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THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland
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Volume 32, No. 2

"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

February 2013

Valentine's Tribute to an Artistic Couple Pamela and Ken Watters

This Month's Mountain Music and Artist Features.

How they met and found romance is a Valentine's tale. In 1996, Ken Watters had finished a particularly-grueling performance contract as a musician with a cruise line and returned to Huntsville for a well-deserved break ashore. Boredom drove him to a temporary job as a barista at La Boheme coffee shop. He noticed a very attractive lady who often appeared with a date, and so he had to admire her from afar.

"But when she ordered the skinny iced mocha, I made it with half and half so she would keep coming back," he laughs.

Finally, he summoned the courage to ask Pam out, and the result is a love story as well as



Pam Watters was raised on Lookout Mountain and Fort Payne, the oldest of seven children and a descendant of early settlers who arrived before the Cherokees were driven out. As a budding bibliophile, the public library opened up a world of wonder for her and she devoured every book she could get her hands on. Finishing high school in Fort Payne at sixteen, she began a journey that has led to adventure, motherhood and artistic acclaim for her seascapes and landscapes in pastel.

He grew up in Huntsville, the son of a rocket scientist, and knew at an early age that music was his calling. Ken Watters' first gig was at 15 with the Charlie Lyle Band. He earned \$57, and he was hooked. He went on to study at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan, the North Texas University College of Music, and the Manhattan School of Music. Today, he is considered a leading composer and jazz trumpet soloist in this country and abroad.

"I don't remember a time when I was not drawing," Pam says. Her first efforts were in pencil, and later evolved into pen and ink following a course in technical drawing in high school. After an earlier marriage, her artistic career was put on hold as she brought up two children and moved frequently from one military base to another.

Then she discovered watercolor when she returned to her favorite avocation while living in Oklahoma City. "That opened up the possibilities of color for me," she said, "and I have rarely gone back to pen and ink."

She rapidly moved into pastels as the medium of choice but her art is nothing like what most people expect of pastels. Instead of misty, pale and ephemeral figures on paper, Pam Watters' pastels are filled with electric color. Her impressionistic landscapes of North Alabama's forests, mountains and waterfalls are vibrant and joyful.

"I use French pastels that are almost pure pigment, and they give me the forceful color that I love," she says.

Apparently many other collectors love them as well. Pam's work does not languish long in any gallery where she exhibits. In July of 2010, she committed herself to producing one work a day for the next 365 days and posting each piece on Facebook. It was a chore, she says, but it served her purpose of broadening her creative experience and instilling more discipline into



a spiritual union that manifests itself in glowing admiration for each other's artistic endeavors. Not only do they help finish each other's sentences when talking about their art, but it is readily apparent that each is the other's most enthusiastic fan.



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Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 5, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area, and is chartered as a 501c3 non-profit corporation.



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From The Editor

It's February! A lot of the country is buried in snow right now, bless their hearts, but not Mentone! The sunny daffodils and fragrant kiss-me-at-the-gate (also known as first-breath-of-spring) are blooming and although we will still have some cold days ahead, there will be skiing at Cloudmont and you can bet it will be beautiful all around the mountain.

Every February, no matter how cold it gets, we are also handed some magnificent sunny warm days sprinkled throughout. The clear winter days are perfect for hiking, the views are extended, the woods are beautiful, you're not liable to get too hot, and best of all, the snakes are asleep!!

It's also a great time to cozy around the fire and warm up, inside and out, and think about what you love.

Lucy Mitchell and I were commiserating about our good fortune, as we often do, one day at Twigg's over tea and scones. We both love Mentone and, more to the point, we both love Mentonians. We were speculating about just why we were so blessed and in trying to pinpoint the myriad reasons, I do believe Miss Lucy struck the very heart of the matter when she declared that our lives were so rich and full because we were surrounded by people who were authentic and willing to live life as themselves and share that with the rest of us.

Authenticity, now that is something to love.



Mentone is a place that has welcomed folks from North and South, East and West and the ones that have made Mentone their home have not struggled stoically to blend in with some artificial notion of how it is supposed to be, but rather come as they are, and really show up to co-create Mentone.

It's always a little different, but it's always great. I hope you know you are welcome here, just as you are and are becoming. If

you haven't been to the Mountain in a while, or if you've been keeping to yourself, come share yourself with us and spread the love.

Now's a great time to book a romantic getaway for Valentine's Day. Use the handy enclosed Visitor's Guide to book a B&B and make a dinner reservation! If you can't come now, imagine the smile when those getaway gift certificates come tumbling out of that rose bouquet!

In addition to the useful guide, we've filled these pages with things we love, our history, our stories, our neighbors and our recipes. We hope you love them, too. I particularly love the Valentine's recipe for venison, because, really, what could be more romantic than cooking meat that someone slew for you?

Best, Susan

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or a story idea? Send
it to The Groundhog at
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The following article appeared in the Chattanooga Times Sunday, August 25, 1940, and has been reprinted verbatim.

Mentone, Founded in Romance, Popular Since 1872

John Mason Found Health and Joy Atop Lookout

By Robert Sparks Walker

Mentone, which is situated about midway between Chattanooga and Gadsden, atop Lookout Mountain, overlooking Valley Head, has been a popular resort since 1872. It had a romantic beginning.

The earlier settlers of Lookout Mountain were attracted to certain localities on account of the mineral water, chiefly that of iron, which was believed to possess healing properties, especially for persons suffering from stomach and intestinal disorders.

Years ago when the Oregon territory was opened to settlers, a man whose name was Mason and his family embarked on a ship leaving New York for the western coast, traveling by way of Cape Horn. The boat was never heard of again. But the man who had departed left behind a son by the name of John Mason. He was a daring youngster, and on reaching the age of 21, in the year 1840, enlisted in the First Dragoons of the United States cavalry. In common with the natures of other young men of his times, Mason craved adventure, and he was thrilled through and through to be sent to the middle west to assist in quieting an Indian uprising in that part of the United States.

All went well with Mason until one day when he sustained a serious injury, on account of

which he was handed an honorable discharge. Thrilled with the wildness of the west, young Mason purchased a farm in Iowa, where he chose to make his future home. The land was productive and the price was reasonable.

A New Adventure At 50

John Mason prospered from the beginning in his adventure in agriculture, but at the age of 50, his health began to decline. Mason was a man who believed that climate has much to do with a man's physical condition, and so he struck out on a new adventure, and that of testing the climate and water of various parts of his country. He believed that somewhere he would find a natural situation that would restore his body to the former healthy state. Every now and then he thought he had discovered the ideal place, but not for long, as his old illness would return with greater fury. On one of these trips, while sojourning in a favorable community, he accidentally learned through a neighbor of a man by the name of Leavitt, who lived on Lookout Mountain, in Alabama. This man gave glowing accounts of how people who came to Lookout and drank its pure water had been restored to health. John Mason decided to find the place.

Lookout was in a wild state at that time, much of it, perhaps, like it was

hundreds of years before. On arriving on the mountain, Mason found board and lodging with Leavitt's family, who treated him most kindly. He grew better, and a few months convinced him that he was really as well as he had ever been. That which had hitherto occasioned him so much worry and anxiety apparently had been healed atop Lookout Mountain, about a dozen miles north of Valley Head. Feeling perfectly sound in health again, John Mason's thoughts reverted to the fertile farm he had been compelled to leave behind in Iowa, where it was easy to make money. While health was to be had on Lookout, the mountain held no promise of a monetary reward for the person who chose to make it his home.

The farm of his in Iowa was the magnet that pulled heavily on his mind, and soon he had traveled all the way to the west to resume his cultivation of the soil. But John Mason had not been farming in the west long until his former illness returned with graver threats than before. Once again he made a beeline for Lookout Mountain.

It was the summer of 1872. Mason got

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Rhododendron Festival

Rhododendron Festival chair, Elaine Gauldin, announces plans for this year's Rhododendron Festival. Elaine's plans are sure to make this one of the best festivals ever. For more than thirty years now, the Rhododendron Festival has been one of Mentone's favorites sponsored by the Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA). As usual, this year's Rhododendron Festival will be held on the third weekend in May.

While the Rhododendron Festival will retain most of the good features from past festivals, Elaine hopes to change the focus for this year's festival to include more ol' time mountain music and present a view of life on the farm from horse and buggy days. She believes this is more in keeping with MAPA's goal of preservation of our

area's historic roots and will be fun for the whole family.

Another key goal is to obtain more community participation. Elaine hopes to include all our community organizations, schools, churches, and local government organizations in this year's festival. As much as practical, she would like to give our local "Chefs" the opportunity to participate as food vendors in what is aptly dubbed "A Taste of Mentone".

In the spirit of community cooperation, the Mentone Area Arts Council (MAAC) has obtained a grant for marketing material for the Rhododendron Festival. This is a matching grant that needs and will get an equal monetary or in-kind donation (s) from MAPA or others in our town. Thank you MAAC.

Elaine already has some committed volunteers, however, she still needs folks to chair one of the many committees in the plan (including Food, Native Plant Sales, Entertainment, Marketing, Site Operations/planning, Sign/banner, Vendor, Children's, and



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Farmstead committees).

If you would like to volunteer and be a part of this exciting community event, please contact Elaine at: 256-634-0039 or jgauldin@centurytel.net.



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Mentone Area Arts Council Announces Winter & Spring Class Schedule

You might want to get your thinking cap dusted off. Mentone is set to become a hotbed of learning. During the next six months, The Mentone Area Arts Council will offer more than 15 hands-on classes, lectures and tours. There is definitely something for everyone planned. The choices will range from creative classes in photography, stained glass and pottery and horticulture classes on wildflowers, organic farming and permaculture to informative classes on accounting, computer basics and science.

February's line up will feature local artist Chuck Peters who will lecture on and demonstrate the fundamentals of stained glass panel production. Chuck is known for his monolithic dome home and knowledge of

sacred geometry as well. One of his larger than life stained glass pieces was installed in Walker County not long ago.

Learn to use tools, products and practices to save money and the environment from Nashville's Tiffany Wilmot, President of Wilmot, Inc., a green building and sustainability consulting firm that was responsible for the single largest demolition reclamation project ever - the Titans stadium. Immediately following the presentation will be a tour of the almost off-the-grid home of Ellen Spangler and Mary Alice Stout which they built largely by themselves in nearby Cloudland. Area artists and craftsmen will want to hear CPA Doug Hoyt provide information on accounting and tax issues

specific to these trades.

