



Vol. 8, No. 1 -

Indian Springs Village, Alabama

- April 14, 1998

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

By Gene Weingarten, Mayor

Several weeks ago the Shelby County Board of Education broke ground for a new high school. The Oak Mountain High School is on Caldwell Mill Road adjacent to the intermediate school. I asked Alan Fulton of the Board for some of the key features of this state-of-the-art facility. There are so many great and wondrous high points that this column can't cover them all. The following lines will give you an overview:

A 200,000 square foot building, all on one level, is situated on some 61 acres. There will be four computer rooms, with the entire building wired for computers.

An ultra-modern gym, with 2,000 seats. An upper level contains the walking track. (We hope to arrange for ISV folks to use this track during cold weather.) The mezzanine will be left incomplete for future athletic needs.

The P.E. fields will be flat, some with different elevations. Little League teams will have some dedicated practice areas. A 100-foot tree buffer (where possible) will insulate the immediate homes from noise. The science classes will have on-site natural areas.

There will be 700 student parking spaces. The auditorium will seat 700 downstairs, and 300 upstairs. Stage equipment for full backdrops will accommodate even Broadway style shows. The entire school will be handicap-accessible, not just the rules mandated by law, but by ideas generated from experiences with daily activities in the Shelby County school system.

My favorite, the cafeteria, will have self-serve and a food court. The band room is 21st century, with loads of space and a choir room. The Media Center (Alan said "old folks" like me call it a library) is in the center of the building. Capabilities include electronic communications with all other media centers in the world, and especially with our new Shelby County Library on Highway 119.

High noise/high traffic activities are dedicated to the rear of the building, with separate entrances. We will start with about 1,000 students, growing to a full capacity of up to 1,750. What is very important, Caldwell Mill Road will be widened to three lanes in some areas, with turn lanes in other locations.

This Oak Mountain High School will be a monument to the citizens of Shelby County and to the dedicated folks at the Board of Education who have never wavered in their determination to bring a dream to fruition. Be with us on Tuesday night, April 21st, 7:00 p.m. at the Indian Springs Village Town Hall, when our council will accept the petition to annex the new high school into Indian Springs Village. We are proud to have OMHS in our community.

INDIAN SPRINGS VILLAGE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING Indian Springs Village Town Hall

Tuesday, April 21, 1998 7:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Mayor/Council Committee Reports
- II. Ordinances and Resolutions
- III. Citizens' Forum

Editor's Notes

The Village Voice is the official organ of Indian Springs Village, AL, established October 16, 1990. The mission of this newsletter is to foster a spirit of community and co-operation. It is the vehicle for reporting the monthly deliberations of the mayor and the council in town council meetings; additionally it provides these officials and other villagers a means of communicating--it is a "voice." Expenses are covered by the efforts and donations of ISV volunteers. Deliveries are made at no charge by volunteer couriers.

Address letters to the editor to: Dr. Ruth Goodwyn, Editor, 151 Choctaw Lane, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (988-0896), or e-mail: rutg@juno.com. Questions about circulation should be addressed to Councilwoman Patricia Crapet, 370 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (voice mail 802-2753). Managing Editor and chairperson of the cookbook project is Bee Little, 867 Valley View Road, Indian Springs, AL 35124 (985-9988). Reporter for the Homestead neighborhood is Bonnie Murphy, 5164 Hollow Log Lane, Birmingham 35244 (991-2535).

The Village Voice is published the second Tuesday of each month. Articles for publication in the May 1998 edition should be submitted by Tuesday noon, May 5th. The editor reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. *The Village Voice* welcomes signed letters to the editor; they will be published if space permits. Letters may be edited for length and other considerations; however, the meaning will be preserved. All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors of articles, unless otherwise indicated. Any opinions the editor expresses are her own and should not be attributed to the mayor or the council.

