



## The Eleventh Annual 1890s Festival

# McINTOSH GAZETTE

McIntosh, Florida

"FREE"

October 13, 1984

### Welcome to our Eleventh Annual 1890s Festival!

This has been a good year for McIntosh residents despite our devastating Christmas Eve freeze. If you are a regular visitor to our town, you will indeed notice the absence of many of our citrus trees. We are replanting and rebuilding, however, which is a major part of the spirit of our great town. We invite you to share in our joy of today which is a celebration of life that exists in our town today as it did for our pioneering founders. Help us to relive our glorious past by relaxing, reflecting and enjoying the spirit of the 1890s.

Enjoy!



Burnette Akin welcomes visitors to historic McIntosh.

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### ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE 1890's FESTIVAL — OCTOBER 13, 1984

#### VAN NESS CIVIC CENTER

11:00 a.m. GRAND PARADE (Map on back page)  
11:30 a.m. ANNOUNCEMENTS  
12:00 noon NORTH MARION HIGH SCHOOL BAND CONCERT  
12:30 p.m. ANNOUNCEMENTS  
1:00 p.m. CHILDREN'S ENSEMBLE OF GAINESVILLE BALLET  
1:30 p.m. DEDICATION OF McINTOSH AS HISTORIC DISTRICT  
2:00 p.m. TAMPA PIPE BAND  
3:00 p.m. MARION-ALACHUA DOG TRAINING ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED EXHIBITION  
3:45 p.m. DRAWING FOR QUILT  
4:00 p.m. KEYBOARD CLASSICS FEATURING DENNIS STOWE  
MASTERS OF CEREMONIES: JOE PHILLIPS  
WITH DENNIS STOWE AT THE PIANO

#### ★ AT THE McINTOSH HOTEL ★

1:00 & 3:00 p.m. SUNDANCERS AND THE SUNDANCE KIDS — CLOGGERS  
4:00 p.m. GAINESVILLE RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS PERFORMANCE

#### ★ AT THE DEPOT ★

TRAIN PAINTING EXHIBIT BY HOWARD ROYAL  
MODEL TRAIN DISPLAY BY GIL CARLIN  
LIVE MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT BY "COUNTRY FANTASY"

VISIT THE OVER 150 ARTS & CRAFTS STANDS, FOOD CONCESSIONS, AND MERCHANDISE BOOTHS IN THE McINTOSH BAZAAR.  
(See map page 20)



# Tour of Homes

Welcome to the 1984 Edition of the Tour of Homes, one of the most popular features of the annual McIntosh 1890s Festival. On it you will find a traditional Victorian Era home, the Neal-Blinn home, built about 1895, you'll get an inside look at a Victorian Era railroad hotel, built about 1895, and the Walkup home which has been tastefully decorated in the Victorian style by local antique shops.

Tickets are \$3 for the entire tour, and can be purchased from the booth catty-cornered to the southeast corner of the park.

The map located on page 16 of this newspaper will show you the location of the ticket booth and the stops along the tour. If you should still have trouble finding a particular house, ask at the information booths that have been set up at the west end of the park. Guides at these booths will be glad to point you to your destination.

Enjoy your tour!

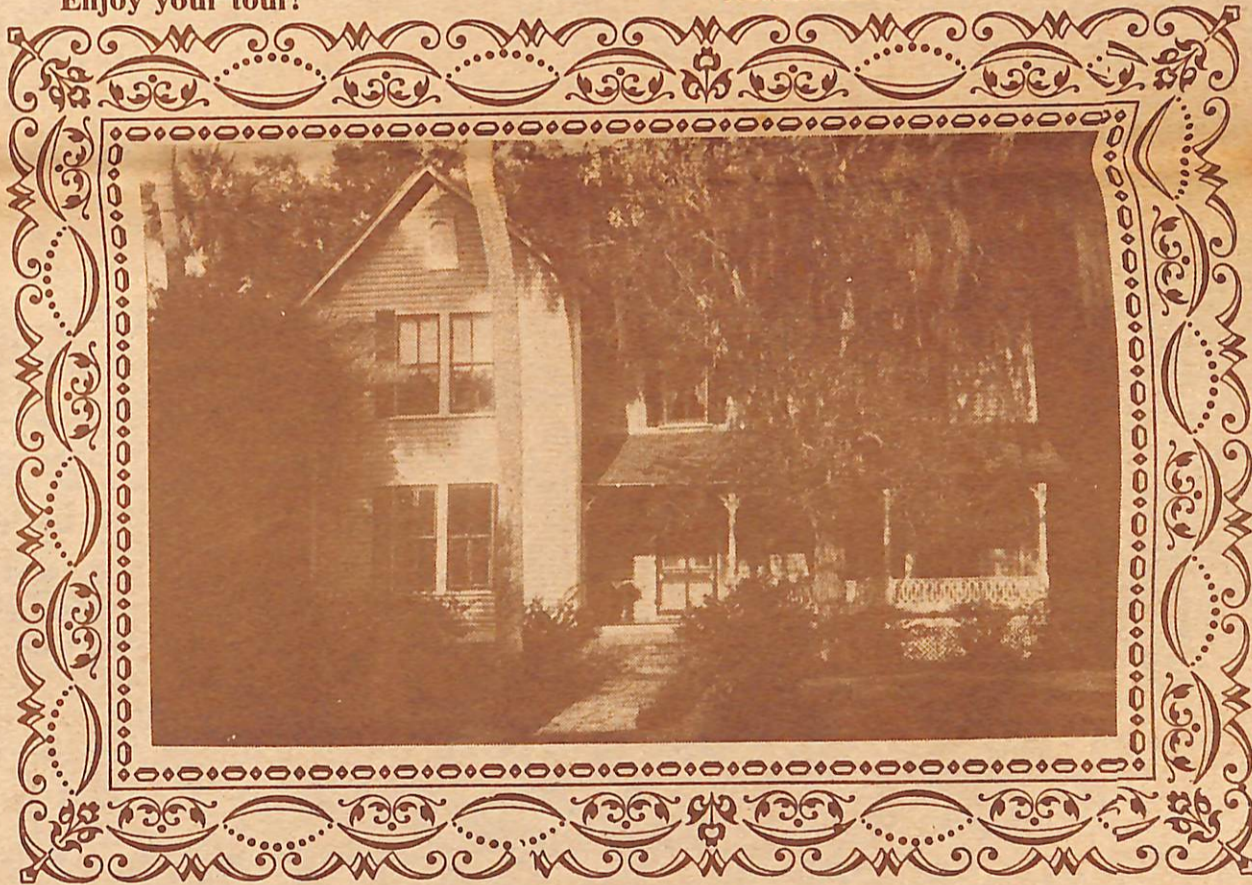
In addition to these homes, please visit the four churches of McIntosh. These churches are open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the same hours as the homes, but are free to the public and not part of the tour proper. The map on page 16 indicates the location of these churches.

