

Artist Feature - Katie Bird Cobble

By Duncan Black

Katie Bird Cobble's work is an amazing replication of her environment. Her pottery reflects her own enthusiastic personality and unmistakably incorporates the hues and textures of her Lookout Mountain home's natural surroundings.

A cylindrical vessel with all the colors of a mossy rock out-cropping might be set off with a mischievous frog broadly grinning above the rim. A wheel-thrown plate alternatively becomes a free-form platter by slamming it to the floor and then shaping it into an original work that is glazed in a shade reminiscent of an ancient oak. A generous bowl with the colors of fallen leaves is framed in the tangled tendrils of a wild vine. It's glaze "breaks through" to show the intricate details of the sculpted clay.

"Clay is, and always has been, my passion," she says, and relates the story of her first purchases of handmade pottery as a teenager growing up in Chattanooga. "As soon as I could drive I would take off anytime there was an arts and crafts show in the region. I didn't have much money but I began to build a collection of wheel-thrown coffee mugs in every shape and color. I distinctly remember coming up the mountain to Mentone for a craft show years ago with no earthly idea that I would ever live here."

But the exuberant potter has made her home here for some twenty years with her husband, Will Henry Cobble, a Fort Payne native. Together they have crafted a hand-built house with soaring ceilings and broad porches that is anchored on the mountain brow. Acres of rocky rises and wooded hollows are shared with a grateful collection of animals, wild and domestic.

In a purpose-built barn/studio, she is happiest sitting at her wheel, barefoot, in clay-stained jeans with the stereo blaring a favorite song and the sun streaming through a mud-splattered window. Usually, two of her favorite companions, Jack and Jill, basset/lab litter mates, are at her side. One floor below, Will Henry might be in his workshop, and outside, she can occasionally hear the raucous cries



from one of a dozen peacocks.

"But I am usually so absorbed in my work that I wouldn't know what time it is unless the dogs let me know it is time to quit and go back to the house to eat or sleep," she says.

Katie Bird says that she finally realized that she was born to "do this" and found a teacher in Ooltewah, just north of Chattanooga. Not long after she married, she set up her wheel and a kiln in their small, carpeted bedroom. Grinning, she says, "That just didn't work and it discouraged me for a time."

What finally led to a true commitment to her pottery career was a stint at John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina about ten years ago. There she learned reduction firing and developed her own style. She perfected her signature glaze that easily distinguishes most of her pieces from other potters. The soft green lichen that is found on the north side of hardwoods in the North Alabama mountains inspired the favorite color. On another day she utilizes a dark clay that reminds one of weathered saddle leather and a red-

gold glaze that provides an opportunity to highlight more intricate details in design.

Katie Bird praises the folk school for supplying the technical knowledge she lacked and credits her close friend, Mae Gray, another mountain potter, with providing her with inspiration. "Mae's spirit comes through in every piece she does and I try to do the same thing," she says.

She notes that the minute, sometimes humorous, sculptural details in her work might be a form of therapy "...because I am actually one of the most uncomplicated and laid back people you ever saw. I think that clay is an outlet for me to utilize that part of my personality and let me get back to simplicity in my real life," she noted.

All of her work is suitable for food and beverages and even her wine stems, which are a marriage of clear glass and wheel-thrown clay, are dishwasher-safe. "Life is too short to hand-wash dishes," she says.

A comprehensive selection of Katie Bird Cobble's very creative clay work can be found at Kamama Fine Art, Antiques and Coffee Shoppe in "downtown" Mentone.



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"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

January 2013

Introducing the Mountain Music Series

We don't just have a rich musical heritage here to be (very) proud of; we have a living, breathing music scene here which has been continually evolving from that rich heritage and it invites your participation!

Just about any night, or day, of the week around here you can hear, or participate in, something musically magnificent. From living legends stepping up by stepping on stage to demonstrate support for our local children's musical education to pickers, country & folk singers, rockers, groups, bands, quartets, duos, troubadours, blues, bluegrass, gospel, soul, jazz, string bands, dulcimer strummers, fiddlers and drummers and, well, you name it and we have probably got it! Every month, The Groundhog is going to let you in on some of the Mountain's musical magic! See videos of the music on our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/thegroundhog.com](http://www.facebook.com/thegroundhog) and get ready to experience some amazing music at this year's Rhododendron Festival in May!

Sacred Harp Singing By Susan Cheronos

The oldest music in America had almost died out, and probably would have, except for a few burning embers, (the hottest just minutes from Mentone,) that kept smoldering long enough for the winds of fame to fan the flames back into full burn. Like wildfire, this ancient form of fervent, a cappella singing is spreading across the globe from the heart of Sand Mountain (ten minutes away, just one mountain over) to the world, igniting a

passion in people of all persuasions who are now sonorously congregating in places like Arizona, Boston, Ireland, Poland, Japan, Minnesota and beyond to participate in this exhilarating form of living history.

Have you ever heard Sacred Harp singing? If not, I invite you, right now, to visit our Facebook Page: www.Facebook.com/TheGroundhog. Please "LIKE" us while you're there and check out the link we have posted to the trailer for the movie, *Awake My Soul*, a documentary about The Sacred Harp. In just two minutes, this video will give you a delightful overview of the rich history preserved in our area, while you also get to hear this soul stirring music sung by a bunch of people who live really close to Mentone.

In case the Internet's not handy, I'll sum it up for you here. *The Sacred Harp* is the name of a beloved shape note songbook that has

(continued on page 3)



Homer's 90!

I haven't been to many 90th birthday parties so I wasn't quite sure what to expect. It had been so long since I had seen Homer that I didn't know if he'd even remember me. As soon as I walked in, he hopped right up and called me by name, setting that question to rest! He was a genial host at his 90th birthday party. The brow home was beautifully adorned for the season and everyone had such a lovely time. While Doreen saw to tasty tidbits in the kitchen, Homer held forth in the living room. Family and guests were treated to remembrances of old Mentone, tales of countries (26) and continents (6) visited and stories of the way things used to be. Homer's younger brother, Dewey, was there. They reminisced about work on the farm as boys. They said their father wasn't really a farmer but wanted the boys to have real work to do. He planted food each year to grace the table and keep his offspring healthfully engaged. Hard work has served them well, and the Crow boys have grown into strong men. When he was 75, Homer, himself, added the stone work to the front of his home. The top bit, he said, was the hardest to get. The scaffolding he had built for the rest of the project wouldn't work there, and he had to balance above the door on a five-gallon bucket to set the stones. He found he was better off doing this work while his wife, Bernice, was down at The Crow's Nest, so as not to worry her. Blessings for many more, Homer!

Above l to r - Barry Crow, Homer's son; Dewey Crow, Homer's brother; Homer; Leroy Crowe, Homer's nephew

THE GROUNDHOG

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From The Editor



Happy New Year! I'm writing you this on the shortest day of the year, so by the time you read it the days will already be getting a little longer, the light returning.

Mentone was a fitting backdrop for Christmas this season with the snowflake lights gracing the downtown drive, community caroling in the park & several families putting on exciting light displays. You probably got to see the lights by the bridge on 117. That's the McDormand place and Slate has been doing that for years. He was so grateful to the folks that helped! Did you get to see the ones at the Cash place on the right just past Moon Lake School? I came upon that display unexpectedly one night and was positively mesmerized at the bright single colored lights encircling tree trunks at all angles throughout the yard.

In spite of the lights and ornamentation, the mountain herself is her most unadorned this time of year. Driving up from Menlo this morning, in the clear, early light, I could see the shades of colors on the rock faces & the detail of bare trees on the side of the mountain, the ground below them and the shadows of the trees on the fallen leaves. It's a beautiful time to be on Lookout Mountain. Without the occluding canopy of leaves, you can see the terrain, the patches of lichen on the bark of the trees, the distant valleys and so much more sky.

