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GROUNDHOG

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"Neighborhood News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

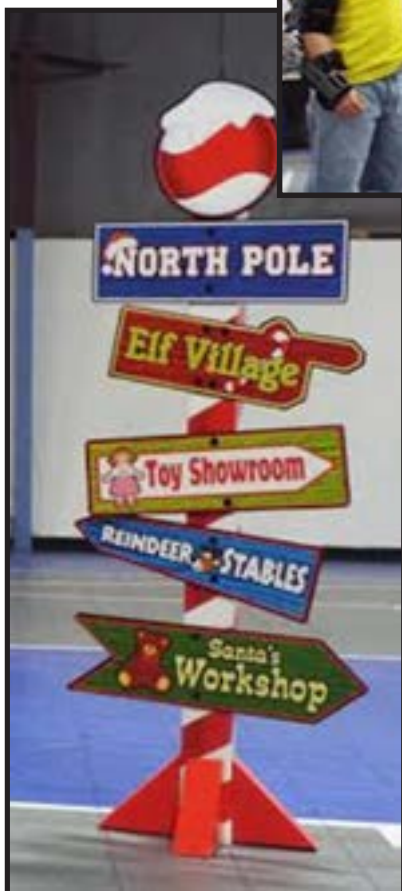
January 2016

Moon Lake Christmas Play - A Big Hit!

By Anna Mae Horn

The adorable students at Moon Lake Elementary put on a wonderful Christmas play last month. There was a large variety of fun characters in the play - Santa and Mrs. Claus, reindeer, snowmen, snowflakes, elves, an "Elfis" rockin' with his guitar, Christmas trees, and more! The cute storyline gave us a peek into Ms. Paula's past Christmas holidays, including one spent in New York. Santa was trying to use his new time travel "whatcha-ma-call-it" that was designed to help deliver presents quickly; instead, 'Santa's Lost in the Decades'

and struggling hilariously to get back in time to deliver presents! With each visited decade, the students sang songs and danced to go along with the times- of course poodle skirts were very well represented. The students all seemed to have a fun time dancin' to the oldies and playing their parts. Big thanks go out to Ms. Paula and the staff for pulling this together. Thanks, also, to MERF for providing Moon Lake Elementary with a wonderful fine arts teacher and making all this possible. Everyone is already looking forward to next year's production!



(cont'd on page 10)

You're Invited! Moon Lake Library Open House



Moon Lake Community Library Board of Directors will start the New Year by hosting an Open House on the 23rd of January. They welcome everyone to come in, visit the library, and see the variety of materials they offer. They will have plenty of refreshments on hand and will be drawing for door prizes. Be sure to register to win free books, tote bags, and other goodies! In addition, several members of the Mentone Writers' Group will be on hand to present some of their original writings including Sandra Comley, Greg Starnes, Bill Schwarz, and Doug Kiker--the Black Hat Poet. Be sure to watch local bulletin boards, the library's Facebook page, and other media for further updates as plans are finalized.

The event is free to everyone and will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the Moon Lake Community Library in Mentone on Highway 117, only about 3 minutes from downtown. Book sale items will be available for purchase. Also, ask about becoming a Friend, Patron, or Angel of the library. The Board is very grateful and dependent upon those who help sponsor the library. The library strives to provide a nice variety of books, DVDs, historical materials, and other items for the public. We look forward to seeing you at the Moon Lake Community Library Open House!

THE GROUNDHOG

P. O. Box 387
Mentone, AL 35984

The Groundhog is published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, MAPA (Website: www.mapamentone.com; Email: mapamentone@gmail.com) and 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

Happy New Year Everyone!

The holidays are over, but one gift is still left to be opened- the present. Each day that we awake, we open this present, then choose how to use it. Each day is a new opportunity for a new beginning. Folks tend to focus on this more around the New Year. Something about starting a new calendar always makes people want to start anew with other things as well. It also seems to give us a little more energy to pick up projects that we have set aside for various reasons. I know that often I seem to be able to tackle something in January that had been overwhelming only a month or so before. Maybe it is because things are very hectic through the holidays; then, suddenly, everything is at a stand still after the New Year. Regardless of the reason, be sure to use that extra energy and make the most of the present each day of this year!

I am excited about all the projects around the area that have been in the works for a while that we should see progress on this year. I know several have been in the "red tape" stages for months. Be looking for updates on these projects throughout the year. It is nice to live in an area where members of the community are so involved in progress, yet respect the heritage from the past as well as the natural resources. It is sometimes an arduous task, and I am thankful for all the local volunteers that give of their time, skills, and knowledge to help the area move forward. As this year passes by, be sure to thank those who give.

Also, be glad of all the things nature gives

us and use them wisely. Make beauty from the earth even in the cold, somewhat dreary, wintertime. It is a time of hibernation before the rebirth of spring. It is vital to the success of the cycle of nature, and to our cycle as humans as well. Be sure to use the time after the holidays wisely to replenish your energies and gain a new perspective on the world around you. Notice the little details around town that are often hidden by foliage. See the brightness of the sun against the snow. (I just know we will get a big one this year!) Watch the animals as they forage for what food they can find; throw them out a little extra, and they might stay around a little while.

We have a new visitor to our woods this season. A small doe has found that we mean her no harm. She likes the hay and corn we leave for her at the edge of the woods. Although, we often see her grazing on the evergreen leaves as well. We also believe she is taking shelter in our covered shed down in the woods. Of course, all the woodland creatures seem to share the food and dwellings just fine. Our dog isn't even bothered when the squirrels and crows eat her food. She knows it will be replenished soon enough, as will the gifts from Mother Earth... all in due time. For now, I choose to begin each day anew, spying some little detail that I have never noticed before, and breathing in the crisp refreshing air of winter.

Warmest wishes throughout the winter to you all. Anna Mae.

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MAPA NEWS

By Ray Padgett

Mentone Alabama brings out the community spirit in almost everyone who lives here. MAPA and The Groundhog are just a small part of this spirit. In 1987, the volunteers kept on stepping up. The Groundhog staff included Mickey Strickland, Editor; Jean Powell, Associate Editor; Cindy Strickland, Advertising/Design. Contributing Editors included Linda Brown, Nova Dean Kilgore, Bernise Crow, Helen Turner, Billy Jones, Shan Bruce, Vivian Nappier, Howard Cash Marsh, Seth Banks, and Gregory Purvis. New MAPA officers were Bill Riedesel (Director), Ray Froehler

(Associate Director), Jean McGehee (Secretary), and Harrell Jenkins (Treasurer). 1987 was a great year for new volunteers.

In 1988, new Mentone volunteers for MAPA and The Groundhog included Helen Turner who stepped up to be Associate Editor, Eloise Brown, Bill Pilson and John Baty joined the group of Contributing Editors. New MAPA officers included Jack Jones (Director), Francis Rosario (Secretary), and Bill Pilson (Treasurer). The fall Colorfest was the big hit of the year.

Eloise Brown began a regular column in 1989 called "Valley View" which she continued for years. Cindy and Trevor Strickland were added to the Groundhog staff as Advertising Manager and Circulation Assistant. New MAPA officers were Lynn Bathurst (Director), Harry Weaver (Associate Director), Bernise Crow (Secretary), and Harrell Jenkins (Treasurer). Notice how many people continue to volunteer – just different jobs.

