

McIntosh

Gazette



McIntosh, Florida

Souvenir
Edition

Oct. 3, 1992

Walk Back in Time at 1890s Festival

For the nineteenth time the residents of McIntosh will welcome visitors to the 1890s Festival.

It may be hard to see some of the vintage houses for the crowds (upwards to 44,000 are expected this year) but glimpses of the past in the gingerbread and white paint are there.

McIntosh is proud to be 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.

Enjoy your walk around the oak lined streets of McIntosh and for six hours pretend you're back in time - all the way to the 1890s.



ENTERING OLD MCINTOSH--This a view of McIntosh entering from the North made many years ago before U.S.441 was widened to four lanes. The view is from about the old meat house. Note you can see all the way to Christian hill where the Huff's citrus shop was for many years.



THE WAY IT LOOKS TODAY--This is how it looks from the same spot as the above photo today. You can see a sign in front of what is now DMZ. In the photo above you will see that there was a canopy over what was at one time a store operated by the Lindseys who were parents of Burnett Aiken and Colin Lindsey.

ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

McIntosh 1890s Festival

October 3, 1992

Entertainment Chairman &

Master of Ceremonies

Bill "Fingers" Monroe

IN THE PARK

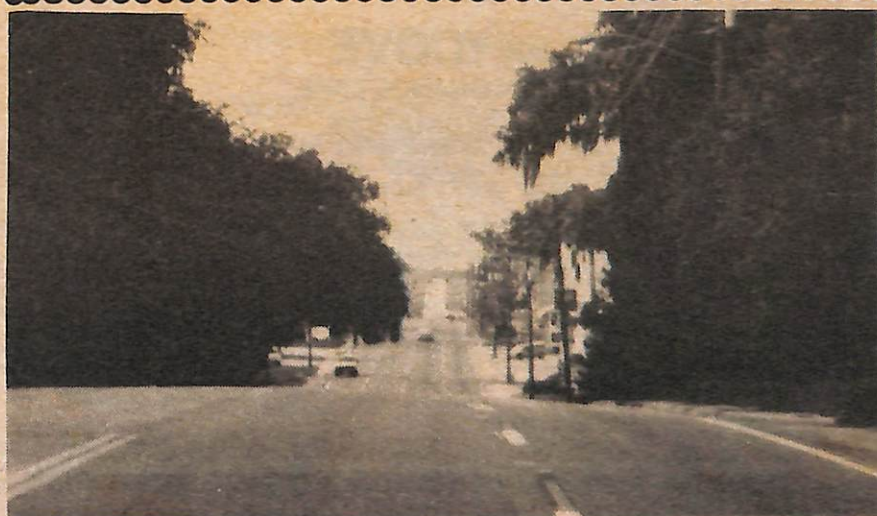
11:00 a.m.	Parade (See Back Page for Route)
11:30 a.m.	Tampa Pipe Band
12:00 noon . . .	Williston High School Band
12:15 p.m.	North Marion High Band
12:30	Bill Bailey's Goodtime Band Featuring George Emmanuel (Banjo)
12:45	Cantabile Duo
1:00	Bill Bailey's Goodtime Band
1:30	Lee Britt
1:45	"Sentimental Journey" Band
2:15	Ken Bettencourt
2:30	Mt. Zion Gospel Choir
2:50	Curt Oxford
3:10	Mitzi Roess "Light Opera"
3:30	Bride of Christ Singers
4:00	Quilt Raffle Drawing Friends of McIntosh
4:15	Harvest Basket Drawing McIntosh Seedlings Garden Club

FRONT OF THE HOTEL

12:30 p.m. . . .	Sundancers & Sundance Kids Cloggers
2:00 p.m. . . .	Sundancers & Sundance Kids

MINI-PARK

12 NOON	Forest High Band
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McIntosh 1890s Festival

•• Tour of Homes ••

1 The Neal-Blinn House

As with many of the houses in McIntosh in the 1890s, the Neal house lacked the surrounding vegetation many of them have now. This house, on a half block of property was fenced to keep roaming cattle out (remember the open range laws). Now 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. Be sure to note it as you enter the home on the tour today.

The home was built of heart pine, locally felled and milled. With time, the pine become 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. But 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 Mr. (McCormick) Neal and almost every other homeowner, a new French asbestos shingled roof guaranteed not to burn.

Miss Hattie Neal lived in the home until her death. She came back here after some years in New York working at a hotel. Afternoons to her were for making formal calls, dressed to fit the occasion, complete with a fashionable hat.

The house was restored in the 1980s under the auspices of its present owner, Ginger Lambert Blinn, who continues her interest in the history of the area at the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlins State Park in Cross Creek.



(Above) EARLIER (Below) NOW



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McIntosh, Florida

2 The McIntosh Hotel



Construction of the two-story, 19-room McIntosh Hotel began in 1895, during the Florida boom. It was built to accommodate winter visitors coming to hunt and fish in the area.

The "Big Freeze," however, stopped construction before it was quite finished, but new owners later ran a successful business, providing a way station and meals for railway passengers, and a pleasant resting place on both the ground floor upper verandas fronting the building.

Operation of the hotel ceased in 1964 when owner Bettie McKoone's husband passed away. It is open now only to visiting family and friends. But they can still use rooms upstairs with the original numbers on the doors. In the years just prior to its closing the hotel was a haven for truckers who drove the big rigs hauling vegetables and fruit from the area. Sometimes they brought their wives and children and left them at the hotel while they covered their route in other places.

The aura of Victorian elegance that pervades McIntosh for 1890s Day is enhanced when you are greeted at the Hotel by Bettie and her sister, Helen Schorfhaar. As you view an authentic Scottish high tea setting, laid with the personal tea things of the sisters' proud McNeil Clan of Barra heritage, you truly feel you've retreated to a more gracious era.