It's a time of reflection and new beginnings.

All around us, folks are getting ready; studying seed catalogs, making plans & dreaming up ideas. Planning has already begun on Mentone's Rhododendron Festival coming up the third week in May. Make plans to join us for that. Artists and Musicians-you are hereby called!!

I will leave you with a couple of requests. I'd like to invite you to consider a Groundhog subscription. We need about 35 more monthly subscribers to attain the best possible mailing rate. You will

receive a fresh Groundhog each month, delivered to your door, hot off the press! Current subscribers, please let us know about your delivery time this month. We are trying a new way we hope will speed up delivery!

Also, we want to meet you in cyberspace. Please find us online at: www.facebook.com/thegroundhog and please "LIKE" us. The "Like" thing is a whole big deal, and by so doing you will be able to get the news and views from Lookout Mountain right in your news feed as soon as they are posted. We think this is going to be really exciting when folks start sharing pictures, and timely info like weather bulletins, traffic alerts, pictures of found dogs and what's looking good at the farmer's market! Please join us! Happy New Year!!

Best, Susan



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hard to make it happen. They are beautiful.

Because of Mayor Hammond's article I checked out the town's official website (www.mentoneala-bama.gov). It is very informative and looks beautiful.

Lastly, thanks to each of the individual writers who contribute articles. I enjoyed everything from the Mentone Artist Feature on the first page to the Garden Club news at the end.

Barbara Lieu

Menlo (Continued from page 22)

of Menlo's old structures, life still beats inside the aging walls. The Massey's contribution is etched in our town's history, and if you're in or around town, stop and check out this store. Whatever your farming needs, Eddie and Jerri will greet you with a friendly hello and great service.

Please contact me at 256-294-3663 if you have information to share, a story to tell or something to say about Menlo. You may also send email to: suitcase3@hotmail.com.

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OTHER MENLO NOTES & RAMBLINGS

The Menlo Reading Buddies met on Tuesday, December 11, for the month's event and Christmas Party. We talked, exchanged gifts, and ate lots of goodies. The ceiling tall tree was twinkling,and the tables were brightened with arrangments and red candles. It was a very festive atmosphere. I appreciate the efforts put forth to make this a special morning. Since the beginning of the school year, adults and students have read more than two hundred books. Great work, guys.

While my sister-in-law, Vicki, was visiting, we

decided to wander around a few backroads. She is an avid photographer, who is always looking for a good photo op. We drove down a dirt road, didn't know where we would end-up, but at the end of that little road ,we found a surprise. Emus! Who would have thought..Emus in Jamestown. Get out and ramble. You'll be amazed at the little things you can see. Vicki was even enthralled by a dirt road with grass growing down the middle. Snap, Snap. Of course, she is from Houston, TX, and I think it is all concrete! Gotta love her, though.

Quilt show tentative date, March 9, 2013.

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Menlo Notes

by Diane Smith Mealer

Once upon a time, two young men, with a jingle in their pockets and high hopes, decided to go into business together. In 1979, they opened their store in the King building in downtown Menlo.

The store was stocked with hardware items, feed, seed, and garden supplies. They later sold fishing and hunting licenses and supplies, but had to wait three years for this to take place, because one of the men was only eighteen years old when they first opened. One was silent, one kept shop, and the business grew.

In the 1980’s the store was moved across the street into the Alpine Lodge building, which had been re-constructed in 1960. Best Manufacturing had previously used this building and was filled with sewing machines. Many may remember working there.

If you haven’t guessed by now, I am referring to D & E Feed and Seed, owned and operated by Eddie and Jerri Massey. Eddie spends much time with farming, so most days you will find Jerri tending the store.

While visiting with Jerri, I learned about the “Wild Bunch”, a group made up of men who kept the seats warm and the atmosphere filled with stories and discussions. Some may remember Roscoe Steele, Jake Boyd, Robert Pledger, Arthur Wilson, J.D. Armstrong, Pete Knowles, and J.C. Hudgins. Most of the men have passed, but memory of these remain in mind and heart. Seats are still placed along the counter to invite you to rest and visit. Everyone who comes into the store is welcome to “sit a spell”.

A fascinating fact about this place is the iron poles that stand down the middle of the structure. Each support post has names and height measurements of children whose parents have patronized the business. Jerri smiles as she relates the story. “Some have suggested new paint, but I would never paint over them because this is an important part of the store’s history.”

The building is worn--a painted lady whose luster has dimmed a little over the years but, like many

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Business & Organization News

Welcome New Businesses to the Mentone Area

B&B Truck Crane Repair

After 5 1/2 years of running their business in Walker County, AL, Eddie & Donna Davis have decided to relocate it to Mentone. B&B Truck Crane Repair will be opening on January 2 at the old tire store on HWY 117. B&B sells and repairs the type of cranes you see on service trucks. Welcome to Eddie & Donna.

Crossroads Family Pharmacy is now open in Menlo. The hours are Monday-Friday, 9 A.M. - 6 P.M. And Saturday 9 A.M – 1 P.M. They are located next door to Lucky’s Supermarket on Highway 48. David and Sandy Mosley will be happy to assist with your needs. This is our own hometown pharmacy, so stop and check them out. It’s a convenience long over due. Thank you David and Sandy. The phone number is (706) 862-2064.

Katrina Hathcock has opened Creative Stitches on Main Street in Menlo. It is an embroidery and screen printing business of artistic quality. Katrina has always been fascinated with needlework and has worked many years to perfect her craft. She does both personal and company handwork. When you stop by, be sure to check out the pillowcase and tee shirt dresses. She is open 10 A.M until 4 P.M.(ish). You can reach this shop at (706) 862-6388.

. . . And Almost New!

Helena’s is now offering food - Breakfast M-F 5:30 to 10:00 am and Saturday 7-10 am. Lunch 10 am to 6:30 pm. 256-634-0095
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Windwood Farms Restaurant has re-opened. New hours are Friday and Saturday 5 to 9 pm and Sunday 11 am to 2 pm
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Present at the December 3, 2012, Meeting of Progressive Women of Northeast Alabama:

(standing) B. J. Mitchell, Sharon Barron Burke, Jean Grinke, Toni McGriff, Pat Harper, Karole Ohme, Regina Baker, president, Reita Grant, Kaye Kiker, Nancy Wilson, Margaret Baker, and Avice Pearson. (seated) Virginia Helton, Marguerite Wilborn, Barbara Scott, Tayna Rains, and Terry Mettger

The group participated in filming of He Cooks, She Cooks at Wimberly House, Scottsboro. Sharon Barron Burke assisted Shirley Dawson in preparing a recipe from their cookbook Southern Legacy. The club continues to sell cookbooks to raise money for a two-year scholarship at NACC. Cookbooks may be purchased at The Furniture Shoppe in Henagar, Kamama Gallery and The Gourdie Shop in Mentone, Big Mill Bistro, in Fort Payne, Merle Norman cosmetics, in Rainsville, and from any member of the club. Progressive Women from Jackson, DeKalb and Marshall Counties meet monthly on the second Friday at noon.

Christmas luncheon was enjoyed at Stevarino’s in the The Village on Broad Street shopping center, and Teddy Bears were collected to be donated to the Upper Sand Mountain Parish and the Sheriff’s office.

Reita Grant, Secretary

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Mentone Matters

By Mayor Rob Hammond

Originally this column was to recap the last year for the Town of Mentone and say a word about plans for 2013. Most of what was accomplished in the last year has already been written about in previous Mentone Matters. Instead, I would like to offer some comments of a different nature.

The country has been greatly saddened by the tragic events at Sandy Hook Elementary. The national election was contentious, and some of the negativity and personal attacks on the national level crept into state and local elections. It is no secret that even in our own small town, disagreements over certain aspects of a local festival led to some hard feelings.