In 1990, Homer Crow once again took the MAPA reins with a new title, President, and

began the reorganization of MAPA. MAPA was incorporated as an Alabama non-profit organization in October of this year. New members accepted the challenge of Assistant President (Sherman Gough) and Secretary (Mickey Gough). Emily Smith began the arduous job of The Groundhog editor.

1991 saw no changes in MAPA or The Groundhog leadership roles. Homer Crow began a petition for GTE to include Mentone, Valley Head, and Hammondville as "local service customers" for Fort Payne phone calls.

Once again, the MAPA Board thanks everyone for their long-term support of MAPA, its events, and its publication of The Groundhog. Our MAPA Board meets the second Wednesday of every month, 6:00 p.m. at Kamama Gallery, effective with our January meeting. Visitors and members are encouraged to attend. MAPA is a community organization and needs everyone's ideas, energy, and input.

MBA News - Out With the Old, In with the New?



By
Charlotte
Gentry,
MBA
President

Did you accomplish what you set out to do in 2015? What do you expect for 2016? These are questions most of us are asking ourselves as we begin a new year. The Mentone Business

Association (MBA), too, is pondering the year behind us and looking forward to what the New Year will bring.

In many ways, though, it seems the old year isn't quite gone yet...at least with the things that were begun and that will carry on toward completion in 2016. We continue hoping to see new businesses open in Mentone and more customers for the existing ones. Our hope is to make resources available to help local business owners be more successful.

Making the downtown Mentone area a safer one for pedestrians and getting public restrooms

built are the two major goals of the MBA. We are also part of the Mentone Arts and Cultural Center Board of Directors, progressing toward the building of a cultural arts center in Mentone.

The MBA meets every 2nd Monday of the month (we did not meet in December, though). The January meeting of the MBA will be held on Monday, January 11, 2016, at 6 p.m. at the Mentone Realty office. We welcome anyone interested in the business of Mentone, and there is no charge to be a part of MBA.

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Your Library News Your Library News Your Library News



By Barb Stoll

Happy New Year!!

Greetings everyone. Well, the turkey has been gobbled up and the fruit cake eaten (or not), and I sure do hope you had a great holiday. Now is the time to hunker down for ol' man winter and what a better way than with a good book. Let the winds blow and the snow come, because your community library has some great reading just waiting for you. The following are some new books that Santa delivered.

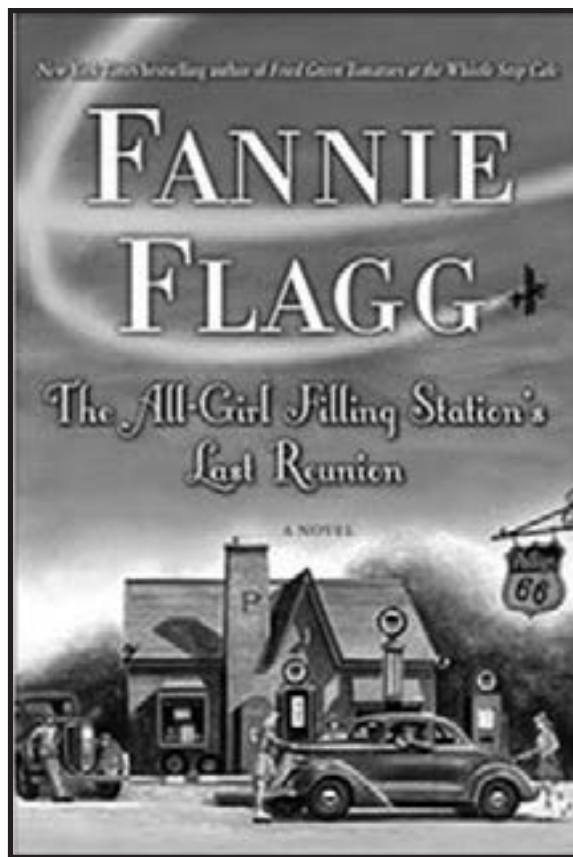
The All Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion

Fannie Flagg, the author of *Fried Green Tomatoes*, is at her hilarious best with this new comedy mystery novel about two women who are forced to reimagine who they are.

"Fannie Flagg is a fantastic storyteller. She surprises the reader in every chapter with unexpected twists and turns. The only problem I had with this fascinating story is that it ended too soon. I can't wait for her next book."-Carol Burnett

Mrs. Spoke Poole of Point Clear, Alabama, has just married off the last of her daughters and is looking forward to relaxing, and perhaps traveling, with her husband Earle. The only thing left to contend with is her mother, the formidable Lenore Simmons Krackenberry. Then, by accident, Sookie discovers a secret about her mother's past that knocks her for a loop and suddenly calls into question everything she ever thought she knew about herself, her family, and her future.

Fabulous, fun-filled, spanning decades and generations, and centered on a little-known aspect of America's twentieth-century story, *The*



All-Girl Filling Station's Last Reunion is another irresistible novel.

Top Secret Twenty-One

For fans of the Stephanie Plum series, you are in luck with these next two novels by Janet Evanovich. As for Stephanie, she must catch a professional assassin: top priority. Find a failure-to-appear and collect big bucks: top score. How she'll pull it all off: top secret.

Death threats, highly-trained assassins, highly-untrained assassins, and Stark Street being overrun by a pack of feral Chihuahuas are all in a day's work for Stephanie Plum. The real challenge is dealing with her Grandma Mazur's wild bucket list. Getting revenge on Joe Morelli's Grandma Belle can barely hold a candle to what's number one on the list--but that's top secret. But let's not stop there; here is another adventure with Stephanie.

Tricky Twenty-Two

Here we go again for another spin around Plumville with this latest novel from Janet

Evanovich. Something big is brewing in Trenton, N.J., and it could blow at any minute.

Stephanie Plum might not be the world's greatest bounty hunter, but she knows when she's being played. Ken Globovic (aka Gobbles), hailed as the Supreme Exalted Zookeeper of the animal house known as Zeta fraternity, has been arrested for beating up the dean of students at Kiltman College. Gobbles has missed his court date and gone into hiding. People have seen him on campus, but no one will talk. Things just aren't adding up, and Stephanie can't shake the feeling that something funny is going on at the college--and it's not just Zeta fraternity pranks.

So there you have it folks, some lighthearted fun for the coming chilly weather. Get on your woolies, head out to your Moon Lake Community Library, and check out our shelves full of books and DVDs. Be sure to visit us on January 23--the library will host a FRIENDS' Open House. There will be refreshments and door prizes. Also, members of the Mentone Writers' Group will present some of their writings. The event is free to everyone. Watch local bulletin boards, Facebook and other media for further details. The scheduled date and time for the event is Saturday, January 23rd at 10:30am at Moon Lake Community Library in Mentone.

Coming next month--adventure, drama and some non-fiction. Stay tuned...



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Remember When . . .

By Angie Carden

The December issue of the 1990 Groundhog ran a cover article titled "A Winning Combination: Moon Lake School And The Mentone Community"? This article means a lot to me, being a graduate of Moon Lake, and having three Moon Lake graduates of my own.

It read as follows:

"When, in 1911, the founding fathers of Moon Lake School, which is located

on Lookout Mountain just off Hwy. 117 in Mentone, AL, began to see their dream become a reality as the first building was erected on land donated by Mr. Ed Mason, little did they know that they were also laying the foundation for another even more remarkable and enduring achievement.