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Owner

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At their new Fellowship Hall*

Menu:

**Chef Salad /w Dressings & Crackers or
Roast Beef Sandwich /w Side Salad
Iced Tea**

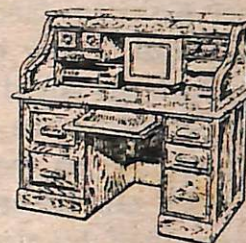
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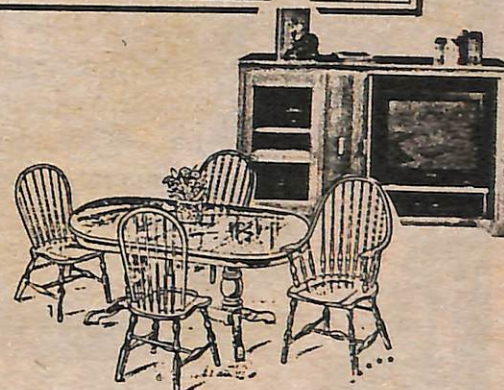


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The Friends of McIntosh

The Annual 1890s Festival is sponsored by *The Friends of McIntosh, Inc.*, a non-profit, 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 encourage friendship, community spirit and understanding among people of all ages in our town.

Many hours are spent planning the 1890s Festival. Special thanks to all those who work so diligently to make this day a success. Since its inception nineteen years ago, Festival attendance has grown from 4000 to over 35,000. 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. Members have planted dogwood 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. They have also put a sprinkler system in the Mini-Park and added to the landscaping at the Mini-Park and the Depot. On the drawing board a plans to renovate the south addition on the Community Center and include a porch which can be used as a performing arts platform. Final approval of this plan has not been completed. Also under discussion is a gazebo in Van Ness 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.

WANTED
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summon up
remembrance of
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Shakespeare

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Best wishes on your 1890's festival

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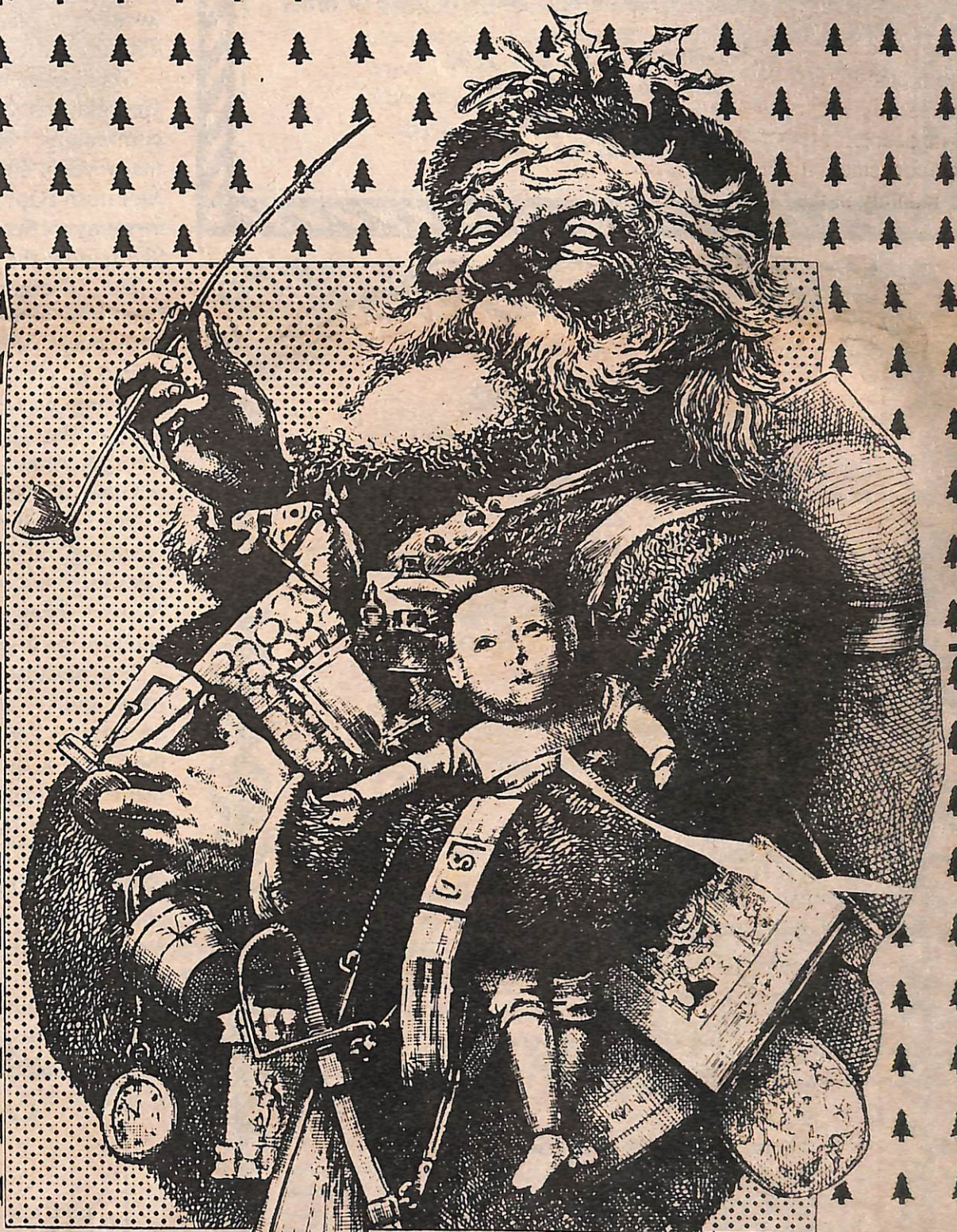
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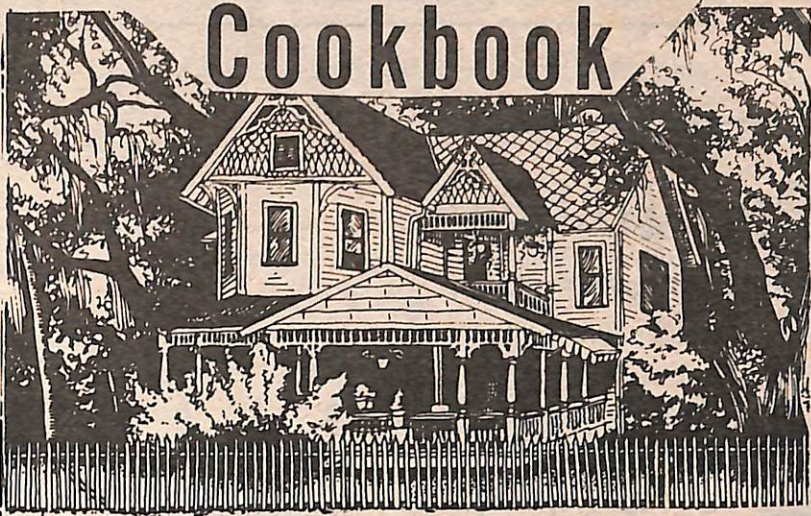
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Lions Club Man of the Year