We have the privilege of living in a democracy and a free society. It is not perfect, it is not always easy, and it is sometimes messy. To make it work we all have to be responsible citizens. We must stay informed, and educate ourselves on the issues facing us. We cannot be afraid to have thoughtful discussions on the hard issues with people with whom we disagree.

A couple of weeks ago, I heard Jon Meacham speak in Chattanooga on his new book Thomas Jefferson: The Art of Power. Mr. Meacham made the point that Thomas Jefferson was a successful politician because he enjoyed social interaction. He was a friend and neighbor first. As we face the New Year and we try to move our town forward, let us be friends and neighbors first.

Sacred Harp (Continued from page 1)

been in continuous publication since 1844. The “harp” it refers to is the human voice-our “sacred” instrument; the only instrument used in this rousing music. You sing “Sacred Harp” from *The Sacred Harp*.

This songbook comes from a time in American history when scores of itinerant singing masters were traveling the country, spending weeks at a time teaching whole communities how to sing by original methods and selling the associated songbooks. Few of those books or systems endured beyond the proliferation of gospel & instruments in church. *The Sacred Harp* is the only “four note” songbook I know of still in daily use.

Community singing was more than just entertainment for early Americans, who had none of the things most of us consider recreation today. They had each other and they had Song. They had it on the porch, they had it in the fields, they had it in church, at Singings, and they had it in their hearts and heads. Singing Sacred Harp is authentic, inter-dependant human exchange that warms the heart. It was, and is, community, courtship and camaraderie, instruction and inspiration; a connection to the past and a responsibility for the future. It is all the stuff that we humans really love to do without any monetary obligation, exclusion or taint.

The oldest song in the book dates from 1551 and the newest is from 1991, which is the year of the latest revision. The music of The Sacred Harp is sung full voice in four part harmony with the singers of each part facing each other in a configuration that is called, “the hollow square.”

The notes are written on a staff like regular “round note” music you may know, but each part has its own staff and the heads of the notes have four possible shapes, each corresponding to a syllable creating a rather remarkable way of learning music and singing together without the need for musical instruments or extended formal study. These are songs that are written for the voice, written to be really sung. It is unruly music and robust; disregarding harmonic convention in favor of something unique that many have said is “divinely inspired.” It sure is something!



Harmonies are haunting and close. The songbook includes minor and major songs, anthems and hymns. The melody, or lead, is called Tenor , and is sung by women and men, an octave apart. It is the part newcomers are encouraged to learn first. (If you pick up a songbook and want to join in, the notes for Tenor will be on the second line up from the bottom.) Women with low voices and some boys and men sing the Alto part, and men with low

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Sacred Harp (continued from page 3)

voices sing Bass. The high part is called Treble and is also sung by men and women. Now you can see that our four part harmony really has six parts! The plot thickens.

The singing is athletic, full voice and full body. A “class” of singers rarely sings for longer than one hour without taking a break. At the end of a good singing, your spirit is soaring and your brow may be drenched in sweat. Even though each song is led by a different individual, (ranging in age from about 3 to 99, in my experience, so far), the singing pretty



much moves rapid fire with minimal time and talk between, allowing as many as one hundred or so songs to be sung at an “all-day” singing.

Singers are announced by an “arranging committee” who arrange the singers based on an astounding array of extemporaneous criteria and are given a “one-song” heads-up that they will be the next leader. Singers are expected to have ideas of a few songs so they can be ready to lead no matter what has already been sung that day. Songs are not repeated. A unique feature is that the first time the song is sung, it is only sung with the “notes” and not the words.

This is where the four note system does its magic. As singers sing the syllables: “Fa, Sol, La, and Mi”, for the associated shaped notes, they focus on the music and this is what constitutes practice in Sacred Harp; there is never anything like “choir practice.” The music is also not performed for an audience. It is sung for each other and for God. Listeners are welcome but not focused upon, which makes it convenient for them to come and go at



will without fear of disturbing “a performance.” An all day singing typically runs from 9-2 with a meal, ambrosial, served to all at the noon hour in abundant Southern “dinner on the grounds” tradition.

Shane Wooten, recently elected to the Dekalb County Commission, comes from family (on both sides) who have been singing this music since it first came to our area in the 1840’s. In Ider, this year, he taught a singing school I attended. His observation about the popularity of Sacred Harp was that “singing Sacred Harp thrills the soul. It is a deeply religious or spiritually stirring experience for most and yet, also attracts and welcomes people who may be drawn to the music for other reasons.

In addition to the joy of singing the music itself, it may be that welcoming nature of Sacred Harp which sets people on fire about it. I’m not just talking about Southern hospitality and delicious cooking, either, though you’ll find heaping helpings of both at any singing.

This noble tradition has made it through the ages and is viable and growing today because of conventions that promote the kind of positive social interaction that allows the purpose for which we meet to be upheld. Notably, it is understood that we do not bring anything to the square which might divide us. It is so unthinkable that you still hear tell of a time when someone once brought a petition to a singing in the 1970’s! That is as powerful in this day and age as it is unusual. I sometimes wonder what it would

be like if all Americans met for their public inter-dependant duties under that agreement.

This inherent respect and relief has created a culture of safety and warmth that allows for the growth of Sacred Harp itself in an atmosphere where authentic fond associations grow among people who may not have otherwise been able to forge friendships under the weight of banners and labels. By fostering inclusivity, rather than exclusivity, Sacred Harp has perpetuated itself. We need each other to sing. South needs North and New needs Old. As singing is starting to die out in its natural habitat, new singing communities from states or oceans away are forming and sending injections of new life back into the South with their enthusiastic pilgrimages.

Equality is also observed in the square. Each person who steps into the square to lead their song is afforded the same opportunity, the same respect and the same attention from the singers. People of all descriptions, young and old, can and do sing Sacred Harp. Children of both genders are particularly valued and are treated with a very high level of respect and encouragement. This is why I am giving my 14 year old niece (and now 10 yr old nephew) 4 days at Sacred Harp Camp at Camp Lee in Anniston for their Christmas presents for the third year in a row (an extraordinary value for \$200 as the cost for campers up to age 30 is subsidized by the non-profit Sacred Harp Musical Heritage Association and adults are welcome to accompany kids-so.much.fun!!) Learn more about that at www.campfasola.org.

Two Sacred Harp songs included in the movie, Cold Mountain, led many of our singing friends all the way to Hollywood to the stage of the Academy Awards where they performed this music live alongside Sting and Elvis Costello, (who, I’m told, really “got” the music). Just as the curtain was going up, Elvis turned to Henagar singer, Rodney Ivey, and said, with conviction, “Let’s rock ‘em!” Those songs introduced thousands of new singers worldwide to the tradition and this year there were three Sacred Harp singing school camp sessions-one of them in Europe!

Continued on Page 6

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The Chicken Lady

At the beginning of this New Year, 2013, I thought I would share how all this chicken business got started. Enjoy!

I can hear the laughter still today, not just Ha Ha. I am talking knee slapping laughter from all my customers when I told them “I’m getting some chickens”. Nobody could believe I was serious, not even my kids. “Mom is just doing another one of her crazy things,” Byrum and Saddler said. You know, the concerns were warranted because I had no idea about how to take care of chickens. So, what do you do... you buy a book. Mistake number one. The book tells it all. They tell you where eggs come from. Did you know that eggs come out

of the vent which is also where the chicken’s poo comes out? I did not, but now I do. Did you know that you don’t have to have a rooster to have eggs? Eggs can even get stuck which calls for extreme measures that involve my finger and Vaseline. Can’t you just take a chicken to the vet?

