta, Ga., to join Jeanette Ormanian and 21 other members of a tour group through the American Express Travel Agency. Inez O'Rear, who works with AAA Travel Agency in Chattanooga and who is a very good friend of ours, arranged this trip for us. And how very grateful we are that she could do this for us.

We had always wanted to see the Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany because of reading about how the play came to be produced, and is offered every 10 years. I was afraid we had waited too long to get tickets, but Inez said let her see what she could do. Two days later she called and said this particular group had a cancellation for two, and we could go if we got our reservations in immediately. We lost no time in doing just that.

About 10 of the group were from Florida, near St. Petersburg, but others met us at the airport in Amsterdam from various parts of the country. We flew directly from Atlanta to Amsterdam, which is an overnight flight on KLM Super-jet. We left Atlanta about 4:30 p.m. and arrived in Holland about 10:30 the next day. It's about a 12 hour flight, but we lost 6 hours by flying east — 7 hours from Alabama time. It was a very smooth flight, and we slept some.

It took a little while to get our room ready, because we got there before previous occupants checked out. After lunch, and freshening a little, we were ready for sightseeing!

A bus took us downtown, where we visited the Anne Frank house. This is the place where the Frank family lived after fleeing from Germany during World War II. I am sure most of you have either read the book "The Diary of Anne Frank," or seen the movie based on the diary of a 13-year-old girl. Their living quarters contained secret passages to rooms the public would not know existed. The family lived in seclusion here for two years, I believe, before being discovered and taken back to Germany where she was not ever heard from again.

We enjoyed seeing the canals and lovely old buildings, dating from the 14th century. Most of them are built of cut stone, and will last forever if not destroyed by modern ruthlessness of bombing or razing for later model buildings. They seem to take a great deal of pride in keeping them in good condition and showing them off to tourists. The lovely old churches are very beautiful.

The Netherlands, which we call Holland, is a country totally reclaimed from the sea, and is below sea level. Dykes are built to keep the North Sea from overflowing the entire country. The Dykes have broken in the past, and thousands of people were drowned — the last time this happened was in 1958. They believe they are so constructed this time that this won't happen again. There are 16,000 square miles in Holland. The streets are 6 feet below sea level and the Airport where we landed is 16 feet below sea level. 800,000 people live in the city of Amsterdam. We took a ride on a boat on one of the canals and could get a better look at the old historic section of the city. The next day we toured the Rijksmuseum by choice. Only one other couple went with us. The rest of our group went to a cheese factory and out in the countryside to see the windmills. The museum was a wonderful tour to us, since we love the Dutch painters — of course Rembrandt is a very favorite. We took plenty of time here to enjoy the beautiful paintings and sculpture. Homer took video pictures, because one cannot use a flash camera in these museums.

I loved the famous painting, of which many prints are made, by Johannes Vermeer called The Kitchen Maid. I could write too long about just this museum. Everything is very expensive here. We had a simple salad in the cafe at the museum, and it cost \$12 in American money! We had a hard time getting a cab, but found that we were on the wrong street to get one. When we did finally get one, he gave us a wild ride through the city, which reminded us of the one in Rio De Janeiro!

That night we divided into groups and ate at different restaurants. Our group chose an Indonesian restaurant, which was very good.

We had wake-up service at our hotel at 6:15 a.m. on Aug. 17. After a big breakfast, served buffet style, we boarded our bus for Cologne, Germany. The driver, John, was the one who would take us several hundred miles on our tour. The bus was very comfortable — air conditioned. Our driver was a good one. We were out into the country in a short time, and it was nice to observe the clean farms, complete with windmills — some of which were still in working condition. The barns are attached to the houses, probably for convenience. But they say these barns are kept very clean. And we did not see any flies. We started seeing some trees, which we found out had all been transplanted in Holland. There are no native trees here because the land is below sea level.

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

noon sun. It looks like something out of a fairy tale — much like the replica at Disney World. While looking up to see this magnificent sight, we could make out hang-gliders way above this scene. We drove out a little further and the driver stopped briefly to let us photograph the castle from another angle, and the hang-gliders were landing in the meadow right near us.

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

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

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

We met the man who played the part of Caiaphas, the high priest in the play. We bought a plate in a shop, and the salesgirl told us her boss owned the shop, and played the part of Caiaphas. We got his autograph, and made a snapshot of him. What a wonderful privilege to see this play. The performers are all from the village. The play is given as a thanksgiving to God for sparing them during the plague that swept Europe in the 14th century. They made a vow to God that if He would spare their village, they would produce a play about his life, death, and resurrection from that time forward as long as time endured. Their prayers were answered, and the play has been performed. At first, they did it every year, and now for some it is offered every 10 years.

Valley Head Football Goes Five Quarters

Valley Head Football home games are lasting five quarters this year — at least the fellowship and camaraderie go on — at the Fifth Quarter held at the Valley Head Methodist Church.

The driving force behind the Fifth Quarter are The Rev. Curtis Bridges, pastor of Moon Lake Baptist Church and The Rev. Jeff Adkins, pastor of both Valley Head and Mentone Methodist Church.