Ewing Farmer

McIntosh Lions Club honored long-time member Ewing Farmer at ceremonies July 4, 1992. At the annual Independence Day celebration in Van Ness Park he was awarded a plaque denoting Outstanding Service to Your Church and Community.

Since coming to McIntosh in 1969 Ewing and his wife, Georgia, have devoted many hours of service to their community. He has been secretary of the Lion's Club for many years and chairman of the Board of Deacons for the McIntosh Baptist Church quite awhile. Georgia has served in many offices in the Civic League and in the church. She is now the treasurer for the church.

The Farmers came to Florida from Clarksville, Tennessee where they had farmed and operated a dairy. Here they were in mobile home sales until they really retired in 1980.

Ewing was in the Air Corps (now the Air Force) in World War II in Europe. He did not see his daughter, Georgia Anne, until she was 14 months old. He is a life member of the DAV.

The Farmers also have a son, Robert Wayne, a machinist, who lives in Nashville. Their daughter lives in Leesburg and is a nurse at Waterman Medical Center in Eustis. They have three granddaughters and a grandson and two great-grandsons.

Just because they've retired doesn't mean the Farmers have quit - they're just as active in affairs in the community and church as before - if not more so - because they have a little more time now. It has often been said that if you want something done for sure ask a busy person because they're more apt to accept the job than someone who's not so busy. This certainly holds true with both Georgia and Ewing Farmer.



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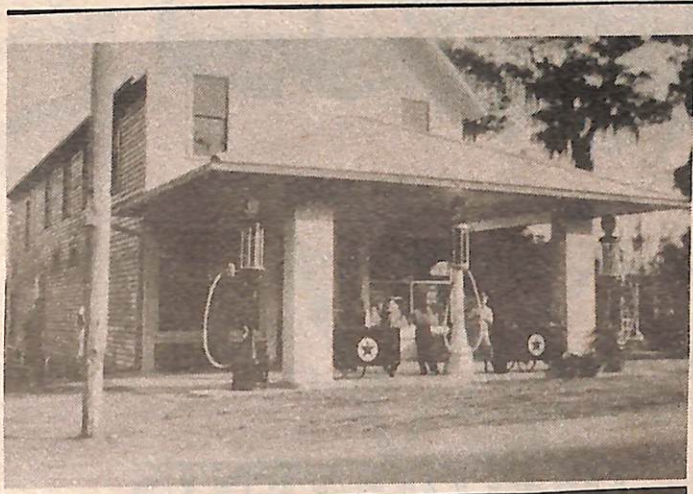
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COUNTRY STORE--This is how the building looks today, after the widening of U.S.441. The drive-thru canopy has given way to an awning with wicker chairs inviting visitors.



IN ANOTHER TIME--This is how the old drug store looked when it was a gas station. This photo was made about 1935.

McIntosh Country Store

Barney Gardiner just seems to have a natural gift of setting old buildings to rights again. For one thing, Barney spent many happy times with his grandfather in a house built in 1834 which has served six generations of Gardiners and is still occupied by a cousin of Barney's.

Barney said he grew up with so many old things around him that he either had to love them or hate them. He chose to love them. Barney has been instrumental in repairing and restoring The Carriage House where he is displaying his many antique carriages.

His shop, The Country Store, is housed in what was once the drug store and gas station. He has done considerable work inside shaping the building's idiosyncrasies to suit his layout and display. The counter and display cases running along the south wall of the shop are situated along an actual rift of floor levels. Directly behind his counter space, still accommodating the floor, is a book nook with many reference books to buy or peruse on different collectibles.

There is a nice collection of Amish quilts which Beth Gardiner has brought into the store. The Gardiners have a good collection of many furniture types so there is something for almost any collector to see. Barney has several clocks and hopes to build up his inventory of clocks as opportunity presents itself.

The Country Store is not open today because the Gardiners are keeping The Carriage House open for festival goers to enjoy. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Saturday.

By Linda Gail McCollum

McIntosh, Fla. Dec. 18th. 1923.

Mr J.A.Hendrix,
Inverness, Fla.

Dear Sir:

Your letter received. Glad to hear you have tab on at least, part of the machinery required to start at McIntosh.

Yes, it will be satisfactory for you to go ahead and order all type you think necessary. Think best for you to send your personal check as suggested and same will be credited to you on your stock.

As soon as you get ready advise us and we will send a man down to take you to ~~large~~ and close deal there and pay cash for press, also to other points ~~you~~ may have machinery and material located.