**The Methodist Church** was moved, pulled by mules, in 1895 and served as the Sanctuary for all denominations in the early years of the town. Look at the old picture of the Church in the Vestibule.

In 1903 the **Baptist Church** was built on the Wire Road (now U.S. 441). The beautiful stained glass windows were a gift from the J.K. Christian Family.

**The Christian Church** (1904) boasts an open belfry which still rings out each Sunday as a call to worship. To the right of the Church is the site of the first permanent school house in town (1889) which had an enrollment of about twelve pupils.

**The Presbytertarian Church** (1907) started as the Center Point Church in Boardman in 1885. It has just finished a major restoration program. The windows were re-sealed and a Lexan covering put on to protect the larger windows from storm damage. Ailing plaster was patched and the Sanctuary painted to bring out the vivid colors of the windows. Sconce lights installed in 1952 were removed and hand cast reproduction electric lights from the turn of the century were put in. The Eastlake pulpit furniture had previously been refinished.



1

## The Neal-Blinn House

Flowers Courtesy of Crevasse's Regency Florist, Gainesville.

It's a stark, lonely structure that stands dead center in a photo taken in 1895. The house is surrounded by a few scrub palms, and not much more. It was situated on a half block of property and fenced to keep the roaming cattle out. A large Crape Myrtle dominates the front yard. On one of Hattie's trips home from Kentucky, she brought back a seedling Crape Myrtle, wrapping its roots in wet newspaper and tucking it under her seat for the journey. She planted it near the front porch and the tree took to its new home. It is now on the State of Florida's registry as the largest Crape Myrtle.

The structure was built of heart pine, locally felled and milled. With time, the pine becomes granite like. Workers grumble as their nails bend and break in the resin hardened wood. Twenty-four tall windows stare from the clapboard siding. The original roof was cypress shingles. One Christmas Eve, the Walkup house caught fire from a spark that landed on its wooden roof. A traveling salesman lucked into a town panicked by the blaze and sold to Mr. Neal, and almost every other homeowner, a new French asbestos shingled roof, guaranteed not to burn. Two free-standing brick

chimneys jut up through the rooftop, servicing the six fireplaces. The style is late Victorian farmhouse, without much fine detail, but built solidly and made to last.

For nearly 40 years, Hattie lived alone in the house. Fortunately, she didn't have the means to modernize and fancy up. While some of the other homes in town were converted into apartments during the depression, Hattie hung onto the old house as its sole occupant. So the house, at her death, stood relatively unchanged from when Captain Neal had built it.

In her will, Hattie bequeathed the house to the McIntosh Christian Church. Peter and Ginger Blinn acquired the house from the church in the spring of 1980 and began the restoration. First, the kitchen was put in and an exterior wall was replaced. Then, the Blinns, along with their children, Dawn and Kim and their dog, Prinz, moved in.

What to do first? They attacked the jungle around the house. People who didn't know the house existed, watched it emerge from a wall of ligustrum, azaleas, and bamboo. Nature did some unexpected pruning with last year's hard freeze.

A 1940's back porch was sledge-hammered to the ground, allowing the rooms inside more sunlight. The

front porch was almost entirely redone — new roof, new floor, new railing. The sagging house was jacked level, and an 18 foot, 10 inch thick beam was replaced. Just this summer, the house was given its first coat of paint in 40 years. In the true Victorian style, the house was painted in an array of colors — grays and blues and reds and yellows.

Peter, an Ocala attorney, quickly earned the title of "spackling fool," spending hours replastering and hanging sheetrock. Ginger arranged a painting party and, in two days, all the rooms were freshly painted. The Cruce brothers were called in from Brooker to refinish the wide planked floors. French doors replaced a set of windows.

Instead of fighting the nature of the house, Peter and Ginger use ceiling fans to cool in the summer and the six fireplaces and a wood burning stove to warm them in the winter. "I'm still surprised when people ask me if the house is finished," says Ginger. "It's not, and I can't see that it ever will be — that's the fun of it. I don't see that as discouraging, but rather as something to look forward to." Future plans include a brick patio out back, a screen porch along the south side, and, someday, maybe even a swimming pool.



2

## The McIntosh Hotel

Flowers Courtesy of Julia's Fantasy Flowers, Orange Lake.

This hotel was inauspiciously begun in 1895, the year of the Great Freeze. Times were hard, but the proprietors used the 19 rooms and large dining room to house and board railroad passengers and sportsmen from the North coming to sample the local fish, game and weather.

The hotel, shut down in 1964 when Bettie's husband passed away, boasts nine rooms upstairs, bearing the original numbers on each door. "Sometimes we had three to a room, and I'm ashamed to say, we only charged \$2.00 a night with \$1.00 for all you could eat," remembers Bettie. "I just loved my truckers," she says. "They never gave me a bit of trouble. They would even bring their wives and children to stay with me when they covered their routes."

The hotel occasionally housed single women. Bettie can remember when a student at the University asked if she could house her rather senile mother for a month or so to catch up on her studying. "She used to accuse another boarder of taking her clothes and demand that they be taken off immediately," Bettie laughs. "Every day she used to pack her suitcases and tell us she was leaving. Every day we had to unpack them and tell her she wasn't."

It is too bad the McIntosh Hotel is not still operating. Even the residents of McIntosh would like to spend a night there, just to hear the stories.

Please Turn to Page 4



Helen Schorfhaar and Bettie McKeone, today's guides for the McIntosh Hotel, have a history themselves as interesting as the 89 year old hotel they call their home. Originally from Narian, Scotland, from a family of six children, they made their voyage to America as teenagers. Bettie, only ten years younger than the hotel itself, can well remember the sounds and smell she left in Scotland. "I loved skirly (fried onions and oatmeal) and clooty (cloth) dumplings," says Bettie. She and Helen still cook a Scottish favorite, mince and tatties, which looks suspiciously like hamburgers and potatoes.



