

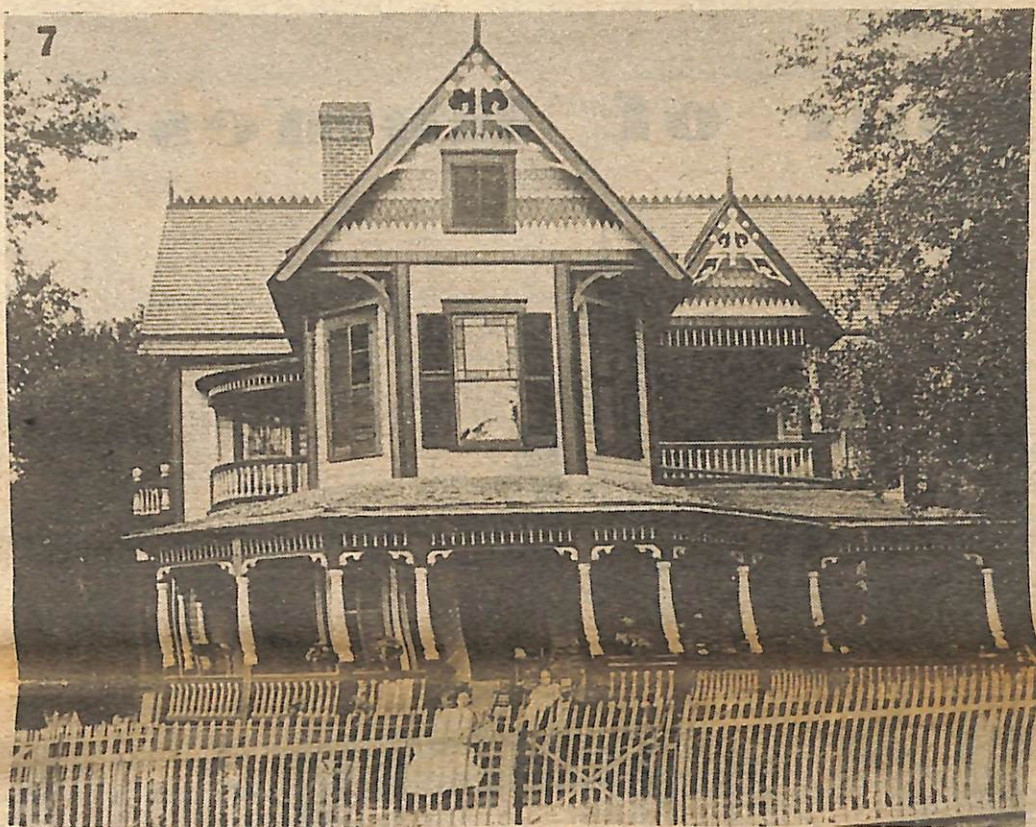
McINTOSH GAZETTE

McIntosh, Florida

"FREE"

OCTOBER 27, 1990

1890's Festival Recalls Bygone Era



It is with great pride that the people of McIntosh welcome you to journey into the past of their Victorian town. A town that is wary of change and strives to preserve its precious history.

The population of about 400 has remained virtually unchanged for nearly 100 years, but the town still flourishes and maintains its original charm and character.

The old homes stand just as resolute as the day they were built, and the people who live in them today are not unlike the people who originally settled McIntosh. They are a hearty stock, drawn to a slower-paced life, strong and enduring like the homes they live in.

McIntosh has become a fine example of restoration and preservation, not only in the state of Florida, but throughout the nation. It was recorded in 1984 on the National Register of Historic Sites.

The town has further sought to preserve its past with a special "Historic District" zoning ordinance.

So we welcome you to walk down the oak covered lanes of McIntosh, and for six enchanted hours, allow the magic of the past to carry you back in time — back to the 1890's.

Left: The olde Price-Dickson Home on Ave. F

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE 1890's FESTIVAL

ENTERTAINMENT CHAIRMAN: Bill "Fingers" Monroe

MASTERS OF CEREMONY: Otis Bogg & Jim French

DIRECTOR OF SING-A-LONG: Mary Junsman

SPECIAL GUESTS: Rev. Larry Reimer . . . Trumpet
Rev. Jim Wells . . . Vibraphone

9:00 A.M. THE RAILROAD GANG: (Sing-A-Long)
Featuring . . . "The Home Boys"
Marty Schuman: Autoharp Champion
"Banjo Joe" Hamilton
"Harmonica Jos" Biondi

9:30 A.M. GAINESVILLE SUZUKI PLAYERS
Featuring: Andrew & David Cook

9:45 A.M. CHRIS WILLIAMS . . . Ragtime Piano
"The Entertainer" . . . "Easy Winners"

10:00 A.M. BILL BAILEY'S GOODTIME BAND
Featuring: Marion Harmony (Barbershop)

11:00 A.M. PARADE

11:20 A.M. WILLISTON HIGH SCHOOL BAND

11:30 A.M. BILL BAILEY'S GOODTIME BAND

12:20 P.M. BARBERGATOR CHORUS
& BARBERSHOP QUARTETS

12:40 P.M. BONNIE & BRIAN . . . 1890s SONG REVIEW

1:00 P.M. MONKEY EXPRESS - at the Depot

1:30 P.M. RUSSELL DANBERG: PIANO
"Dizzy Fingers" & "Nola"

1:45 P.M. ELOISE COUSINS HENDERSON

1:50 P.M. OFFICERS: FRIENDS OF MCINTOSH

2:00 P.M. DEPOT: CAKE CUTTING (BIRTHDAY)
"Stars and Stripes Forever"
United Church of Gainesville

2:00 P.M. BILL BAILEY'S GOOD TIME BAND

2:30 P.M. MITZI ROESS: "Light Opera"

2:45 P.M. MONKEY EXPRESS - at the Depot

3:00 P.M. CROSSROAD SINGERS

3:45 P.M. .. QUILT DRAWING . . . Spons. Friends of McIntosh

4:00 P.M. HONKY TONK TOMMY POWELL

4:00 P.M. RAFFLE: Victorian Basket: Sponsored
by McIntosh Civic League
Flower Basket: Sponsored
by McIntosh Seedlings Garden Club