I have dragged my father, Jim, into this feathery adventure because I need help. He is retired (again) and what else does he have to do. Somehow, I was able to get Tom on board and he has built the most wonderful mobile chicken coop. Now, all we need are chickens and they need to lay a bunch of eggs to pay for their dwelling. The more I read, the more overwhelmed I became. Here, Tom has even built this wonderful coop that moves. I mean you hook it to a lawnmower and pull it to nice clean area for the chickens we don’t even have yet.

I have to get off my roost--can’t stop now. Tom has spent too much time and money. My time has come. We must get chickens. I mean hens--learned that in my book.

Well, my dad and I have no idea how to buy chickens. The book says to check their feathers, combs, wattles, and their VENT. Remember that is were the poo and egg come out. Neither one of us has ever touched a chicken. With the help of Houston, our employee at the Mentone Market, Jim, Joan, and myself take off to Trade Day. I have never been to Trade Day and what an experience it was. Here we are with an arc full of animals, chickens, dogs, goats, guineas, pigeons, ducks, horses, and doves. As we look at

chickens, Houston would lean over and say, “That’s a good’un Kristen”, “Those look good.” Then he found just what I wanted: Rhode Island Red pullets (young hens, learned that from my book). I engage the man in conversation and he looks at me like I am crazy. I might be crazy but I’m not crazy enough to not notice when someone thinks I am crazy. That man would not even smile at me. Therefore, I did not buy his chickens. Instead I bought a Buff Orpington and a Araucana, I think! These folks were nice, they smiled!

I will wrap this story up quickly. We made it home with our chickens. We got them in their fancy coop, fixed their nests, fed and watered, and watched them scratch about. They are beautiful. The first day they both laid beautiful brown and green eggs. Dad and I go into the coop later that day to bond with our new hens. All of a sudden they started flying around and squawking and I realized, I am absolutely, positively scared of chickens.



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One World Adventure Company Advocate for Little River

Local non-profit organization, One World Adventure Company, which provides outdoor learning & adventure experiences in the Mentone area on a sliding scale, submitted a comprehensive proposal to the international environmental group, The Waterkeeper Alliance and has become the official voice for Little River and it's tributaries. The Little River Waterkeeper will advocate for citizens rights to clean water.

Matt Misko is your Little River Waterkeeper. Matt joined One World after his recent graduation from Auburn University at Montgomery with a degree in Environmental Science. With his education and expertise in the field of research, he holds the skills to interpret soil and water testing data and advocate for the Little River. Matt is committed to promoting awareness for Little River and building a base of people who are interested in helping keep Little River clean and healthy.

As the quality and quantity of water resources decline around the world, Mentone should be proud and protective that Little River has the highest designation of water quality a river can receive by the Environmental Protection Agency. Through education and recreation opportunities, the Little River Waterkeeper will work to keep the special Outstanding Natural Resource Water designation.

The first project offered by the Little River Waterkeeper is a river clean up. Garbage in Little River is an issue we can tackle together.

On Saturday January 19, 2013, ONe World

Adventure Company & the official Little River Waterkeeper will host a clean up day from 9am - 12 Noon CST, below the dam at Lake Lahusage and at the bridge over Brushy Creek. To become a volunteer in the clean-up, please contact Matt Misko (334)224-5554 or Angie Shugart (256)634-8370.

If you would like like to report an issue or learn more about becoming a member of the Little River Waterkeeper email matt.misko@gmail.com or become a fan on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Little-River-Waterkeeper> ; <https://www.facebook.com/pages/One-World-Adventure-Company>



Mark Your Calendars!



The 2013 Rhododendron Festival will be held on its usual weekend--the third weekend in May--May 18 & 19. Mark your calendars for a fun and educational weekend as MAPA and community volunteers plan, organize and put on this popular festival for the 31st year!

Elaine Gauldin, MAPA Secretary, has graciously agreed to chair the festival this year, and she will need the help of all who are willing and able. This year's festival will celebrate our mountain heritage with artists, demonstrations, displays, music, food and children's games.

Watch for more details in the February issue of The Groundhog. Pick the area of your talents and get ready to do your part to help make this event a huge success!

Mentone Area Preservation Association: A Glance at 2012 and What is to Come

Preservation of Mentone is the premiere goal for MAPA and its members. This year MAPA donated \$5,000 to help match a grant by the state in order to put a tornado siren in place on the mountain for the safety of residents and visitors.

In 2012 MAPA has been working to lay the groundwork for boundless possibilities and the ability to receive grants. With the help of accountant Doug Hoyt and Ray Padgett (of Kamama Art Gallery) MAPA is now a 501c3 organization and as a result eligible for many grants to help preserve Mentone.

MAPA treasures the area festivals as preservation and educational tools. The Rhododendron Festival and Colorfest have become a part of Mentone's heritage. In 2012 the tradition continued with

wonderful area performers, artists, craftsman, hands on educational petting zoo, fun, food and fellowship.

MAPA board members are grateful to Wilma Fletcher for her help in organizing the Rhododendron Festival as well as Scott Thomas and Mentone Area Arts Council for the Colorfest. Though there were many behind the scenes who also deserve great praise. You know who you are and thank you.

In 2013 Mentone is blessed to have Elaine Gauldin agree to chair the Rhododendron Festival. She is already hard at work. As in festivals passed, it takes a village. Please volunteer your services or participate if you love our hometown festivals.

The Groundhog is the heartbeat of

MAPA. When it was in need of someone to rescue it from demise Charlotte Gentry of Mentone Realty brought it back to life amidst her already busy schedule. She did a wonderful job through October of 2012. Then in November a new editorial board was formed to continue the Groundhog with Susan Cherones of Mountain Grove B&B as editor and Beverly Bates as Design Manager. In 2013 the Groundhog has definite plans to have an online presence including classifieds for the area.

The MAPA board is excited about the possibilities of the future and hope you will join in preserving Mentone.

Many Blessings for the New Year!
L.C. Moon of Wildflower Cafe & MAPA President

Mentone Area Arts Council Has Big Plans for 2013

In 2012, the Mentone Area Arts Council completed two projects benefitting the people of Mentone: Color Mentone (the flower planting of public areas along Highway 117) and the installation of the rock markers at the three entrances of Mentone. In addition, MAAC sponsored many art related and avocational classes and lectures and tours. With MAPA, we sponsored Julyfest and Octoberfest.

In December, the board of directors of MAAC met to plan a course for 2013. With suggestions from a "Dreamfest Meeting" where dozens of ideas were submitted, the board approved several short

and long term projects.

The first is to build, with the coordination of the Alabama Department of Transportation and with the Mayor and City Council, a rock and locust post railing for a pull-off area on Highway 117 at the rock Mentone marker at the base of the rock wall. The design for the railing will again be drawn from those of CCC workers who did the rock work in this area in the 1930's. It will be a place to pull off the highway, look to the valley, and pose for pictures with the Mentone marker.

The second will be "Project Head Start". Again coordinating with Mayor Hammond and the City Council, MAAC will help plan and fund public

restrooms in downtown Mentone.

The third will be a feasibility study for an amphitheater in Mentone.

The fourth will be a continuing series of lectures, avocational and art classes, and events which will resume in January of 2013 and will be available to anyone in

the area at moderate cost.

The fifth will be a continuing sponsorship of Moon Lake School art department.

The sixth will be a continuation of Color Mentone with spring and summer flower plantings of public areas.

Finally, MAAC has other projects on the drawing board including a recycling center and a community garden. All it takes for their completion is a champion and enthusiasm.

The success of this 2013 agenda depends upon the financial success of the Tour of Homes and Silent Auction sponsored by MAAC the weekend of April 27 and 28. We are making plans for a tour of historical locations and plan to have hosts and hostesses in period costumes. Stay tuned.