Please let us hear from you at an early date,

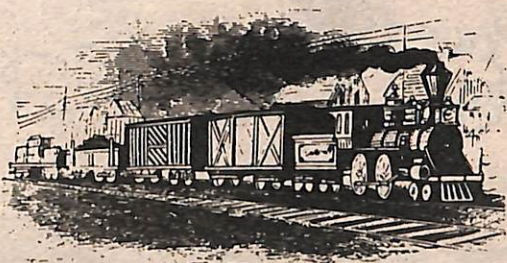
Yours truly,

W.E.Christian, Pres.

D.H. Petteys Sec.

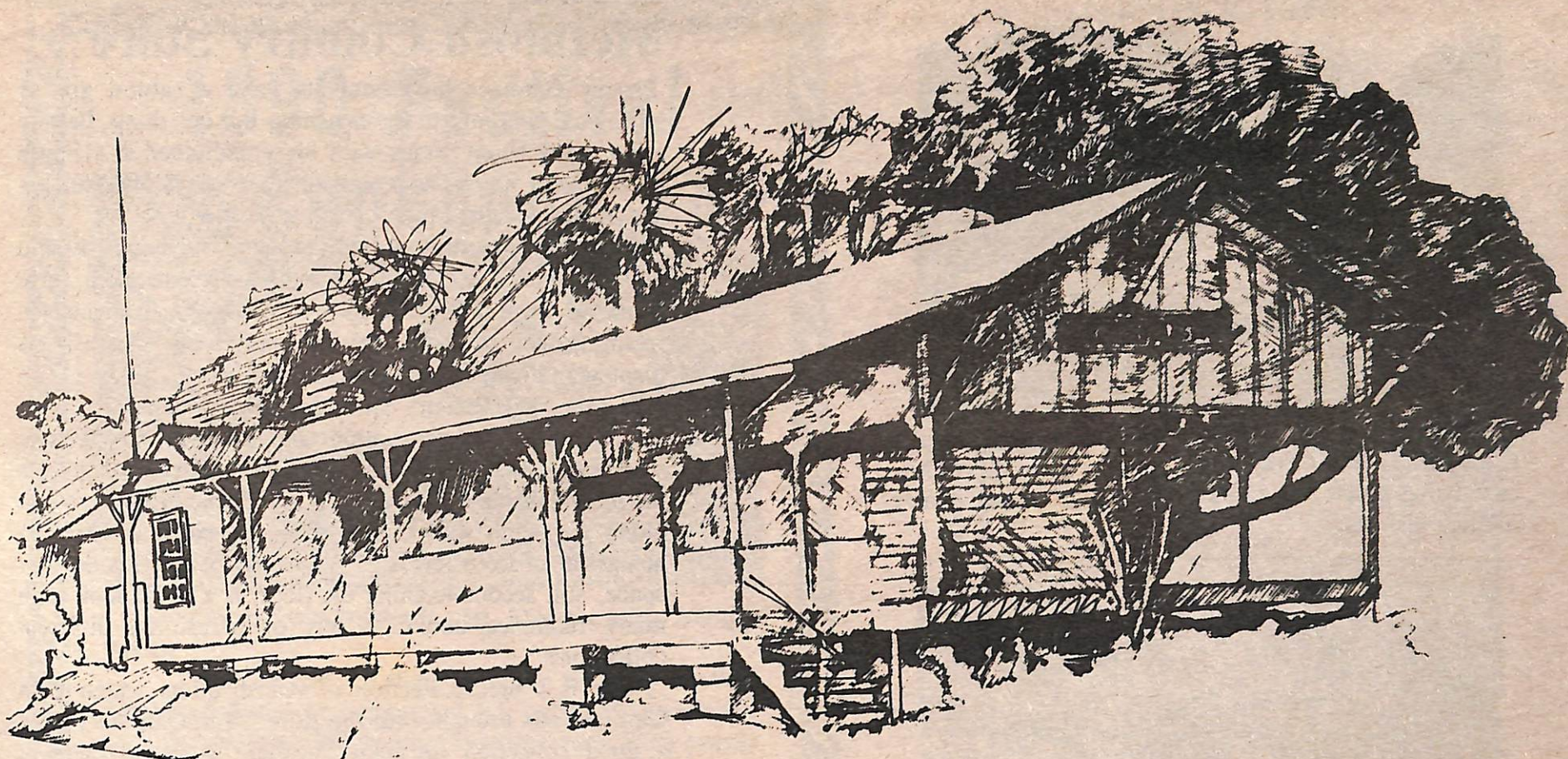
MCINTOSH DID HAVE NEWS -- In the 1920s and until about 1942 McIntosh had a regularly published newspaper, The North Marion News, published by J. A. Hendrix, the father of Pharmasist Alvin Hendrix. It included news from McIntosh and nearby communities such as Reddick and Evinston.

Above is a copy of the letter to Mr. Hendrix from the McIntosh Town Council, W. E. Christian, President and D. H. Petteys, Secretary. Mr. Christian was proprietor of Christian's Store, now an antique store just east of the post office before you get to the old railroad track. D. H. Petteys' father moved a veneer mill here in 1889 to prepare wood for orange boxes. Charlotte Waters Morff, who lives on 441, is a descendant of the Petteys. Her mother was May Petteys Waters.



(ED.NOTE) Names mentioned in the poem on Page 13 live on in McIntosh even though those named are gone, many of them for a long time. The house Miss Hattie Neal lived in is one of those in the Tour of Homes today - the Neal-Blinn house.

"Kirk Christian" was really Mr. J. K. Christian one of the original townsmen. His store is now an antique shop. His grandson, Kirk Christian, is memorialized on a plaque at the United Methodist Church. He was killed in World War II. I think the quotes makes a play on the Scottish heritage of the name McIntosh - kirk being the national church of Scotland - to indicate the character of the inhabitants and probably Mr. Christian in particular.