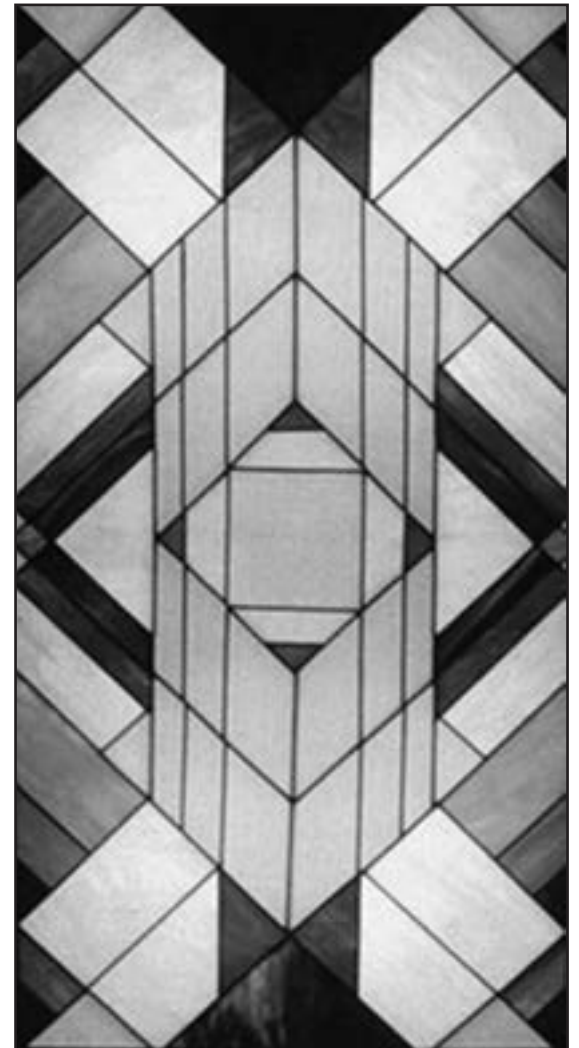
Check out the times and dates on the calendar of events in this issue and watch for future classes in upcoming issues. To see the entire list of classes, visit www.mentonearts.com.



Left: Tiffany Wilmot of Tiffany Wilmot, Inc.

Below: The earth-sheltered home of Mary Alice Stout and Ellen Spangler.

Right: A stained glass panel created by artist Chuck Peters



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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Linda Brown

Is it human nature to start planning new events after the holidays? If so, the Moon Lake Community Library board members are holding true to form. We had our meeting a week later because of the nasty bug running around Mentone and surrounding areas. Gethryn Giles was present to read our November minutes (we do not meet in December.) This got us thinking what we wanted to see accomplished by the library. Our first topic for discussion was a Book Sale. We plan to ask for a booth at the Rhododendron Festival. We have the manpower to move books and to stay and sell books, but we do not have enough books. Here is where you can help. We will now accept books to be sold at the festival. Bring books to the library during our open hours; NOT WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION. We do not accept magazines, as this gets to be a storage problem and there is no market for them.

Next we discussed hosting another Meet the Author event. We have several people to contact. Maybe we can nail down a date and other details and let you know next month. We talked about Operation Paperback. This is the collection of paperback books to be sent to our military men and women. It seems that a lot of them go on submarines. The box is full because the person who handles this project has been a little under the weather. We will make arrangements with her husband to come and get them soon so we can fill the box again.

I am so excited about this event. We are planning to host a Benefit Bridge Event. This would be a first for us and hopefully will become an annual event. We will sponsor eight tables of Bridge players for a fun afternoon. We will give you all of the details later. If you are a

Bridge player, ask three other players to consider playing with you in our happening. More information on this later.

We talked about reinstating the Koffee Klatch. This was held on Saturday mornings from ten to twelve o'clock. We had coffee and a snack available. But the main attraction was someone who makes things, does needlework, quilts, makes jewelry or has some other form of entertainment, comes to the library and helps those present to learn a new skill or to redo the practice of an old one. Right now I would like a scrap booking session. We will do more planning for this event and we would like to know if you are interested in something like this.

On a more serious note, we discussed ways to get more FRIENDS of the Library. We will try to correspond a little better with our present list. If you have forgotten to renew your membership please do so and if you are new to this, please join. Our friends work in the library and help in any other way they are asked to. All we need is your name and address and a twenty-dollar membership fee. You can send it to the address on the bottom of this article or leave it at the library. Our goal is to have enough friends to pay Beverly's salary, this would only take 156 FRIENDS! As you all know, she has used up her eligibility to get help from TARCOG and we now pay from the treasury. Your help in achieving this goal is very much appreciated.

Next month we will elect a new Chair of the Board of Directors. When I took the position I told them that it would only be until our new year started in March. I have enjoyed doing this but I feel that it needs someone with more energy than I have. Also,

we will get the terms of office correct and elect one director. I have asked to be considered for this position. I served on the committee to break ground for the library and have been active in some part of its planning ever since. We will see what happens and I will keep you informed.

New hours: Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 to 5:30 PM until the time change in the spring and Saturday, 9:00 to 12:00 AM. As always, no fine if you use the deposit box outside the door.

Write to us at: Moon Lake Community Library, PO Box 481, Mentone, AL 35984 and to be on the agenda for the next meeting on February 21, 2013 at 3:00 PM, tell Beverly or call 256/634-8006. You are welcome to attend. We like community input.



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Mentone (Continued from page 3)

his family together, boarded a steamboat on the Mississippi, and on reaching Memphis, Tenn., disembarked. From there he traveled to Chattanooga by rail. Misfortune again struck him a minor blow when he found the Alabama Great Southern trains were not operating, because Chattanooga was in the throes of an epidemic of cholera. Not to be outdone, Mason bought a team and wagon, loaded his family into it, and struck out by means under his own control.

A Little Girl and a Mountain

His young daughter, Alice, who later became Mrs. Marian O’Rear, had spent her previous years on a western prairie. The little girl had a burning curiosity to see what a real mountain looked like. Her father had told her that she was going to live on the summit of a great mountain. This so thrilled Alice that she went for her books on geography and turned page after page in search of pictures that would show her just what a real mountain was like. Thus for hours she examined her books, and she built her air castles of the new home that was soon to be hers. In every drawing that she found illustrating a mountain, the earth was shown rising up from a level surface and coming to a single peak. Quite naturally, Alice believed that the new home for the Mason family would be on the crest of one of those pointed heaps of earth, and that she would be able, without disturbing her tracks, turn around and around, and enjoy the sublime panorama from every direction. She never dreamed that it was possible for any mountain to have a flat top.

Down through Lookout Valley Mason’s wagon slowly creaked, crossing first one clear brook and then another. As Alice Mason’s eyes turned to the east, almost directly above her there stretched out a long stupendous upheaval of earth covered with beautiful trees and shrubs. She had seen some smaller hills on the way that resembled somewhat her idea of a mountain, but they were not tall enough



to be called mountains. Slowly they passed out of Lookout Valley into Will’s Valley. The huge massive wall of rocks with the large trees growing on top, which her father told her was Lookout Mountain, remained to their left. How could this be a mountain? She asked. There was not a picture in any of her books that showed a mountain like this big, long thing. If it were a mountain, then, perhaps, the thing once got so tall it fell down and was now lying sprawled on the earth, she thought. In spite of these meditations, her father assured her that what she saw was a real mountain, and its name was Lookout.

Finally the journey through the valley came to an end and her heart beat faster as they reached Valley Head, where they were to start up this big mountain. Slowly the team pulled the heavy load up the identical road over which the Federal troops under command of General McCook had traveled nine years before. Mason had not been on the mountain many hours until he found that the land could be purchased in large tracts at a very reasonable price.

He began experimenting by living at various places on the mountain, since he desired to choose the most desirable site for a permanent home. For a while he lived at Lahusage, near the junction of the two forks of Little River, and then at Holly Springs, about four miles southeast of Mentone. At last he built a home on top of the mountain directly up from Valley Head because it was the nearest point to the post office, and in those days, when a radio was not even dreamed about, above all other conveniences, a settler on the mountain craved a place where he might

receive newspapers and letters from other parts of the world.

John Mason bought a piece of land at a place which Ed Mason later named Moon Lake. There he built a commodious home. Only one other house was then in existence in that locality. It was located at Vernon’s Gap that led up to Mentone. It was considered an attractive mansion by people who were fortunate to glimpse it in later years. At that time the summit of this part of Lookout Mountain was much like a park. The native timber had not been spoiled with axe or saw, the trees were large and handsome and, instead of there being a growth of underbrush, a luxuriant carpet of grass spread over the ground beneath the branches.

The mountain held many of the wild animals left at the time the Cherokees were driven west in 1838, when it was one great hunting and camping ground of the Indians. Deer and wild turkeys were abundant, and the former were so common and easily killed that venison often reached the Masons’ dinner table.



John Mason was happy in their new home on Lookout Mountain. But his son, Ed, was soon attracted southward. He purchased a tract of land at Vernon Gap and, having pursued a course in surveying while in college, Ed Mason began laying out a town. He was so enthusiastic over the splendid prospects that he advertised the place far and near, calling attention to its pure water and exquisite scenery. Slowly home-

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Mentone (Continued from page 7)

seekers began to arrive on Lookout. Some remained, others went away.

In 1894, Dr. Frank Caldwell struck the top of Lookout Mountain with a faith so strong in its future that he built an inn known as the Mentone Springs Hotel. Caldwell was boarding at the time with John Mason's family. When his hotel was completed, he was puzzled over the selection



of a suitable name for his enterprise. At the breakfast table one morning, he mentioned his problem to the Mason family, and asked Alice Mason, the daughter of John Mason, if she would suggest a name. Miss Mason had lately read a press report in one of their newspapers of Queen Victoria of England stopping at a place in France called Mentone. The news item stated that the meaning of the word "Mentone" was "a musical mountain spring," whereupon she declared that inasmuch as the water from the spring on top of the mountain flowed with a ripple, she believed that "Mentone" would be a most fitting name. At that moment, Mentone, Alabama, came into existence in name on top of Lookout Mountain.

But Mentone did not grow by leaps and bounds. No mushroom growth can be charged to its history. The place, however, slowly became favorably known and men and women living in the warmer cities of the South began to flock to it. Some of them liked the climate and scenery so well that summer homes were built. Some

were constructed of the native sandstones, and some artistic log cabins were erected. Ed Mason, who laid out the village, did not live long enough to see his dream reach maturity, but his father, who suffered the illness in early life that caused him to discover Lookout Mountain, lived to be almost 92 years old.

As in the history of other health resorts, many people came, some of whom remained, others drifted away. Among the people arriving from abroad was Dr. John E. Purdon, who had served as a surgeon in the British Army in India. Purdon lived in what is known as the Riverside Lodge. He conceived the idea of founding an English colony at Mentone, and advertised widely in English newspapers. He offered to teach farming to any person desiring it. Several young Englishmen responded, but after remaining a while, one by one each and every one left, leaving Purdon's enterprise in defeat.

The Early Settlers

Among the early arrivals was a Mr. Libby from the state of Maine. He had been in the service of the federal government at Beaufort, South Carolina, rifling cannons during the Civil War. Libby liked the South so well that in 1880 he moved to Mentone. Others who came about the same time were Charles N. Maxwell and son Frank; L. D. Warren; and Alvare Tyler of Portland, Maine. Mr. Libby, who was of the same family as the men who founded the famous glass works and large packing firm by that name, homesteaded 200 acres of land at Mentone, on which his son, Ralph W. Libby, now resides. Over this same tract of land, in September 1863, 20,000 troops under General McCook marched. Among his treasured relics, Mr. Libby has fragments of bombs, grapeshot and minnie balls picked up on his farm. Besides running the farm on top of the mountain, the elder Libby operated a sawmill and grist mill in Valley Head.

In 1854 George O'Rear lived

on Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, at a site now known as the Ellison place. Ellison built a grist mill, and it was known as Ellison's Precinct before the place was known as Mentone. O'Rear's house was the first with two stories on that part of Lookout Mountain, and the second house to have glass windows.