We welcome new ideas and members to make all of the above become reality. If you see an area where you would like to serve, please send comments and suggestions to us via our website www.mentonearts.com. Then join MAAC to make "Dreamfest" come true.

Harriet O'Rear
MAAC President

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For information and additional photographs, contact:

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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

By Linda Brown

We had a wonderful time at the Open House for the Moon Lake Community Library! All of the directors were there early and helped to prepare for the party. A beautiful table of coffee, punch and various cookies and breads welcomed our guests as they came in the door. Of course we used the traditional Christmas colors, red and green. Our tablecloth set the theme with red and white poinsettias emblazoned on it. Red plates and cups completed the look. Many of our library friends dropped by to say hello and to look over the new books on our shelves. Beverly continues processing books to add to our collection.

The train was traveling through the village and at one place we (the children and I) had to say, “I think I can, I think I can.” When it pulled the hill and started down the other side we said, “I thought I could, I thought I could.” It was fun. One little guy wanted to know what we would do if one of the little houses caught fire. We discussed several solutions to the problem and decided that we could handle the situation. Kids are fun.

You are always welcome to come to the library. As I’ve said many times, you can just come and sit if you want to. Recently, a lady said that she needed a place to be warm and quiet. We told her she was welcome to come to the library and we would not tell her family where she was. The time seems to pass very fast when we are in the library. When I work I have a hard time shelving the books because I get caught up in looking at the books. One thing I have wondered through all of my looking is why authors don’t print all of their books in the same size and basic design. They are grouped together on the shelf and should make a pretty display. I think that we have an amazing number of books for a small library. We have bought some DVD’s lately, partly because they were requested and to

replace some of the more popular ones. Some of the children’s Veggie Tales take quite a beating. This is what we like. We want you to know that this is your library and we want you to use it. One of our directors asked me if I knew we had a certain book, it happened that I did know this because I had cleaned the shelf

where it was. She was surprised that we had it. It is in special collections and cannot be checked out. We have some treasures in that collection.

Back to the open house, one of the most enjoyable happenings was the dulcimer music played by some people of the community. We have some very talented people in our community. We have people who can play a musical instrument, we have those who can bake wonderful treats and do almost anything needed. We have children, teens, young and old who use the library. Some come to see what books we have, some to see if we have any new ones and I suspect that some come to see Beverly. When I make my list of things that I am thankful for she is usually at the top. She is now the caregiver for her friend who had an accident. Wherever there is a need she fills it.

By the time you read this, we will have the new hours in place. Beginning on Thursday, January 3, we will close 30 minutes earlier. The hours for Tuesday and Thursday will be 3:00 to 5:30 PM until the time change in the spring. 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 January 17, 2013 at 3:00 PM, tell Beverly or call 256-634-8006.

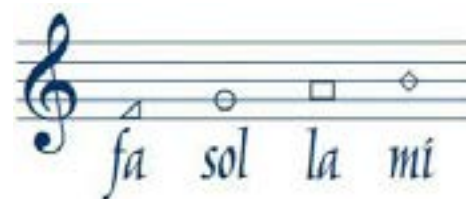


Sacred Harp (continued from page 4)

On Sunday, January 6th, you have an opportunity to join in this exciting ancient and living tradition. It is free, and everyone is truly welcome. Everyone can learn to sing Sacred Harp. The Sacred Harp Singing “school” will be presented at Liberty Baptist Church in Henagar, AL at 2:00 in the afternoon, followed by refreshments and an actual Sacred Harp singing from 5:30-7:00 or so-the length of a singing depends on the number of singers present who are willing to lead. The basics of the Fa Sol La Mi system will be experientially explored and people of all ages and ability levels will come together to learn and sing! You are also welcome to come and just listen at 5:30.

If you read music, you can learn Sacred Harp. If you don’t read music, you can learn Sacred Harp. If you love to sing you really owe it to yourself to experience this first hand! The only requirement to be a Sacred Harp singer is the desire to sing Sacred Harp. Find a spot in the main section of the church. You’ll be behind the Tenors facing the leaders and the Altos, which is where you’ll find me! Hope to see you there!

For a listing of the many singings around here and around the world, go to: www.fasola.org and follow links to: “Red Book” or “Denson” singings. Directions to Liberty Baptist can be found there.



All Sacred Harp photos by Darrel Swarens



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Rhododendron Garden Club

By Linda Brown

A gaggle is defined by the dictionary as a flock of geese but I think that it can also be fourteen women gathered for a garden club event on Tuesday, December 10, 2012. Once again, we traveled to the home of Elaine Gauldin. She always says, “Come to my house, it’s no trouble.” Of course we know better, but we take her up on the offer. We arrived in our Christmas finery and were talking so much that it was hard to call the meeting to order. Finally, Jill Whitten, President, pinged a drinking glass with a spoon and this calmed the noise. We started the meeting by pledging allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Mellanie Tuttle gave the meditation and grace for the meal. Each person brought a salad and no

two were close to being alike. We enjoyed sitting and talking as much as eating. Elaine has room for everyone to have a “real” plate and to sit at a table. This makes our time together very enjoyable.

After lunch, Jill called the business meeting to order. Madelon Houghland made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Motion seconded and passed. The treasurer’s report was given and approved. Gethryn Giles presented a change to the by-laws of the club. Since this change was approved by the Executive Committee, she made a motion to accept the change. The motion was seconded and passed.

Elaine had used live white poinsettias in much of her decorations. She was asked how she managed this and she informed the members that she sealed the stems with a candle flame and immediately put them in wet oasis.

A program of music was presented by Harriett Lillich playing the piano and Jan Wilkinson on the cello. The many beautiful voices of the members blended with the joyful music of the season.

Next meeting: Tuesday, January 8, 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.



Flowering Dogwood Garden Club Members Celebrate Christmas

By Reita Grant

At the November meeting, Flowering Dogwood Garden Club members decorated a Christmas tree and made wreaths for the doors of the Ruritan Building in Henagar Park. This is their gift to the community. Scout troops and other organizations then use the decorated building for their Christmas parties.

Then on Dec. 18, garden club members came together again to enjoy beautiful table decorations supplied by club member Avice Pearson and a delicious covered dish meal (we always have just the right variety). Dirty Santa gifts that were made, baked or grown were enjoyed by members as Christmas tunes were played. Husbands and other family members are also invited to this special event. Avice is a treasured club member who has been hosting the Christmas Party for more than ten

years, sometimes in her home and sometimes at the Ruritan Building.

Avice is employed on week-ends at DeKalb County Tourist Association in Fort Payne and is also responsible for decorating their building for the different seasons. It’s worth a drive down there just to see the beautiful Christmas decorations in place at this time. Each year she provides a different unique winter wonderland for tourists and locals to enjoy.

Our thanks to Avice Pearson for many years of wonderful Christmases!



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 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. Wrap-around 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)

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DESOTO BLUFFS - .95 acre wooded lot with panoramic view, nice trees and level yard. Paved road frontage, city water. \$59,000 (595179)

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Home Sweet Hometown

There are some special perks to living in a small town. Kindness is one of them. All around us folks are making Mentone special. Here is a story about one of them.

Willis Blalock Died Today

By Kristen Emory

Willis Blalock died Wednesday, December 19, 2012 and was born January 27, 1928. He will be missed by many. Willis smiled very little and I made it my mission to get him to smile as much as I could. He was a generous man who had his ways and could be difficult if you did not know them. He was a kind man and loved his family with great passion. But, most of all, Willis loved Mentone. He supported Moon Lake School and Mentone Fire Department financially for the entire 10 years I knew him and I know for years before that. If there was a Turkey or Ham Shoot he was there with his money and his shotguns.