This achievement, which is epitomized not only by the continued growth and success of Moon Lake School and its students, as well as by the slogan "The Best and Nothing Less," could also be labeled as intangible-- the essence of which is its "spirit."

It is a spirit that is composed of ideals, visions, and goals along with the dedication to make them a reality; inspiration, perspiration and cooperation in obtaining each objective; faith, pride and perseverance to endure when times are tough; and commitment-- to excellence and to having that "never say die" attitude when confronted with each new challenge of preserving past heritage while seeking higher, better quality of life in building for the future.

It is this remarkable spirit that is the basis of the winning combination so evident between Moon Lake School and Mentone Area Community.

You even sense this special "something" as you approach the traditional, white, one story schoolhouse, which was erected in 1928 after the original burned, and now stands with pride as a symbol of past, present and future traditions and achievements.

Under the leadership of Mr. Charles O. Bell, Principal, the (approximately) 120 students from Kindergarten through 6th grade and the 13 faculty and staff members continuously strive for and achieve excellence, both academically and in a variety of extra curricular activities.

Mr. Bell, who has been active as a teacher as well as in a multitude of other areas at Moon Lake for 20 years and served as Principal for the past 8, is also currently the 6th grade teacher, local leader of the boys 4-H club, coach of three

basketball teams known as the Moon Lake Tigers, coach for the T-Ball baseball team and involved with the summer baseball program. The Farm and Little League summer baseball

teams are known as the Mentone Tigers and their members consist of many Moon Lake students.

This daily one-to-one, hands-on experience enables him to be more aware of each child's needs, wants, and achievements.

Because of this in-depth knowledge, he is not only capable of being a more efficient leader, but also one who is genuinely interested in, and in touch with, each and every child.

As he so sincerely says, "The Lord has blessed me, and I am thankful to have had a part in the rich history and continued growth of this institution."

I had the privilege of having Mr. Bell as a teacher and he was truly a great one. Moon Lake School will always be special to me and to all of those who attended or worked there.

Mentone and Moon Lake School are, to me, little pieces of true, historic bits of how the world used to be... close knit, committed to community, generous and caring. I have said to all my readers many times over the past few years how much I love this place, and Moon Lake School is a huge part of that.



The Times of Our Lives

Kamama Café Presents Fontana Stinson

Kamama is pleased to have Fontana Stinson as part of our team. She is joining Jimmy Rogers in the Kamama kitchen to create some exciting new entrées for our winter menu.

Fontana grew up in a hospitality-oriented family. While in her hometown of Georgiana, Alabama, she worked with her aunt who owned "Emily's," a popular small town café. One of Fontana's recipes was listed in "100 Foods You Must Eat Before You Die."

Fontana has lived in Mentone for the last year and her son, Nolan, attends Moon Lake Elementary School. Her mother is Cynthia Stinson, of Mentone's historic Mentone Inn, and is also a phenomenal cook.

Many Mentonians already know Fontana and love her cooking. For those of you who don't yet know her, come on by--say hello, sit a spell and enjoy some of her culinary delights.

In Memorium

Dr. J. Allen Lowman, of Mentone and Birmingham, passed away Dec. 18, 2015, at the age of 86. A Funeral Mass was held at St. Paul's Cathedral in Birmingham on December 23, 2015. Dr. Lowman's family has owned property on East River Road, in the oldest part of Mentone, since at least the early 1900s. He will be missed in town and remembered fondly by those who knew him.

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Reflections of Bygone Days

By Anna Mae Horn

People who enjoy Mentone all tend to have one thing in common--an admiration for the times and treasures of the past. One of the things I treasure dearly is the stories from my grandparents, no matter how ordinary. Though they are all gone, I can clearly envision each one and hear their words of wisdom, memories of simpler times, and humorous tales from their own youth.

Philippe Lathrop has been gracious enough to share a portion of his own grandmother's journal that includes her recollection of a summer in Mentone. I am honored to have the opportunity to be a part of this and have made an earnest attempt to accurately transcribe the photocopy of the handwritten journal that is a century old.

Over the next several months, I will be sharing Mrs. (Flora) W. R. Lathrop's memories, information about the family (her father owned Libby Farm), and some interesting notes from that time period. I am eager to begin this month by sharing with you the first entry in the journal, which is the recollection of a trip to spend Christmas with the writer's family near Buffalo, New York. Times are somewhat different, most notably (according to the interface of the journal) first class letters cost only 2¢ to mail! However, some daily tasks and parental duties are still similar--a family trip with small children can be a big chore.

[Sunday, January 3rd, 1915] We got home from Laura Falls on this day. I went up some time about the end of November and spent Christmas--Bill arrived on Christmas Eve. I took my trained nurse, Willie, as the boy was so small--and it is a blessing that I did, as it was a hard trip-- though we all enjoyed it. It was terribly cold the entire visit--the coldest weather that they had had in New York, before Christmas, for years.

I hated being away from home on Christmas, but it was the best chance for me to go, and it was a sin to keep Billy away from his



grandparents any longer, to say nothing of the newly arrived little sister.

They had a fit over the children. Father could hardly let Billy get out of his sight. Aunt Bella adored him, and he called her Belle from the very start. Aunt Jess, of course, had seen Billy, but the baby captured her heart. Louise Elizabeth was so good- and jolly. She made friends with everyone. She would lie up on the sofa in the living room and laugh at Aunt Jess until the others would all be in hysteria.

When Bill came up, I nearly smothered him; I was so glad to see him. We waited ... for his train in a pouring snowstorm. When he [walked] up through the snow, he looked so tall and delicious and loveable that I almost ate him up.

We left on one freezing cold day, snowy- New Year's Day- got to Buffalo that day for dinner and spent the afternoon there at the Statler. We were terribly [upset] when we read the note card on the back of the door- \$8 a day. We could hardly enjoy our dinner in the lovely dining room. We hesitated about going there for on our last trip we had two people there to lunch, and it cost us so much, but we didn't know any other hotel in Buffalo. We had supper at the station restaurant and it was fine.

The next day, we spent in Cincinnati at the Gibson. There was a huge Christmas tree in the

lobby, and I thought we would never get Billy in the elevator. When we went to dinner, it was all to do over. He had had such a lovely tree at his Grandmother's - all his own - to dismantle as it pleased him- that he thought all Christmas trees belonged to him. He didn't like anything they had to eat in the cafe, and we had the whole staff of waiters helping us before the meal was over. In order to get him to eat, I let him help himself. He adored that- ate his oatmeal out of three different dishes, his bananas out of a cup, his chocolate out of the [platter]. He had a waiter on each side of him to catch the crumbs, one to wait on him alone, and [others] along the wall to observe and giggle.

It was awful, but he had to get his dinner. When he went back, we could hardly get him past the Christmas tree. Bill and I went out shopping and bought two dining room chairs to match the table in Mother's cellar. They are perfectly beautiful, but we shouldn't have bought them except in the principal that everything you can squeeze in is so much gained.

We had a bad time about our stateroom and finally had to go the rest of the way on the Q&C. Billy at dinner that night was another [job], but we had a lovely steak and an orchestra- both of which helped.