McINTOSH HOTEL
Cloggers - Sundancers and the Sundance Kids

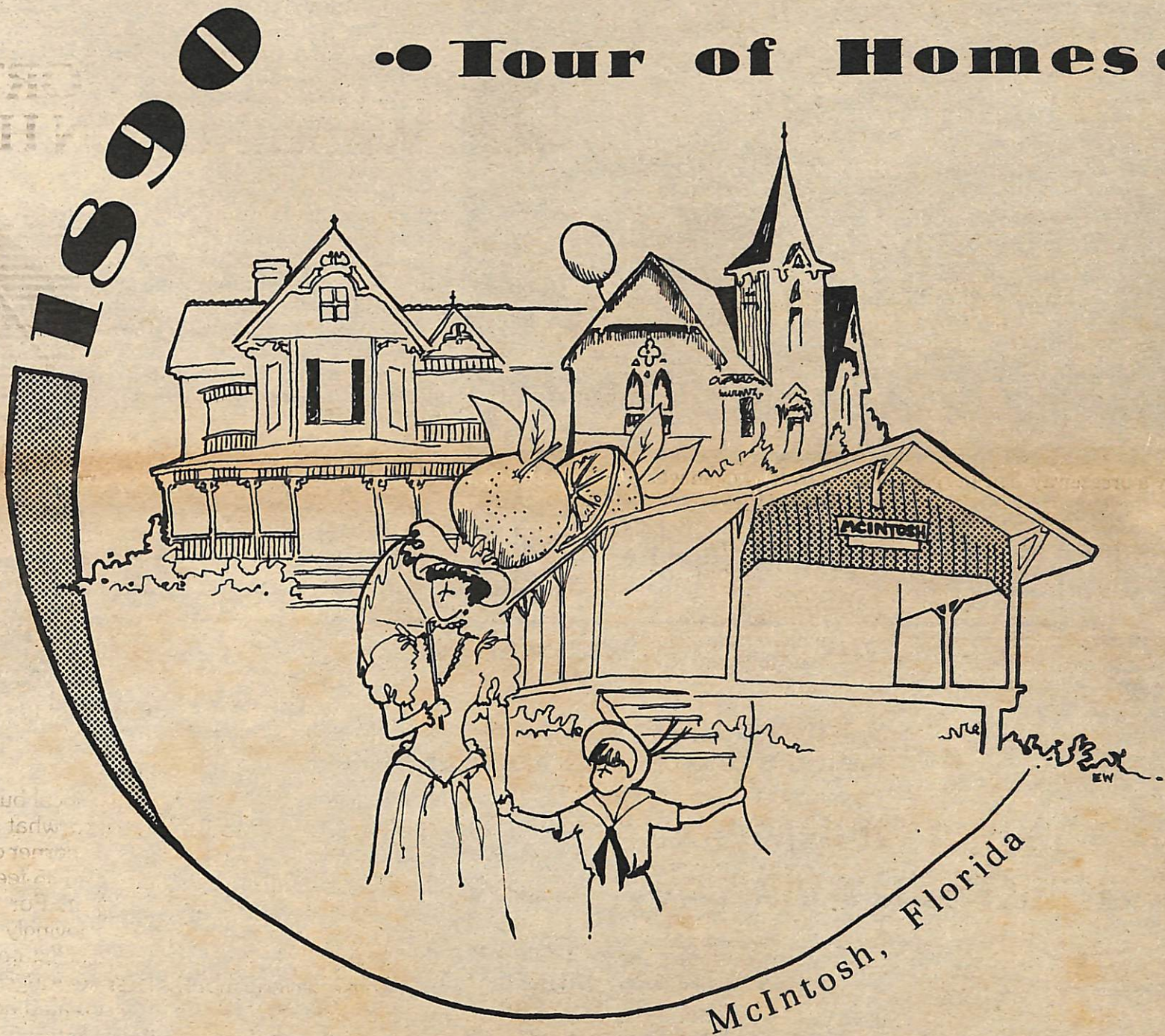
Entertainment in the Mini-Park
All day
Organ Music by:
Sammi Kapocsi

Compliments of
Ocala Piano and Organ, Inc.
Ocala, Florida
(904) 854-8682

MCINTOSH

Festival

•• Tour of Homes ••



Welcome to the 1990 Edition of the Tour of Homes, one of the most popular features of the annual McIntosh 1890s Festival.

On it you will find the McIntosh Hotel, built in the 1890's, the Norsworthy-Washington House built in 1890, and the Thurman Kingsley House which is a Victorian replica built from an old Victorian house plan.

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.

1 THE MCINTOSH HOTEL



Crevasses/Regency Florist, Inc.
Gainesville, Florida
372-3322

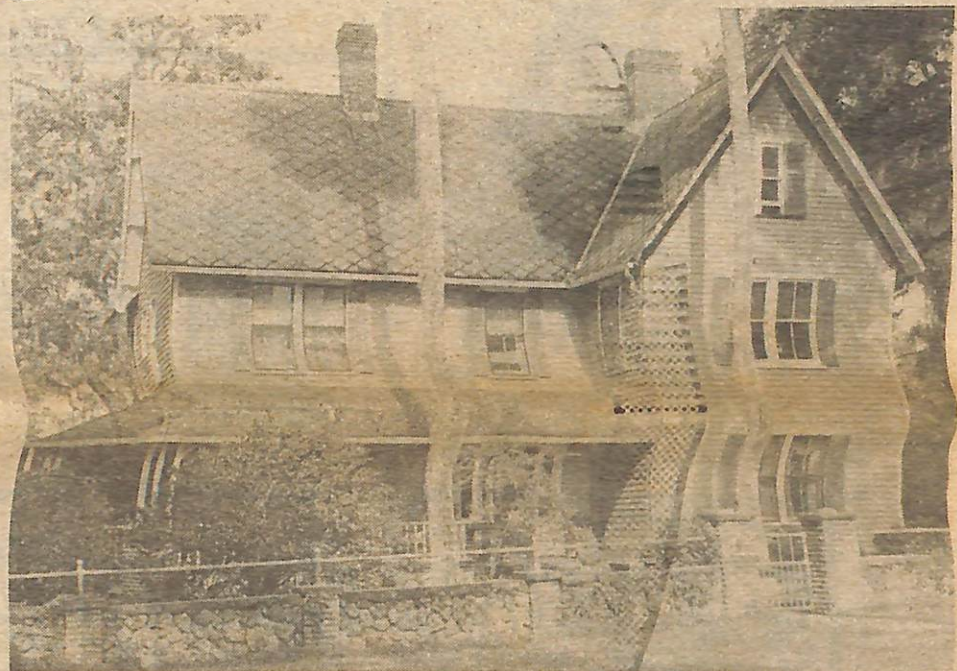
The Norsworthy-Wiedegreen House (1890) is a good example of the old Victorian farmhouse. It was built by William Gist and sold in 1893 to W.G. Norsworthy, a Canadian who came to raise citrus. The family continued to reside in the house for the next 53 years, when it was sold and turned into apartments.

The house is built entirely of pine, probably locally milled. The staircase and mantels are the finest elements in the house, with their beautiful wood graining. There is a total of six fireplaces (which was the original heat source) and the house was lighted by gas through an extensive network of pipes.

The large kitchen was originally connected to the house only by a breezeway. The purpose of a separate kitchen was to spare the house the extra heat from cooking in the summer and also as a measure of fire protection.

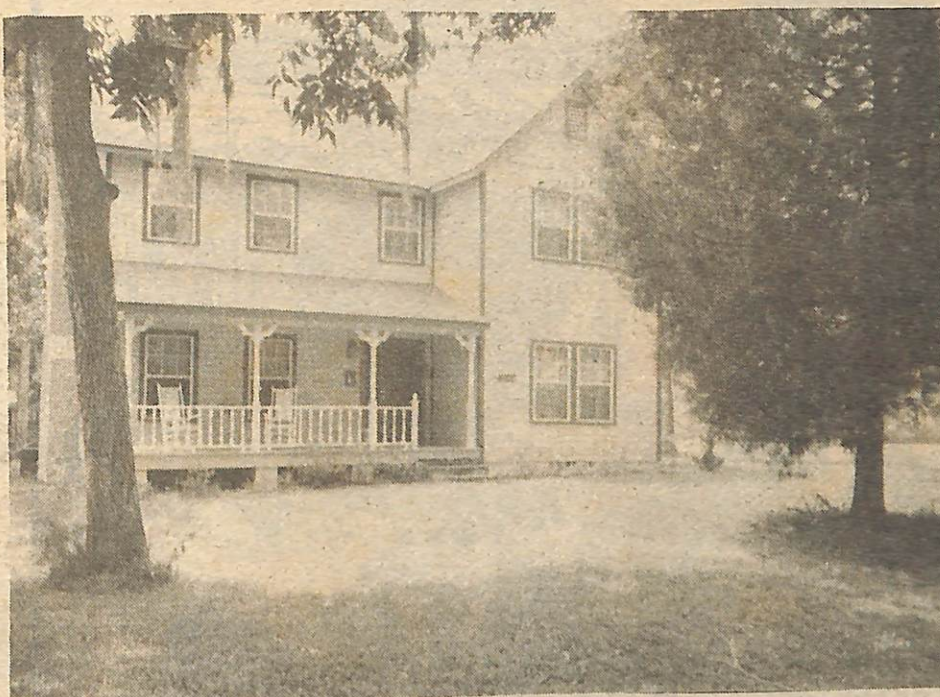
The rock wall is reminiscent of the fact that almost all houses in town once had walls or fences to keep the pigs and cows out of the yard. This wall was built by Mr. Norsworthy's brother, a stone mason, sometime before World War I. Notice the stone bench in the front corner, which was used as a "courting bench" by many young people of McIntosh who are now in their 70's, 80's and 90's!

2 THE NORSWORTHY-WASHINGTON HOUSE



Crevasse's Incorporated
Gainesville, Florida
375-2514

3 THE THURMAN KINGSLEY HOUSE



The Flower Basket - Reddick
591-1998

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."