### 3 The Walkup Home

This year's Tour of Homes features the home of "Miss Elizabeth" Walkup. She was born in 1887 and lived in this home for over 70 years. Miss Elizabeth was the daughter of early settler William Gist who, along with Dr. Perry Burgin, J.K. Christian, and S.H. Gaitskill, travelled by steamboat up the St. John's River to Palatka, then took the Florida Southern Railroad to Gainesville and came down to "Mackintosh" by coach in the 1880s.

Mr. Gist built his home in 1893 across the street from brother-in-law Gaitskill, the three-story dwelling becoming the home where his children Annette, Elizabeth, Rebecca, and Joshua grew up and where, on November 15, 1911, "Miss Elizabeth" would marry her childhood friend, Sam Hoey Walkup, the son of Dr. Henry Clay Walkup, an early settler from North Carolina. A builder and farmer like his father-in-law, Sam built a home suited to lodging a big family beside the Presbyterian Church and, over the next few years, the couple had four of their six children, Alice, Wilshire, Edwin, and Elizabeth before the 1920s carried them to Greenwood, North Carolina and children Sam Jr. and Henry were born. Sam and brother John went into the mercantile business with cousin Henry Belk until the Depression took everything, and the Walkup families returned to Florida.

Fortunately for Sam and Elizabeth, they'd kept their McIntosh home rented and had a little income while Sam farmed and started a local mercantile business down by the present Post Office to keep them going until times got better. And times got better — the family prospering — the children growing up and leaving home to marry and begin families of their own. In 1956, at age 81, Sam Walkup died, his wife Elizabeth remaining in the home he'd brought her to 56 years before, and where she resided until her death this past spring.



The Walkup home will be a showcase of antique shops from Ocala and McIntosh. They are presenting rooms in the Victorian period.

The front screen porch reminds us of the days before radio and TV when the family rocked and caught up on all of the day's news. Marilyn Franklin, Ocala, has set the stage for a step back into the 19th century.

The hall welcomes us. It is a large room reaching forty feet in length. Howe's Antiques, McIntosh, has decorated with authentic furniture from the 1890's.

Christmas is here; in the sitting room. The tree, garlands, and toys make it so exciting. Harvest of Antiques Christmas Shop presents a lovely view of a Victorian Christmas.

Lewis Antiques, McIntosh, and Micanopy, has furnished the dining room with golden oak. We can almost smell the delicious meals Miss Elizabeth served on the table and sideboard.

Marilyn Franklin has made the kitchen so warm and cozy. Her handicrafts complement the room.

Upstairs we can Oh & Ah, over the lovely hand-made quilts from the Country Store, McIntosh. The bedroom will certainly bring back memories of lying in bed listening to the whistle of the train passing through McIntosh.



## The Friends of McIntosh Yearly Report

The Friends were busy this past year. The most important event was the McIntosh Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places, November 18, 1983.

The loading ramp on the depot was screened so it could be used more in the summer. Now we won't panic with tornado alerts and driving rains during quilt shows.

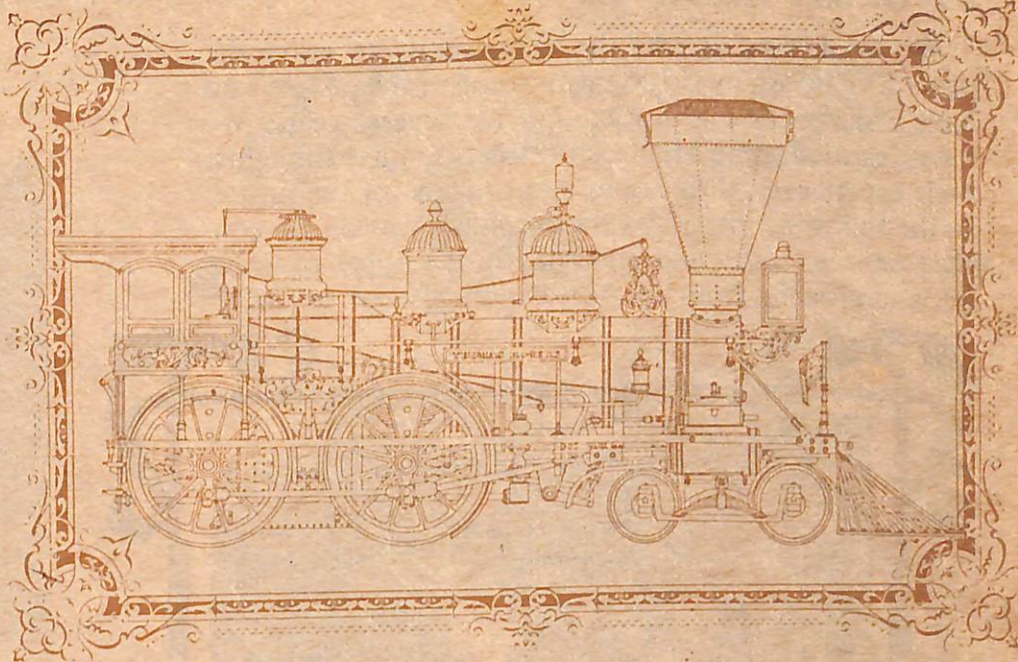
The fourth Quilt Show and Sale was held the end of April and expanded to two days. Over 1,000 people from around the state enjoyed the beautiful quilted items.

Mary Lynn Crosby was our first \$500.00 scholarship winner from North Marion High School. Mary Lynn is now a student at Sante Fe Junior College and all of us wish her success in her goal to become a C.P.A.

During the summer, the Friends with the McIntosh Civic League, and the McIntosh Lion's Club bought six antique reproduction street lights for the Van Ness Park. Mr. and Mrs. Ross Rath donated the two in front of the Civic Center in honor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W.R. Dedman, one of our pioneer families. The Friends installed an antique light in the Mini Park and at the depot. Now, if we could only find an old steam engine to stand on the remaining track in front of the depot.

In May the 4th and 5th grades from the South Ocala School visited the depot, hotel, Presbyterian Church, the Country Store, and the Ft. McIntosh Armory. All of us enjoyed our young visitors, teachers, and parents.

Plans are being formulated now for the 1890 Festival 1985. HOMECOMING to All, the pioneers, old timers, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends are invited to be with us next fall of 1985. DON'T FORGET — See you all.



## Special Depot Events

Our featured artist at the Depot this year is Mr. Howard Royal. Mr. Royal's oil paintings of trains are the fruition of the work that he has always wanted to do. He has researched each train that he has sketched and has included the finest details of each locomotive.