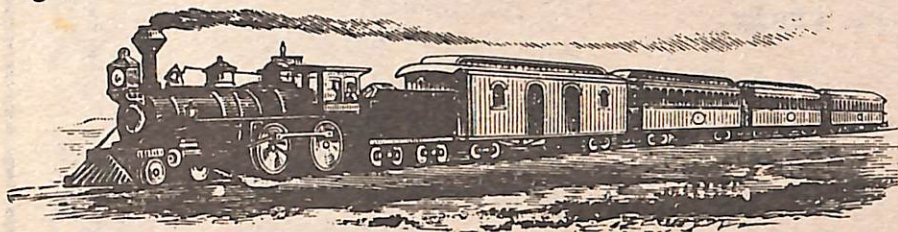
STARTING POINT - The Depot

Ever wonder just how the 1890s Festival came in to existence 19 years ago?

The old McIntosh Depot was the focus of the event, initiated as a way to raise money needed to save the building. The building itself was a gift to the Friends of McIntosh, the organization which came into being as the vehicle to achieve the goal of some McIntosh citizens who wanted to preserve a part of the past. But funds were needed to move the building off the Seaboard Coastline Railroad right-of-way and obtain a portion of track.

Then there was the expense of restoring the building to its original state as far as possible. But with hard work and cooperation from many sources the goals were achieved and the organization has gone on to many other projects, as well as maintaining the Depot. See their annual report on page 2 for a listing of some of these projects.

The Festival is the fun part of the efforts now (after all the hard work of organizing it is over) and thousands come each autumn to savor the feel of what life might have been like a hundred years ago.



EARLY LIONEL TRAINS

All four Lionel freight trains in 2 1/8 inch standard gauge, made from 1910 to 1940, will be on display at the Depot during the 1890s Festival.

This is the third year a portion of the collection of Nelson G. Williams of Floral City will be on display.

Williams first became aware of the McIntosh Depot when his daughter came to McIntosh by train from Gainesville during an elementary school field trip (these trips often included a visit to Black Swan Park that was just a short piece from the Depot).

Included in the display will be a replica of the very first Lionel train (1901-1906) which will run around the display of freight trains on thin strips of metal set 2 7/8 inches apart in hand-made wooden ties. These cars have cast metal frames with steel bodies and are so big that each one has its own DC motor.

Visit the display to see what the trains looked like that stopped in McIntosh to pick up vegetables and citrus in the early days.

DEPOT EVENTS

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

EARLY MODEL TRAINS Shown by:

Nelson G. Williams, a labor lawyer
and retired teacher living in
Floral City, Florida

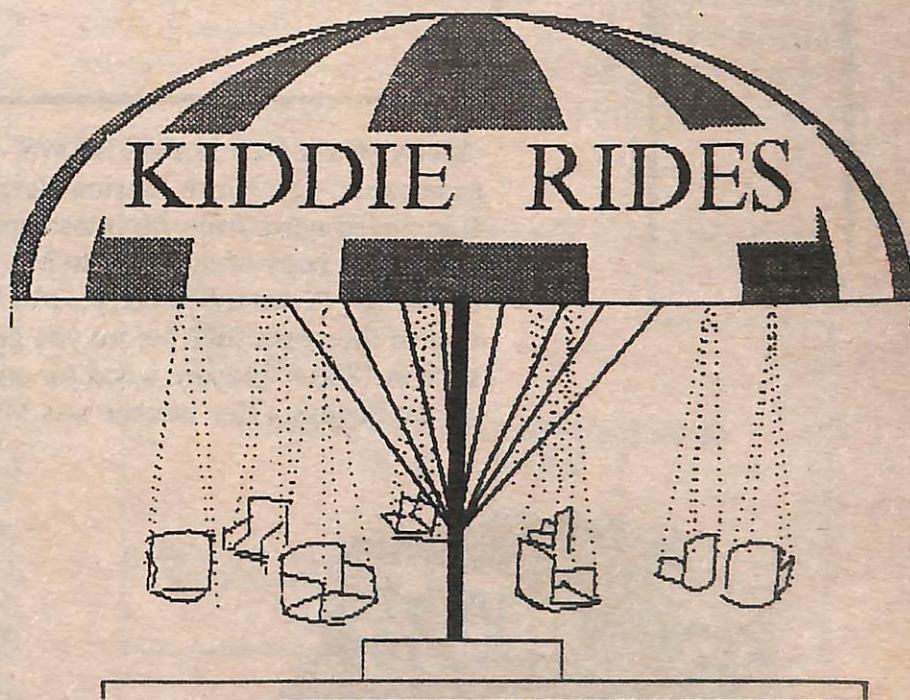
DISPLAY OF VICTORIAN

COSTUMES By: Sharon Taylor of Ocala
CHILDREN'S STORY HOUR

By: Dick and Marge Pierson

ART EXHIBIT . . . By: Anna F. Shaw (Local Artist)

ENJOY OTHER CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES in and
around the DEPOT.