When we got on the train, the porter was too busy to make up the stateroom so we had to sit up quite a while. The baby fussed, and Billy got into every conceivable kind of mischief- snapped the lights on and off, caught his fingers, fell off the seat and bruised his head, tumbled every thing out of the suit-case, etc. etc. etc. Then, while I was nursing the baby, he went out into the car, tried out every vacant seat, looked in books, upset baggage, ran into people, and generally disported.

We got into Birmingham in the evening and went home.

More to come in next month's Groundhog

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**THE
RECIPE CORNER
BY
ANGIE CARDEN**



Happy New Year! Yes, it is time, once again, for new beginnings, resolutions, and well wishes. The Holiday Season is coming to a close and it's back to work and school and every day schedules. But you do not have to despair... Holiday meals do not have to be over until December! Turkey is not illegal to eat on any given day, and you don't have to hide the pumpkin puree for the next 11 months! (Our belts may not agree, but remember this, food doesn't have to be "heavy" to be good!)

Turkey breast, 3 oz. roasted, is actually

(according to USDA) lower in sodium and cholesterol than the same amount of chicken breast. So, let's give the big bird some credit! In addition, pumpkin is naturally low calorie, low sodium, and 0 cholesterol. And let's not forget that pumpkin does not have to be in pie form! It makes wonderful biscuits and muffins! But that's another issue!

Back to the big bird... turkey doesn't have to be "big" either. Turkey breast is readily available and simple to prepare.

Slow Cooked Turkey Breast With Orange Glaze

This is for a 6-7 lb. Turkey breast, so you may have to adjust for your size. The basics will work for any size; just make sure your internal temp reaches 165 degrees. It is poultry after all!

In a bowl, mix together 1 tbsp olive oil (or oil of your choice), 1 tsp each kosher salt and black pepper and the zest of one large orange. Rub your bird down with the mixture. Add ½ c water or chicken broth to your slow cooker and place your turkey inside. If, by chance, the lid doesn't want to fit properly, just cover with foil, and cook on low for 5-6 hours, depending on the size of your turkey breast and how your cooker...cooks! When the bird is done, move to a platter and squeeze the juice from your zested orange over the top and let stand for at least 20 minutes before you cut into it! Serve with any light side, such as rice pilaf or roasted potatoes, or just make yourself a nice sandwich!

I hope you will remember the big bird this year and not neglect it! Wishing you all a Happy New Year and Happy Cooking!

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**BISCUIT
WARTS
By Doug Kiker**



Make your mind go back in time,
This is a favorite game of mine.
Sometimes I shut my eyes and count to nine
The memories come flooding back,
All mixed together, fine and not so fine.
But that's life, lots of nickels and dimes.
Early morning smells, early morning sounds,
All heaped together, sometimes make quite a mound.
My mother made "cathead" biscuits and the smell was great.
I think if that aroma could be contained there would be several quarts.
But, what I like best was the biscuit "warts",
Little tear drops of crust.
Well, these didn't linger long, to me eating them was a "must."
Then there was the old coffee pot thumping,
Going so fast sometimes the lid would be just a bumping.
Looking kind'a like an ole steam train. Boy!...that was something!
Fresh bacon frying,
In that bed, long I wouldn't be lying.
Then that old rooster crowing,
Just 'bout the time the sun was showing.

What To Do Around Here!

January 2016 Community Calendar

Jan 1 - New Year's Day

Jan 1 - DeSoto State Park's 1st Day Hike-Waterfall Tour. Join DeSoto State Park Staff for a fun day of hiking throughout the park to see some of DeSoto's waterfalls, big & small. See Lost Falls, Laurel Falls, Indian Falls & Lodge Falls. Moderate Terrain over 5 to 6 miles. Meet at DSP Nature Store. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 256-845-0051.

Jan 1 - Traditional New Year's Day Lunch At The Mentone Inn. Come and enjoy all the fixings of a New Year Day lunch. Baked Ham, Black-eyed Peas, Pinto Beans, Collard Greens, Cornbread, Banana Pudding & Drink \$14.95 per person. Reservations are preferred, but not required. Noon until all is gone. 256-634-4836.

Jan 1 - Ring In The New Year. Join us in celebrating the year 2016. Come and be bathed in the sound and vibration of 5 Paiste gongs for relaxation, meditation, healing, and fun. Bring a blanket, cozy up to the fire, and let the sounds of the gong and crystal bowls clear the mind and body. Mentone Inn Pavilion. 2 p.m. 256-634-4836.

Jan 1, 4, 19 - Extreme Night Hike. This end-of-day adventure does not slow down just because it's dark. Intended for a large group team-building exercise, this hike has a bit of bouldering, some scrambling, some spelunking, and a whole lot of required working together. True Adventure Sports. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 2 - Sand Mountain All-Star Old Timers Basketball Tournament Finals. If you love basketball you will love this! A day of Championship Games to see which Old Timers are the best. All proceeds go to the Long Ranch 4 Boys. Finals will be at DeKalb County Schools Coliseum. Games start at 1 p.m. Admission will be \$5 per person. 256-717-9512.

Jan 2, 4, 8, 16, 20 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down the sheer sandstone gems of NE AL. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 2, 15, 18, 23 - Rock Climbing Adventure. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. (except on Jan. 23 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) 256-997-9577.

Jan 5 - 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. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 6, 15, 19, 26, 27 - Rock Climbing / Rappelling Adventure Combo. Come experience first-hand what rock climbing and rappelling is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. No prior climbing experience is needed. True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 6, 25 - Hypothermia Class. This 3-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. \$30 pp. True Adventure Sports. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 7 - 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! TAS. 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 8 & 9 - PBR Bull Bash. Come and enjoy the excitement of cowboys, horses, and bulls! Northeast Alabama Agri Business Center. Advanced Ticket Sales start December 21-January 7. Adults advance \$12 and \$15 at door, Children advance \$8 and \$10 at door. Tickets can be purchased from The Northeast Alabama Agri-Business Center, DeKalb Farmers Co-op, and Trading Post Boot Store. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. 256-638-1650.

Jan 9, 28 - The Winter Excursion. The Winter Excursion is a mystery trip that includes hiking, bouldering, sightseeing, navigation, survival, teambuilding, waterfalls, and just plain fun. You will need to bring a small backpack, compass, flashlight, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket, and emergency poncho. True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 9 - Kamama Music Series with The Inputs. Come and enjoy some classic rock from four talented high schoolers! Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner from Chefs Jimmy Rogers and Fontana Stinson is served between 6 and 9. Music at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.

Jan 11, 14, 22, 25, 29 - Wild Cave Tour. Go beyond where the average tourist explores! This 2.5 hour adventure is for those of you ready to explore on your knees, on your belly, in the mud and through tight tunnels. Adventure includes helmet, cave lamps, plus a fun informative guide. True Adventure Sports. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 12 - Mountaineering Adventure. This 4-6 hour adventure starts with a rappel into a low light maze where we will stop and anchor part of the way down the rock wall and travel on the rock face mountaineering style to get to our main destination. True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 13 - GPS Basics Training and Navigation Class, Part 2. You will learn to find a beacon placed in the woods as a SAR attempt while knowing your position, and the position of your teammates. True Adventure Sports. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 14 - Orienteering Class. Basic, yet essential, skills for survival navigation are brought to you in map reading, compass reading, and topography. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. True Adventure Sports. 256-997-9577.