Mr. Royal has a painting of the first train to travel through McIntosh in 1880 called the "Florida Southern." Other paintings include "Tom Thumb" from 1830, "Dewitt Clemon" from 1831, "A Red Caboose," "Yosemite Valley," and "Best Friend" from 1830.

Our model train exhibit this year is a train set up under the direction of Gil Carlin. Experience the fun and excitement of a working model train layout located inside the Depot building.

### Quilt Show

The 5th McIntosh Quilt Show & Sale will be held in the Depot Saturday April 27th, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday April 28th, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The Friends are featuring the "Pine Needles" from Silver Lake Acres, Florida. The group of twenty ladies do lovely traditional and contemporary quilting. They are Chapter #62 of the National Quilters Association. We are anticipating an exciting and beautiful show with all of their quilted items and all the other quilts from around the state. See you all April 27th and 28th, 1985.



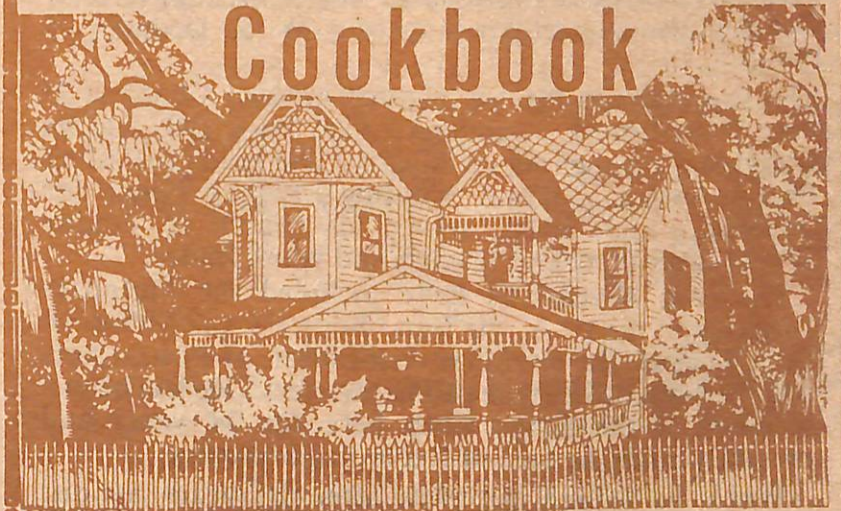
Scholarship winner Mary Lynn Crosby with Glen Fiorello, chairman of the scholarship committee.

## 1985 Calendar

### Homecoming

The 1985 McIntosh 1890 Festival will be homecoming. During the year invitations will be sent to all of the pioneers, old timers, children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends of McIntosh to join us for a wonderful most gala homecoming. Bring your pictures, too. We look forward to having all of you.

## 1890 Festival Cookbook



Remember Grandmother's pies, Mama's rolls, Aunt Sadie's cakes? Well, they are all in the 1890 Festival Cookbook. Tested and approved by years of enjoyment. Over 240 family favorite recipes.

A perfect gift for Christmas, brides, and you. Available in the McIntosh Antique shops and Rheinausers gift department in Ocala.

Reasonably priced at \$5.00 or order: "Cookbook" P.O. Box 1890, McIntosh, FL 32664. Enclose \$5.00 plus 60¢ postage.

## McIntosh Residents

We would like to take the opportunity to relive the past of McIntosh by visiting with some of the people who have experienced life in this area for several years. We have featured some McIntosh residents, their thoughts, their experiences, their hopes and dreams for the future. In the following interviews the emphasis was on the contrast between today and yesterday in the hopes of learning and growing from the past experiences of others.



**Ross Rath**

*McIntosh Lion's Club Man of the Year*

*by Joan Greene*

On July 4, 1984, the McIntosh Lions Club honored Ross Rath, the town's former postmaster and longtime Cub Scout leader, with the title of McIntosh Man of the Year. The award ceremony in Van Ness Park was part of the community's Independence Day celebration.

Ross was born in 1913 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, graduated from high school in Colorado, attended business college in Missouri, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture from the University of Florida. The degree was awarded with honors. He served in the U.S. Army in Europe in World War II as a master sergeant in the 2nd Armored Division.

In 1946 He married a McIntosh girl whom he had met during the war in Lexington, Kentucky, and in 1950 the couple moved to McIntosh where they have lived ever since. His bride is the former May Christian (Chris) Dedman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Dedman of this city.

He is an elder in the McIntosh Christian Church, a 25 year Scout Leader, founder of Cub Pack 199, and its Cubmaster throughout its history. He holds the Silver Beaver Award, national Scouting's highest honor for leadership, and he has served his church as Sunday School superintendent, teacher and youth leader.

His civic affiliations have included the McIntosh Lions Club, the PTA, the Band Boosters, the McIntosh Civic League, the National Association of Postmasters and the National League of Postmasters. He has been a member of the Lions Club here for 34 years and presently holds the post of Recording Secretary.

When he retired in 1981 after 26 years as our postmaster, he was honored by his fellow citizens and neighbors at a covered-dish luncheon and open house in the McIntosh Civic Center. He was and is probably the best-known man in town.

The Raths have two grown children, Mrs. Mary Ann Kelley of Los Alamos, N. M. and William (Bill) Ross Rath of East Walpole, Mass.



**Winnie Jane Bouldin Reeves**

*by Laural Willis*

Winnie Jane Bouldin Reeves was born in Tennessee. She remembers the times in her house made of logs, where at night the family would pop corn and make molasses candy. Box suppers were popular then. You made a supper, put it in a box and decorated the box, she explained. Then it was auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Winnie has been in McIntosh for 67 of her 79 years. She grew up with Burnette Linsey Akin and Mary Bauer, her first two friends. She and her family lived in a home in Boardman where the Brands now live. Beans, cucumbers and other vegetables, grown by her father, were put on the train in McIntosh for delivery in New York and other areas.

Every Sunday Winnie would go down and watch the trains go by. Now and again she would visit her brother in Jacksonville or go to Tennessee in the summer on the train. Her father never had a car, however, after Winnie married, she and her husband purchased their first automobile. Her first sight of an airplane came when she was in the school near the Christian Church. The students were on the second story when they heard an unfamiliar sound. The teacher let them go out and watch their first airplane pass.