When Tom and I bought the store in 2001, there was a rocking chair outside under the awning. We decided to make a few changes and brought that chair inside. We wanted to make a place inside for people to gather so that we could quickly meet the people of Mentone. One day, a man with very white hair and a hat sitting on top of his head walked through the Mentone Market. Literally, came in one door and out the other, only saying one thing to us. "I just want you to know that that is my rocking chair. I bought it when William Blackburn owned the store and it is still mine. You can have it inside but it is mine." And then he was gone. We didn't know who he was or what to say. Soon he was coming in for a visit. He and Tom Harrison, Sr. would discuss the weather and what temperature they had for the day; they never had the same temperature. The first few years Willis would only come in and visit if I was working. He would ride through the parking lot and if he saw Tom he would keep on going. I have to say this made me feel kind

of good. In one of our first conversations Willis informed me that we were "flat landers and would always be flat landers". Soon he warmed up to Tom and would come in and sit in his rocker and visit. Everybody knew that when Willis came in and you were sitting in his rocker you better get up, and I mean fast. If someone from out of town was in his rocker Willis would quickly let them know that they needed to find another seat. I cannot tell you how many times I heard it said, "Man, you need to get up, Willis is coming in." About five years ago, Tom and I made Wills smile real big when we had a brass plate made and placed it on the back of the rocker it says, Willis Blalock's Rocking Chair. He was proud, and I had made him smile... It was a good day.

Willis was a private person but he loved to talk about his family. He loved his wife, Josephine, and he was so proud of her and her career. If I had a nickel for every time he told me about her education and her job I would be a rich woman. One of my favorite stories he told about his relationship with his wife was about going fishing. He said they both had their own lives and he could go fishing whenever he wanted. "One time Jo was at work and I decided to go fishing so I left her a note, Gone Fishing. When I got back she wasn't home. I decided to go fishing again and this time my note said, Again." True or false he enjoyed that tale. I loved the joy he got telling that story. He loved his daughter, Lisa, and grandson and there is not enough paper for me to write all the stories he told bragging on them. The proudest I recall was when he became a great grandfather. He would say, "That boy is just like his daddy who was just like me, full of energy and moves fast." Willis loved Harvest Festival at Moon Lake School and it was always real important to him that his family attended.

Being a good driver was very important to Willis and I mean very important. He wouldn't ride with just anybody. If I heard it once I heard it a thousand times that Lisa, his daughter, and Tommy Gifford were the best drivers he had ever ridden with. One time a group of us asked to borrow his van to go to Chattanooga. Willis agreed, under one condition, that only Richard Harrison could drive. I guess Richard is a good driver, too.

Willis Blalock loved to feed animals. He drove

everyday to Menlo to check on all his friends at the saw mill. He kept Little Debbie's and peanut butter crackers in his truck to feed the dogs in Georgia. He bought peanuts for his squirrels and for my squirrels and likely many others squirrels. He probably had the fattest squirrels in Mentone.

If you know me, you know that I love to hug and touch people. Guess what, Willis Blalock, did not like to hug or be touched, at least by me. I only tried to hug him one time and I learned right quick I had made a bad move. Sible Hopper was a different story. Willis loved Sible and Sible loved Willis and Josephine. Guess what, Willis would hug Sible. I teased her and him all the time that one day Willis was going to let me hug him like he did Sible. My wish came true and I knew that our friendship had gone to the next level when, after many years, he hugged me. He had been sick and in the hospital. We had not seen each other for more than a month and he came in and told me I could hug him. So I did...One of my best days!

Husband, Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather, Brother, Friend and Veteran. I am sure there are many words that those of you who knew Willis could say and more I could write. He told great stories and could cuss a mean streak. I will miss him. I, like many others, appreciated Willis Blalock and knew I was doing something right the day he again reminded me that Tom and I were still "flat landers" then added, "but you're good ones". When he left my store we said the same thing every time. Willis would say, "Well, hope I'll see you later" and I had to say, "I can only hope."





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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. 2 fully furnished log cabins nestled in the woods on 3 acres, next to Cloudmont Resort. Both cabins are currently on a rental program. Above the Clouds is 2 bedrooms, 1 bath with kitchen/dining combo, and large crawlspace that can be made into a basement. The Hideout is 2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths with open floor plan and small loft. Lots of amenities in both cabins. \$219,000 (22094)



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)



LOG CABIN KNOWN AS "KNOWUS ARK" is an artist dream of a property. Unique decor and even a separate artist studio are part of the special qualities that go with the 2BR/2BA, w/FP, covered porches and double decks. Privately located on 3.4 acres. \$199,000 (22069)



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. \$429,000 (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)



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

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)

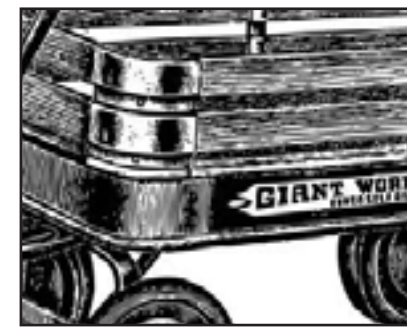
LOTS AND ACREAGE

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



When We Were Wee

By Larry Smalley

Another year has come and gone and with the passing, history has been made. In the real world we often look back and so many times never give thought to the history we are and will always be associated with. Sometimes when I talk to a senior citizen and they refer to the way things were when they were small, I can't help but think about all the things they have seen change in their lifetimes.

If my Mom were still alive, she would have been 91 this year. She was born in 1922. She lived through several wars and countless presidents. She watched as the automobile industry changed like a revolving door. She was raised on a farm with no indoor plumbing, no refrigerator. The only thing you bought at a store then was just your very basic staple products like coffee, flour, salt and such. She even lived through the days of prohibition and gangsters. She saw planes become a standard mode of transportation, slowly replacing trains. She saw us move into the technological era with TV, radio and broadcasting. She saw the innovation of computers and so many other things.

What she didn't see until later years was world events in real time. She knew nothing of world hunger; she was too busy trying to feed herself. She didn't keep up with third world countries, she lived south of the Mason/Dixon and Chattanooga was a trip in itself. If we are fortunate and live to a ripe ol age we, too, can reflect on things we have seen come our way. The only difference is we are given way too much information about things we cannot change.

Someone once told me not to worry about things you can't change and there is a lot of truth to that. This next year think about the things you have seen in your lifetime, and some of the things we can change, like hunger. Let's start at home. Find someone in need and see if you can help a little. If everybody did a little, no one would have to do a lot. I hope this New Year finds you well and that we all take the time to try to be good to someone.

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Coming to Mentone

By Harriet Lillich

Many years ago, my dear friend, JoAnne Glover and her husband, Graham, moved to a tiny town they had talked about for years, Mentone, Alabama. Graham's family had property in the town and he had spent considerable time there as he grew up. They loved the town, its people and the beautiful area, and they passed on to George and me some sense of the wonder of this magical place.

Some time later, George talked to a friend, Munroe Green, who also knew about the teeny town of Mentone, for he came to the mountain frequently to bring a son to camp. Through Monroe we learned about a very special place in this very special town: Nippersink.

So it was that about twenty years ago, George and I decided to see for ourselves what the Glovers and the Greens found so enticing about a wee mountain community at the opposite end of Alabama from our home in Mobile. We left Mobile with directions to Mentone, reservations at Nippersink for a weekend, and excitement over exploring new territory.

We left the interstate, followed directions up the mountain and drove through town. I mean we drove straight through the town. I said to George, "I think we missed something. We are out in the country again. Turn around and go back." George did this, and we pulled into the Superette. George got out of the car and approached two ladies who were getting into their car. One was about sixty and the other, her mother, was about eighty. When he asked the younger of the two how to get to Nippersink, she said, "Go back to the blinking yellow light, turn left, go about five miles, turn left again, and you can't miss it." "Oh, yes he can miss it," replied the older lady. Get in your car, young fellow, and we'll show you Nippersink." We got in the car, and the two strangers led us all the way to Nippersink for our first visit. To this day, I do not know who either of the ladies was, but I can't think of a nicer introduction to a town than the two of them gave us.