Jan 16 - Kamama Music Series with Terry Hutcheson. Come enjoy some western, country music from Mentone's very own singer/songwriter, Terry Hutcheson! Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner from Chefs Jimmy Rogers and Fontana Stinson is served between 6 and 9. Music at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.

Jan 17 - Tri-State Paper Crafting. Join us to learn, create, and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. This month we will make Valentines for the special people in our lives! No experience needed. Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Reserve by noon Saturday the 16th. Cost is \$5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205-349-4026.

Jan 21 - Cold Weather Survival Class. Learn tips to prevent hypothermia and death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. TAS. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 23 - Moon Lake Community Library Open House and Friend Appreciation Event. Come see the library, enjoy refreshments, and hear local authors read original works! Friends of the library can register for door prizes. Everyone is welcome. This is a free event. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Jan 27 - Bouldering Adventure – Atop Lookout Mountain. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe, and energetic. No prior climbing or bouldering experience is needed. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Jan 28 - Kamama Music Series with Matt Downer. Come enjoy pre-1930 string band music from Matt Downer! Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10

and seating is limited. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner from Chefs Jimmy Rogers and Fontana Stinson is served between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. Music at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.

Jan 29 - Cold Weather Survival Class.
Learn tips to prevent hypothermia and

death. This class covers the basics for emergency cold weather conditions and also covers a few tips on how to stay warm and comfortable for everyday cold conditions. TAS. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Does your local organization have an event coming up? We would love to share it with our readers! Please send the information to groundhognews@aol.com or give us a call at 256-465-1107.

Ongoing Calendar

AA Alcoholics Anonymous meets every Tuesday at 6:00pm at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Church, Mentone, AL. Questions? call 256-634-3060.

AL-ANON family and friends support group. Meets every Tuesday at 6:00 pm at St. Joseph's on the Mountain Church in Mentone, AL. Same time and location as the AA Meeting. Come join us and help us grow!

Ballroom dancing lessons offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Monday nights from 6pm to 8pm. 256-845-8590.

Line dancing lessons offered at DeKalb County Council on Aging on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 3:30pm. 256-845-8590.

MAPA Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm at Kamama Gallery.

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 11am. Call to find out how to get involved! 256-845-3957.

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 Bevill 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 eligible persons and families. Hours: Wednesdays, 9 AM to noon. New applicants welcome during these hours. Joint effort between St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church (Community Outreach Ministry) and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

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

Mentone Town Council meets every 2nd Tuesday 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.

Storytime at the Canyon Center every first Saturday of the month. 11am-Noon. Free. 256-782-5697.

The Mentone Business Association (MBA) will meet the second Monday of each month from 6-7pm.

The Rhododendron Garden Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 AM at the MERF house in Mentone. (No meetings in June and July) For more information, call 256-634-4403.

Valley Head Band meets on Tuesdays 4-6 pm at Smith Nursery at the top of Sand Mountain off of Hwy 117. 256-605-5404.

January Birthdays

Jan 1 – William Blackburn 1st
Jan 1 – Alexis Reed
Jan 1 - Brittany Bates Harrison
Jan 1 – Harold Carden
Jan 1 – Jim Byrum
Jan 1 – Kathy Carson
Jan 1 – April Hurst
Jan 1 – David Tucker
Jan 2 – Donnie Bell
Jan 2 – Kristen Ann Nelson
Jan 2 – Amber Stokes
Jan 2 – Rickey Williams
Jan 2 – Gideon Grisham
Jan 3 – Stacy Howard
Jan 3 – Aiden Logan
Jan 3 – Owen Izell
Jan 3 – Lance Elkins
Jan 3 – Cameron Hunt
Jan 3 – Tressie Thomas
Jan 4 – Ed Ringer
Jan 5 – Angela Chambers
Jan 5 – Tiffany Coots
Jan 5 - Gage Gelfenstein
Jan 6 – Sharron Hatfield

Jan 6 – Laiton Keith
Jan 6 – Amanda Dyar
Jan 7 – Kristen Emory
Jan 7 - Madisen Smith
Jan 7 – Jace Carden
Jan 7 – Hoyt Ashley
Jan 8 – Tyler Carden
Jan 8 – Garnett Smith
Jan 8 – Zachary Wallace
Jan 8 – Emily Stallings
Jan 8 – Jerry Boatwright
Jan 9 – Dallas Lee
Jan 9 – Ashley Jones
Jan 10 – Neal Whitt
Jan 10 – Stacey Worthey
Jan 10 – Nancy Frost
Jan 10 – Heath Miller
Jan 11 – Josh Shoults
Jan 11 – Robert Green
Jan 11 – Kandis Lawton
Jan 11 – Preston Owen
Jan 11 – Allen Powell
Jan 11 – Freda Pike
Jan 11 – Ryan Wooten
Jan 12 – Beverly Henry
Jan 12 – Aaron McKenzie
Jan 12 – Bud Atkins
Jan 12 – Thad Heinrich
Jan 13 – Paulette Manning

Jan 13 – Anita Johnson
Jan 13 – Erin Dean
Jan 14 – Eric Kirby
jan 14 – Isabella Chaney
Jan 15 – Joe “Dude” Brown
Jan 15 – Anna Easler Bailey
Jan 16 – Wynston Keith
Jan 16 – Trent Smith
Jan 17 – Olivia Bowman
Jan 17 – Jim Poe
Jan 17 – Joseph Brown
jan 17 – Michael Owen
Jan 17 – Caiden West
Jan 18 – Nicole Goldsmith
Jan 18 – Bobby Blalock
Jan 19 – Candace Perkins
Jan 19 – Jacie O’Tinger
Jan 19 – Judy McMahan
Jan 19 – Olivia Elkins
Jan 21 – Ryley Smith
Jan 22 – Kyle Carden
Jan 22 – Anna Garrett
Jan 22 – Rosetta McGee
Jan 23 – Scott Gifford
Jan 23 – Melissa Couch
Jan 23 – Dowe Forman
Jan 24 – Sandy Sharp
Jan 24 – Marysa Wigley
Jan 24 – Darrin Smith

Jan 24 – Tommy Harrison
Jan 24 – Lucas Elkins
Jan 25 – Shannon Tolbert
Jan 25 – Sarah Wilcox
Jan 25 – Larry Sonsil
Jan 26 – Shirley Burton
jan 26 – Seth Norman
Jan 27 – Kaie Facticeau
Jan 28 – Ruth Battles
Jan 29 – Allie Baker
Jan 30 – Stephanie Roberts
Jan 30 – Donna Hairel
Jan 31 – Tyler Cooper
Jan 31 – Bill Battles
Jan 31 – Ashton Carpenter
Jan 31 – Nate Bain

January Anniversaries

Jan 4 – Raymond & Heather Evans
Jan 10 – Tony & Cindy Tipton
Jan 23 – Kevin & Ashley Gifford
Jan 24 - Taylor & Nancy Brown
Jan 25 – Greg & Nikki Wheat
Jan 28 – Robert & Annette Johnson
Jan 29 – Bubba & Martha Browder

Moon Lake Christmas Play (cont'd from page 1)



HO!
HO!
HO!



Mentone Wedding Chapel



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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.

*To arrange your wedding or renewing of your
wedding vows, call
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(cont'd on page 20)

This Old House: MERF Community House - January

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.