Winnie met her husband here in McIntosh. His family came after she was grown. She has six children, Herbert Jr., Dorothy, Jiggs, Valley, Barbara, and Ricky. Grandchildren are up to 23 and there are 16 great grandchildren, with 2 more expected.

Some fond memories that Winnie thinks about from time to time are the churches picnics, the Siles Green traveling show, the circus — which set up at the baseball park — and plays at school, organized by the children. At home, she would quilt and sew while her father would read books. The library used to be in one of the rooms, of what is now the Ciotti house.

If Winnie could change McIntosh, she would like to have it back as it was when she went to school. For the future, "It would be nice to see a grocery-general store in town," she said.



### Dr. Ned Cake

Gracious Gardener of McIntosh

by Will Spencer

"Oh, Adam was a gardener, and God who made him sees that half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees."

Rudyard Kipling,  
"The Female of the Species"

Ned Cake bends from the waist more often than he drops to his knees in his vigorous pursuit of weeds

A visit to the tract down in McIntosh which Ned shares with two other gardeners, assisted from time to time by assorted gleaners and family members.

The architect of this vegetable fairyland is a modest man, and he disclaims any special gardening skills. "I'm just a retired college Extension specialist," he says. "Got out of college with a degree in agriculture back in the '30s," he says, "then 5 years graduate work, 5 years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 5 years in the army, 5 years with the Virginia Potato and Vegetable Growers Association and last of all, 20 years with the College of Agriculture at UF. Then I retired and we moved to McIntosh 12 years ago. My work was with county agents and farmer groups all over Florida.

Ned Cake's favorite expression is, "You'll be interested in this." He not only means it, but he's invariably right. "You'll be interested in these cold-frames," he says. "They're old windows that Mark gave to me along with some scrap lumber to set them up." Mark is Ned's fishing buddy and one of his barter-partners — "He gives me citrus and I give him vegetables."

Somehow it all summed up the essence of the foremost amateur gardener of McIntosh — always pulling something up even as something else goes down, and a generous provider.



### Ethel Tucker Strange

by Laural Willis

When growing up in Gainesville, Ethel Tucker Strange enjoyed her school activities the most. Not only did she like school, but she also enjoyed playing basketball. Ethel was named captain of her basketball team and her team won a national title. She then went to FSU when it was a college for women. There she received a letter for basketball.

In 1929 when she married Dr. James Strange, she moved to McIntosh and lived in what is now the Willis house. Her husband would work every day including Sundays because the towns people were accustomed to Dr. Zoll being open then. Later they moved into their own home, where the downstairs was used as Dr. Strange's offices and they lived in the upstairs rooms. Then they purchased the house across the street where a hospital was established.

Dr. Strange would not always receive money for his work, sometimes it was vegetables, chickens, etc. After having her first child, Sylvia, Ethel wanted a car. One day someone paid for Dr. Strange's services with an old jalopy. She then drove it into Gainesville and traded it in for her first automobile.

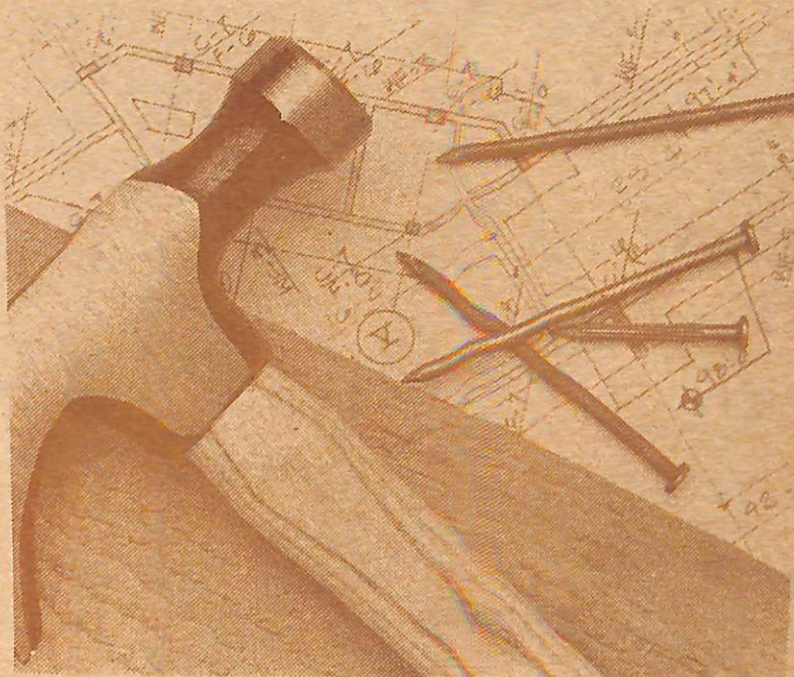
She would drive in to see her parents in Gainesville as often as she could. Sometimes she would take the train that would have two northbound and two southbound stops a day. The bus also stopped here in McIntosh and she took advantage of that.

Ethel's children are Sylvia Strange Perkins, Diane Strange Patterson, James Strange, Jr., and Judy Strange Kingsley. She has nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

A fond memory of hers is the times when they would have Sunday school picnics and everyone would bring a dish and go to Juniper Springs or one of the surrounding springs for the day.

If Ethel could change McIntosh she would like to see all the churches combined.

Ethel would really like for McIntosh to stay quiet and small enough so that you could go to the Post Office and see people you know.



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### 1890s Festival Helpers

Many hours are spent planning to entertain thousands of people each year long before the 1890s Festival actually dawns. Special thanks go to those who so diligently work to make this a happy day for all ages.

Tour of Homes, Security  
& Cookbook

Marg Karow

Gazette & Entertainment

Jane Edney Sharp

Booths & Food

Sharon Perry

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Ernie Hopwood

Parade & Tickets

Col. John Kimball

Quilt

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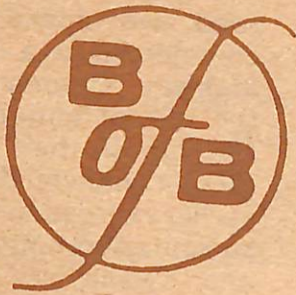
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## McIntosh on National Historic Register

### Preservation

At last McIntosh has achieved national recognition and has been recorded on the National Register of historic sites!

The McIntosh Historic District contains a concentration of Victorian residences and commercial buildings that were related to the railroad and have survived as a Victorian town that is proud of its preserved heritage.