Editor's Appreciation to:

The donors who subsidize printing expenses
ISV aluminum can recyclers for their support
Indian Springs Village couriers for hand delivery
Mildred Wyatt for the masthead drawing
Tricia Crapet, Johnson - Rast & Hays for production

Villager Profile

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

Ida May McClellan Bishop, who characterizes herself as probably the senior member of "the old set" in Indian Springs, set up housekeeping at age 16 "in a little house down on Bishop Creek" with her husband, Clarence Bishop, age 20, and a Presbyterian minister.

The two had been youthful playmates at Possom Hollow, now known as Valleydale, where her parents farmed and reared 10 children. Her parents were Sophronia and Samuel McClellan, who had been raised in Tallapoosa County. She recalls that she often rode her horse, Dan, two miles to the main road to pick up the mail, which included the by then two-days-old *Birmingham Post* that her father read avidly, always *The Shelby County Reporter*, and other publications such as *The Progressive Farmer* and *The Farmer's Almanac*.

Born in Jefferson County at New Merkle, site of the present Cahaba Heights, Ida Bishop was the granddaughter of Sarah Acton, a member of another well-known family in Shelby County as well as Jefferson County, where the Actons owned about a thousand acres. One of her brothers, T. J. McClellan, married Ruby McGuire, who had grown up in what became known as the McClellan House and is now the Indian Springs Village Town Hall.

The Bishop Family had come from South Carolina, settling on a large plantation on the Cahaba River near Centreville in Bibb County. Typhoid fever wiped out the children of the family except for two survivors, John and Mary Bishop. The Bishop Family then migrated north and settled on a farm north of Pelham. They opened a cotton gin and established a grist mill on a local creek which became known as Bishop Creek after Bishop's Mill had become a familiar landmark in this area.

Clarence Bishop began his career as a minister at nearby New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Rev. Bishop pastored churches elsewhere such as at Union near Vance, AL, and at Elliottsville near Siluria, but except for living one year at Elliottsville and three years in Madison County where his church was at Meridiansville, the couple's home remained on the Bishop property, which extends to Oak Mountain State Park and was divided among children and heirs of children upon Mr. Bishop's death at age 65 on Dec. 31, 1969. Mr. Bishop had helped survey the land for the state park when their children were very small.

Families surrounding the newly-wed Bishops were the Coxes, who lived across from New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and later the Sorrell family. George Collins had a small grocery store nearby.

Affectionately known as "Miss Ida" (though she prefers "Ida" without the prefix), Mrs. Bishop is well-known as being the proprietress for 18 years of Valley Grocery on Cahaba Valley Road across from New Hope (now Indian Springs) First Baptist Church. The family lived in an apartment building in back of the store, which was the only place locally where residents could buy staples

such as milk, sugar, flour, salt, corn meal, etc., plus cold drinks and candy and feed for their horses and cattle. (The George Collins store had been defunct for some time.) She rented the store to daughter Sarah for two years. After a fire the building was razed and all that remains is an empty lot next to Michael Stephens' farm.

Of the couple's seven children, two are deceased. Clarence, Jr., died of heart problems at age 52; Allen had died at age 17 of leukemia at the old TCI (Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Co.) hospital, renamed after Dr. Lloyd Noland. Stanley lives at Pawnee near Tarrant City and William Vernon lives next door to Don Johnson on Highway 119. Mrs. Bishop is surrounded by the remaining three children and their descendants: her only daughter, Sarah; David, called "Spud," and Daniel.

"I have inhaled more dust in my lifetime than anyone should ever have to," Mrs. Bishop said, explaining that Bishop Lane was at one time only a dirt road and Highway 119 was little better. Frances Saita, then an Indian Springs resident, wrote in *The Shelby County Reporter* (Aug. 24, 1978) a description of the potholes and patches and ragged edges of the main thoroughfare, which by then had been taken over by the state. (The road was re-surfaced in the 1980's and again in 1995.)