Among the old settlers who lived at Mentone in 1880 were Robert Vernon, John Mason, Ed Mason, Jonathan Crow, Marian O'Rear, Jotty Ellison, Jack Green, William Perkins, Thomas Jones, William Jones and William King.

T. F. Sproule came from Ireland and settled at the time Dr. John E. Purdon landed there. Professor T. N. Taylor also came from Ireland. He was a staunch friend of Sproule's family, and taught school at Mentone and Valley Head.

At the foot of Lookout, a little north of Cloudland, was born Mrs. Florence S. Rogers, a woman of Cherokee descent, who was a near relative of the humorist Will Rogers. She had a keen mind, and it often gave off many witty sayings. Mrs. Rogers lived in Indian territory for several years, and was related by blood to some of the most prominent leaders of the Cherokees. As a girl she found much pleasure in climbing Lookout Mountain and roaming among its beds of wildflowers and wading the rock-ribbed streams. Her last days were spent in Menlo, Georgia, which lies directly eastward from Mentone, at the foot of the mountain. It was named by its founder, Jack Lawrence, because he was a great admirer of Thomas A. Edison, and

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FALLING LEAF LODGE. Charming rustic cabin nestled in the woods. Lots of porches to enjoy the outdoors of this 2 bdrm 1.5 bth with loft. Custom floors and doors, lots of windows, WB FP open living w sunroom dining area. Also a Workshop for the Hobbist a must see. \$164,000



STUNNING MOUNTAIN HOME and Retreat. Newly renovated kitchen, 2 living areas, and Gas FP. Open loft above the 2nd living area and open kitchen design. MBR has separate entrance to the deck, guest BR, and 2 BA. 700 sq ft. 2 rm guest cottage and a glassed Greenhouse/artist studio. Many possibilities with this wonderful property. Now \$249,000 (20562)



CLOUDLAND, GA. Two story bungalow in Cloudland proper. 3 br 2 bth, living w/FP. Dining and small kitchen. Large trees in yard and walking distance to restaurant & Cloudland Park. \$77,000 (22632)



MOUNTAIN CREST CABINS. Fully furnished log cabin nestled in the woods on 5.7+- acres, next to Cloudmont Resort. 'Up in the Clouds' is 2br/1bt with kitchen/dining combo, and large crawlspace that can be made into a basement. Amenities include CHA, gas log fireplaces, hot tub, 3/4 wraparound covered porch, kitchen appliances, furniture, decorations, linens, etc. *Appointment Only* \$150,000. (22793)



9 ACRES located on the east fork Little River with 500 ft on river, and 550 ft on Gilbert branch. Old homeplace. Concrete slab, power, well and septic. Privately located. Great place to build that getaway cabin! \$149,900 (22148)



JUST BELOW LAHUSAGE on the east fork of Little River. 5.4 acres M/L wooded with plenty of flora and fauna, and over 300 ft on the water. Rock bluff along rivers edge. Priced right at \$60,000. (22187)



WILD SCENIC LITTLE RIVER LOTS, privately located off Co. Rd. 628, Mentone. Two lots combined to make 2.2 acres with 337 ft on river. Partially cleared building area. What a View. \$65,000 (21685)



HISTORICAL MARTHA BERRY HOME in Downtown Mentone. Built in 1900's. An original Mentone dwelling, this home features 6 bedrooms, 7 baths, 2 living areas, and large dining area. Remodeled kitchen, 2 large porches, and Deck. Native foliage surrounds the 2-story home. \$397,000 (22160)



NICE LEVEL WOODED PROPERTY with partial drive and homesite cleared. Previous perk test. Easy access to the middle fork of Little River. Restrictive cov. apply. Located in Mountain River Estates. \$73,000 (20892)



3 ACRES LOCATED on the west fork Little River 1 mile above DeSoto Falls. Deep water for boating. Level wooded property with native Holly scattered throughout. Circular drive, perc tested, water meter installed. A beautiful spot to build that retirement home. 70 ft on the water. Quiet neighborhood. \$125,000 (21648)



WALTONS MILL SITE PROPERTY. Back in the civil war there was a grist mill located on this east fork river site. A unique property with 900 ft on the water, 2 building sites, easy access to the water, large rock overhang and flat rock bottom for easy floating down the river. A true Gem, 10 acres. REDUCED TO \$175,000 (20451)



6.1 ACRES on the east fork Little River. Wooded with 370 ft on river. Access road and easement for utilities. Privately located, great for canoeing, swimming. Build that getaway or just enjoy camping. \$65,000 (22115)



EAST FORK LITTLE RIVER. 5.4 acres partially cleared. 200ft on river, secluded with private road access. lightly restricted \$95,000



EAGLES AERIE. A unique Octagon-structure Home on the West Brow of Lookout Mtn. 8.8 acres, 3bdrm 2bth, Great Room W/FP Open kitchen/Dining. Heart Pine Floors & Views from every Room. A must see. \$395,000 (22539)



1.66 acre tract with septic, county water, well, and power. Lightly restricted. Cleared and ready to build that cabin in the woods! \$18,000. (22747)

Happy Valentine's Day

From LMPR

LOTS AND ACREAGE

OLD HOMEPLACE next to Shady Grove Dude Ranch. 1.7 acres. Great building sites. Non-restricted. \$20,000. (21599)

WOODED 39.8 ACRES, level mixture of hardwoods and Pines, some trails through property. Over 2500 ft. of paved road frontage. Could be nice development opportunity. Build a few cabins in this spot. REDUCED TO

\$163,800 (21649)

NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES on DeSoto Parkway with Stream. Can be Residential or Commercial. Land has old homesite and green house. Large Rock formations. Possibilities are Endless! \$100,000 (19419)

BUILD YOUR DREAM CABIN in the woods! 2.56 acres across from Lake Lahusage. Paved road frontage, city

water available, perc tested. Lightly restricted. Owner financing available. \$40,000 (19149)

NICE WOODED 3 ACRES next to Mountain Crest Cabins. Great building site for yourself or for rental cabins. Wildlife and trees are abundant. Priced to sell at \$25,000. (22095)

HEAVILY WOODED ACREAGE with wet weather spring. Paved road frontage along County Road 106, and just minutes from downtown Mentone. \$110,000 (22248)

6.4 ACRES. Partly open field and wooded tract of land in Oakwood subdivision. Lightly restricted. Surveyed, Perk. 2 lots 9, 10. \$45,000 (22650)



Each month, we will feature a favorite family recipe from one of our readers. If you have a recipe you'd like to submit, please send it to groundhog-news@aol.com or mail to P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984. Please include any additional information such as where you got the recipe, its history or details you think would be of interest to Groundhog readers.



This month The Groundhog is pleased to feature some of our readers' favorite Valentine's Day recipes. Hope you will enjoy trying them and serving them to the ones you love.

*Mentone
Wedding Chapel*



Nestled in the woods atop Lookout Mountain, near Mentone, Alabama, this quaint little chapel is surrounded by ferns, forest and flowers. The chapel is a scaled version of traditional Appalachian churches of days gone by. Stained glass windows filtering soft forest sunrays and soft organ music accent an ambience fitting the wedding ceremony. Inside wooden pews will seat approximately 60 guests.

Linda Patterson, owner of the chapel, said the idea for it began with a bell, and now that bell rings as newlyweds exit the door of the chapel.

[Candle Lite Ceremonies • Music • Photography]
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Food For Love

By Angie Carden

Truffled Red Wine Risotto with Parmesan Broth, Warm Jasmine Pudding with Passion Fruit, Maine Lobster with Wild Mushrooms and Rosemary Vapor... YES! Vapor! These are just a few of the food titles I came upon while researching Romantic Food! I am a lover of food, people, but I am certain I can't EAT Vapor! This Valentines, if you are the types that enjoy a romantic dinner, keep it at home, easy, pronounceable, and edible! Having been born and raised in Mentone, I believe that everyone is happiest when digging into simple, delicious, familiar hometown food! That's why I have chosen Venison, or as we refer to it here in the South, Deer Meat!

That said, here is a brief history on Valentines! Valentine's Day is said to have begun as a tribute to an early Christian Saint named Valentinus, who was executed around A.D. 270. His most popular martyrology is associated with

ministering to and marrying young soldiers who, at the time, were forbidden to marry by the Romans.

While imprisoned, it is said that he healed and fell for his jailer's daughter. And, just prior to being put to death, he wrote her a farewell and signed it "from your Valentinus".

By the 15th Century, Valentine's Day had evolved into an occasion by which lovers expressed themselves to one another by presenting flowers, confections or hand written "greeting" cards known as Valentines.

There are several other legends of Valentine's Day, but however it evolved, Valentines is a day of showing gratitude, appreciation and Love! I wish you all a very Happy Valentine's Day! And if you truly want to express how much you care, COOK for the one you Love! You can't go wrong by cooking with Deer Meat for your "Dear" either!

Individual Venison "Wellingtons"

You will need cooked, chopped or ground venison and defrosted Puff pastry! Pre heat oven 400. In a skillet melt 2 tbsp butter and add 1 small chopped onion, 1 c chopped mushrooms (of your choice!), 1-2 tsp grated or minced garlic and a little salt. Let cook about 10 minutes, just keep half an eye on it!

Meanwhile, on a lightly floured surface, lay your puff pastry out and roll it until it is about a 12-inch square. Then cut it into fourths. Line a sheet pan with parchment or spray a glass 13x9 pan. (I realize this is a Romantic Dinner for two, but you will both want more than one!) Should be time to turn off your mushroom mixture!

Arrange your cooked venison (you can use beef!), your mushroom mixture and one container of soft herb cheese or any cheese you like. Place ¼ of your cheese on the center of each pastry, then add ¼ of your venison and ¼ of your mushroom mixture. Before you fold the edges in, you may want to brush them with a little egg wash (1 egg with a bit of water) or with milk. Fold all 4 corners in and pinch seams. Place seam side down into your pan and chill for 10-15 minutes. Then brush tops with your wash or milk and bake 20-25 mins until puff pastry is golden and puffy!

Sweets For My Sweet And Sugar For My Honey

Scones

By Jennifer Ferguson
Chef, Twiggs Coffee Shoppe

2 cups all purpose flour
7 TBS sugar
1 TBS baking powder
1-cup cold butter – cut into small cubes
1 cup maraschino cherries – drained
1-cup heavy whipping cream

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees. Wisk first three ingredients together. Cut in butter w/pastry cutter or knife – until it becomes course. Stir in cherries. Add heavy cream & stir – dough will

be thick. Press dough together w/hands until it is moistened all the way through. Press dough into circle until dough is about 1 inch thick. Using a heart shaped cookie cutter (round is O.K.) – cut out scones and place on parchment paper lined cookie sheet. Bake for 20 minutes or until golden brown. Place cookie sheet on cooking rack.

While scones are being baked, make ganache. Place heavy whipping cream & butter in a microwave safe bowl. Microwave in 1-minute increments – until it bubbles (Be careful it's hot). Remove from microwave. Stir in mini chocolate chips until they melt. Drizzle ganache over cooled scones. Enjoy!

Oreo Truffles
By Beverly Bates

1 package double-stuffed
Mint Oreo Cookies, crushed
1 8-oz. package cream cheese,
softened
1 package White Almond Bark,
melted

Mix the crushed Oreos and softened cream cheese together and chill. Roll into walnut-size balls. Chill again for about an hour. Melt approximately 3/4 package of white almond bark. Dip each ball into the melted almond bark. Allow to harden on wax paper which takes about 15 minutes.