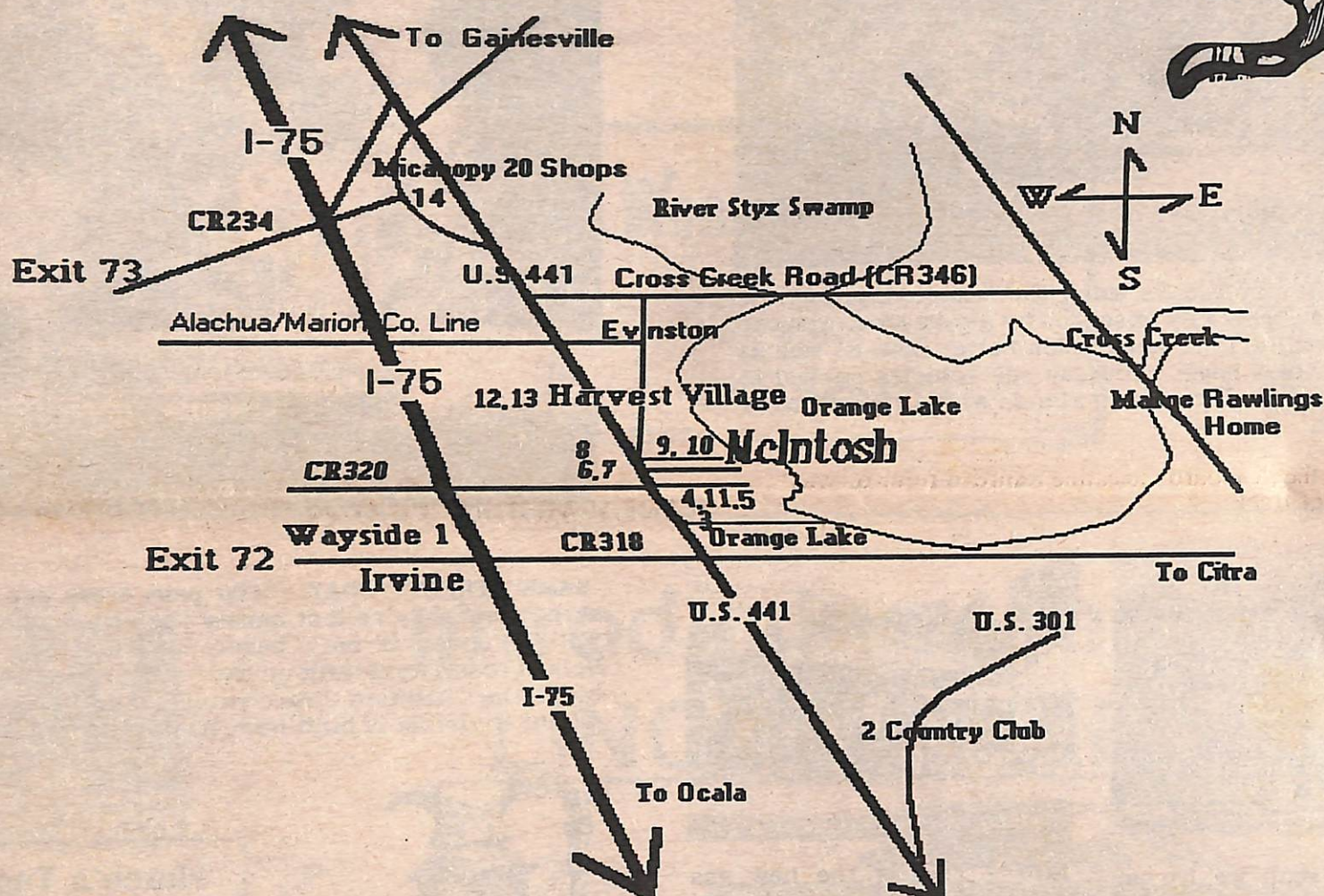
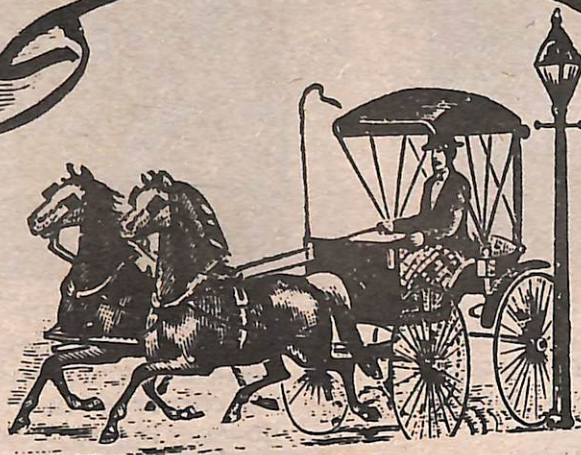


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| 2. COUNTRY CLUB ANTIQUES 629-6359 | 7. McINTOSH THRIFT SHOPPE McIntosh Thrift Shoppe | 11. MERRILY A Victorian Bed & Breakfast 591-1180 |
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| 4. McINTOSH COUNTRY STORE 591-2028 | 9. DMZ FINE FURNITURE 591-3419 | 13. COTTAGE CAFÉ Continental Gourmet Cuisine 591-3111 |
| 5. CARRIAGE HOUSE 591-1300 | | 14. MICANOPY - 20 Shops |

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Street Scenes - Then and Now



IN THE TWENTIES - This is how down-town McIntosh looked in apparently the 1920s (judging from the cars). The Hotel is on the right and on the left is the bank and a hat shop with the telephone company in the upper story. In the original photo the Waters-Kress house is barely visible.



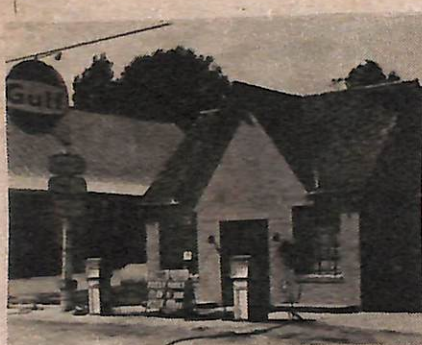
TYPICAL STREET - This was a typical street scene in McIntosh in earlier days. Note the streets are not paved and there are paths on both sides of the street. Visible is the corner of the Presbyterian Church and the Sam Walkup House. If you look closely you can see the spire of the Christian Church. On the left is the house Carolyn Parker lived in.



TODAY - The Hotel looks much the same today, but the ground floor is partially obscured by a palm tree. You can see Annie Mae Burry's house much better now, as well as the Waters-Kress home. You can see vehicles parked in front of the post office which stands where the old bank building was.