The house on Bishop Lane had no electricity in the early years, and Mrs. Bishop recalls using a washboard and galvanized tubs for the family wash. Life during the Great Depression of the 1930's she described as "rough." "I sewed, cut off pants, altered hand-me-downs, and made do." In those days preachers did not have a set salary but were dependent on the generosity of their parishioners. Barter was common. Sometimes a gallon of sorghum molasses was exchanged for the services of the preacher. The family kept cows, goats, and other domestic animals, and they gardened. "Back then deer didn't come onto your property and eat everything up," she said, recalling that undeveloped land in Shelby County was plentiful and could at one time be bought for fifty cents an acre. The Bishop family knew for certain that the depression was ending when Franklin D. Roosevelt became President and "gave the people hope and confidence."

Mrs. Bishop and her husband were determined that they would do everything possible to insure their children's education. Once when there was no bridge on Bishop Creek--only a foot log--the family lived in a relative's house near New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Sarah was to start first grade at New Hope School, located adjacent to the church, on land given by the Johnson Family for a church and school. While living in the relative's house Sarah attended her first school year and David (Spud) was born there. All the children began at New Hope and finished their education at Thompson High School, Siluria.

There were the lighter times. Activities the whole family enjoyed were the square dances. These were held, not in barns as one might assume, but in homes with large rooms where all the furniture had been moved out for the occasion. Ida and Clarence played guitars; a neighbor, a violinist, played the fiddle, and they had two or three good callers.

In earlier years Mrs. Bishop was a member of the women's baseball team at her church. Their home field was on Lee Street's

farm, located on the east side of Caldwell Mill Road. They played at communities such as New Merkle where a pitcher by the name of Rose Pryor was outstanding. The husband of one member transported the team in his panel truck. Before she suffered a fall a couple of years ago, Mrs. Bishop was very active in the "Joy Club," a group of women from her church who often made trips and pilgrimages to other cities. Mrs. Bishop still drives and goes to church at Elliottsville near Siluria, the last church her husband pastored. Their son David, a contractor, built the sanctuary and a later addition to the over 100-years-old church.

Clarence Bishop, their sons Clarence, Jr., and Allen are interred at Jefferson Memorial Gardens on Highway 150. The eldest son was at the time of his death president of Jefferson Memorial Gardens.

Stanley and his wife Mary (Hewett), who live above Tarrant City, have three children. One of them, Scott, lives on Bishop Lane with his wife Ann and daughter Samantha. William Vernon and his wife, Juanita (Hutchison) have four daughters, Diane, Debra, Donna, and Denita. Denita lives next door to Mrs. Bishop with her husband, Kenneth Elliott. Also living close by is Sarah, who married Bill Street, deceased last Spring. Sarah and their two sons, Doug and Jim, continue to operate Bill Street's Decorating Center on Highway 31 in Pelham. David is married to the former Margaret Standifer of Pelham. Their daughter, her husband, and their three children live on Caldwell Mill Road. Daniel, who is single and lives at the end of Bishop Lane, works with his brother David (Spud). Stanley and William Vernon worked 40 years each for Alabama Power Company.

In all, Mrs. Bishop has 14 grandchildren, 43 great and great-great grandchildren, and has made Indian Springs her home for 72 years.

My visit to the Bishop home on a late afternoon evoked feelings of warmth and nostalgia. David (Spud) waved from the tractor as he was mowing the lawn; Mrs. Bishop's sister, Ila Johnson, and Stanley and Mary Bishop all came by within the span of an hour and a half. The family has an open invitation to visit Mama Bishop, or Granny, as some of the great-great grandchildren call her, in her comfortable home with a spacious and well-equipped kitchen. It isn't uncommon for drop-ins at mealtime; visitors are welcomed to whatever is being served. On Christmas and other holidays the several members of the Bishop clan, as many as can, gather at Sarah's house. All participate by bringing food. A forthcoming event will be the celebration of Mama Bishop's 90th birthday on September 5.