Oatmeal Candy
Cynthia Stinson
Mentone Inn

3 T. Cocoa
1 stick butter
2 cups sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
2 1/2 cups old fashioned oatmeal
1/2 cup peanut butter
1/2 cup milk

Mix sugar, cocoa, butter and vanilla in pan and heat until simmering. Add milk and let it simmer for 1 1/2 minutes. Remove from heat. Add the peanut butter and oatmeal. Stir and spoon onto wax paper. Let cool and enjoy!

Cocoons
Jo Thompson, Columbus, Miss.
Contributed by Beverly Bates

1 cup margarine
6 T powdered sugar
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup ground nuts
1 tsp vanilla

Mix together all ingredients. Shape into oblong balls and place on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes. After done, roll in powdered sugar while hot.

Coca-Cola Cake
Jo Thompson, Columbus, Miss.
Contributed by Beverly Bates

Cake:
1 cup Coke
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 sticks margarine
2 cups sugar
2 T. cocoa
1/2 cup buttermilk
2 eggs, beaten
1 tsp. soda
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups small marshmallows.
Icing:
3 T. cocoa
6 T. Coke

1 box confectioners sugar
1 cup pecan pieces

Combine flour and sugar in bowl. Sift. Heat butter, coke and coca to boiling and pour over flour and sugar. Add buttermilk, eggs, soda and vanilla and mix well. Add marshmallows and pour into greased 9" X 13" pan. Cook at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes. For icing, melt butter and cocoa and add to sugar with Coke to right consistency. Ice cake.

Grasshopper Pie
Huntsville Heritage Cookbook
Contributed by Beverly Bates

20 regular marshmallows
3 T. heavy cream
1/4 cup creme de menthe
1/2 pint heavy cream whipped.
1 9-inch chocolate cookie pie crust
Shaved bitter chocolate

Heat marshmallows, cream and creme de menthe in double boiler until marshmallows melt. Cool. Fold in whipped cream. Pour into pie shell. Sprinkle with chocolate shavings. Chill for two hours before serving. Add a spoonful of whipped cream and a Girl Scout Thin Mint on top of each slice.

Molten Lava Cakes
Paula Dean
Contributed by Jim Bates
who loves to prepare these.

6 1-ounce square of
bittersweet chocolate
2 1-ounce square of
semi-sweet chocolate
10 T butter
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups confectioners sugar
3 large eggs
3 egg yolks
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 T. orange liqueur

Grease 6-oz. custard cups. Melt chocolates and butter in microwave or double boiler. Add flour and sugar to chocolate mixture. Stir in eggs and egg yolks until smooth. Stir in the vanilla and orange liqueur. Divide the batter evenly among custard cups. Place in 425 degree oven and bake for 14 minutes. The edges should be firm but the center will be runny. Run a knife around edges to loosen and invert onto dessert plates.

Red Velvet
Stacey Hurn

2 1/2 cup sifted cake flour
1/2 tsp salt
1 tbsp cocoa
1/2 c real butter
2 eggs
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 bottle red food coloring
1 tsp vanilla

1 cup buttermilk
1 tbsp white vinegar
1 tsp baking soda

Cream butter and sugar together. Add eggs, one at a time. Add food coloring and vanilla. Mix together buttermilk , vinegar and soda. Add to creamed mixture. Add dry ingredients. Put into three 8-inch or two 9-inch greased and floured cake pans. Place into a 350 degree oven for about 30 minutes. But watch them! Each oven varies! Do not overcook!

Cream cheese frosting:

2 8 oz cream cheese
2 sticks real butter
2 boxes confectioners sugar
1 tsp vanilla

Let butter and cheese come to room temp. Cream together. Add vanilla. Add sugar slowly. Once layers are cool, ice generously with frosting. Enjoy!

Strawberry Cream Cheese Cobbler
Sgt. Marty Houston

1 stick (1/2 cup) butter
1 egg, lightly beaten
1 cup milk
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup sugar
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 quarts whole strawberries, capped and washed
4 ounces cream cheese, cut in small pieces

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter and pour into a 9-by-13-inch glass baking dish. In a small bowl, mix together the egg, milk, flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. Pour directly over the butter in the baking dish, but do not stir. Add the strawberries, arranging in a single layer as much as possible. Sprinkle cream cheese pieces over strawberries. Place in preheated oven and bake for 45 minutes, or until top is golden brown and edges are bubbling. (Crust rises up and around the fruit, but fruit will still peek out of top.)

And here's a starch just for good measure!

Fancy Rice
Darlene Rotch
Mentone Springs Hotel

1 Cup of white rice
2 cans of beef consume
1 stick of butter
1 jar of sliced mushrooms

Bake 1 hour at 350. The mushrooms rise to the top, and it is SO good. Serve with steak, pork or chicken.

Moon Lake School Raises Funds

Moon Lake School's 5th grade class is raising money to go to Space Camp in Huntsville. They had a Spaghetti Supper at the Mentone Market on January 24th. There was great support from the Mentone community, and they

raised almost \$900. Thanks to everybody who came out and bought some of Tom Emory's wonderful spaghetti.

Stephanie Roberts making garlic bread



Ian Roberts and Jordan Henderson



Ms. Prestwood and Jordan Henderson washing dishes



Tanner Gatewood drawing in the customers



Home Sweet Hometown

By Susan Cheronos

There are some special perks to living in a small town. Kindness is one of them. All around us folks are making Mentone special. If you know something good that's going on, share the news!

One morning I woke up in Mentone, it was early, the church bells hadn't even rung yet. I jumped in my car, needing to get to Cloudland, only to find the battery dead. You know, I didn't even fret for a second. I just knew there would be somebody getting coffee over at the Mentone Market that would take pity on me. I sure didn't expect the Chicken Lady herself to come from behind the counter and to my aid, but she sure did! She had a whole fancy jumper-thingy handy, too! You can tell I'm not too mechanical, but she sure was! Popped that hood and had me all hooked up and electrified in no time at all, while cheerfully carrying on as if it weren't some kind of rocket science she was performing under those hoods. Where else but Mentone is car trouble an actual pleasure?



Harriet O'Rear and Elaine Gauldin plant bulbs at the Mentone signs.

This Old House: MERF Community House

My boards may be a little creaky and my paint a little flaky but I am full of life. I continue to open my doors to the young and the wise so my walls are full of joy, laughter and learning.

Did you get to see the wonderful Christmas program the Moon Lake students gave in December called "An All-American Christmas"? Ms. Paula did a fabulous job of getting the kids all performing great songs in fun costumes. She even had the teachers and school employees delivering great information on the evolution of music.

December also means MERF is reviewing applications for the Sue McLaurin Henry

Scholarship fund. The students must reside in Mentone or Valley Head, be a full time student, have a minimum of a B average and need financial help. The Scholarship committee selected Brittany Bain, Susan Calzone, Caitlin Kirby, Daniel Hughes, Cynthia Sanders, Arden Shanklin and Matthew Shepherd to receive a \$400 scholarship each to help pursue their education for this spring semester. These students are making us proud at Northeast Alabama Community College, Jacksonville State University and Shorter College.

And what is more important than Valentine's Day in February but the Senior lunches starting back up for the spring! The first lunch will be on

Wednesday, February 20th, serving at 11:30 a.m. Can't wait to see everyone.

Like us on Facebook so you can see pictures and keep up with all the fun happening.

MERF: Mentone Educational Resources Foundation is a local non-profit with the mission "To enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources." If you would like to support our programs, tax-deductible donations can be mailed to PO Box 107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contributed online at www.crowdrise.com/MERF.

MERF Tutors Moon Lake Students

Mentone Educational Resources Foundation, MERF, has a wonderful tutoring program for the students of Moon Lake School. Children are tutored on Tuesday and Thursday in the Fall and Spring by volunteers from the Mentone Community. The Mentone Community house is a wonderful place when the volunteers come together with with students they read, do math, science, social studies, and enjoy a snack.

If you are interested in getting involved with MERF by volunteering please contact Kristen Emory, merf.mentone@gmail.com or call 256-635-8477.

Kat Griffith and Carley Verdon



*Anna Crissler
and Elaine Gauldin*

*Cody Brown and
Lucy Fowlkes*



Shirley Hussel and Emma Crissler



What To Do Around Here!

February 2013 Community Calendar

Feb 1 & 28 - Cold Weather Survival Class - True Adventure Sports. 9 a.m.-12p.m. \$25 per person. 256-997-9577.

Feb 1, 12, 15 & 18 - Wild Cave Tour - True Adventure Sports. 5-7:30 p.m. \$30 per person (includes helmet, cave lamps and guide). 256-997-9577.

Feb 1 & 2 - The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe presented by Blackberry Little Theatre. Benefits Fort Payne Opera House. Doors open at 6:30; show starts at 7 p.m. \$10 each all ages. 256-996-4895.

Feb 2, 9, 23 & 27 - Rappelling Adventure - True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. \$37 per person. 256-997-9577.

Feb 2, 19, 20 & 27- Rock Climbing Adventure - True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. \$35 per person (includes all gear). 256-997-9577.

Feb 2 - Story Time at the Canyon Center - Little River Canyon Field School Educational/Interpretive Center. 11 a.m.-Noon. Free. www.canyoncenter.org. 256-782-8010.

Feb 2 - Book Signing with Fiona Donovan - The Book Shelf. 12-3 p.m. 256-844-8663.

Feb 7 - 9, 11 & 14 - 16 Children's Advocacy Center Annual Dinner Theater - First United Methodist Church Life Center. Dinner at 6:30 and performance at 7:30. Ticket prices vary and are by reservation only. For more information or tickets, contact the Advocacy Center at 256-997-9700.

Feb 7 - Steve Norris, Singer/Songwriter from Helena, AL - Kamama Gallery. Doors open at 6 p.m. Concert at 7 p.m. \$10 per person. Reservations encouraged. 256-634-3001.

Feb 8 - Meeting of the Progressive Women of Northeast Alabama (DeKalb-Jackson-Marshall Counties) - Fonseca Restaurant, 1082 N. Brindlee

Mountain Pkwy., Arab. 11:30 a.m. President - Regina Baker. 256-638-4194.

Feb 8 - Night Zip Line - True Adventure Sports. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Pre-registration required by 6 pm the day before. \$50 per person. 256-997-9577.

Feb 9 - Green & Gray Saturday, Little River Canyon Field School Educational/Interpretive Center. 10-11 a.m. Free. www.canyoncenter.org. 256-845-8548.

Feb 9 - Introduction to Stained Glass: The Fundamentals of a Stained Glass Panel Production - MERF House. Instructor: Chuck Peters 10 a.m. \$10 per person. www.mentonearts.com.

Feb 9 - Take A Hike! - Little River Canyon Field School Educational/Interpretive Center. 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. Free. Hike locations will vary so visit www.canyoncenter.org or call 256-782-8010.

Feb 9, 11, 22 & 23 - Extreme Night Hike - True Adventure Sports. 6-8:30 p.m. \$18 per person (headlamp and guide included). 256-997-9577.

Feb 13 - Hypothermia Class - True Adventure Sports. 1-4 p.m. \$30 per person. 256-997-9577.