In 1987 Thurman Kingsley, local building contractor, and his wife Judy, purchased what is known as the "Bateman House" on the S.W. corner of "F" Avenue and 10th Street. They had it moved 35 feet east in order to create a second lot behind it. For the next several months the Kingsley family lovingly restored the old "Bateman House" to its original state. After selling the house, several months later the Kingsleys were ready to begin building on the newly created neighboring lot.

They decided to build a Victorian replica, not only because they like this style of home, but because they felt that it would blend in well with the McIntosh homes of old. In 1988 they broke ground for their new home. This became a family project, with Thurman and his crew building, Judy doing the interior decorating, and daughters, Kimberly and Kelly helping out after school.

This is the first Victorian replica built in McIntosh and the house is located in the Historical District. It was built directly from an old victorian house plan. Exceptions include the half bath and the conversion of the wood storage area to a utility room. A two car garage was also added.

The house features wood floors, fireplace, high ceilings, and wainscoting. The Kingsleys are also proud of their claw-footed bathtub, which they have refinished and installed in the girls' bathroom.

We welcome you to tour this home which many people think is a nice addition to our community.

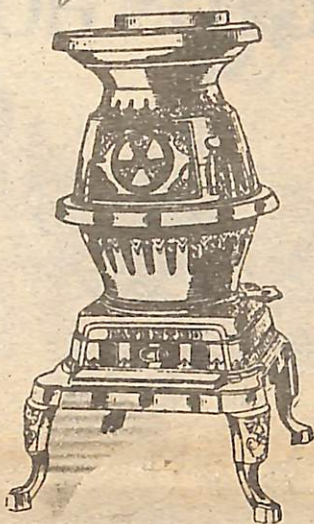


Spoon Bread

by Mabel Pringle Morton

1 c. grits
1 c. uncooked cornmeal
4 eggs
3 tsp. baking powder
½ stick butter
1 c. rich milk

Cook grits, add meal to hot grits. Then add milk, well beaten eggs and baking powder. Pour into greased baking dish and bake about 40 minutes in 375 degree oven.



1890 Festival Cookbook



Fried Green Tomatoes

by Virginia Hatchett

5 medium green tomatoes
1/3 c. flour
¾ tsp. salt
few dashes pepper
¼ c. Crisco

Cut tomatoes into half-inch crosswise slices. Mix flour, salt and pepper. Dip both sides of tomato slices into mixture. Heat shortening in skillet until sizzling hot; put in tomatoes and cook quickly until browned on underside. Turn tomatoes carefully, reduce heat until thoroughly hot and soft through center. Put on a hot platter and serve.

Country Recipes \$5.50
Over 5000 copies sold.
Available at the Cookbook Booth

or write:

Cookbook
P.O. Box 1890
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Add \$.90
for
postage and handling.



Remember When?

Miss Lois Dickson defended the Post Office versus Home Delivery: "For us old-timers, going to the Post Office - that's how we do our 'Howdyin', and find out what everyone

Belk Lindsey

Best wishes on your 1890's festival

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Ocala

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Gainesville

Gainesville
Shopping Center
Gainesville



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Best wishes on your 1890's festival

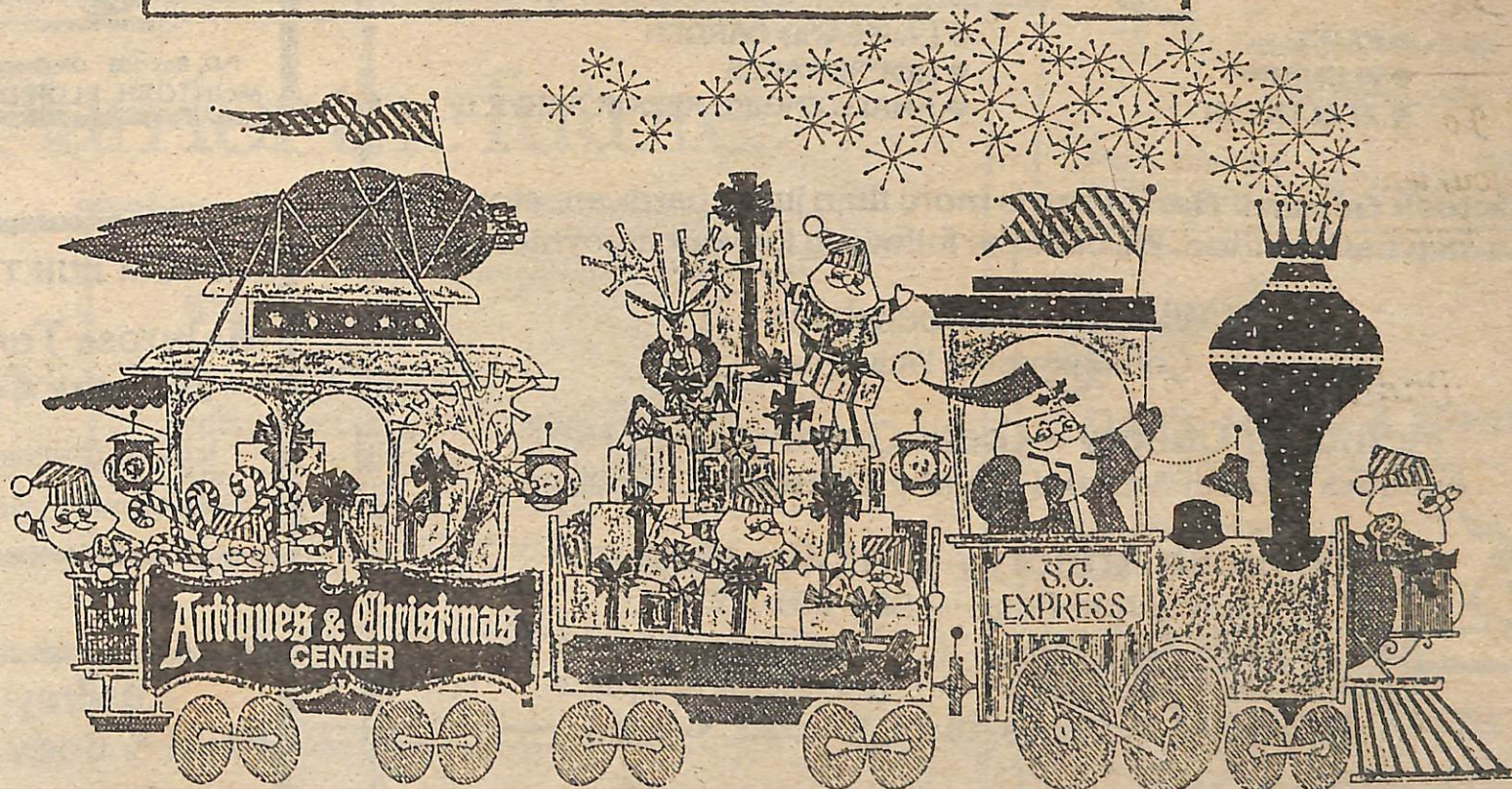
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EARLY LIONEL TRAINS

Examples of the first Lionel trains will be displayed today at the old depot during the McIntosh 1890 festival.

Lionel started making trains in 1901, with a self-propelled gondola car that stores used for window displays. By 1905, a locomotive, a crane, a crew car, and a trolley car were added. These ran on thin metal rails, set 2 7/8 inches apart in wooden ties.

All of these 2 7/8 inch cars will be operating in the McIntosh depot. They are full-scale reproductions, made by James L. Cohen of Connecticut and Robert McCoy of Kent, Washington.

From 1905 to World War II, Lionel 2 1/8 inch three rail track was the "standard guage" for toy electric trains. The McIntosh display will include a freight train in this size, such as Lionel made in 1910-11.

These early toy trains are being shown today by Nelson G. Williams, a labor lawyer and retired teacher living in Floral City. His first Lionel train was a 1937 Christmas present that he still runs on his home layout.

Mr. Williams once visited the McIntosh depot over 30 years ago, when his daughter's kindergarten class took a train ride from Gainesville to McIntosh as a field trip.

He won a plaque for his Best of 1989 displays at the Southern Division, Train Collectors Association, and wrote several articles for the national magazine of the American Flyer Collectors Club. He is vice president of the Citrus Model Railroad Club.