An Invitation to Senior Citizens

By Olivia Weingarten

Would you be interested in meeting your neighbors for lunch? We have a very desirable place to meet for lunch and fellowship each month. Please plan to gather at the pavilion on the grounds of the Indian Springs Village Town Hall on Thursday, May 28, at 11:00 a.m. Plates, napkins, silverware, and drinks will be furnished, but please bring a dish to share.

Keep the Village Beautiful

By Olivia Weingarten

Several weeks ago one of the village residents called the mayor's home to inquire if the neighborhood had a trash pick-up. The answer was no, but as I walked on Monday morning with a plastic bag to pick up the week-end's beer cans, it occurred to me that we do have many people who pick up the trash from our beautiful neighborhood. We have many dedicated walkers who routinely rid the streets of cans, paper cups, workers' lunch sacks, etc. Thursday mornings after residents' garbage containers have been placed on the street, I pick up bottles and debris along the streets for deposit in the containers. KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL is a national campaign promoted by garden clubs all over the United States, and we certainly practice this slogan in our own corner of the world. We are very blessed with beauty in the yards of our community.

Oak Mountain Intermediate Fair

On April 24, 25, and 26 Oak Mountain Intermediate School (OMIS) will sponsor a Business and Craft Fair to be held in the gymnasium of the Oak Mountain Middle School (OMMS) in conjunction with EXPO '98. EXPO '98, a carnival with rides, entertainment, and games, will be set up on the OMMS football field behind the school. Everyone attending must walk through the Business and Craft Fair to get outside to the rides. EXPO '98 hours are: Friday, April 24, 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m., Saturday, April 25 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 26, 12 noon - 5:00 p.m.

Local businesses, medical professionals, and crafters from Alabama and Georgia will display their merchandise for review and sale. OMIS encourages everyone to experience the family fun of EXPO '98. Convention-style booths for businesses and self set-up space for arts and crafts, as well as outdoor space for large-item vendors are still available at a nominal charge. As a fund raiser for OMIS, all profits will benefit educational projects and the children at OMIS. To request a registration form, please call Anne Steul, Business and Craft Fair Coordinator, 991-3760.

State Park Clean-up Scheduled

Saturday, April 18 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. the annual Oak Mountain State Park clean-up will be held, beginning at the park headquarters. Trash bags and trash pick-up will be provided, along with refreshments, water bottles, T-shirts, bumper stickers, hats, and other give-aways for participants.

A sign-in table will be located at park headquarters. It is hoped that community organizations, churches, schools, civic groups, and citizens will show their support and appreciation of our beautiful near-by park by participation.

To register for the clean-up, call Oak Mountain State Park at 620-2520 or FAX 620-2531. Please address calls or faxes to Taylor Steele.

Recycling Is April 22

By Art Johnson, Town Council Place # 4

The next aluminum can recycling is Wednesday, April 22 at 7:00 p.m. Please use white, blue recycling or clear plastic bags and secure the top of each bag with a knot, and then place your recycling on the opposite side of the driveway from the Waste Management trash pickup. If you just have to use a dark garbage bag, please tape a white sheet of paper to the bag to make it visible from the street.

In March our volunteers were Patti and Bill Weems with help from their daughter Ashley, Margie and Herb Robins with lots of assistance from their red dachshund Lucy, Tom Adkison, Sharon Durbin, Jackie and Art Johnson. A special thank you goes to Tom Adkison for his assistance taking the aluminum cans to the recycling center.

The latest aluminum recycling statistics are in, and recycling continued to grow dramatically in 1997. The U.S. aluminum beverage can recycling rate in 1997 increased to 66.5 percent, up 3.0 percent from the 1996 rate of 63.5 percent. In 1997 recyclers collected 2.052 billion pounds of used aluminum beverage cans. Overall, the industry produced 100.5 billion cans in 1997, of which 66.8 billion were returned for recycling. The number of cans recycled increased 6.3 percent from the 1996 total of 62.8 billion cans. The other good news is the number of cans per pound of aluminum has increased from 27.4 in 1987 to 32.57 in 1997.