SAME STREET TODAY - The palm trees are still on the street but they're lost among the other trees now. The Walkup house is only barely visible since the Sunday School rooms were built on the Presbyterian Church. Trees block the Christian Church spire. And Carolyn's house is all but invisible behind huge azalea bushes.



THEN - How soon we forget when a new building makes its appearance - but this is the way the gas station looked in McIntosh for many, many years - more that 30 at least.



NOW - This is the new gas station that replaced the old Gulf station. It isn't that much larger - but at least you can get your gas without getting wet when it is raining now.



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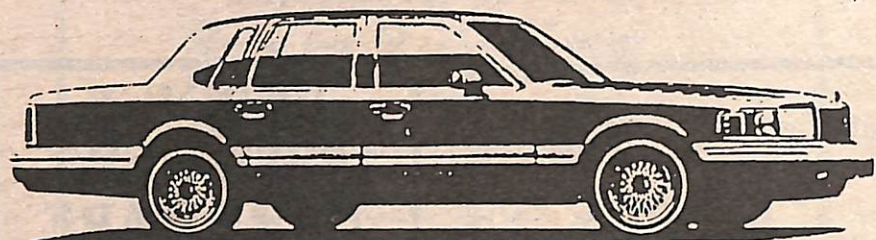
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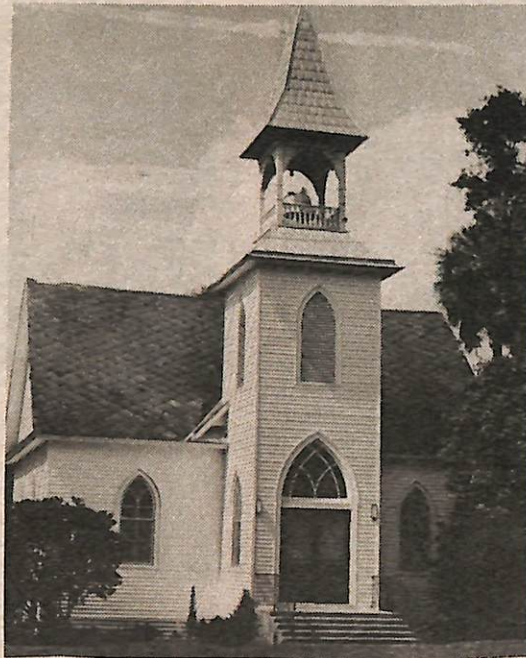
Hours: M-F 8 A.M. - 6:30 P.M., Sat. 9 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
407 South Magnolia



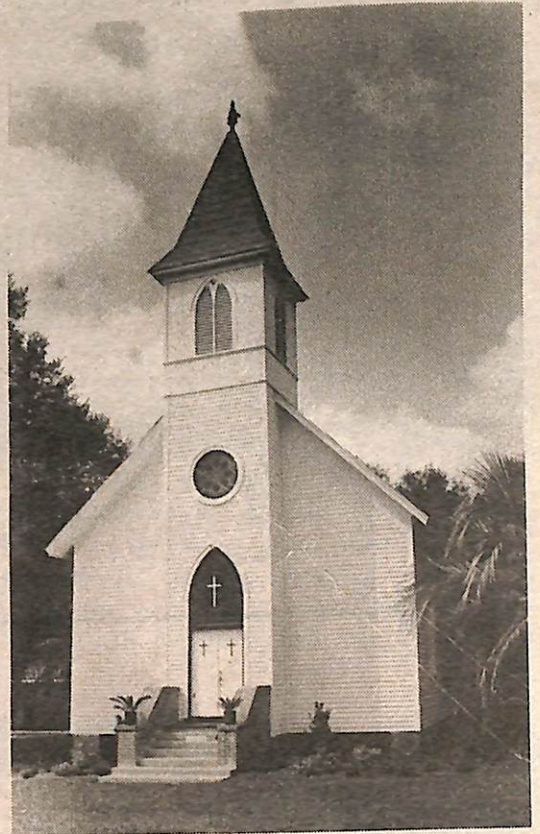
McIntosh Churches Are Open Today



Baptist Church



Christian Church



United Methodist Church



Presbyterian Church



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McIntosh At Rainbow

By B. J. Benson

When they pan a picnic for McIntosh folks
They work it out with master strokes;
Each home considered, each taste is weighed
And happy the choice that is finally made,
Who named the time and place, or was the dateman
The gracious Superintendent, Howard Bateman?
These people all with spirit gracious
Fill baskets tall and wide and spacious,
And what these splendid people bring
Would tempt the palate of a King.
But the thing that strangers prize the most
Is the gracious manner of such a host;
They make you feel supremely blessed
And each visitor feel an honored guest.
The people you meet on these gala days
Have such charming manners and such winning ways!
How modest are superior graces
When we meet them out in public places,
And how at home one is made to feel
By the gracious presence of Miss Hattie Neal,
And added to scenes of pure delight
Were the spiritual values of the widow's mite.
Miss Dickson was there to grace the scene
And make it all as it should have been.
Cupid too was on the ground
So hidden he was hardly found.
But I saw the tinge of a modest blush
When smiles were showered on Gladys Rush.
While elder members in the wide rotunda sat,
To enjoy the breeze and a quiet chat.
Some younger ones disported themselves
In the pleasant waters like playful elves,
While one amacement for them all
Was the palisades and the waterfall.
But the thoughtful ones who rode the boat
To gaze on regions most remote
Deep in caverns down below
Where subaquatic wonders grow
Were hushed in awe and rapped amaze
At a wonderous world that met their gaze,
Unlike all else they had ever seen
In heaven or earth, or all between.
How memory clings to pleasant things
The people of McIntosh and Rainbow Springs,
But the greatest charm one can recall
Is the "Kirk Christian" spirit over all.