According to Rev. Adkins, the idea to provide a positive meeting place, with refreshments and entertainment, after the football game evolved from talking to Rev. Bridges and to Mentone resident Sunny Mays.

"We wanted to give the kids a place to congregate after the home games. Moon Lake Baptist, Valley Head Baptist and Lee's Chapel have all offered things in the past. The Methodist Church's location, so near the ball field seemed to be an ideal location," Rev. Adkins said.

The first "Fifth Quarter" was held after Valley Head's opening game of the season and featured a live Christian rock band.

"We have had so much support from the churches in our area and from the town of Valley Head. I approached the Valley Head town council with the idea and warned them it might be a little loud but, they were really en-

thusiastic on the idea," said Rev. Adkins.

He said that the key to the success has been involvement from everybody and "a great response from the kids."

"We appreciate so much the way everyone has reacted and supported this," Adkins commented.

The last Fifth Quarter will feature a Christian drama group from Samford University in Birmingham and is set for Nov. 9, Valley Head's last home game. Adkins says he hopes that the Fifth Quarter might evolve into a weekend gathering for young people.

"We want the kids to know that Christians can have fun too and that having fun is a positive and safe environment is 'the place to be,'" he said. "This is a good example of positive peer pressure, when the kids see their friends enjoying this type of wholesome entertainment."

The cost of the Fifth Quarter is defrayed by donations both from individuals and the North DeKalb Ministerial Association. A special fund has been set up for donations at the Methodist Church. Refreshments are provided by parents of the young people who attend.

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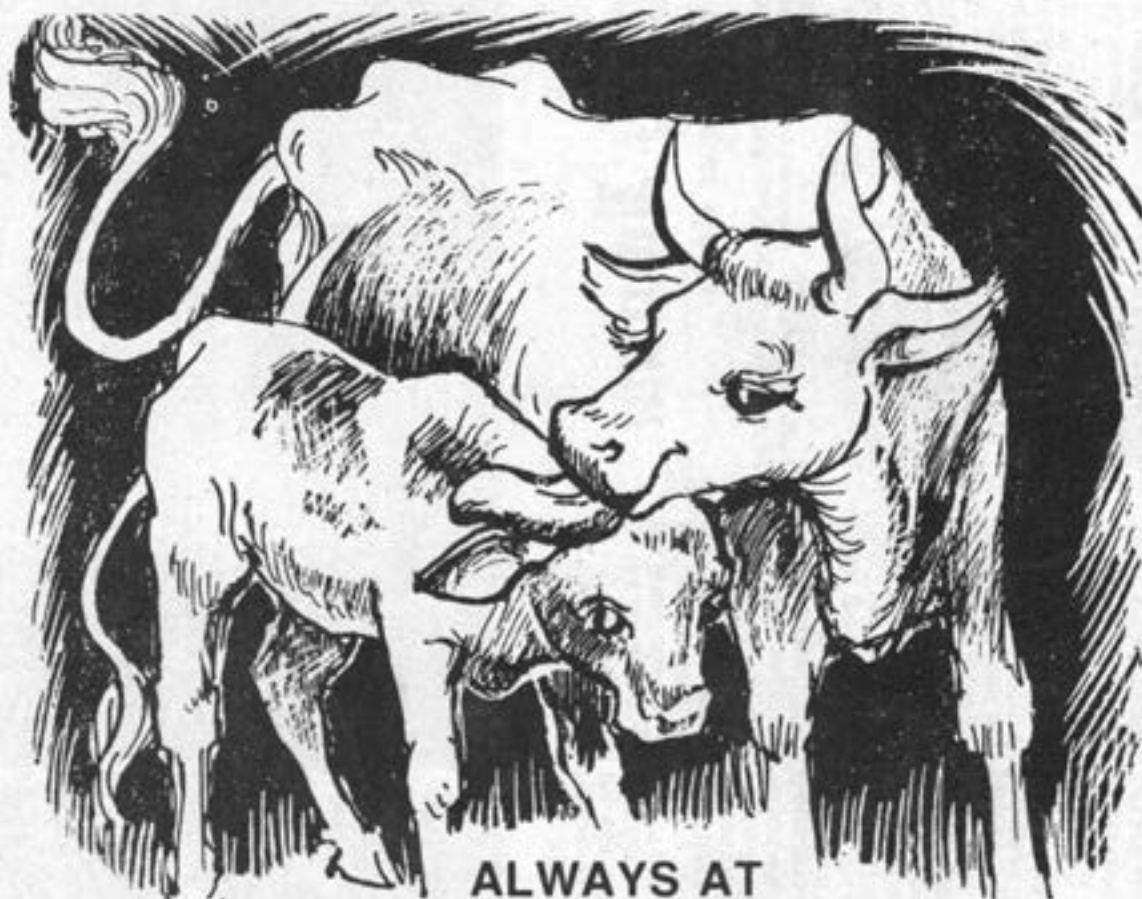
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