A PASSION FOR DOLLS

Although she didn't have many dolls as a child Shirley Sparks-Klohs always loved them, and that is why later in life she lavished her two daughters with the prettiest dolls on the market.

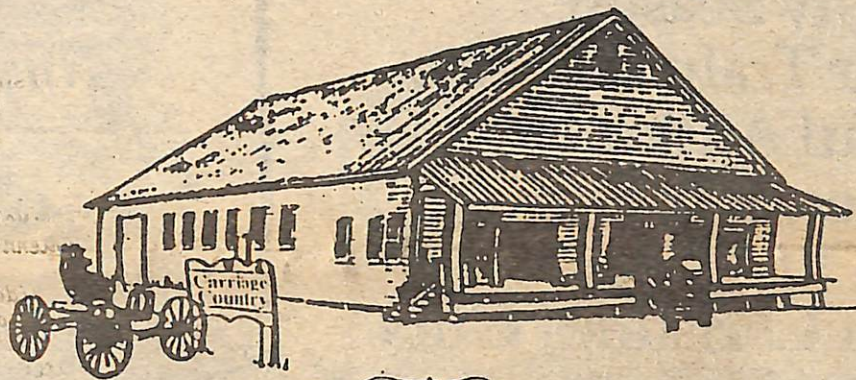
After her children were grown, she realized that her love for dolls hadn't waned, so her doll buying remained a great interest.

In 1975, she opened a doll shop in Stuart, Florida, specializing in antique dolls, repairing and costuming. She did lecturing and doll shows until she semi-retired in 1988 and moved to Ocala.

The doll interest was so great that she formed the "Treasure Coast Doll Club", and later the "Doll Study Club of Stuart", for all of the doll collectors in that area.

Since moving to Ocala, two years ago, she has formed and is president of "Kingdom of the Sun Doll Club". Which presently is very busy planning for the largest doll show ever to be given in Ocala, January 26, 1991 at the City Auditorium.

When not busy with her dolls, she belongs to the Hills and Lakes Doll Club of Mt. Dora, the Yacht and Boat Club, the Pioneer Garden Club, and is a member of Marion Harmony.



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Jerome Feaster, Proprietor

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Bill Cordrey
Owner

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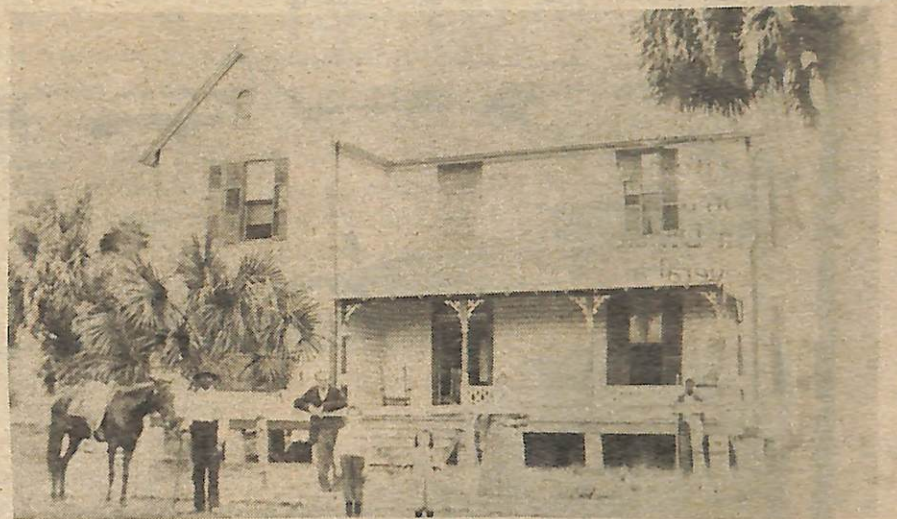
Victuals & Delectibles

BBQ Chicken Dinners in the Park

- Hamburgers
- Sausage Sandwiches
- Corn on the Cob
- Hot Dogs
- Funnel Cakes
- Cookie Factory
- Boiled Peanuts
- Popcorn
- Ice Cream
- Snow Cones
- Fresh Lemonade
- Sodas
- Fresh Baked Breads
- Homemade Deserts and Pastries



This is the Neal-Blinn House today and . . .



the way it looked in the 1890's. The Neal family stands in front.

THURMAN G. KINGSLEY BUILDER

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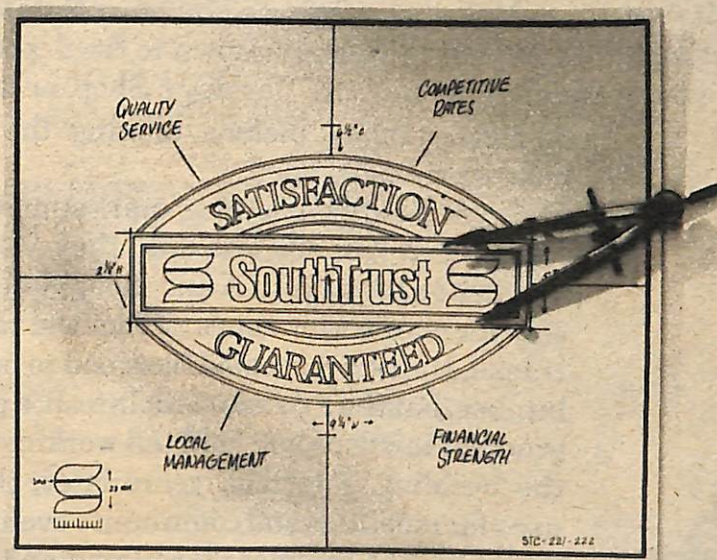
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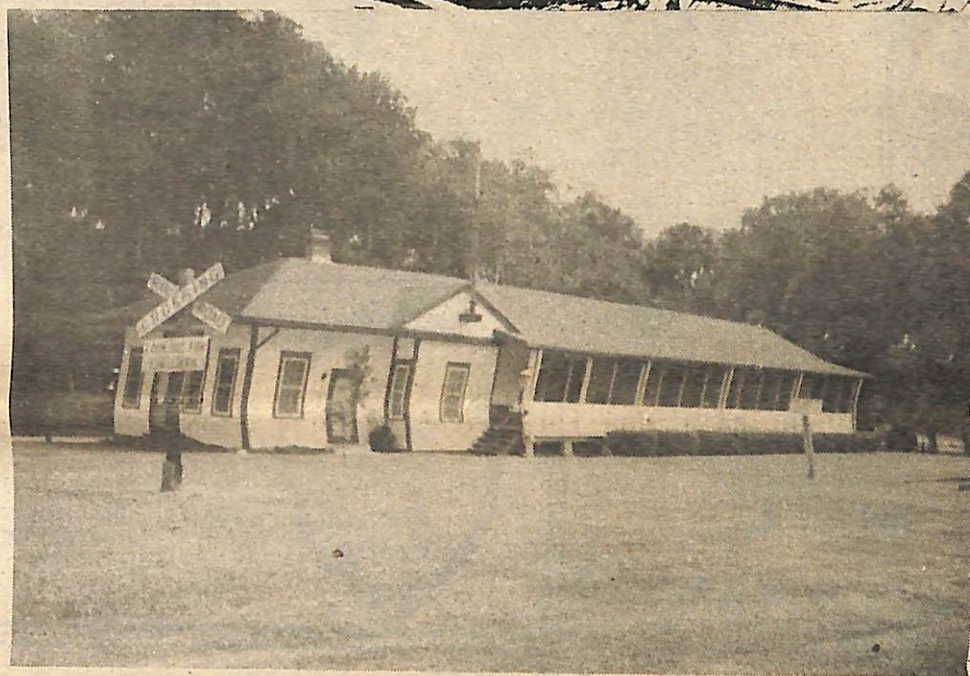
Member FDIC

RESTORED DEPOT



Remember When?

Locomotives came to McIntosh four times a day. They'd thunder in, airbrakes hissing and squealing, the big engines slowing at the depot just as old Charlie got the last of Mrs. Burry's cows off the tracks...