Feb 14 - Valentine's Day!

Feb 14 - Afternoon Rock Climbing Adventure - True Adventure Sports. 2-6 p.m. \$34 per person (includes all gear). 256-997-9577.

Feb 14 - "The Sleeping Beauty" - Alabama Ballet Northeast Alabama Community College. 7 p.m. \$10 per person. 256-638-4418 ext 2248.

Feb 14 - Love Birds Cave Dinner. True Adventure Sports. Romantic dinner for 2. 6-8 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Feb 15 - Winter Kayaking Excursion - True Adventure Sports, 10 a.m. 256-997-9577

Feb 16 - Paperweight Class - Orbix Hot Glass - Class size limited to five. Reservations required - \$130 per

person. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-523-3188.

Feb 16, 26 & 28 - Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo - True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m.- 2p.m. \$54 per person (includes all gear). 256-997-9577.

Feb 17 - Paint Mentone and Your House Green: Tools, Products and Practices to Save Money and the Environment. Instructor - Tiffany Wilmot, LEED AP, President of Wilmot, Inc., a Green building and sustainability consulting firm in Nashville, TN. Kamama Gallery, Mentone. 1:00 p.m. \$10 per person. www.mentonearts.com.

Feb 17 - Tour the "green" home of Ellen Spangler and Mary Alice Stout following the lecture. 3-5 p.m. www.mentonearts.com.

Feb 18 - Advanced Rappelling Class - True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m.-6p.m. \$125 per person. 256-997-9577.

Feb 21 - SharBaby Newport, latest member of the Blues Hall of Fame - Kamama Gallery. Doors open at 6 p.m. Concert at 7 p.m. \$10 per person. Reservations encouraged. 256-634-3001.

Feb 28 - Accounting and Tax Issues for Artists and Craftsmen. Presenter - Doug Hoyt, CPA. Kamama Gallery, 7 p.m. \$10 per person. www.mentonearts.com.



Ongoing

MAPA Members meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the MERF House in Mentone.

Gluten Free/Diabetic All Natural Cooking classes with Brenda Trace will be held at Little River Hardware at 6pm on Wednesdays. Classes \$10.

Lookout Mountain Parkway Association meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at lunch. Call to find out how to get involved! 256.845.3957

Karaoke every Saturday Night. 6-10pm, The Blue Lantern. Nice, Clean family entertainment. Located on Co. Rd. 642 in Mentone, 0.7 mi No of Hwy 117.

DeKalb Quilters meet every 4th Tuesday, 9:30am, Second Baptist Church in Fort Payne.

DeSoto Rescue Squad meets the 1st Saturday of the month at 9am at the MERF house in Mentone.

Free Square Dance Lessons offered most Thursdays, 6:30pm, at Tom Beville Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club. 256.638.2780

Moon Lake Elementary School PTO meets every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the Gymnasium.

Free food for needy families. New hours: Tuesdays, 9am - 12pm. The Bank at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church. Recipients and new applicants. Joint effort between St. Joseph's Community Outreach Ministry and North Alabama Food Bank.

Mentone Fire Department meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm.

Mentone City Council meets every 2nd Monday at 6pm.

The Lookout Mountain Wholistic Center meets the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of every month at Rock Ridge Retreat Center in Valley Head at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome!

Mentone Farmers Market open year round every Saturday, 10am-1pm.

Little River Canyon Center River Rhythms Nature & Art Family Fun Program every fourth Saturday from Jan-Oct. 1pm - 3pm; No Fee, For more information, call Renee Morrison at 256-782-5697.

Where To Go Around Here!

Mentone Area Visitors Guide

Bed & Breakfast Inns

Crystal Lake Lodge
3291 County Rd. 165, Mentone
256-634-8209

Mentone Inn B&B
6139 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-4836
www.mentoneinn.com

Mentone Springs Hotel
6114 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-4040
www.mentonesprings.com

Mountain Laurel B&B
624 Rd. 948, Mentone
256-256-634-4673
www.mountain-laurel-inn.com

Mountain Grove B&B
203 Elm St., Cloudland, GA
706-862-6676
www.mgbb.com

Raven Haven
651 Co. Rd. 644, Mentone
256-634-4310
www.ravenhavenbandb.info

Winston Place B&B
353 Railroad Ave., Valley Head
256-635-6381
www.webervations.com

Restaurants

Alice's Restaurant
at Mentone Springs Hotel
6114 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-4040
www.mentonesprings.com

Big Jim's Bama-Q
3808 AL Hwy. 117, Hammondville
256-634-1121
www.bigjimsbamaq.com

Bonnie's Family Restaurant
7807 GA Hwy. 48, Menlo
706-862-2281

Country Boys Family Restaurant
8669 Hwy. 137, Valley Head
256-635-6200

DeSoto State Park Inn Restaurant
Fort Payne
256-845-5380
www.alapark.com/desotoresort/

Hardware Cafe
at Little River Hardware
5190 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-4757

J. Spencer's Restaurant
7871 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-635-0030
www.jspencers.com

Moonlight Bistro
6080 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-4560
www.christineballenger.vpweb.com

Tigers Inn
132 Commerce Ave., Valley Head
256-635-6800
www.tigersinn.lbu.com

Twigg's at Kamama's
5951 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-3001

Wildflower Cafe
6007 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-0066
www.mentonewildflower.com

Windwood Farms Restaurant
4277 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-0055

Shopping for Fun

The Art Gallery at Mentone
5846 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-603-2404

The Crow's Nest Antiques
6081 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-4548.
www.crownsnestmentone.com

Dixie's Handcrafted Jewelry
57 Co. Rd. 600, Mentone
256-634-4137

The Gourdie Shop
6089 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-7446
www.gourdies.com

Kamama's
5951 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-3001

The Gallery at Mentone Market
5872 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-4686

Log Cabin Village
6086 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-605-2571

Moon Lake Trading Co.
5172 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-4070

Southern Style Log Furniture
AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
423-472-4480
White Elephant Antiques

6152 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-4529

Shopping for Necessities

Little River Hardware
5190 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-4757
www.littleriverhardware.com

Lucky's
7800 GA 48, Menlo, GA
706-862-6453

Mentone Market
5872 AL Hwy. 117, Mentone
256-634-4686

Attractions

DeSoto State Park
Fort Payne
256-845-5075

DeSoto Falls
DeSoto Falls Rd., Mentone

Little River Canyon National Preserve,
Fort Payne
256-845-9605

Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel
County Rd. 89, Mentone

Orbix Hot Glass
3869 County Rd. 275, Fort Payne
256-523-3188
www.orbixhotglass.com

St. Joseph's On The Mountain
21145 Scenic Hwy., Mentone
256-634-4476

Entertainment/Recreation

Cloudmont Ski & Golf Resort
721 County Rd. 614, Mentone
256-634-4344
www.cloudmont.com

One World Adventure
at Nippersink Lodge
52 Co. Rd. 936, Mentone
256-634-8370
www.oneworldadventureco.org

Shady Grove Dude Ranch
721 County Road 614, Mentone
256-634-4344

We hope you enjoy the Visitors' Guide in this issue. This is just a sample of the pull-out color guide we plan to run twice a year during our busy season. Contact groundhognews@aol.com if you are interested in participating.

February Birthdays

Feb 1 – John Lawton
Feb 1 – Abby Bell
Feb 1 – Tammy Kirby
Feb 2 – Beverly Smith
Feb 3 – Melanie Potts Garrett
Feb 4 – Angela Phillips
Feb 5 – Yon Hopper
Feb 7 – Jordan Sutton
Feb 8 – Crystal Smith
Feb 9 – Kara Goss
Feb 9 – Jonnie Frost
Feb 11 – Cayla Wigley
Feb 11 – Faith Nelson
Feb 12 – Tara Kirby
Feb 13 – Gretchen Phillips
Feb 13 – Carol Busby
Feb 13 – Craig Hall
Feb 16 – Katelyn Busby
Feb 18 – Richard Harrison
Feb 19 – Beverly Bates
Feb 19 – Danielle Powell
Feb 21 – Wendy Manifold
Feb 22 – Justin Langston
Feb 22 – Johnny Mack
Ferguson, Jr
Feb 24 – Michael Chambers
Feb 24 – Tom Emory
Feb 24 – Payton Day



February Anniversaries

Feb 3 – Jeremy & Amy
Henderson
Feb 5 – David & Pam Dean
Feb 7 – Calvin & Myra Lanier
Feb 8 – Clark & Genella Tolbert
Feb 14 – Joey & Melanie Garrett
Feb 14 – Kevin & Connie
McElhaney
Feb 17 – Vance & Patti Carden
Feb 23 – Jeff & LeAnn Bain

Coming to Mentone

By Jane Faile

We live here!

There's a thread that runs through conversations with people who've chosen to move to Mentone. Almost everyone says "the mountain called to me." Or simply, "I felt I belonged here." One friend echoed John Denver's song about "coming home to a place I've never been." I can't begin to guess what the special energy is that Mentone holds for so many of us, natives and transplants alike. Part of it is clearly the pure beauty of the place – the boulders, waterfalls, forests, rivers and streams. Part of it is probably the welcoming nature of the people who live here. But there's an undefinable quality – call it "Mentone's magic," if you will – an energy that touches the souls who need it and can heed it. I quite literally felt that touch as the waters of the river seemed to reach out to me as I reached to them, and I said to my husband, "I could live here." Here is the story of how we came to be in Mentone.

In the fall of 1995 my husband Wayne attended a men's gathering at Saddle Rock camp; the environment was so beautiful that he was late for the first meeting because he wanted to just keep driving around the Mentone area, awe-struck by the beauty of the fall foliage. When he returned home to Baton Rouge, a place of no hills, lots of traffic, and no autumn to speak of, he talked more about Mentone than the events

at the gathering. In the spring we attended a couples retreat at the same camp. We went to DeSoto Park before the weekend's events began, and, while hiking to the river, we stopped at an especially beautiful section of the trail where a



stream pours down a rocky slope into the river. When I leaned over to touch the wet stone in the river, I felt a frisson, a tingling awareness of the rightness of where I was, why I was there, and where I needed to be. When I said "I could live here," Wayne said, "Why don't we?" That's all it took. Upon our return to Baton Rouge, I gave my three years notice of retirement to the chairman of the English Department; he laughed, saying I was too young to retire. "Watch me," I muttered.

We had tacked this quote from the German philosopher Goethe on the fridge: "The moment one definitely commits oneself, then Providence moves too. All sorts of things occur to help one

that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favor all manner of unforeseen incidents and meetings and material assistance, which no human could have dreamed would have come his way." Once the decision to move to Mentone was made, things began to happen that I never could have foreseen. A doe and her fawn led us to the lot we now own; our realtor saw our house plans and introduced us to someone who had just built a similar house; he, in turn, gave us the names of various contractors. When our house in Baton Rouge went on the market, it sold within a week. We had no major problems with the details of the move – everything just fell into place.

We came here without really knowing anyone, yet within a month we had met people we easily connected with, found a spiritual community, met artists, organic farmers, labyrinth builders, people of varied backgrounds and interests, who create the "crazy quilt" that is Mentone. We were home. After fourteen years as a Mentonean, I still feel the wonder of the place, and frequently exclaim, "We live here!"