We next met Ed and Gerry Disney, our hosts at the lodge. Charming, gracious and entertaining are the first words that come to mind to describe these wonderful friends.

We stayed with them several times in the following years, and then we moved on to DeSoto State Park when we began bringing family with us. The chalets were perfect for vacations that included grandchildren, and since Nippersink closes in the winter, George and I sometimes stayed in the "motel" rooms at the state park where we first encountered the wonder of snow on the mountain.

Each time we came for a visit, George wanted to drive around and look for property to buy. I was less enthusiastic about making that kind of commitment, but I went with him to look at all sorts of land-brow, river and woods. Finally, about four years ago, George went to talk to Angela Wood, told her what he wanted and what he was willing to pay, and she brought us out to Road 1970. When we saw the wooded lots at the end of the road, we were hooked. The rest, as they say, is history. Now we call this tiny hamlet in the mountains--HOME.

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The Sunday morning services at **Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church** are held at 9AM each Sunday, except no services on 5th Sunday. Rev. Jerry Davis and Rev. L.A. Smith are alternate speakers 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.

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.

Happy New Year!

This Old House had a fabulous 2012:

- with more than 20 children tutored by local volunteers
- with 20 lunches served to our senior lunch bunch crew by gracious local groups
- with 3 summer time socials including watermelon, sweets and homemade ice cream
- with lots of folks purchasing "Leave Me in Mentone" caps, t-shirts and sweatshirts
- with wonderful artwork and songs coming from the Moon Lake students
- with knitters concentrating, chatting and cackling on Thursdays
- with beautiful music coming from the piano during lessons and lunches on Wednesdays
- with great ideas, plans and purposes during organizational meetings
- with walkers getting healthy on the walking track
- with bridal showers, family reunions, baby showers, 90th birthday parties and fundraising meals
- with 6 scholarships distributed to local college

Many people are responsible for the good things happening at the MERF house everyday such as Santa and his elves that provided a rocking good time at the senior Christmas party. See our facebook page for more fun pictures and videos.



students for tuition and books

- with a new part-time executive director leading the way
- with Santa and all of his elves making the senior Christmas party a standing room only ball of fun

Thanks to a great community for enjoying and supporting all that happens in the midst of these walls and in Mentone. Looking forward to all the learning and living we will do in 2013.

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.

26 Acts of Kindness

In response to the Connecticut tragedy, all across America, people are committing to perform 26 acts of Kindness in the next year and to share those acts on public sites like Twitter and Facebook; not to brag, but to build momentum and spark ideas. When we meet Hate with Love, we are on the winning way! Do what you can, when you can; and, if you will, share it with us on Facebook, so our Light may join others as we push back the darkness with the only weapon that cannot fail--Our Love in Action.

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The first written recipe for Hoppin' John can be found in *The Carolina Housewife* by Sarah Rutledge from 1847. It reads as follows:

“Hopping John”
One pound of bacon, one pint of red peas, one pint of rice. First put on the peas, and when half boiled,

It is said to serve Hoppin' John with cornbread, representing the color of gold, and greens (collards, mustard or turnip greens) representing the color of money! Any way you serve it, it will bring you prosperity and health all the year long!



To arrange your wedding or renewing
of your wedding vows, call
256-634-4181

Jan 31 - The Winter Excursion - A mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, teambuilding, waterfalls, and just plain fun. Bring a small backpack, compass, flashlight, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 256-997-9577

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

What’s Going On Around Here!

January 2013 Community Calendar

Jan 1 - New Year’s Day

Jan 1 - DeSoto State Park’s 1st Day Hike/ Waterfall Tour

See some of DeSoto’s waterfalls, big & small- -Lost Falls, Laurel Falls, Indian Falls, Lodge Falls and even more water features like Laurel Creek & the West Fork of Little River. Meet at DSP Nature Store 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 256-997-5025



Jan 2 - GPS Basic Training and Navigation

Class, Part 1 - Learn how to use a map, compass, and a handheld GPS. Learn basic navigation and how to pinpoint a location for quick return, or quick rescue. Also learn how to search by waypoints or coordinates. Note: Compass and handheld GPS is required. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$45 per person 256-997-9577

Jan 3 - The Winter Excursion - A mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, teambuilding, waterfalls, and just plain fun. Bring a small backpack, compass, flashlight, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 4 & 5 - Kids’ Winter Art Camp - Alice Circle in Rainsville. This is a camp for kids ages 5-12. There are 4 days of camp but kids are welcome to come 1 day (\$35), 2 days (\$60), 3 days (\$75) or all 4 days (\$75). Hours for camp on Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. -12 p.m. (ages 5-8) & 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. (ages 9-12). Call 256-638-2688 for questions or registration.

Jan 4 - Extreme Night Hike - Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, and a whole lot of required working together. Headlamp and enthusiastic guide included. Meet at True Adventure Sports. \$18per person. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 5 - Rappelling Adventure - Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. No previous experience necessary. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. \$37 per person 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 5 - Rock Climbing Adventure - Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about. Includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. \$35 per person. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 5 - Karen Peek & New River at The Pickin’ Post

- Enjoy a night of great singing. The Pickin’ Post has moved to it’s new location in Fort Payne next to Gary’s TV & Appliance Warehouse on Hwy 11. Show starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are available now at Blacks Tire in Rainsville, Rogers Music and Pawn in Fort Payne. \$15 each. 256-996-8910

Jan 6 - Sacred Harp Singing School, Liberty Baptist Church, Henager. 2-5 p.m. Singing to follow at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments. Free.

Jan 7 - Rappelling Adventure - Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. No previous experience necessary. Includes all the gear plus basic instruction. \$37 per person 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 7 - Extreme Night Hike - Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, scrambling, spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. Headlamp and enthusiastic guide included. Meet at True Adventure Sports. \$18 per person. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 8 - Celestial Navigation - This two-hour class is a basic introduction to navigation by the stars. Learn how to navigate without the use of a compass or GPS with the same rules used for almost six thousand years. Meet at True Adventure Sports. \$20 per person. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 9 - Rock Climbing/Rappelling Adventure Combo - Nestled in the NE corner of Alabama are some of the best and unique sandstone cliffs in the country. Experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling are all about. Includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. \$54 per person. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 9 - Hypothermia Class - This three-hour class teaches the extreme dangers and how to treat hypothermia. Learn how quick hypothermia can set in and the signs indicating it is setting in. Also learn steps to prevent hypothermia and how to combat it. \$30 per person. True Adventure Sports. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 10 - Treasure Hunt Adventure - Do you enjoy trying to solve riddles and clues? This 5-hour adventure will take you deep into the heart of Manitou Cave. You will have to solve and follow each clue in order to find the next one, and ultimately the Treasure! True Adventure Sports. \$65 per person. 3 p.m. - 8 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 11 - Rappelling Adventure - Experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. No previous experience necessary. Includes all the gear plus basic instruction. \$37 per person. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 11 - Wild Cave Tour - Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those ready to explore on knees and belly in the mud and through tight tunnels. Explore in one of NE Alabama’s

most unique all-weather caves, Manitou Cave, in the heart of Fort Payne. Includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. Meet at True Adventure Sports. \$30 per person. 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 11 & 12 - Rickey West Bucking Bulls - Enjoy the excitement of cowboys, horses and bulls! Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center. Adults, \$12 in advance and \$15 at door, Children \$8 in advance and \$10 at door. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. 256-638-1650

Jan 12 - Paperweight Class - See what molten glass is all about. Create a couple of paperweights to take home. Maximum class size is five students so everyone has adequate time working at the bench. Learn about safety and basic glassblowing vocabulary through materials provided before class. Reservations Required. \$130 per person. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 256-523-3188