### Railroad Town

The revised town plan of 1888, retained the original grid of the 1885 plat, however it subdivided the 65 residential blocks into 47 residential blocks of 4-6 lots each, and 18 commercial blocks of 6-12 lots each. The commercial blocks were located near the railroad right-of-way. This was consistent with the usual layout of railroad towns in Central Florida. The easy access by rail to Northern markets for produce and oranges, as well as the availability of supplies needed by the townspeople, enhanced both town's commercial development in the area adjacent to the railroad, and the general prosperity of the people who settled in McIntosh.

### Victorian Homes

The residential part of the town developed west of the railroad and early commercial area because the higher ground was more desirable for homes than the mosquito infested areas near the lake. During the period from the 1880's to the early 1900's frame houses were constructed in this area. Built mostly of hard yellow pine, the predominate architectural styles were Victorian Gothic in two stories. After the turn of the century, one-and-one-half story bungalows began appearing in the neighborhood. Architecture was not limited to formal textbook styles as each owner built to suit his own individual tastes and needs.

### Servants Cabins

During the town's early development, lots were generally 150' x 150'. Many of the original owners bought more than one lot. This left space for servants cabins, examples of which still survive on Sites #17A, #31A, and #54A. Of simple construction, the cabins were usually of two or three rooms. Accessory buildings such as small barns and sheds were also constructed. Surviving accessory buildings are in advanced stages of deterioration.

### District Boundaries

The McIntosh Historic District contains the neighborhood extending west from 4th Street as far as 10th Street and from Avenue H on the south to Avenue D on the north. Also included is Block 21 fronting on Avenue C. This district comprises the majority of the Town of McIntosh.

The Western boundary line of McIntosh's Historic District excludes an area of modern, ranch style residences. To the North, an infil of commercial and non-residential homes are excluded. The Eastern boundary excludes an area of mobile homes between the Railroad Right-of-Way and the Lake, while the Southern boundary excludes an assortment of modern residences and business as well as game acreage.

### Plat Divided

The 1885 plat (see map) was divided into 65 residential blocks and 104 grove lots or blocks. The residential blocks measured approximately 300 feet by 300 feet square although the seven blocks near the shores of Orange (or Mizzell's) Lake were irregular and somewhat larger. The 104 orange grove lots were approximately ten (10) acres each. There were ten irregular grove lots also, which were located between the lake and the railroad right-of-way.

### Early Streets

Streets were layed out in the original plat with North and South right-of-ways 60 feet wide. Avenues ran East and West with 80 foot right-of-ways. The streets were grassy ruts in the 1890's and early 1900's.

### Commercial Area Moved

When 9th Street, the old "wire" and stagecoach road, was widened and paved to become U.S. 441, the commercial area moved from the railroad area to the highway. Commercial development now centers around the sale of antiques and the needs of people passing through on their way to Ocala. The scale of most of these commercial buildings remains the same as the earlier railroad business area. The two story Turnipseed store has been moved to U.S. 441 from the depot area and Avenue "G" and there are several large packing house structures, one still used in the shipment of oranges while the others are either antiques or feed stores.

### "The North Marion News"

The commercial area contained several pacing houses, Site #7 the Christian Mercantile Store, the hotel Site #9 a two story Band/PO/Masonic Hall, (now the site of a new Post Office) a millinary store, meat store and by the 1920's a last issue of the newspaper was printed in the 1940's, but the printing presses and trays of hand-set type remain as they were used on the day of the final newspaper, waiting to begin publishing again.

### Recreation

While no land was originally designated for public recreation, the developers donated Block 49 for Van Ness Park. A series of gazebos were constructed in this area and finally were permanently replaced by a Civic Center Site #19 constructed of Florida fieldstone in the 1930's as a WPA project. Since most of the houses were built before the park was donated, only two face it: the Norsworthy House (Site #47). The remaining buildings were and are street oriented, and built near the winding roadways.

### The Friends of McIntosh

The last train passed through McIntosh in 1974 and a group of local residents called "The Friends of McIntosh" purchased the depot in 1975, and have restored it. It has become a meeting place and museum for all who are interested in Historic Preservation. In order to raise funds for their restoration projects, the "Friends" hold an "1890 Days" festival each autumn, when colorful costumes, entertainment and crafts displays turn back the clock to the days when spindles and gingerbread adorned each house.



# TOWN OF McINTOSH

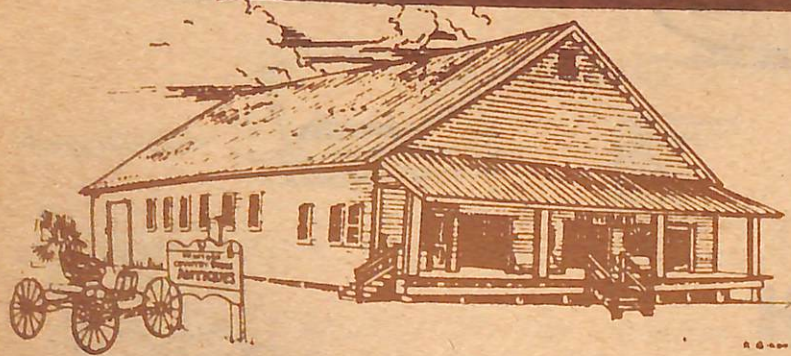
TOWN OF McINTOSH  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
RURAL VICTORIAN TOWN  
OF THE  
FLORIDA SOUTHERN RAILROAD

## LEGEND

- 3 SITE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER
- 65 BLOCK NUMBER
- HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- BUILDINGS
- \*A SCHOOL SITE (ORIGINAL)
- \*B ELECTRIC SITE
- CELLAR

## Boundaries

The McIntosh Historical District includes much of the residential and commercial areas of the original town plan drawn up in 1887 and replatted in 1888.