What a fun time at the MERF house on December 9th! The seven cutest elves and their mama elf started the party off with some rockin' and rollin' Christmas songs. It was so joyful that Santa stopped by to sing with the elves and to take pics with the small and the tall kids! Thanks to the Rhododendron Garden club for wonderful handmade centerpieces and delicious

ham. Thanks to all that made the party lively and fun. Lunches will start back up in late February. Here are some pics of the tall kids with Santa.

And how about Santa getting lost in the Decades?! Love seeing the great talents of the Moon Lake Elementary students. Bravo Paula Easter and all the teachers that helped make the evening special.

Thanks to grants from the Alabama Council on the Arts, Moon Lake students will be creating their own book in the New Year and experiencing artists at work through field trips to the Alliance Theater and to local studios.

The MERF board wishes a healthy and happy New Year to all!

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 P.O. Box 107, Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at www.merfhouse.org. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-467.



Worship

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 our minister 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 9:30AM. Tony Gunter is the Pastor. All are welcome.

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 Sunday mass in English at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in Spanish. Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. bilingual, Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in English, Friday at 9:00 a.m. in English and Saturday at 6:00 p.m. in bilingual.

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 5PM on Sundays and Wednesdays. 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. 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. Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:00PM.

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. Rodney Blaylock 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, invites everyone in the Mentone and Cloudland Communities to services-- Sunday School 10 AM (GA Time) Morning Worship 11 AM (GA Time) Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study 5:30 PM (GA Time) Bro. Brian Keith is the pastor.

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. Bro. Whitney Smith invites everyone to attend.

Mentone Community Church, 90 Summerville Rd, Mentone, AL 35984. Pastor Tim Miller; Crosswalk Sunday School K through Adult - 9:15am; Adult Worship Service - 10:30am; JC Kids Worship Service - 10:30am. Van Ministry for Children pick-up/take home, ages k-12, for all surrounding areas 8:15am. For children pick-up and drop-off van, please call Donna Bunn 706-398-0720 Wednesday small group study - 6:30pm.

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. Pastor Jeff 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.

Gravel Hill Baptist Church, 14701 Hwy 11 South, Ft Payne, AL 35967 has Sunday School 10 AM & Worship Service at 11 AM each Sunday. All welcome! Wednesdays at 6PM we have supper and a brief devotional time together. Pastor George Moses.

Greater Vision Ministries Church of God, 38623 US HWY 11, Hammondville, AL 35989. Come as you are . . . LEAVE CHANGED! Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship *10:45 am, (*Nursery & Kid's Church). MidWEEK re-charge Wednesday 6:30pm. Loving God & Serving Others. Pastor Tim Coppock. 256-601-0679.

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



Author Greg Starnes: True Ghost Stories, Fictional History, and Little Known Details

What do you get when you let a ghost hunting history fanatic major in communications? A historical fiction novel with a twist, a collection of true ghost stories, numerous accurate historic articles, and a memorial monument erected because of meticulous research. Greg Starnes is a very intriguing character himself, just as some of those he writes about in his articles and books.

As a member of the Mentone Writer's Group, Greg shares with us the stories of his adventures. He had some unique challenges as an independent videographer. People were hesitant to share their ghost stories, until he shared his own experience with them. Greg also always has some of those very little known historical facts that are never published in the schoolbooks, which he finds while delving into the secrets of the past for articles or novels. (I find it admirable that even in his fictional novel, Greg felt compelled to keep as much accuracy as possible.) It is also interesting to hear how much of his writing and his life philosophy can be compared to a baseball game.

Greg started out as a pretty typical Alabama boy who liked to play baseball and rooted for the Alabama Crimson Tide. He graduated from his favorite college with a degree in broadcast communications and set out to make his unique mark in the world. He began his own video production business and was responsible for every aspect from concept to completion- even writing his own script. Greg was what they call a "lone wolf" in the production industry. He started "from scratch" and quickly built a client base in 41 states and 6 foreign countries. His favorite videos were sports related, of course, but he also did special events.

Starnes has always had an intense passion for preserving history and passing on the stories of our heritage. At the University of Alabama, he always did extra research for his papers and some of his professors even asked for a signed release from Greg so they could use his papers as tools for teaching the topics he wrote about.



Now a freelance writer living atop Lookout Mountain near both DeSoto State Park and Little River Canyon, he is drawn to stories that need to be told, whether they are believable or not. Greg's first book 'Hollers from the Hollows' contains true ghost stories collected primarily in DeKalb County. He took this work seriously and researched stories in depth to get as many first-hand accounts as possible. At first, people thought he wanted to poke fun, but once they saw his genuine interest in the topic, people opened up so their stories could be shared. The collection includes accounts of spirits and haunts that are found in historic buildings, old houses, and ancient cemeteries of the area.

With his second book, Greg tried his hand successfully at fiction. 'A Secessionist Christmas Carol' puts a Civil War twist on the Charles Dickens classic- a very unique idea! I have heard it said many times "if the South would have won..." but this book takes it a step further and creates a scenario where the war was averted. The spirits of Christmas can certainly be very persuasive! They visit a fire-eating secessionist orator on Christmas Eve of 1860 in Columbia,

South Carolina, and warn him of the impending ruin that will befall the old Palmetto Republic if it leaves the Union and leads other cotton-producing sovereigns down a path to war.

Greg is a firm believer in presenting a story that will captivate the audience. "Stories have the power to entertain, enlighten, uplift, and inspire." After being out of speech classes for twenty years, Greg gathered his bravery and began to tell stories at events such as the DeSoto State Park Halloween Spookapalooza, Canyon Fest at the Little River Canyon Center, Fort Payne Block Party, the Public Library's Brown Bag Lunch special program in Talladega, and the International Tellabration event in Fort Payne. He has also been invited to speak at numerous historical societies' meetings. Greg tells ghost stories, humorous tales and history stories - often combining them, making for very interesting stories and certainly captivating audiences. He likes to share the interesting, and often unknown, parts of America's history in a way that folks will remember.

Newspapers, magazines, and journals also print his writings. In particular, Alabama Heritage (renowned for their strict guidelines and meticulous attention to detail) ran "Grey Troops at Blue Mountain" in the Winter 2014 edition. Greg's piece explains the importance of the Confederate supply depot and training camp, located in present-day Anniston, Alabama, to the overall Southern war effort. There is some interest in setting aside some land for a possible park with interpretive markers on the land.