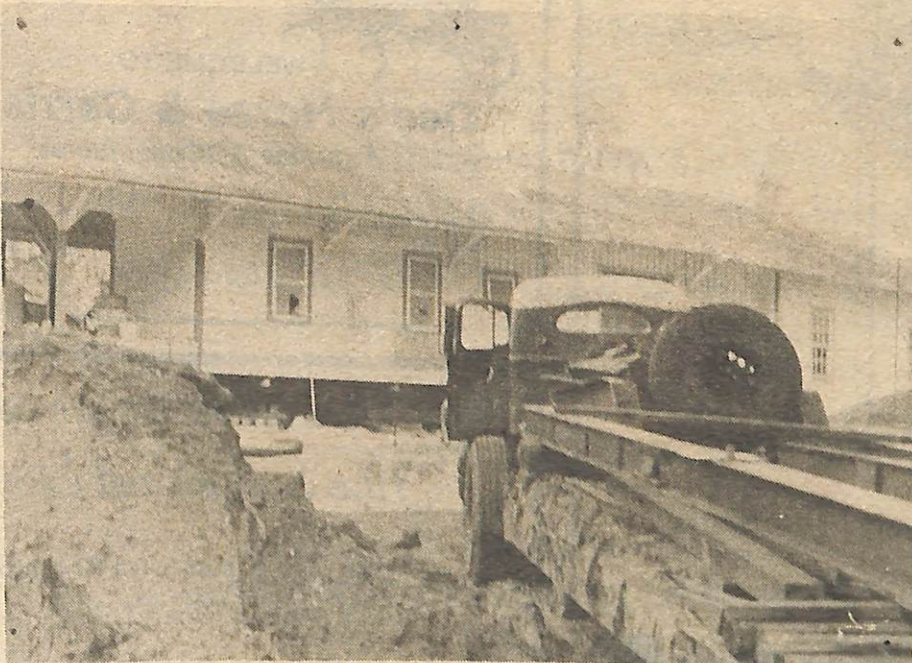


The town of McIntosh didn't amount to much until Mr. Flagler's railroad came along in 1882. When the depot got built a year or two later, things started happening: Word spread that Marion County was the land where dreams turned to gold with a little water and some hoeing now and then. Northern families packed children and belongings on the iron horses and travelled the gleaming steel road down to the good life and an orange grove of their own.

There was a time when children skipped over the wide planks of the depot loading ramp singing of the "puffin' billie" due to arrive any moment. They'd hear her thundering way down in Orange Lake, feel her rumbling up the narrow guage track, and see her come big as lightning right through Mr. Brown's cornfield. Just about everyone made haste to the depot. After all, more than mail came four times a day to McIntosh: The wood burning Baldwins carried a steady flow of northerners during the winter months to fish and duckhunt on the lake. So down to the depot folks hurried to see who was coming to town - or buy a paper, or rave over the latest hats in Artie Barkley's Shop, or wager on the chances

of Norsworthy's melons making the New York market before prices dropped.

After the vegetable market moved down south, the trains came less and less until they no longer stopped at all. The depot sat forgotten and delapidated, a sad reminder to oldtimers of better times. When the railroad picked up its tracks, the depot seemed destined to become a pile of scrap lumber, but the Friends of McIntosh, a preservation-minded group of townspeople, started working to move and restore the building. Fourteen years later, the restored depot is used for meetings and community events. Current plans are under way to complete a railroad and Florida history museum. Proceeds from the 1890's Festival are used by the Friends to maintain and enhance historic sites and green-space for the town of McIntosh.



M.K.R.

S HISTORIC PAST

By Frances DeVore

Marion County is steeped in the richest, most exciting history, documented from earliest prehistoric times. Over the years, from the time the Sixteenth Century Spaniards criss-crossed its land and rivers until the present day, the county and its economic and cultural life have many times been the stuff dreams are made of.

Yet with a single-mindedness hard to fathom, these citizens, who should have been proudly preserving their physical heritage, have torn down or neglected to rubble that which people in others would have given much to have had in their midst.

An exception to this peculiar phenomenon is the dedicated little group called The Friends of McIntosh. Many are comparative newcomers to the picturesque little north Marion town with its wide, shaded streets and lovely Victorian homes which are not monuments but places where people live and care for them. Some members do not even live in McIntosh but they, too, care for a gracious way of life that has vanished and believe in honoring its memory.

It seems incredible that about 35 stubborn, hardworking people have successfully tackled what, at times, seemed insurmountable odds, and won, right down to the present time when they were able to save a portion of the track and ties as the abandoned Seaboard Coast Line Railroad line was suddenly being taken up before their eyes. Someday, they hope, there will be a caboose, Pullman car or perhaps an engine to put on the track and complete the picture.

While the old station was a gift, it had to be moved off the railroad right-of-way and years of neglect had turned the now trim little building into a dilapidated eyesore.

But the Friends were determined and they found ways to make money and a good friend, Colin Lindsey, one of McIntosh's most illustrious former residents, was always there when they asked for help in negotiating loans or other needs.

The biggest fund-raiser, and the most fun, is the annual McIntosh 1890s Festival, when thousands of people from all ways of life, walk the streets of the town, tour old homes and the Victorian churches on display, take pictures of Friends and their families strolling in Victorian costumes, buy foods, crafts and antiques and watch outdoor entertainment that ranges from the stirring, kilted bagpipe band to a fresco classic ballet.

But I don't have to tell you that; you are here to see, photograph and remember and I hope to applaud what these people have done not only to preserve the past but to allow us to participate in it.

Winter vegetables headed for the northern markets.



DEPOT EVENTS

EARLY MODEL TRAINS Shown by:
Nelson G. Williams, a Labor
Lawyer and retired teacher
living in Floral City, Florida

DOLLS By: Shirley Sparks-Klohs, Founder and
President of "Kingdom of the Sun Doll Club"

CHILDREN'S STORY
TELLING AND FACE
PAINTING By: Dick & Marge Pierson

ALL OF THESE EVENTS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC,
WE URGE YOU TO VISIT THE OLD RAILROAD
DEPOT AND STEP BACK INTO TIME.

THE DEPOT DECK

HANDMADE QUILTS
AND QUILT RELATED ITEMS By: Linda Smith
Maxine Provost
Susan Snyder
Monika NeSmith

DISPLAY OF VICTORIAN
COSTUMES By: Sharon Taylor of Ocala



SCENE AT RAILWAY STATION

The Friends Of McIntosh

The Annual 1890's Festival is sponsored by *The Friends of McIntosh, Inc.*, a nonprofit, benevolent organization dedicated to the following purposes:

- to preserve and enhance the natural and historic beauty of McIntosh.
- to promote and sponsor cultural and recreational activities.
- to assist the town of McIntosh and its people, especially the senior citizens.
- to encourage friendship, community spirit, and understanding among people of all ages in our town.

Many hours are spent planning the annual 1890's Festival. Special thanks to all those who work so diligently to make this day a success. Since its inception fourteen years ago, Festival attendance has grown from 4000 to over 22,000. The money raised from this event has been used to purchase, move, and restore the historic depot, and build the Mini-Park. Beautification projects have included the addition of picket fences and Victorian-style street lamps around Van Ness Park. Last Arbor Day, members planted 144 dogwoods and oak trees. The group contributes to such worthwhile organizations as the Cub Scouts, Brownies, and Girl Scouts, the Salvation Army, and the local Emergency Assistance fund. A scholarship program has also been established. Future projects under discussion include a gazebo in the park, a historic museum, and library.

Membership is open to anyone who is interested in the town and its people. Membership is \$6.00 per annum, but there is no fee for senior citizens who wish to participate. Meetings are held monthly in the Depot and guests are welcome.

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 Johnston
Betty McKoone
Mitzi and Robbie Roess
Hester and Roger Stevenson
June and Fred Ward
*Alice and Howard
Warrington
Jane and Dan Sharp
*Deceased

"THANK-YOU"

Special thanks go to our Friends of McIntosh Club Members and the People who are non-members that have worked so diligently to make this Festival a success. Also to my Family.

Without your help and support it could not have happened.