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*Momma's Little Helpers (left to right) Stoney Sharp, Ben Sharp and Beau Crevasse.*

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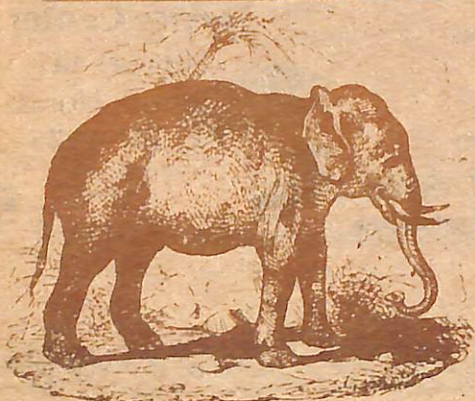
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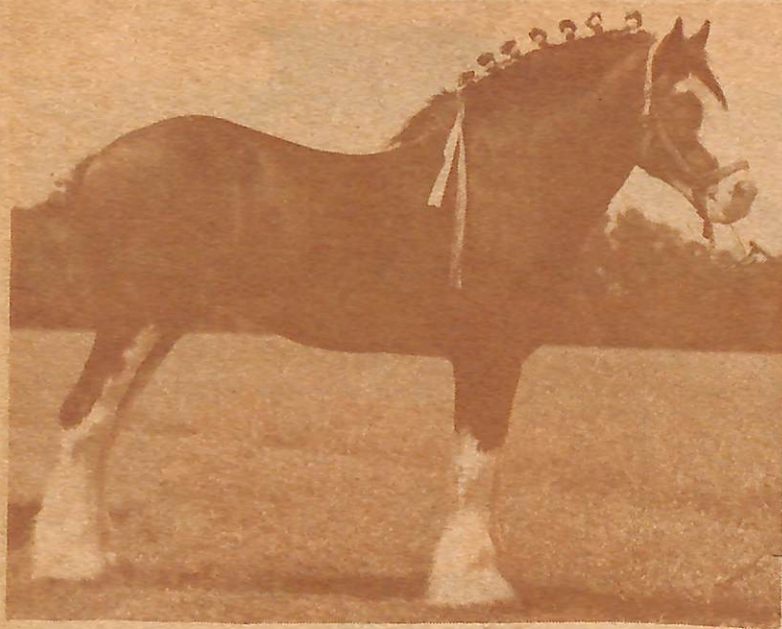


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"Shadrack" — Sr. Herd Sire of The Briar Patch Farm.

### Modern Pioneer

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**Remember when . . .** Ben Sharp is perched in a citrus tree that was destroyed by Christmas Eve Freeze.

## History of the Friends

by Alice Warrington

The preservation and enhancement of the natural and architectural beauty of McIntosh and the promotion of recreational activities in the community was the impetus for a group of people to meet on September 26, 1973 to form an organization to carry out these ends. The idea for such an organization came from citizens, young and old. At the next meeting, with a charter and by-laws written, the club was named the *Friends of McIntosh*, and Dr. E.W. (Ned) Cake was elected the first President.

Charter members were: Sadie Alston, Dottie and Ned Cake, Kay and John Campbell, Betty and Ernie Hopwood, Margie Karow, Susan and Joe Phillips, Katie and Ed Johnson, Bettie McKoone, Mitzie and Robbie Roess, Hester and Roger Stevenson, June and Fred Ward, Alice and Howard Warrington, and Jane and Dan Sharp. Meetings were first held in the Community Center.

The first undertaking was to lease the plot of land next to the Post Office and start the Mini-Park. All met on Saturday to landscape, build a fence and paint. Materials were donated by businesses in Ocala and Gainesville. The little Park was dedicated on October 28, 1973, with a large crowd attending.

When it was learned that the old Depot in town could be had if it was moved off the railroad right-of-way, a string of money-making activities followed: bake sales, dinners and the like. But much more money was needed if this landmark to the town's past was to be saved, much less restored. So the 1890 Festival was originated, with the first being held October 19, 1974, and netting the club \$2,738.96. A lot of effort has gone into the Festivals and the Depot since then as you can see.