As a member of the Civil War Trust, Greg is very involved in historic preservation. His latest project revolves around Charlotte Elizabeth "Lizzie" Stewart. She and her children were taken prisoner by Union troops under orders from Gen. William T. Sherman. Her crime: working as a bookkeeper in a factory that produced tents and uniforms for Confederate troops. Her husband, Walter, was also taken as a

(cont'd on page 15)

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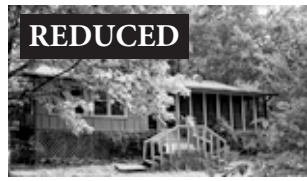
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 MOVE TO MENTONE and live in this wonderful home on the brow. 1.95 acres. 4 bdrm, 3 bth. Open concept living room, kitchen combo, with gas log fireplace. Formal dining room. Separate 30x40 garage/workshop. Native flora landscaping with rock outcroppings, garden fountain pond. Auto sprinkler system. Screened porch with multiple decks for your sunset views. So much amenities. \$329,900	 NEW LEVEL WOODED LOTS in Crestline Park Subdivision in Mentone. Lot 24. 1.27 acres. Great area to build that getaway cabin in the woods. \$25,000 (23184).	 TUCKED AMONG THE RHODODENDRONS, Hemlocks, Oak trees is a rustic 1 3/4 story, 3 bdrm, 2bth home. on 3.85 acres Listen to the creek run over the rocks from the screened porch. Open floor plan, wood burning FP. Hot tub. Furnished. Located in Cloudland, GA. Seasonal views. \$182,000	 MAINTENANCE FREE vinyl faux brick bungalow. 2 bedroom, 3 bath. Great room with rock, gas fireplace. Eat in kitchen/dining, full semi finished basement. Located on DeSoto Parkway, Mentone. \$169,000. (23036)	 612 FOREST AVE. Remodeled from top to bottom, inside and out. In town charmer with 3 BR, 2 BA. Open living room and kitchen. Original hardwood floors, new HVAC. Covered porch and side patio. \$65,000 (22979)	 8.75 ACRES with 200 ft on West Fork Little River. Hardwoods, hollies, and easy access to river. Level to rolling terrain. \$95,000 (23183).
 CHARMING LOG CABIN circa 1920s in Cloudland, GA. Renovated but kept with its original logs, windows, floors & doors. 4 bdrm, 2 bth. Living room with stone FP. 3 french doors leading to the screened porch & large deck, that overlooks stone picnic tables, stone FP, and BBQ chimney. Seasonal view. A must see! \$130,000 (23096)	 HIGH ROAD, Cloudland, GA. 5.5 acres with stream and small waterfall. 3bdrm, 2bth, ranch style home. Living room, new flooring, kitchen with built in pantry, CHA. Guest cabin with 1 bdrm, 1 bth. 3 bay garage/workshop. 2 wells. \$148,000. (23152)	 3.8 ACRES located in East fork little River Estates. Nicely wooded with a portion of the historic Dinky Line Railway. 175 ft. on river (Cherokee Co. Mentone). covenants & restrictions. county water and power available. \$45,000	 DIXIELAND DELIGHT Farm in Mentone, AL. Beautiful 19.3 acres with open pasture, 2 ponds, wooded area with trails for horseback or ATV. Barn with tack or equipment storage. Fenced for livestock. City water and paved road frontage. What a setting! \$150,000	 3.77 ACRES located at Canyon View Forest Subdivision. Wooded and joining the bluff of Little River National Preserve. \$60,000	 THE SHADOWS, A UNIQUE LOG CABIN. Sunroom, 2 bdrm, 1.5 baths. 2 fireplaces. Living Dining combo, sitting room. Native Landscaped yard. Covered porch. \$197,000. (23143)
 COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON. What a peaceful setting and private. 2 bdrm with sleeping loft, 2 baths. Great room with Rock Fireplace. Covered front porch and grilling deck. Adjoins on the back side Wildlife management and in the front the canyon preserve. Private access. Appt Only. \$150k (22865)	 REDUCED NESTLED AMONG LARGE ROCK FORMATIONS is a quaint 2 bdr, 2bth cottage with open living/dining room with gas fp. Sunroom/office off master suite. Screened front porch multi level decks, outdoor shower, garage workshop. Quiet and Serene this setting makes for a great getaway or home. \$148,900 (23164)	 NICE LEVEL WOODED property with partial drive and home-site cleared. Previous perk test. easy access to the middle fork of little river.. Restrictive cov. apply. Located Mountain River Estates. \$57,000	 HISTORIC DINKY LINE Railway runs through the property. 3.8 acres on the East Fork Little river. 175 ft on water with a deep swimming hole, and rapids. Lightly restricted. County water and power available. Located on Lookout Mtn Mentone area. \$46,000	 7182 OLD STATE RD. What a view. 11.2 acres with over 600 ft. on brown with 2 rock bluff points. Power, water, septic installed. The mobile home with 2 BR, 1BA and covered deck is a bonus. Place to stay while building that dream home. Nicely wooded. \$172,000. (18543)	

LOTS AND ACREAGE

OLD HOMEPLACE next to Shady Grove Dude Ranch. 1.7 acres. Great building sites. Non-restricted. Reduced \$18,500 (21599) **SOLD**

5.7 WOODED ACRES with a beautiful view across from Lake Lahusage. The driveway has been started to build your Mentone getaway! Paved road frontage, city water available, perc tested. Lightly restricted. Seller is very motivated! **REDUCED** \$49,900 (19865)

6.1 ACRES with Brushy Creek running through, drive way in place, wooded. \$33,000 (23044)

5 ACRES on the East brow tract overlooking Pleasant Valley. Rock pallacades, wooded. See Weiss Lake in the distance. Private gated area. Joins National Preserve & Forever Wild protected property. \$60,000 (22866)

NICELY WOODED 5 ACRES with stream located on Desoto Parkway, Mentone. Residential or commercial use. Old Homesite, large rock formations. Possibilities are endless. \$65,000 (22824)

.6 ACRE West Brow lot, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 5 lots available. \$90,000. (23043)

.75 ACRE WEST BROW LOT, 1 mile south of downtown Mentone. Wooded with rock formations. Great building lot. Prime location, great sunsets. 2 lots available. \$124,900. (23042)

3 County Road 66. (23186)

Greg Starnes (cont'd from page 13)

prisoner of war in a separate incident, and was incarcerated for a time at the same camp as his wife and children. Amazingly, the entire family survived incarceration and eventually settled in DeKalb County, Alabama. Thanks to the cooperation of the DeKalb County chapters of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Greg's research and diligence has led to a beautiful granite monument engraved with Lizzie's story being placed at the head of her grave in Mt. Vernon Cemetery atop Lookout Mountain. It is the first of its kind in the world to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of female prisoners of war. Her story is a little known, but very interesting,

story as well as the topic of Greg's current book. Here is how he describes it:

"This book has been called a remarkable human interest story. It fills in the gap in the history of the Civil War, seeing as how only a few books have ever been written about the trials of the women Sherman captured and relocated. My book is not non-fiction; there aren't that many sources available where this event was mentioned, and the official records of the war hardly mention it at all. So, I wrote this as historical fiction, interpreting personalities, giving voice to those people too long ignored by history. It is a war story, a love story, a drama, and a triumph over tragedy. It will appeal to those interested in the Civil War, from casual buffs to serious historians. It will also appeal to anyone who loves a love story, an inspirational

story. Love and faith are the common threads running throughout the book. It is Walter's and Lizzie's faith that sustains them through the horrors of war and incarceration."

He has recently completed the editing process and started the search for a publisher. Be looking for it to hit the shelves. Watch for updates on Greg's facebook page. You can also go to his website gregstarnesauthor.com and see a photo where he captured the image of "Antebellum Annie" waving from the window in the old courthouse in the Lebanon Community. Additionally, he will be at the Moon Lake Library Open House reading some original work on January 23, 2016. Greg is a very diversified individual with a unique take on life. He would love to meet you and talk about history, ghosts, baseball, or the Tide!



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608

RUSTIC CABIN near Mentone. 1-1/2 story, 2BR/2.5BA home, open floor plan, large vaulted ceilings. Loft guest bedroom overlooking living areas. Lge screened in porch. \$239,000. MLS #1017671.