Your President, 1990
Jean Willis

Thank-You . . . Patti and Bob Thayer

WANTED

Donations of Railroad Memorabilia for the Depot Museum. Write Friends of McIntosh, Inc. P.O. Box 1890 McIntosh, Florida 32664

JERRY & BRENDA HARRIS

JED MODESITT

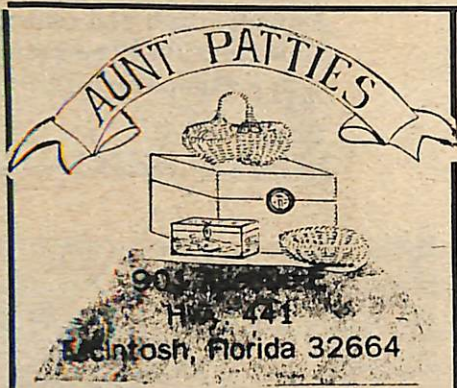
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The Entertainers

Bill Bailey's Original Goodtime Band

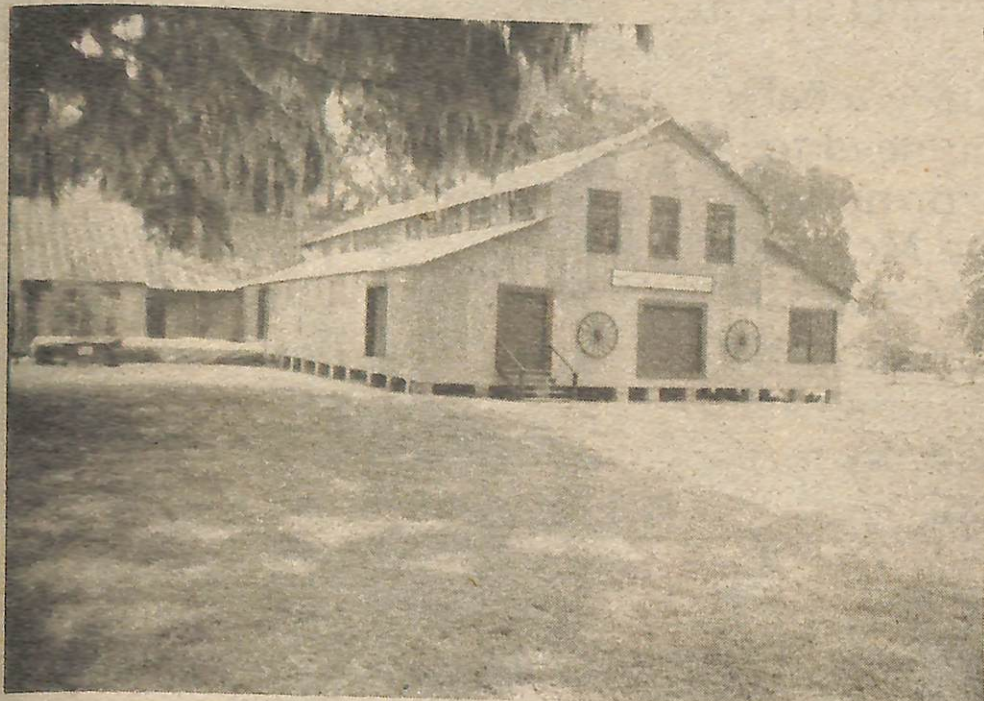


George Emmanuel - Banjo/Trombones
Larry Hunzaker - Tuba
Moses Lord - Clarinet/Sax
Cal Miller - Cornet
Bill "fingers" Monroe - Piano
Tom Paolini - Drums
Bob "Doc" Woodruff - Trumpet

Guests

Rev. Larry Reimer - Trumpet
Rev. Jim Wells - Vibraphone

904- 378-1961



THE ART WAREHOUSE

In the 1920's and 1930's the J.K. Christian Warehouse was used to store merchandise for his mercantile store in McIntosh. Later, since situated along the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, fruits and vegetables were shipped from the warehouse to many marketplaces. Since those early years it has been used for many purposes from storage to the manufacture of boat trailers.

To preserve the warehouse as part of McIntosh's heritage it was purchased in 1987 from Jack and Peggy Steele by the Friends of McIntosh. In the past year, in an effort to restore the building to some of its previous charm, a considerable amount of repairs and restoration has been done to the windows, floors, roof, walls and doors by Barney Gardiner with the help of Walter Crupp. These days the warehouse is being used by Mr. Gardiner to house his many antique carriages.

Today, during the festival, many artists are displaying their work in the warehouse. Please stop by and see the warehouse, the antique buggies and the paintings and other artwork on display.

Artists located in Warehouse today ... Gail Charcholla
Faye Siler

Carl & Carol Oreminko

David A. Magariner

Kay Campbell

Paul D. Bishop

Sarah E. Berger

Tommy R. Bragg

Patsy's Prints (Patsy Moore)

Beverly Koehler Barnett

Pam Broyles

Randy Parry



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WRITE: P.O. BOX 1890, MCINTOSH, FL 32664



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McIntosh, Florida
Highway 441

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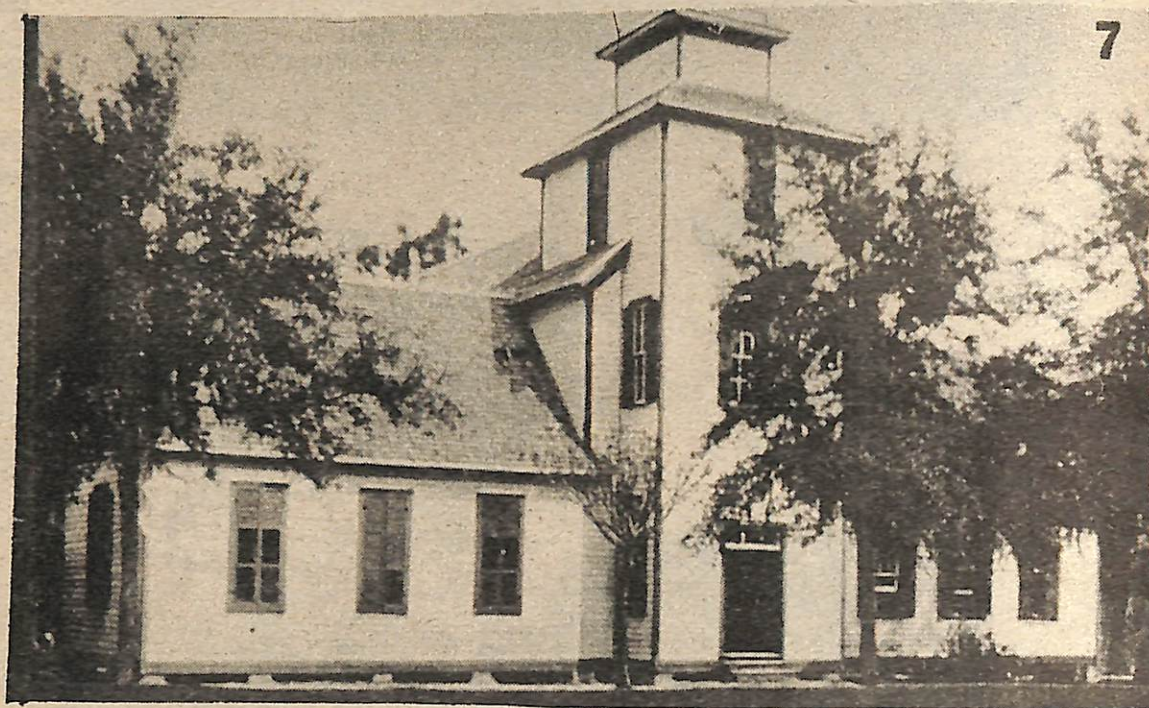
Robbie and Mitzi Roess on horseback under a canopy of live oaks.

"Baby changing station"

if you have a baby that you need to change or nurse, then the McIntosh United Methodist Church is the place for you. See map on page 16 for location.



Picknicking on Orange Lake at the turn of the century



The McIntosh School was planned to meet the growing needs of the community and surrounding areas. The building was erected in 1927 (on the east side of 441 close to the present doctor's offices) during the Florida boom days to accommodate a twelve grade school.