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**Welcome To
Mentone!!**



Stop by our Log Cabin in front of the Wildflower Cafe, we always look forward to a visit from our neighbors and friends.

LOTS and LAND

FABULOUS PRICE FOR 9.2 ACRES ON BROW! There's nothing quite like the views on the north brow at Mentone. Vistas stretch out practically forever across field & woods in the valley, the hills to the west, & off into the sunset. Wooded land w/boulders & rock ledges along brow, land down below so you can pick your view. Best price for brow land in the Mentone area. \$119,900. (MLS#367456)

REDUCED! 7.59 BROW ACRES, TATUM GULF a "getaway in the making!" Roughed in retreat or guest house on amazing brow lot on Lookout Mtn. Situated on a hillside of rhododendron by a small mtn stream, private & serene. Beautiful forest & great views. \$175,000 (MLS#604670)

REDUCED! 20 ACRES W/NICE FISHING POND & DOCK, corner property, mostly woodland. Great place to take the family, park a camper and enjoy the weekends. Nice land, nice pond, nice price!!! \$85,000. (MLS#418106)

4.43 ACRES & RV ALREADY SET UP! Unrestricted property holds a lot of promise when you're ready to build. But, while you're waiting to build, you can enjoy weekends in the RV that goes with the property! Private drive off winding country road. \$52,000. (MLS#311288)

REDUCED! 62.32 ACRES WITH GREAT VIEWS of both valleys and Lookout Mtn from ridge top with great building sites on elevated, level ground. Own your own hunting preserve, secluded woodland retreat, or investment. \$175,000 (MLS#313915)

LITTLE RIVER NEAR DESOTO FALLS. Build perched on a hillside looking up and downstream. Deep water access for swimming, fishing & boating. Nature hike to the Falls. \$175,000. (MLS#708869)

TWIN OAKS. Quite possibly the prettiest subdivision in the Mentone area. Level 3-acre lot with plenty of shade. Underground power, city water (fire hydrants, too). \$36,000 (MLS#644069)

GOIN' UP THE COUNTRY. Slow pace living at its best. Great building lot; unrestricted, level, with lots of trees. Not a big lot, not a big price. Only \$7,500. (MLS#551773)



Just tell your friends you've "GONE FISHIN'!" Perfect 1BR/1BA fishing or getaway cabin on Rock Lake in Mentone. Back deck offers pleasant view of the lake, room for grilling & relaxation in the hot tub. Fully-furnished (incl linens, decor, appliances (and did we mention the hot tub?). Just bring your fishing poles and get started enjoying the outdoors or just relaxing under the stars. Great getaway or rental. \$110,000 (MLS#629512)



MILLSTONE AT LAHUSAGE. Stone & board-n-batten, 3BR/2.5BA, one-level cottage. Extreme total makeover: new roof, windows, plumbing, wiring, sheetrock, CH/A, cabinets, floors; more. Quaint board-n-batten outbuildings. New board fence around yard shaded by mature hardwoods. Old grist millstone embedded in rock work. Lake is just across the road. Home or getaway. \$169,900 (MLS#960277)



THE BRUCE HOUSE One of the few remaining original old summer homes near "downtown" Mentone. Located right behind the Mentone Inn on Linchpex. This house has a lot of character and charm. It has a lot of original features like a back porch (with a windmill and windlass that still works!). This house has the character you want. Needs your TLC. \$119,000. (MLS#913251)



SUNRISES & MOONLIT NIGHTS are spectacular from this approx 2100 sq ft; 3BR/2BA, Mentone home. LR w/ gas log FP; bright country kitchen w sunny b'fast area, pantry, tons of cabinets! MBR accesses den/sunporch to enjoy views. Boulders, flowering plants, peach tree, muscadine vines, quaint workshop (or future guest cottage).RV shelter w/power. 2-car att gar. \$149,900 (MLS#861785)



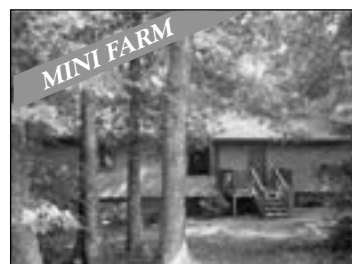
A REAL LOG CABIN in Hunters Ridge, on 2.06 acres. 2BR (or 3 if you decided to turn the DR into a BR)/2.5BA, great covered front porch to enjoy the serenity & quietude of nature's beauty around you. Small stream below the back deck gives wildlife a place to drink and humans a place to spend peaceful mornings with a cup of coffee. Stone Fpl w/gas logs completes the mountain getaway atmosphere. Quite a deal! \$125,500 (MLS#588906)



ENGLISH STONE COTTAGE perched on the brow of Lookout Mtn, offering privacy with breathtaking views & hiking trails to nearby waterfalls. This cottage has a lot of character and charm. It has a lot of original features like a back porch (with a windmill and windlass that still works!). This house has the character you want. Needs your TLC. \$119,000. (MLS#913251)



GORGEOUS CABIN IN THE WOODS, at the end of a quiet lane. Perfect for those who want to be nestled in the woods, but not too far away from it all. 1 1/2-story cabin has 3BR/2BA; main-level MABR suite w/jetted tub & sep shower. Upstairs 2BR/1BA. Wrap-around porch w/covered front porch. Beautiful HW floors; vaulted beam ceiling &WB Fpl for snuggling on cool evenings. SS appliance pkg. \$170,000 (MLS#636012)



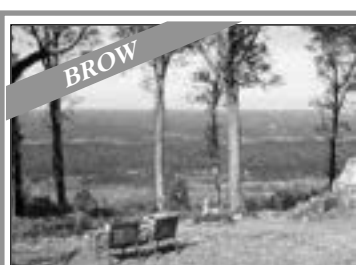
HOME, 6 ACRES, POND, PASTURE, fruit trees, blueberries, nice woods, waterfall & stream in Mentone! Freshly-updated, 2 (or 3)BR/3BA, cedar-sided, one-level home. New cabinets, granite countertops, appliances, paint. Pine floors. Detached 2-car+ garage. Easily accessed from Hwy 117, but hidden behind a nice little woodland w/seasonal waterfall & stream. \$155,000 (MLS#504329)



THE BARN CABIN: a weekend getaway, a rental or full-time residence. The choice is yours. Board-n-batten exterior & gambrel roof. It's less than a mile from the beautiful woods of the area. Priced to fit a small budget or to provide a very good investment opportunity. Just listed for only \$95,900. (MLS#570688)



PEACEFUL WOODLAND BUNGALOW with detached studio & garden shed playhouse. Enjoy this great location close to Desoto State Park & Mentone. Situated on a quiet road, this 2BR/2BA, well-kept home has an open floor plan & additional room for 3rd BR or office. Fenced back yard, garden & fire pit. Year-round residence or getaway. \$170,000 (MLS#489385)



YOU'LL BE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED at the spaciousness & charm in this well-hidden, brow-side cottage, tucked away behind a lush, bird-song-filled garden along the Scenic Pkwy. Part of historic Brow Park Lodge (a brow-side "motor court" active in late 50's-early 70s), transformed into an inviting getaway w/a downright amazing view! 2BR/2BA; small (but very serviceable) kitchen; sunroom/den with vintage stone floors & oh-so-many windows bring the brow view inside! Back deck & screened porch to enjoy the view, no matter the weather! Attached single garage. It's a place you really should see. \$264,500 (MLS#423110)





The Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 9AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis is speaker for these services.

The Valley Head Baptist Church invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6PM; Women on Mission meets at 1PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Everyone is welcome to come.

Lea's Chapel Baptist Church welcomes you to worship with us. 10AM Sunday Bible Study, 11AM Morning Worship, 6PM Evening Worship. Wednesday 6-8PM Awana (ages 4 to 18); 6:30pm Praise and Prayer time. Located at 4212 County Road 751, Valley Head. 635-1001.

Visitors are always welcome at the **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at 9AM.

Wildwood Seventh Day Adventist Church, Mentone Chapter, is currently holding services in the Woodmen of the World Hall in Valley Head. All are invited to attend! Sabbath School and Song Service: 9:30-10:45AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnel.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds Mass Services at 10AM each Sunday-English; 1PM-Spanish; 6PM-English; Tuesday 6PM-English; Wednesday 4:30PM-Spanish; Thursday 6:30AM-English; Friday 9AM-English.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular Worship Services are at 10AM Sunday. Bible class or Lent/Advent services every Wednesday at 6:30PM. Steve Schrader, Pastor - 845-4314. Everyone welcome.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church on Highway 11 North of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting at 6PM, and Wednesday night Prayer Meeting at 6:30PM.

The Fort Payne Christian Center and Pastors Ken and Elaine Hollman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10AM, Wednesday evening at 6PM. God Bless You.

Grace Presbyterian Church (PCA), 5760 Gault Ave. NE, Fort Payne, AL. Sunday School 9:45AM; Sunday Worship 10:55AM. Church office: 256-845-4756.

Menlo Church of Christ invites you to attend the 10AM and 11AM services and evening services are at 7PM and 9PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Cloudland, GA, welcomes everyone to come and take part in our church services. Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM, Sunday evening at 6PM, and Wednesday evening at 7PM.

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM, Wednesday Bible study at 5PM.

Howard's Chapel (Church in the Rock) has regular services 10AM each Sunday. You are invited to attend these services or visit the church at other times. Casual dress is always acceptable.

St. Joseph's On-The-Mountain Episcopal Church, 21145 Scenic Highway, Mentone. Everyone welcome to 10:30AM Sunday service of Holy Eucharist. Open for daily prayer and thanksgiving. Supporting our community with outreach. Call for more information, 256-634-4476, <http://stjosephmountain.dioala.org>

Mentone United Methodist Church, 415 Cutler Avenue, Mentone, Alabama invites you to come and worship with us. Each Sunday, our Worship Service is at 11AM and Sunday School is at 10AM. Rev. Tony Gunter is the pastor. The service of Holy Communion is celebrated the first Sunday of each month, the second Sunday is Youth Sunday and Fifth Sunday is a service of music and pot-luck lunch.

Moon Lake Baptist Church invites you to worship with us. Sunday School begins at 9:45AM, with classes for all ages. Morning Worship is at 11AM. The Lord's Supper is observed on the first Sunday of September, December, March and June at the morning worship hour. Discipleship Training is at 5PM and Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM. On Wednesdays, Team Kids, Youth Bible Study, Adult Bible Study and Prayer Meeting are all at 6:30PM. Rev. Terry Turner is the pastor.

Alpine Community Church, 115 Hwy. 337, Menlo, GA. Pastor and Rev. Tommy Pledger welcome each and everyone to worship service Sunday morning at 11AM GA time; Sunday School 10AM GA time; Wednesday night Bible Study 7PM GA time.

Cove Road Baptist Church, County Road 631, Mentone, Alabama. Brother Marlin Stames, Interim Pastor, welcomes all to Sunday School at 9AM (10AM GA time) and Sunday night services at 5PM (6PM GA time).

Summit Church of God invites you to be in service Sunday morning 10:45AM, Sunday night 5PM, Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM. Pastor Lance Kincer invites everyone.

Mentone Church of God of Prophecy - regular service times are Sunday School at 10AM, with Worship at 11AM. Evening services begin at 5:30PM on Sunday and 6PM on Wednesday. Rev. Dean Clair invites everyone to attend.