Dunnellon, Fla., June 16, 1928, the day of the picnic

[See Ed. Note on Page 7]



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The drawing for the quilt from the contest sponsored by The Friends of McIntosh will be held at 4 p.m. in the Park. Be sure to be on hand if you have donation tickets. If you don't have yours ask at the two information booths in the Park. See the back page of this edition of the McIntosh Gazette to see the location of these booths.

WARNING! Quilt Flux

Very Contagious to Adults

Symptoms —

Continual complaint as to need for snuggling under a homemade quilt and relaxation. Patient has blank expression, sometimes deaf to spouse and kids, has no taste for electric blankets, hangs out at all kinds of quilting bees. Mumbles to self: "Double Wedding Ring" "Postage Stamp" "Maple Leaf" "Crazy Quilt"

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TREATMENT —

Medication is useless; disease is not fatal. Victim should attend as many sales and country stores as possible.

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HISTORY OF McINTOSH

An article in The North Marion News, February 26, 1932 has been the basis of an article most years in the McIntosh Gazette about the history of McIntosh.

This year it is being revised slightly using this article and notes left by Annette Gist Haden, the first white child born in McIntosh after it really became a town.

Mrs. Haden said, "Why McIntosh? you might ask." Sometime in the early 1800s it is said John H. McIntosh "squatted" property here that was part of the Arredondo grant from the king of Spain. McIntosh was a member of a pioneer family who had land in south Georgia and north Florida. Nehemiah Brush bought 4,000 acres of the Arredondo land in 1830.

When the Florida Southern Railroad announced plans to lay a track for an "orange belt" route Brush's son Charles filed a plat for the family held land comprising a town west of the proposed rail bed. When Charles' health failed, his sister's husband, Eugene Van Ness, filed a new plant of even smaller lots promising even greater profits. The Van Ness children were the eventual heirs of the land. So you see now why Van Ness Park even though there are no Van Nesses here now.

The Brush heirs agreed to donate the required amount through several sections of their land if the railroad company would establish and maintain a depot at McIntosh.

Mrs. Haden's reminiscences continue: "My father 'carried the chains', along with J. K. Christian, when the town was laid out in 1885.

Kentucky traditions abounded in the town in the early days - with many of the Kentuckians surviving until the 1970s and later.

Early citizens included Allens, Walkers, Neals, Thomases, Dicksons, Norsworthys, Smiths, Gaitskills, Walkups and Petteys, along with Gists and Christians.

Church has always been a big part of life in McIntosh. First gatherings were under the big oak trees in what is now Van Ness Park. The Methodist was the first Church

building in town - moved from the Center Point area where it was known as Marvin's Chapel. It was moved cross-country with one mule. All denominations worshiped in this building for several years until the other churches were erected, first the Baptist, followed by the Christian and Presbyterian. Each denomination had its own "preaching" Sunday each month first the Methodist, second the Baptist, third the Christian and fourth the Presbyterian (don't know who had it on fifth Sundays!). And would you believe to this day the women's groups of each church still hold their meetings on the Monday following their originally assigned Sunday?

In her notes Mrs. Haden lists noteworthy weather: "Sept 26, 1994, storm and heavy rain. Railroad stopped 2 week. Oct. 5, storm all day and night, little rain, much damage to oranges and crops."

She continues, "As for cold - Dec. 28 & 29, 1894 - 16 degrees - papers reported all oranges ruined. Feb. 8, 1895 - 13 degrees - coldest recorded to date for Florida. 1989 - 'The Corker' Feb. 12 - snow and sleet in the night. Feb. 13 - thermometer 9 degrees, eggs, milk, etc. frozen in the house (in our dining room)."

Now we can add other freezes in the 1980s that wiped out the orange groves completely in this area.

Businesses have come and gone in the town but some continue to thrive. The Civic League, organized in Sept. 1931, has ceased to function but many of its members work in The Friends of McIntosh. The Lions Club continues its long history of service projects to the town. Highlights of the year are their Christmas programs and the 4th of July celebration in the Park.

Mrs. Haden ends her notes (from a program on the History of McIntosh she gave at Civic League) with a quote from another McIntosh resident, Naomi Haufler, "McIntosh has a heart." Incidentally, Mrs. Haufler administered the transient relief fund for the town for many years so she was part of that "heart."

KATHERINE MILLS BURNS
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MAP

- A - TICKETS & COOKBOOKS
- B - TOUR OF HOMES
- C - PARK (ENTERTAINMENT)
- D - CARRIAGE HOUSE
- E - MINI-PARK
- F - RESTROOMS
- G - DEPOT
- H - HOTEL (ENTERTAINMENT)
- I - BAPTIST CHURCH
- J - METHODIST CHURCH
- K - PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- L - CHRISTIAN CHURCH
- M - MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

FOOD CONCESSIONS

1. Williston Band Boosters (hamburgers)
2. Dunnellon Christian School (funnel cakes)
3. American Legion (BBQ dinner)
4. St. Johns Lutheran Church School (sausage sub)
5. McIntosh Scouts #199 (boiled peanuts)
6. Forest High Band Boosters (strawberry shortcake)
7. McIntosh Lions (hot dogs)
8. Lakeside VFD (ice cream)
9. McIntosh VFD (strudel)
10. North Marion Band Boosters (cotton candy)
11. Methodist Church (sandwiches)
12. VFW (pizza & pretzels)
13. Micanopy Masons (corn boil)
14. Special Olympics (Greek food)
15. McIntosh Cemetery Assoc. (shrimp pie)
16. Town & Country 4-H (pies & cakes)
17. Temple Shir Shalom (lemonade)
18. Methodist Jr. High (soft drinks)
19. Micanopy Boy Scouts (snow cones)
20. Methodist Circle I & II (bread and jam)
21. Methodist Men (sausage biscuits & coffee)
22. Baptist Group (BBQ sandwich)

Parade Route ★★★★★★★★