HARVEST VILLAGE

* 1883 *

A Turn-of-the-Century Antiques Village
Set in the Hills of North Marion County

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10,000 sq. feet of antiques, collectibles, auction, and entertainment facilities

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Every Saturday Night
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During November
Fall Railroad Show * * Hertz Auto Sale

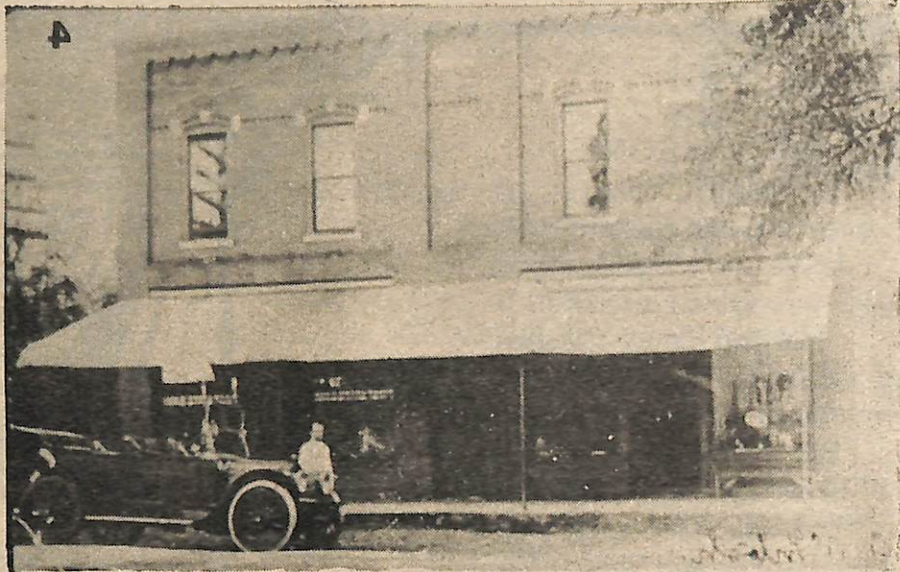
NEW!! THE COTTAGE CAFE
Good Country Food with a Brazilian touch!
Midway between Ocala & Gainesville
On U.S. Highway 441-1 mi. no. of Mc Intosh
(I-75, Irvine Exit to U.S. 441, north 4 mi.; Micanopy Exit to U.S. 441, South 5 miles)

Call Mitzi Roess, 904-591-1053, 591-1000, 372-6607
P.O. Box 649, Mc Intosh, Fla. 32664

OPEN TUESDAY thru SUNDAY 10 to 5
CLOSED MONDAY



Ernie Hopwood is a McIntosh resident who was born in Scotland. He is the standard bearer for the McIntosh 1890's Day Parade.



This building that once stood in McIntosh housed the Turnipseed store on the left and the McIntosh Bank on the right. Mr. E.L. Price stands in front.



This tree was written up in Ripley's Believe It or Not. McIntosh Hotel is in the background.

VIDEO *Plus*

North Hwy. 441
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591-3217

Hwy. 200-A
in Anthony
368-1732

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Sliced Pork
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We are located at I-75 and 318,
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PATRONS

Reed Baker
Elizabeth and Richard Beilock
Jessie and Virgil Braddock
Glen Fiorello
Hal and Elanor Gibson
Jack and Virginia Hatchett
Jim and Corrine Heidt
Bill and James Hopwood
Ernie and Betty Hopwood
Hap Hopwood
John, Pauline and Belinda Kimball
Irene Lewandowski
Betty McKoone
William and Ida Parker
Lawarence and Sharon Perry and Family
Ross and Chris Rath
Helen Schorfhaar
Seedlings Garden Club
Jane, Stoney and Ben Sharp
Count Dracula & Kaizer
Jack and Peggy Steele
Dr. and Mrs. Glenn Summerlin
Dottie Sims, Ray, John & David Washington
Greg and Laurie Willis
Jim and Jean Willis
Eddie Wojcik

OPEN TODAY
Baptist Church
Christian Church
Methodist Church
Presbyterian Church
McIntosh Depot

Nowhere are the nights more made for sleep than beneath the starry skies of McIntosh, where even a passing train in the wee-sma' hours fails to disturb, and the far hoot of an owl or the complaint of a whip poor-will seems but a figment of a sylvan dream..

April 14, 1939 L. M. H.

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Very Contagious To Adults

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EXTRANEAL CORNABLE AS TO BEET OR SUGAR (BUTTER) A HOME MADE QUILT AND RELAXATION. PATIENT HAS NO APPROPRIATE EXPRESSION. SOME TIMES DEAR TO SCOURGE AND KIDS. HAS NO TASTE FOR ELECTRIC BLANKETS. HANDS OUT AT ALL KINDS OF QUILTING BEES. UNABLE TO SELL UNPOURD BEDDING. BIDS. "POSTAGE STAMPS" "MADE IN FLA." "CRAZY QUILT"

NO KNOWN CURE

TREATMENT —

RECEIVING PATIENTS. THIS DISEASE IS NOT FATAL. VICTIMS SHOULD BE TREATED AS HAIL. CALLS. THIS DISEASE IS NOT FATAL. VICTIMS SHOULD BE TREATED AS HAIL. CALLS.

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HISTORY OF MCINTOSH

Marion County, Florida
By Mrs. W. M. Gist

Taken from the North Marion News February 26, 1932



From a diary (1831) kept by George Houston, a government engineer, who was an early settler of Marion County, we learn that one man, a Mr. McIntosh, who came from Georgia, "squatted here and made sugar along the branch"; the old sugar house stood about where O. D. Huff now lives. Mr. McIntosh had a residence just north of town, on what is now known as "The Belk Place."

Tradition tells us this story of Mr. McIntosh: At one time he worked in Palatka, sixty miles away, just coming home for the weekend, Mrs. McIntosh and baby left alone, except for a little Indian girl, who was so much attached to them, that on several occasions she saved them from the Indians, by letting them know in time to defend themselves.

Our Town then was an old field; corn and cotton were raised; the labor-slaves would feed their mules and eat their lunch under the big oak trees, in which is now our Park. This may give you some idea of the age of these trees.

Enough wild orange trees were hauled away from here to set out groves in Micanopy and various other places.

A wire road ran through here, over which a coach carried mail from Gainesville to Tampa.

At a sale held in St. Augustine, Florida, in 1830, Nehemiah Brush bought, from the Arradonda Grant, four thousand acres of land. Colonel Charles Brush, a son of Nehemiah, had a sister who married Eugene Van Ness. At the death of Brush, the Van Ness children inherited all of his estate.

The early purchasers of land here were: Dr. Perry Burgin, who came in 1882, J. K. Christian in 1883, S. H. Gaitskill and W. M. Gist in 1884. At that time there was no Railroad connection out of Jacksonville. These early settlers came by boat up the St. John's river to Palatka, there took the narrow-gauge Florida Southern Railroad to make connection with western travel.

When a Company seeking to secure the right-of-way for this Railroad, the Brush heirs agreed to donate the required amount through several sections of land; provided, the Company would establish and maintain a depot at McIntosh old field. When time required one, they had to look up the contract the Company had given, to secure proof of their promise. This road was built in 1883. At first the citizens put up a little shed for protection; later a depot was built.

In the late eighties and early nineties, a flat-bottomed boat that drew about four feet of water, carried vegetables, especially tomatoes, from here across Lakes Orange and Lochloosa, to Island Grove, for transportation over the Seaboard Railroad. This boat was used for pleasure, as well as for carrying vegetables.

S. H. Gaitskill and W. M. Gist built the first house in McIntosh.

The original plat of McIntosh was surveyed May, 1885, for the heirs of Nehemiah Brush, by W. C. Miller, C. E., assisted by J. K. Christian and W. M. Gist. This plat comprised N- $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 16, and E- $\frac{1}{2}$ of E- $\frac{1}{2}$ of N.E.- $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 17, Township 12, Range 21, East.

In 1883 and later other citizens moved here, . . . W. E. Allen, John Walker, J. S. Neal, J. S. Thomas, H. L. Dickson, W. G. Norsworthy, McCormick Neal coming through from Georgia in a covered wagon, bringing a few cattle with him. After arriving here in the evening, he instructed his man to pull down "hay" (moss) to feed the cattle.