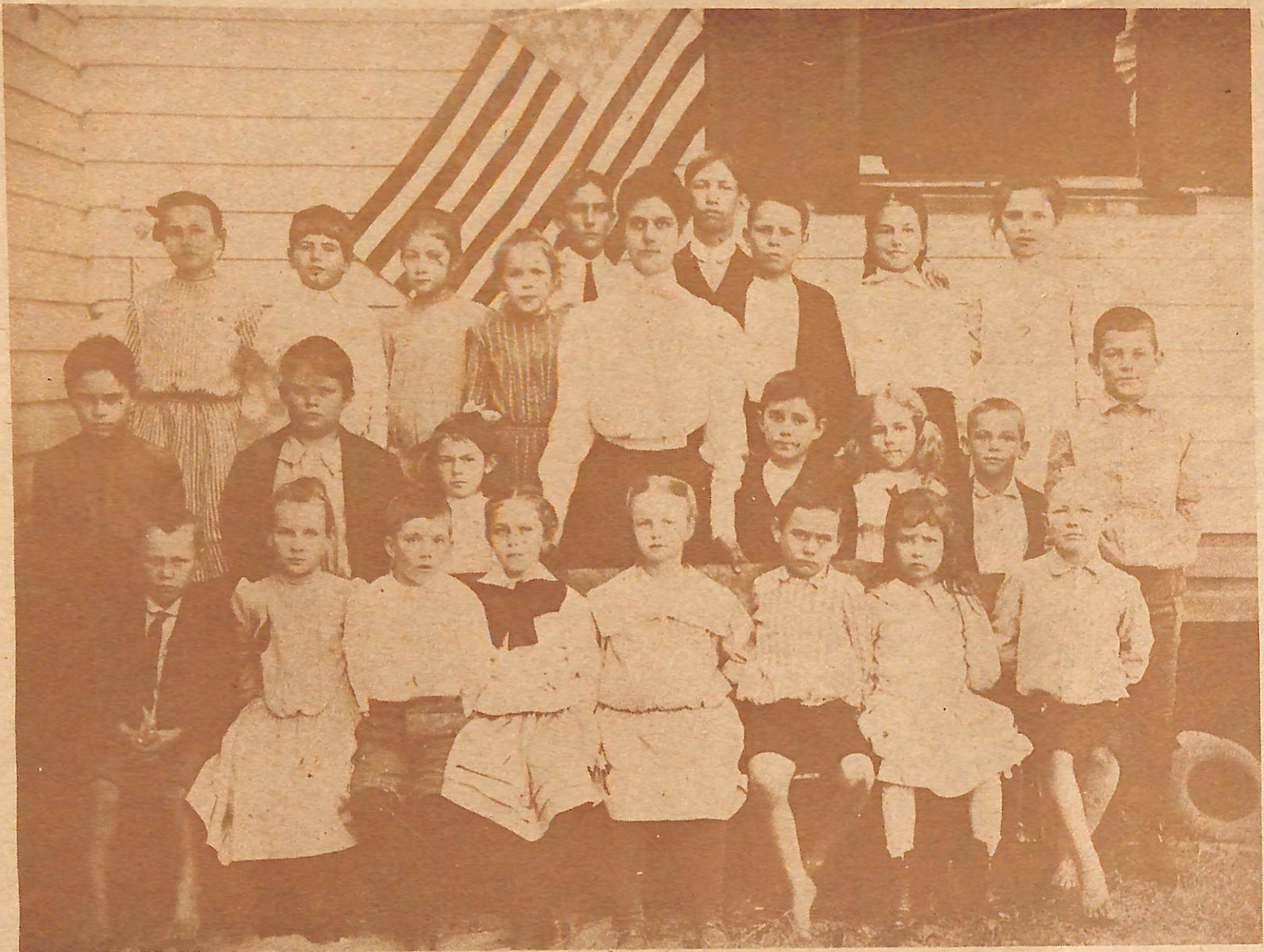


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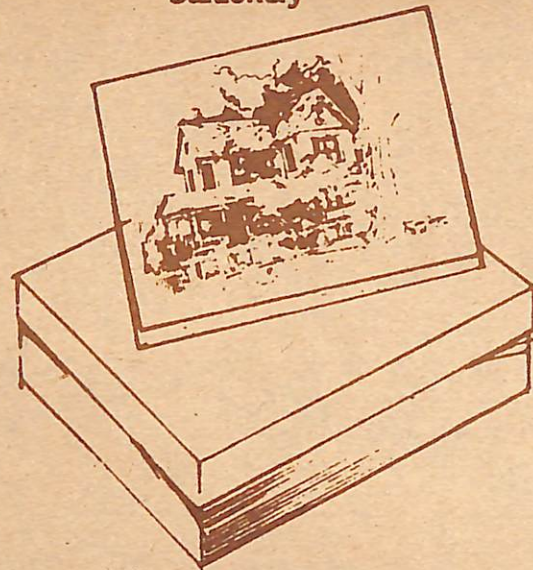
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# map

Parade Ends

## \*\*\* Parade Route

### 1 Tour of Homes & Gardens

- A Ticket Sale
- B Neal-Blinn Home
- C Walkup Home
- D McIntosh Hotel

### 2 Churches

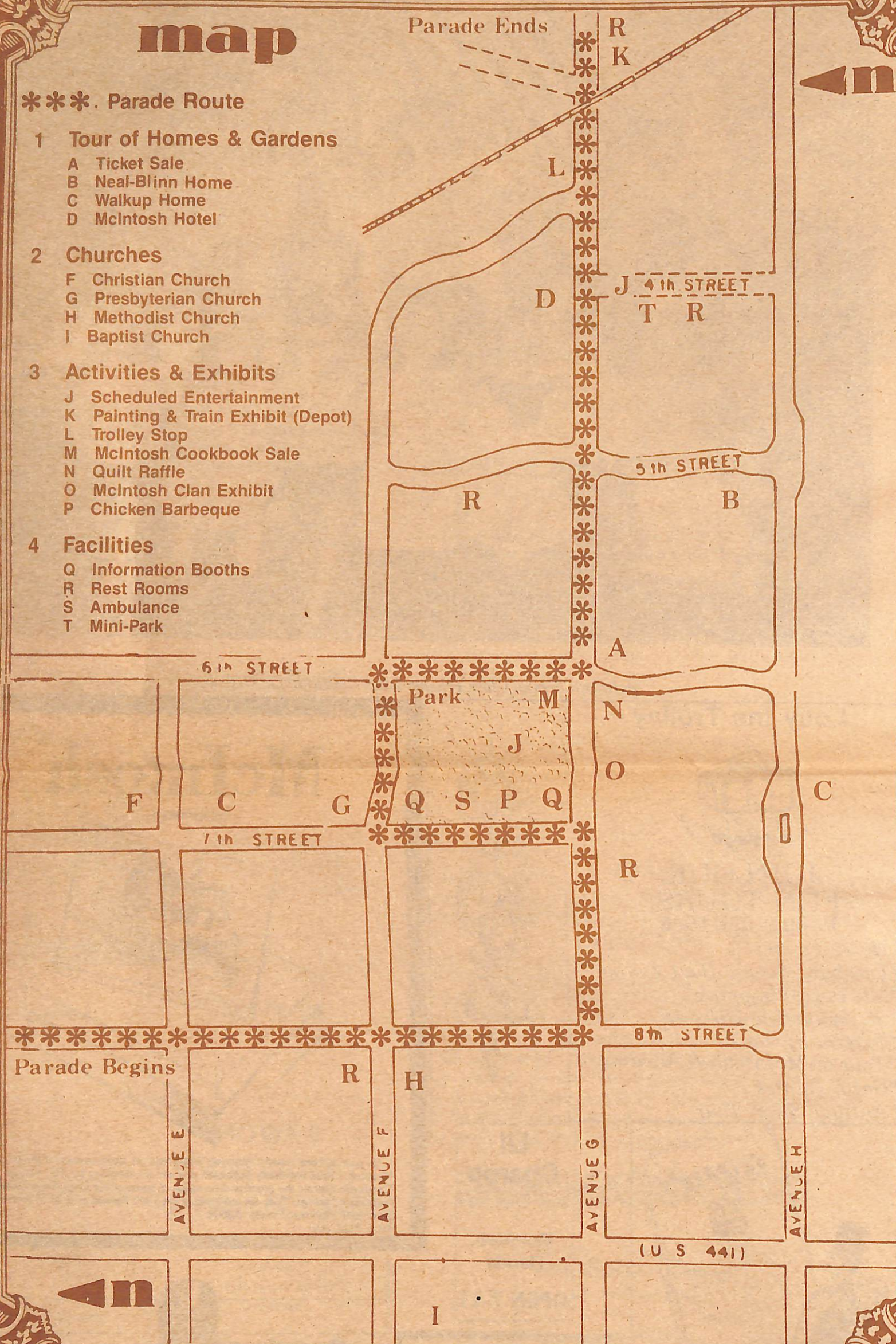
- F Christian Church
- G Presbyterian Church
- H Methodist Church
- I Baptist Church

### 3 Activities & Exhibits

- J Scheduled Entertainment
- K Painting & Train Exhibit (Depot)
- L Trolley Stop
- M McIntosh Cookbook Sale
- N Quilt Raffle
- O McIntosh Clan Exhibit
- P Chicken Barbeque

### 4 Facilities

- Q Information Booths
- R Rest Rooms
- S Ambulance
- T Mini-Park



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