Jan 12 - Extreme Night Hike - Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, scrambling, spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. Headlamp and enthusiastic guide included. Meet at True Adventure Sports. \$18 per person. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 12 - Gold City at the Pickin’ Post - Enjoy a night of great singing. The Pickin’ Post has moved to it’s new location in Fort Payne next to Gary’s TV & Appliance Warehouse on Hwy 11. Tickets are available now at Blacks Tire in Rainsville, Rogers Music and Pawn in Fort Payne. \$15 each. Show starts at 6 p.m. 256-996-8910

Jan 14 - Wild Cave Tour - Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those ready to explore on knees and belly in the mud and through tight tunnels. Explore in one of NE Alabama’s most unique all-weather caves, Manitou Cave, in the heart of Fort Payne. Includes helmet, cave lamps plus a fun informative guide. Meet at True Adventure Sports. \$30 per person. 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 15 - Mountaineering Adventure - This 4-6 hour mountaineering adventure employs the use of many types of mountaineering, rock climbing and rappelling gear. (2-person minimum) Meet at True Adventure Sports \$85 per person 256-997-9577

Jan 17- Orienteering Class - Basic yet essential skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading and topography. Bring your own compass or you may purchase one at our store. \$20 per person. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 256-997-9577

Jan 17 - Kamama Music - Hear internationally acclaimed Blues Artist, Debbie Bond, well known for preserving Alabama’s Blues



The Times of Our Lives

On October 13th, a group of Montevallo Pi Kappa Alpha brothers gathered with their wives at the Mentone home of Charlie and Andi Runnels. Food, fun, and fellowship were enjoyed, with food provided by Dean Snow. Smoked Boston butts and ribs were eaten as football was watched in the party pavilion. Old stories told around a campfire followed.



Congratulations! It’s a Girl!

Mitch and Emily Gregory would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Anna Lynn Gregory. Anna Lynn was born on November 29, 2012, weighing 6lbs. 6ozs. and measuring 20 in. Proud grandparents are Doyle & Wanda Gregory and Sam & Susan Collins. Anna Lynn will be joining brothers, Mitch, Mason, Caden, Steven and Tyler and sisters, Ashley and Aubrey!



Let us know about the special times of your lives. Send 60 words or less along with a picture, and we will help make your celebration even more special. . . space permitting, of course.

January Birthdays

Jan 1 – Alexis Reed

Jan 1 - Brittany Bates Harrison

Jan 1 – Harold Carden

Jan 1 – Jim Byrum

Jan 2 – Donnie Bell

Jan 3 – Stacy Howard

Jan 3 –Aiden Logan

Jan 3 – Owen Izell

Jan 5 – Angela Chambers

Jan 5 – Tiffany Coots

Jan 7 – Kristen Emory

Jan 7 - Madisen Smith

Jan 8 – Tyler Carden

Jan 8 – Garnett Smith

Jan 9 – Dallas Lee

Jan 10 – Neal Whitt

Jan 10 – Stacey Worthey

Jan 10 – Nancy Frost

Jan 11 – Josh Shoults

Jan 11 – Robert Green

Jan 12 – Beverly Henry

Jan 13 – Paulette Manning

Jan 16 – Wynston Keith

Jan 17 – Jim Poe

Jan 17 – Joseph Brown

Jan 18 – Nicole Goldsmith

Jan 18 – Bobby Blalock

Jan 19 – Candace Eve Perkins

Jan 22 – Kyle Carden

Jan 22 – Anna Potts Garrett

Jan 23 – Scott Gifford

Jan 24 – Sandy Sharp

Jan 24 – Marysa Wigley

Jan 24 – Darrin Smith

Jan 25 – Sarah Wilcox

Jan 25 – Larry Sonsil

Jan 27 - In memory of Willis Blalock

Jan 31 – Tyler Cooper

Jan 31 – Bill Battles

January Anniversaries

Jan 24 - Taylor & Nancy Brown

2012-2013 Valley Head Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TEAMS	WHERE	TIME
Dec 3	Sylvania	8G, 8B, JVG	Away	5:00
Dec 4	GSD	VG, VB	Away	5:00
Dec 6	Cedar Bluff	JVB, VG, VB	Away	5:00
Dec 10	Fyffe	8G, 8B, JVG	Home	5:00
Dec 11	Skyline	JVG, JVB, VG,VB	Away	4:00
Dec 13	GSD	VG, VB	Home	5:00
Dec 14	Woodville	JVG, JVB, VG, VB	Home	4:00
Dec 17	PRV	8B, VG, VB	Home	4:00
	Collinsville	JVG	Home	
Dec 18	Whitesburg Christian	VG, VB	Home	5:00
Dec 20	Henagar	8G, 8B	Away	5:00
Dec 19-21	Susan Moore Tourney	VB	Susan M.	TBA
Jan 4	Woodville	JVG, JVB, VG,VB	Away	4:00
Jan 5-12	Jr. High County Tourney	8G, 8B	Valley Head	TBA
Jan 8	Whitesburg Christian	VG, VB	Away	5:00
Jan 11	Skyline	JVG, JVB, VG, VB	Home	4:00
Jan 14-19	DeKalb County Tourney	JVG, JVB, VG, VB	DCSC	TBA
Jan 22	Cedar Bluff	JVB, VG, VB	Home	5:00
Jan 24	Fyffe	JVB, VG, VB	Away	5:00
Jan 25	Ider	JVB, VG, VB	Home	5:00
Jan 29	Gaylesville	JVB, VG, VB	Home	5:00
Jan 31	Collinsville	JVB, VG, VB	Away	5:00

Christmas Around Mentone



Making
Memories

Decking the Halls . . .
and Porches



Mentone Inn



Santa Claus



Milton & Gail
Chambers in his
1957 Chevrolet

The Grand
Marshall, Walter
& Christine
Brooks

DeKalb County
American Red
Cross



Creating
Community



Christmas Scrapbook

Community Caroling

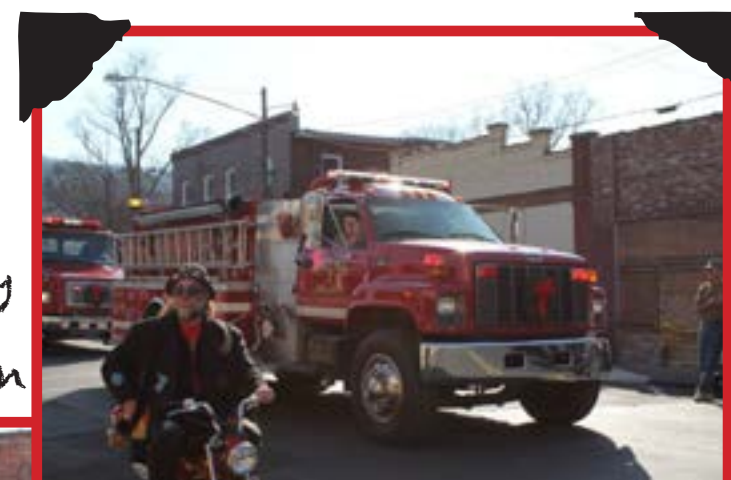


Mason Park

Valley Head Christmas Parade



Valley Head Varsity
Cheerleaders spreading
a Little Christmas
Cheer. From L to R:
Josie Crider, Rose Cox,
Stephanie Poe, Courtney
Roden, Kanissa Smith,
Madi Owen, Kaitlyn Dean



Valley Head
Fire
Department
and The
Clown



Valley Head Junior High Cheerleaders
spreading a Little Christmas
Cheer. From L to
R: Katie Goss, Morgan Blalock, Sydney Vest,
Anna Carden, Breanna Blalock