Smith Brothers opened the first store here. They sold out to Gaitskill & Allen. This firm soon sold to W. M. Gist. He could not stand for handing over the counter a "short", which meant a nickle's worth of crackers; a "long", which meant a nickles worth of crackers and cheese. After a few days ownership, he sold to J. K.

Christian. On that same site, though once destroyed by fire, you will still find Christian's Store.

Dr. Henry Walkup was a pioneer settler, but did not live in McIntosh until its later history, when he settled here and opened a first class drug store.

W. E. Allen was our first Postmaster; from that early date to the present our Post Office has grown; it now has a census of more than 725.

In 1889, Y. J. Petteys moved his Veneer Mill here from Orange County, because there was a demand for hardwood orange box sides, only pine could be gotten in Orange County. Previous to this, orange box sides were shipped here by water, from Bangor, Maine; the pine wood did not compete business. A steam dry kiln and artificial dryer were installed. Experience taught the best way to dry this timber was by air. Mr. Petteys obtained a patent to dry by air. This solved the question of the best way to handle wood in this country. After two years this Mill was moved west of McIntosh.

In about 1876 a little log school house was built where the negro church now stands. Our first school house was built in 1889. Pupils enrolled, about twelve. As years advanced this became a Senior High School.

The first Sunday School was held under a beautiful oak tree in our Park. Mr. and Mrs. McCormick Neal would gather the children around them, to teach them the Bible and to sing hymns.

In the spring of 1895 the Methodist church, drawn by one mule, was moved 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles through the country here. All denominations worshipped in this building, until the Baptist church was erected, then the Christian, and the Presbyterian.

Through the efforts of our citizens we could boast of a swimming pool in 1897; here men, women and children spent their time and learned to swim; but let me tell you a secret: - If you women want to swim, and live in peace with your husbands, get someone else to teach you to swim, or you'll be subjects for a cartoonist.

By an Act of Legislature of 1913, the Town of McIntosh was incorporated. The territorial boundaries were enlarged at that time. (See Charter)

By appointment the first town officials were: S. B. Robinson, Mayor; J. K. Christian, W. R. Brown and S. H. Walkup, Counsilmen. The first Ordinance was passed May 27, 1913, and Rules and By-laws governing the Council were adopted at that first meeting. The first general election was held November 4, 1913.

And so the History of McIntosh goes on with its progression. We now have the First State Bank, Western Union and Postal Telegraph service, telephone systems, Ice & Storage plant, concrete block factory, an up-to-date school building, town water and lights, a portion of streets paved — others well graded, fruit and vegetable packing houses, etc.

Forty years ago we could not boast of a Civic League, but we did have leaders and willing workers. At the suggestion of Mrs. S. H. Gaitskill, and under her direction, a "Mother Goose" entertainment, followed by an oyster supper, was held in the Arradonda Packing House (which has since been burned and a smaller one built). Enough money was secured to build the Pavillion which has so recently been repaired.

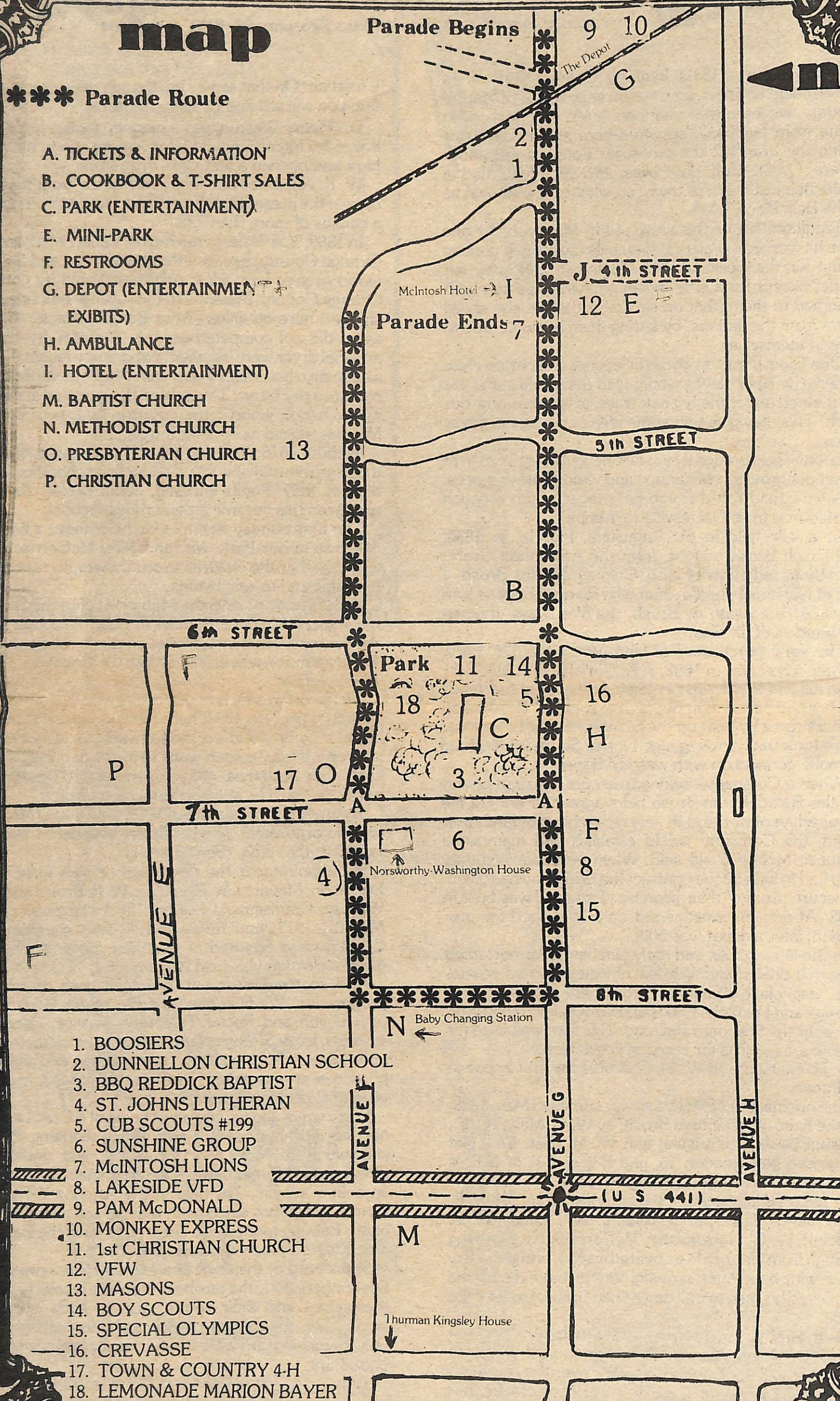
Sponsored by the Civic League, which was organized September, 1931, the business men as a whole, giving of themselves and their wares, and to each individual service, we, the citizens of McIntosh, are indebted, not only for making the Pavillion new, but for beautifying Van Ness Park.

After passing through a number of prosperities and advertisities, McIntosh is still on the map with a population of 440 from the census of 1930.

map

*** Parade Route

- A. TICKETS & INFORMATION
- B. COOKBOOK & T-SHIRT SALES
- C. PARK (ENTERTAINMENT)
- E. MINI-PARK
- F. RESTROOMS
- G. DEPOT (ENTERTAINMENT EXHIBITS)
- H. AMBULANCE
- I. HOTEL (ENTERTAINMENT)
- M. BAPTIST CHURCH
- N. METHODIST CHURCH
- O. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- P. CHRISTIAN CHURCH



1. BOOSIERS
2. DUNNELLON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
3. BBQ REDDICK BAPTIST
4. ST. JOHNS LUTHERAN
5. CUB SCOUTS #199
6. SUNSHINE GROUP
7. McINTOSH LIONS
8. LAKESIDE VFD
9. PAM McDONALD
10. MONKEY EXPRESS
11. 1st CHRISTIAN CHURCH
12. VFW
13. MASONS
14. BOY SCOUTS
15. SPECIAL OLYMPICS
16. CREVASSE
17. TOWN & COUNTRY 4-H
18. LEMONADE MARION BAYER