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd., Mentone, AL 35984. Sunday Services: Sunday School 9AM-all ages; Sunday Service 10:30AM;

Bible Study Wednesday 6PM; Youth Services 7PM Sunday and 6:30PM Wednesday (Meet at Mentone Revival Center Building). Pastor Fred Johns.

Cloudland Presbyterian Church welcomes everyone to come join us for services, with Pastor Roger Kvam. Bible Study Sunday at 9AM (EST) and Worship at 10AM (EST).

Since 1889 worshippers have gathered at the Historic **First Presbyterian Church PC (USA)** at 300 Grand Avenue North in downtown Fort Payne. We invite you to join us for worship this Sunday at 10:55AM. 256-845-2915.

New Oregon United Methodist Church located off DeSoto Parkway, would like to invite you to their services. Sunday School for all ages 9:45AM; Traditional Worship Service 11AM. Sunday evening youth activities 5:30PM. Evening Worship 6PM. We have a variety of activities for all ages including Wednesday evening youth activities; knitting ministry for ladies each Tuesday at 9AM; Elderberries for Senior Adults once a month for fellowship and meal. Pastor Jeff Davis, Associate Pastor Keith Davis. Address: 1203 New Oregon Dr., Ft. Payne, AL 35967. Phone 256-845-7446.

The Church of God 7th Day in Hammondville located just off Hwy. 11 N. at corner of Hwy. 117 and Palmer Road. Sabbath School classes at 9:30AM and Worship Service at 11AM. Visitors are always welcome.

Send any changes to The Groundhog at groundhognews@aol.com or P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984.

One Billion Rising Dance Event

"One in three women will be raped or beaten in her life"

A global event designed to raise awareness and end domestic violence will have a local venue. Come together to dance and shake up a revolution on Valentine's Day in Fort Payne City Park at the Pavilion from 4:30-6:00. All are welcome.

*"One billion women violated is an atrocity.
One billion women dancing is a revolution."*

For information on the global movement, visit www.onebillionrising.org

Rhododendron Garden Club

By Linda Brown

Some nasty virus insisted on visiting with me, and I did not choose to take him to the garden club meeting. Gethryn Giles recorded the minutes for me and I will write this article from them. Thanks, GG.

The business meeting was called to order by the new president, Peggy Roark, who also led the pledge to the flag. Refreshments were served by Madelon Houghland and Jan Wilkinson. Ten members answered roll call by naming a bird that comes to their outside feeder. Guests were Kaye Kiker, Doug Kiker and Barbara Scott. Doug Kiker gave the meditation, "Touch of the Master."

Kaye Kiker presented the program, Land Conservation. She has been awarded several awards by various governors and presidents. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan stated of Kaye, "Kaye Kiker was instrumental in the formation

of Alabamians for a Clean Environment and has been the leader in educating local residents about the impacts of the Nation's largest toxic-waste landfill located in their county."

Kaye's area of expertise is hazardous waste incineration, disposal and transportation. She spoke of this continuing problem with toxic-waste landfills in Alabama. Much of the waste is delivered by waterways and is from foreign countries. Kaye stated that much is still needed to be done. Recently, all members of garden clubs of Alabama and other groups were successful in getting a moratorium passed to delay one such site in the southern part of the state. Our area is fortunate in that Kaye and Doug live in Mentone and Kaye joined the club. We will continue to stay on top (pun intended) of this situation.

The newly elected slate of officers was installed by Jan Wilkinson. Ann Houston sent ceramic tiles representing birds to be given to each officer.

Horticulture Committee chair, Martha Wood, reported on flowers that need light to germinate. She distributed poppy seeds which can be

planted by spreading them across the ground. Marsha Merrill, Conservation Chair, suggested that every member adopt a New Year's resolution to plant a native plant this year.

The necessary reports and announcements were made. Of interest to all was that The Garden Club of Alabama is raffling off a quilt at the GCA Convention in April. Tickets are two dollars each and the local club will keep one dollar of this. Peggy stated that she needs quite a bit of information to complete the President's Report. She will poll the club members for such things as the number of trees planted during 2012.

Marsha Merrell was awarded the door prize. Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting: Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at the M.E.R.F. Community House in Mentone. We welcome guests and invite anyone to become a member.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of Northeast Alabama Federation of Garden Clubs, The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., District II, Deep South Region and National Garden Clubs.

Mentone (Continued from page 8)

the name Menlo Park caught his fancy early in life. Mrs. Rogers passed away in the autumn of 1938.

MENTONE

Mentone, a "singing stream" that trickles down A mountainside and hides among dense beds of laurel blooms.

The sandstone cliffs in brown

And gray, lift up milkwort's and flameflowers' heads,

To see the sun go down behind

The sublime capped Cumberlands.

The summer troops of heat

Arrive at Lookout's base

But cannot climb the slopes by day

Or night, and so defeat

Comes not to mar the cool, refreshing breeze

That stirs the hearts of men as well as trees.

If "Mentone" means "a singing stream"

It makes also a singing populace rejoice

Who, with the queen-clad summer morn

Awakes to catch the thrills within the thrush's voice;

To sense the pulsing strokes of Nature's heart

Man seeks the source of wisdom and he heeds

The whole of which he is a vital part,

Then turns his eyes to top of trees and reads:

"Good morning!" scribbled in sunbeams of gold,

And then "Good-by," when day is growing old.

The old Moon Lake across the river from Mentone, which was developed by Ed Mason, was acquired by Miss Martha Berry, founder of the Berry schools, near Rome, Georgia. Miss Berry is remodeling the old house and extending the lake.



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Want to know more about Mentone's early years?

MAPA is offering Zora Strayhorn's popular book *Mentone, Alabama: A History*, a fascinating collection of information about many of Mentone's oldest structures, the early settlers, and popular legends and lore. Also included are several historic photographs of the Mentone area.

You can buy *Mentone, Alabama: A History* at the following businesses in Mentone:

Wildflower Cafe

Kamama Gallery

Crow's Nest Antiques

The cost is only \$15.00, and all sales proceeds go to the Mentone Area Preservation Association to further its goals for 2013. Help support MAPA and get answers to all your questions about the history of Mentone!

Southern Properties

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Agency, Inc.

2107 Gault Ave. N., Fort Payne

SouthernPropertiesAgency.com

					
THIS 3 BEDROOM, 1 BATH house is located in the Brow Park Subdivision in downtown Mentone and is situated on 4 lots. Included are 3 outbuildings for \$110,000 (830573)	BROW LOT IN MENTONE featuring a unique log structure with open living space, 1 BR, 1 BA. Plenty of acreage to build something new or enjoy the atmosphere of days gone by. \$279,900 (412695)	SITTING ON TOP OF THE WORLD... UNIQUE "round" cabin offering an open living space, 2BR/1BA, most all furnishings, 9.58 acres and SPECTACULAR views of the valley and mountains beyond. \$275,000 (328583)	ENJOY LIFE UNINTERRUPTED in this custom built log get-a-way on 4 secluded acres. Loft BR and 1BA with wood floors offering a cozy atmosphere and a front rocking chair porch complete the picture. Hurry before someone buys the cabin of your dreams for only \$110,000. (564870)	FIRST TIME OFFERED. Main house, guest house and 45 acres on the west brow of Lookout Mtn. A must see for \$799,000. (815966)	Alpine Gate House is now for sale. 3 Bedrooms/ 2 Baths. \$110,000 (369781)
					
POSSIBLE COMMERCIAL LOCATION or great residential property near downtown Mentone! House has been completely remodeled with new electrical wiring, new plumbing, new screened porch and deck, plus More! All move-in ready! \$130,000 (488926)	INCREDIBLE BROW HOME offers three levels to enjoy the gorgeous view. Kitchen has b:fast bar and stainless appliances. MBR has private deck, FP and wood walls and ceilings. Outside enjoy the stacked rock FP/bbq grill, patio and decks. Come see this unbelievable home today! \$589,000 (965370)	A stones throw from snow skiing, hiking, canoeing & golfing. 3BR/2BA rustic cottage w/ open floor plan, wood floors, wood burning fireplace, large kitchen area w/island, front & back porch...rocking chairs included!! Great central location on DeSoto Pkwy. just minutes from downtown Mentone, DeSoto Falls and the Park. Large lot w/potential for another cabin. \$169,000 (779115)	A BEAUTIFUL SUNSET is an added bonus you can enjoy from the large back deck on this 3BR/2BA log home. Wood burning fireplace, built-in bookshelves, eat-in kitchen with appliances and a rocking chair front porch to kick back and relax! \$299,900 (500332)	ENJOY MANY HOURS on the large deck overlooking the beautiful valley below in this 3 BR/2 1/2 bath home located in the Lake on the Brow subdivision. Extra garage/workshop and storage building along with a gated entry, fully fenced yard and additional lot make this one have it all! \$349,000 (649658)	YOU WILL ENJOY the warm ambiance of this 3BR/2BA, 1 1/2 story cabin on 5.69+/- acres that adjoins DeSoto State Park. Screened porch, cozy kitchen w/b:fast nook, living area w/rock FP, and an open loft. Detached 2-car carport with an unfinished kitchen and bath with a bedroom upstairs. \$295,000 (732138)
					
COZY COTTAGE with a unique atmosphere offering 2BR/2BA, open living area, rock FP, CH&A, screened porch with hot tub, complete appliance package. Currently on a rental program. Great investment opportunity! Call today. \$154,900 (875310)	CUSTOM 3BR/2.5BA cedar sided home on 1 acre. Great room w/fireplace, kitchen/dining combo, above-ground pool w/deck, BONUS room, 2-car garage, all overlooking pond. \$199,000 (326959)	YOU'LL FALL IN LOVE with this comfortable 2BR/2BA cabin with large screened porch, open living/kitchen with bar area, and stacked rock fireplace. Currently on a rental program. Call about this investment opportunity today. \$218,000 (437098)	SECLUDED MOUNTAIN RIVER ESTATES!! Great location with Middle Fork Little River at the rear of property! \$189,000 (353611)	READY FOR THE COLLECTOR, this 2BR/1BA home has bookshelves everywhere! In the living room...in the den...in the kitchen and in the garage. Also included is a 20x20 storage building with wall to ceiling shelves. All situated on a 1 acre lot. \$89,900 (809133)	LAKEFRONT LIVING!! Walk right out the back door to custom built wooden decks and walkways to your own boat dock on Lake Lahusage. This 2BR/2BA cottage with gas or wood burning fireplace and screened porch, 2-story 2-car garage. ONLY \$284,500 (654813)
					
Peaceful setting in Mentone with 3BR/2BA, office, sunroom and screened porch. Property borders Brush Creek. \$195,000 (965143)	Live and Play on the Water! Enjoy 200' of frontage on the East Fork of Little River in this waterfront home featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, rock floors as well as some carpet, all appliances, wood burning fireplace, and storage building. Call for more details. \$325,000 (284321)	A bit of HISTORY in this log cabin located across from the brow. 3 BR, 2 BA, L-shaped living/dining/kitchen combo, wood floors, and is being sold with furnishings. \$229,000 (838721)	CUSTOM BUILT, 2 BR/2BA log cabin situated on shaded, woodland acres. Two stone fireplaces, luxurious loft, 3 season sleeping porch, detached storage, additional small cabin, lily pond, kitchen with 5 star six burner gas range...reduced \$279,500 (332033)	First Time Offered for Sale! Alpine Lodge - 3 Bedrooms/ 3 Baths. Open living/dining/kitchen with stacked rock, wood burning fireplace. Wraparound porch. \$350,000 (950770)	LAKE ON THE BROW - LOG HOME, 3BR/3BA, Brow Lot w/Unsurpassed VIEWS! Stacked Rock FP, Screened Porch, Unf. Basement, Access to 2 Private LAKES. \$298,500. (421306)