The ISV recycling program is a volunteer community project, and our sincere thanks go to all our residents who have joined the recycling team. Watch for ISV recycling reminders along Highway 119, Indian Crest Drive, and the entrances to Homestead. If you have any questions about recycling, please call Art Johnson at 988-3217.

Village Personals

By Ruth Goodwyn and Patricia Crapet

In Sympathy

When Gerti Jones returned from the hospital after her mother, Doris Gertrude Hubbard, had just passed away, a beautiful bluebird had somehow gotten into their home and alighted in her mother's room. Mrs. Jones considers that an omen that her mother was happy since departing this earth. She has other comforting memories such as her daughter's singing to her grandmother to calm her during her illness before she succumbed to an aneurysm on March 17. Funeral services were held March 20 at Rideout's Southern Heritage Chapel. Burial was beside her husband, Albert H. Hubbard, at Miami, FL, Memorial Gardens. She was a member of Oak Grove Baptist Church.

Doris Hubbard had lived with her daughter Gerti and son-in-law Frank of 2170 Indian Crest Drive for the past five years. In 1995 they hosted her birthday party with a Roaring 20's theme enjoyed by many dressed-to-the-nines flappers and gentlemen. The honoree herself, celebrating becoming an octogenarian, won the Charleston dance contest.

Villagers extend sympathy to the Jones family.

Congratulations

Alan Tidwell, son of Lonnie and Esther Tidwell of 395 Brookgreen Lane, graduated from Auburn University on March 20, 1998, with a degree in management. Congratulations on a job well done and the best of luck in the future!

Newcomers

ISV welcomes Charles and Dawn Thornton, 835 Miller Circle, to the village. The Thornton family comes to ISV from Lay Lake. They have two children, Chas, age 6, and Raven, 18 months. Charles has taken over his family's paving business on Highway 119, and Dawn is in sales and marketing.

Free Days Designated at Landfill

The Shelby County Commission has designated May 2 and June 6 as "Free Days" at the Shelby County Landfill. The address is given as 506 Highway 70, Columbiana. To get to the landfill take I-65 south and get off at the Alabaster-Columbiana exit. From Highway 31 take a left onto Highway 26. When it deadends into Highway 70, take a left. The landfill is identified by a large green sign. The days that waste can be disposed of free of charge are designed for individuals or groups and not for businesses. During the last free days at the landfill, some 800 tons were brought in, four times the amount brought to the landfill on normal days.

Memorial Service to Be Held

By Ruth Goodwyn, Editor

The thirteenth annual Confederate Cemetery memorial service will be held Sunday, April 19, 2:30 p.m. at the Old Confederate Cemetery, Shelby Springs. The cemetery is located just off Highway 25, S.E. onto Highway 42--halfway between Calera and Columbiana. The co-sponsors of the event are the Shelby County Historical Society and the William Houston Shelby Sons of the Confederate Veterans (S.C.V.), Camp 1537.

An honor guard, made up of members of the S.C.V. Camp, in reenactment uniforms, will give a gun salute, using black powder rifles; taps will be played by Kevin Snowden, band director of Thompson High School. Refreshments of ice cold lemonade and Muster cookies, prepared with an authentic Civil War recipe, will be served. The event is open to the public. Dr. Tom Caldwell, secretary of the Historical Society, advises persons attending to bring folding chairs.

Ken Penhale, president of the Historical Society, and Ronnie Simmons, Commander of the Camp, will be in charge. Sister Mary Paulinus Oakes, R.S.M., from Vicksburg, MS, will give the invocation. The speaker will be Dr. Norman Dasinger of Jacksonville State University.

The newly-published book by Sister Mary Paulinus Oakes entitled *Angels of Mercy, an Eyewitness Account of Civil War and Yellow Fever* will be available for sale after the memorial service. The first-time author drew from the diary kept 1860-1882 by Sister Ignatius Sumner, one of the Sisters of Mercy, Vicksburg, as a primary source for stories of the physical, moral, and spiritual contributions of the Sisters during the war between the states.