LOTS AND LAND

A GORGEOUS PIECE OF LAND TO BUILD ON!! This Mentone building site offers a level 3.22 acres with lots of hardwoods and power & water available at the road. You will love this peaceful site located in West Fork Subdivision. \$29,900 (881041)

4.5 +/- ACRE PARCEL on West Fork of Little River being sold in 2 lots. You choose. \$98,500 each lot (508178)

BUILD ON THE WATER'S EDGE ...approximately 100' of waterfront on West Fork Little River. \$168,000 (553323)

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE to purchase 100 to 243 acres on Lookout Mountain (Mentone). \$3900 per acre (785191)

106' OF PRIME BROW VIEW with paved road frontage. \$109,500 (403694)

PLENTY OF LAND TO BUILD AND FEEL SECLUDED! Wooded 7.13 acres in Mtnn River Estate. Restricted land with possible creek flowing on back of prop \$49,500 (656265)

246 ACRES on Lookout Mountain....\$4400 per acre. (928084)

WATERFRONT LOT in Restricted Lake on the Brow Community! 104 feet of water frontage! Mild Restrictions in File. Common Lake and Brow Areas! Call Today! Only \$52,900! (984141)

2 BUILDING LOTS in Hidden Lake Sub. Gated community on a 14 acre lake with walking path around lake. Borders the 14,000 acre LRNP. \$75,000 ea. (762331-665968)

DESOTO BLUFFS - 3.2 acre wooded building lot on paved road. Seasonal views! \$62,000 (646728)

DESOTO BLUFFS - .95 acre wooded lot with panoramic view, nice trees and level yard. Paved road frontage, city water. \$49,500 (595179)

NO MORE DAYDREAMING. about Living on the Water when you purchase this 3 +/- acres on the East Fork of Little River. This lot features approx. 175' of river frontage and offers a gorgeous setting for your dream home. \$75,000 (801334)



The Chicken Lady

Is it okay to share medicinal remedies with your chickens? No, really? Can you use the same remedy for your self that you use for your chickens?

The Chicken Lady has turned forty years old. I am now a forty-year-old mother of two teenagers, four dogs, and eight chickens. Oh yea, and a soon to be forty year old husband, who enjoys way too much reminding me that he will never be as old as I am...ever. Confession time, turning forty has not been easy for me. I remember very clearly when my parents turned forty and I thought they were OLD. Now I am the OLD ONE.

Guess who does not know or care that I have turned forty...the girls. They still greet me every morning as I leave for work and when I come home. They could care less that I have begun a new, questionable, stage of my life. All they want and need is to be fed and always hope that I will give them a Happy Hen Treat, mealworms. If there were only a magic worm treat for kids and husbands...a girl can dream.

I'm forty; I'm falling apart from head to toe, literally. The bottoms of my feet sting in the morning, at night, and all of the time in between, I don't know what to do. I've changed my socks and shoes, used lotion, changed soap,

nothing. I even went without socks...not my best idea. Nothing has helped with this stinging sensation. So what does a newly forty-year-old woman do on a Friday night? She gets on the Internet and looks up "stinging sensation on the bottom of the feet". The answer, a very long named affliction that I don't wish to attempt saying out loud and is most common in women over forty! OVER FORTY!! I soon recover and read on. Suggested remedies soak your feet in cold water and Apple Cider Vinegar. Oh yea baby I may not be a Boy Scout but I am a prepared forty year old woman. I have Apple Cider Vinegar already, I don't have to wait, I can treat this tonight, goodbye stinging feet! I keep apple cider vinegar for the chickens outside in their coop. If you put a cap full of vinegar in the chickens water it helps with worms...thank goodness I don't have worms!

After a few treatments with the Apple Cider Vinegar the stinging has subsided. This forty year old again has the feet of a thirty year old and I have my chickens to thank for it.

It's only January but it is never too early to plan for the Springtime. I have been considering, only to myself of course, raising some more baby chickens this year. There is nothing better than having baby chicks. They love you so much and I love watching them grow. My girls that I raised from chicks are my best hens. When they lay their first egg it is something special, like becoming a proud grandmother. Wait...No; I'm only forty, way to young to be a Grandmother!

All of the chicks I have raised are comfortable around us but there is only one Favorite Chicken. She is still making herself at home, inside and out. With all the recent warm weather

Tom had the back door open while he was taking down the Christmas decorations. As he came through the kitchen he startled Favorite Chicken, who had apparently decided to come in and have a look around. That's right, a chicken in the kitchen. Just walking around checking things out and probably looking for me. I'm her favorite, you know she loves her mama.

I know my family does not want me to have any more chickens, especially Byrum. The girls seem to love pooping on his basketball court. Of course they don't know where they should and should not poop, herein lies the problem. I am pretty sure this is beyond my chicken training abilities or have I failed them? Either way it is not their fault...right?

Then there is Saddler and her most recent chicken encounter. Saddler had two girls over to spend the night. Let me correct myself, two teenage girls. Poor Saddler didn't have just one embarrassing chicken moment she had two. The first embarrassing moment was when we drove up in the yard and eight chickens rushed the car. It was madness, three teenage girls and myself accosted by the flock. Thank goodness the friends were not afraid of chickens. I must say I was quite impressed. The next day these teenagers and I were getting in the car, and out of nowhere Favorite Chicken showed up. Right outside my car door, I didn't get the door closed fast enough and she jumped right into the car! Ready to go, Girls Day Out...right! I thought Saddler was going to die a slow and painful death right there in the car.

Needless to say any additions to the flock will likely be met with significant protest. All things considered...little baby chicks are fun and so is making memories.

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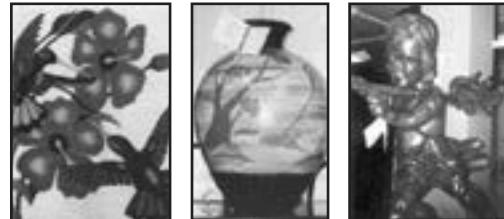


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Business & Organization News

Upscale Resale is going out of Business!

After more than 5 years of business, Upscale Resale, will sadly close its doors on April 27th. Owner, Dianna Carden, opened the store in Valley Head in November of 2007. She opened Upscale Resale after the loss of her son, Tim, and feels it has been a crucial part of her healing process. Dianna has had hundreds of consigners from 7 different states over the years and has made a lot of new friends. Dianna says, "I have enjoyed this marvelous experience and want to thank everyone for their love and support over the years. It has been a joyful ride!" All retail items are 50% off until closing date. Dianna will also be selling all fixtures at a deeply discounted rate! You can visit Upscale Resale at 65 Winston Street on the square in Valley Head. While there, be sure to wish Dianna a very happy "retirement"!



Congratulations, Jennifer!

Jennifer Sutton Ferguson has tickled the taste buds of art patrons and customers at Twigg's Coffee Shoppe at Kamama Gallery since the opening on April 14, 2012. She is a native of Mentone and served in the first Gulf War. Owner Ray Padgett has entered into a partnership with Jennifer, and she is a part of the business. Ray states: "It is great to have an ex-Marine that is also an excellent cook in the kitchen. She is a very capable partner". Twigg's began serving pastries and beverages and then evolved to lunches and breakfast during the summer. Jennifer's scones and momalettes were favorites in the beginning. Patrons now rave about her panninis and homemade soups. Twigg's is a warm neighborhood eatery.

Little River Clean Up

Fifteen volunteers attended the Little River Clean Up on Saturday January 19th. Coordinated by the Little River Waterkeeper and One World Adventure Company. We worked below the dam at Lake Lahusage, Brushy Creek and the roadside along County Road 106. More than 40 bags of garbage, a recliner and two toilets were picked up and dragged out of these locations. It was a great success! The roadsides look great!



National Park Service Volunteers Making a Difference

Volunteers for the National Park Service make a difference in the lives of visitors. Imagine... walking through the doors of a huge building called the Little River Canyon Center, knowing only that the sign said there was a National Preserve nearby. You are greeted as soon as you walk through the door in a warm friendly manner by a volunteer in a uniform. Your questions are answered, you receive a map of the area and the most scenic areas are pointed out to you. You go into the large auditorium to watch a fantastic video with many gorgeous images of the preserve (video is courtesy of Jacksonville State University). After the video the volunteer tells you more about the park. Maybe you even took the time to browse through the Little River Canyon Center gift shop and purchased a memento of your trip. You leave with a better sense of what a national preserve is and a plan of what to see. You are armed with your map and desire to see some of the wondrous sites you saw in the video....Your life has just been touched by a volunteer.

If you volunteer with the National Park Service, you will see how you can make a difference in not only someone else's life but your own. Volunteering can help you meet people and become part of your community. It will boost your morale, and give you a sense of accomplishment. Volunteering is a great way to increase your skills.

"Don't sell yourself short, if you love working with the public and have a positive attitude; you have something to offer" says Jennie Phillips National Park Service Volunteer since 2008. Be that person that makes a difference in someone's life.

We would love to talk to you about volunteering for the National Park Service. If you are retired and want to share your skills; not working or working and have the time; or if you are in college and need some experience in a workplace, please contact us. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for Little River Canyon National Preserve email Sandra_Arther@nps.gov or call our office at (256) 845-9605.



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Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

On January 17, Mentone became a winter wonderland.



Watters (Continued from Page 1)

her life. Only about ten of those works remain unsold.

Exposure to her art led a number of noted musical groups to request designs for album covers and posters. Today she is designing covers for Ken's jazz CD's.

Following his stint at the Manhattan School of Music and studies with Wynton Marsalis and Kenny Wheeler, contacts led to his involvement with the Haiti-based Tabou Combo, an internationally-known jazz group. His career took off with musical opportunities on Broadway, as a recording studio musician and concert dates with artists as varied as Natalie Cole, the Platters, the Fifth Dimension and Harry Connick, Jr.

Ken has six CD's to his credit. Most are recorded with his brother, Harry Watters, a jazz trombonist based in Washington, D.C., who has

the distinction of once being the youngest leader of the Dukes of Dixieland.

Pam and Ken share their arts, not only through finished works, but through teaching as well. Pam maintains a studio in Huntsville,



DeSoto Falls

where she teaches children's classes for seven hours each week. Ken is an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and works with the jazz ensemble there. Additionally, he has combined his talent with Ingrid Felts, a Mobile jazz vocalist, as the Watters/Felts Project and a CD is in the works.

Pam and Ken spend much of the week at their home in Mentone, when they are not teaching or if Ken is not on the road. Both feel Mentone's tranquility and laid-back lifestyle have led to increased artistic achievement. They are often joined here for a long weekend and holidays by family. Pam's daughter is an environmental scientist and her son, an intellectual property attorney.

Pam's work may be seen at the Kamama Gallery in downtown Mentone and Ken's recordings are available at Amazon.com...very suitable Valentines for the love of your life.