623

ENJOY LIFE in this custom log get-a-way on 4 secluded acres. Loft bedroom and 1 bath with wood floors offering a cozy atmosphere and a front porch complete the picture. \$110,000. MLS#564870



617

TWO FURNISHED CABINS on 6.4 ACRES.... One Price! Minutes from DeSoto State Park and Downtown Mentone. Down Home offers 2BR/2BA. Southern Charm offers Loft, 1BR and 1BA. Space for approx. 7 additional cabins. \$279,000. MLS #1026581.



603

REAL BARGAIN. Lge 3BR/2BA home blocks from downtown Mentone. Screened porch, open floor plan, garage, bonus room, workshop plus storage bldg, fire pit, and more. \$264,900 MLS#1001478



606

West Brow of Lookout Mountain. 3BR/2BA, 2,500+/- sq. ft. main house, rock walls on 2.9+/- Acres. \$329,000 MLS #815966



612

COZY, COMFORTABLE charmer. Open great room w/built-in bookcases & stone fireplace w/gas logs. Kitchen has Corian countertops and custom cabinets. On 2 brow lots w/ storage building and greenhouse. \$399,000. MLS #1024616.



602

BEAUTIFUL Mountain Get-Away with gorgeous view year round. 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, shake-sided outside w/low maintenance metal roof. Deck. \$239,900 MLS#1000691.



211

"Like New" near DSP & Mentone, LR w/ vaulted ceiling, hardwoods, wb fireplace. Custom kit w/stainless appliances (includes w/d). Covered front porch, lge back deck. 1.22 acres. \$188,000. MLS#1021858



600

UNIQUE!!! Main House, Guest House, Boathouse and approx. 470' of frontage on Little River. \$850,000 MLS #1007556



607

Lake Lahusage in your back door! Bank owned 2BR/2BA cottage AND 2-car garage with apartment potential. \$247,500 MLS #654813



601

Cedar cabin on 3.48 acres. 2 BR plus loft, 2.5 BA, living/kitchen/dining area, some hardwood, wood heater, covered porch and side deck. BBQ pit, 2-car garage, utility shed and pole barn. Most furnishings negotiable. \$214,500. MLS #1019354



704

This 4,000 sq. ft. brow home on 7.5 acres is suited for private home or bed&breakfast. 6 BR's w/private BAs & exterior doors. Common area w/rock FP & industrially-equipped kitchen. \$499,000. MLS #1018579



614

LOOK OUT at DeSoto Falls! Building lot with a darling 1 bedroom cottage ready for use. \$465,000 #970196



909

Secluded, Custom log cabin, 2BR/2BA, wooded lot, 2+ acres, security system, privacy gate, detached storage. \$279,500 MLS #332033



1400

3BR 2BA home in Hidden Lake Sub. Use of 14 acre lake. LRw/hardwoods & FP. Open kit/breakfast, DR w/built-in cabinet, screened front porch, back deck, 2-car garage. Adjoins Little River Canyon. \$230,000. MLS#1025640.



208

Custom Home. 4500 sqft+ w 5BR/3.5BA, LR, wood burning Isokern fireplace. Master w/sitting room. Pro landscaping, screened porch, courtyard, 2 decks on 1.37 acres. community lake. \$499,900. MLS #1011520.



1418

COZY MENTONE CABIN! 2BR/1BA, open kitchen & living room, rock fireplace, covered front porch & partial back deck, hot tub, newly renovated, view of adjoining lake and so much more! \$97,000. MLS #1028831



624

Owl's Roost! Adorable cabin on wooded lot, furnished with brass bed and country antiques. \$118,000 MLS #690326



611

2BR/3BA. 3+/- year old roof. Garage apt w/BR & BA. Balcony, gallery w/storage, winter sunsets, downtown location, gas heater in kitchen, garage and apartment. WB fireplace. 2-car garage. Built in 2004. \$289,000. MLS#1029587.



615

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY! Let tenants pay your mortgage. 5 apts, lge retail space & storage bldg on Hwy 117 minutes from Mentone. 1.5 acres, fenced. Appointment only! \$187,500. MLS #1013991.



604

Bear's Lair - Adorable cabin currently in a rental program. 3BR/2 BA with a brow view. \$299,900 MLS#692795



605

One bedroom, one bath cottage on DeSoto Parkway with 2.7+/- acres AND a BROW view! Surrounded by mature landscaping and rock walls. \$299,900. MLS #1018162



502

2BR/2BA off Desoto Pkwy. near Mentone & DSP. Amenities include kitchen apps, breakfast area, new central HVAC, HW floors, ceramic baths, bonus room & Studio/Guest House. \$159,900. MLS #1029563.



908

Little River/Lake Lahusage/Mentone! East Fork of Little River, cottage has FP, wood floors, P&B ceiling in living area, NEW porch, deck, some doors & windows, HVAC, dock, walkway, fence, paint! Most furn. remains! \$225,000. MLS #1019742



910

NEAR LITTLE RIVER CANYON. 3BR/3BA log cabin w/lake, wood floors/walls/ceilings, open living/dining/kitchen, rock woodburning FP, screened porch, deck, Loft/basement/gameroom. \$249,500. MLS #1017450.



610

HANDCRAFTED WOODWORK throughout this 2BR/2BA mountain home. Great room w/ cathedral ceiling, full front & back porches, lge utility room all on a wooded lot. Located in laurel Creek Lakes w/ access to 3 lakes & walking trails. \$174,500. MLS #1017650.



619

LIVE & PLAY ON THE WATER! 200' of frontage on East Fork of Little River featuring 3BR 2BA, rock floors, some carpet, all appliances, WB fireplace, & storage building. Call for more details. \$239,900. MLS #902940.



618

BROW PROPERTY! 2BR/1BA home on 2.3 +/- acres. Lots of wood features inside the house, enclosed porch and more. \$219,000. MLS #1015755.



707

Cabin overlooking the water features pine walls & floors, vaulted 23' ceilings and fireplaces. Enjoy your own relaxing paradise wplenty of Mountain Laurels and rocks. Built to preserve the property's natural beauty..\$495,000. MLS #1019610

LOTS AND LAND

#1026589 - LIBBY LANE. .49 acres West Fork Little River. \$162,000.
#1027934 - 4.42 ACRES on River Lane, W. Fork Sub. \$29,900.
#945265 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. \$50,000.
#1004370 - 5 WOODED ACRES on Co. Rd. 106. \$30,000.
#1007350 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. \$25,000.
#1014183 - 1.5 ACRES. Brow Lot on CR 89. \$124,900.
#1011734 - .69 ACRE wooded lot on Brush Creek. \$27,900.
#392849 - 4.40 ACRES on Brow in Mentone. \$190,000.
#403694 - .78 ACRE lot w/106' of prime brow view. \$109,500.

#845943 - 1.70 ACRE waterfront lot in Lake on the Brow Sub. \$42,000.
#762331 - 1.02 ACRE lot in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.
#656265 - 7+ WOODED ACRES in Mtn. River Estates. \$41,000.
#665968 - 1 ACRE LOT in Hidden Lake Sub. \$40,000.
#1016112 - 3.46 WOODED ACRES in Oakwood Sub. \$25,500.
#1016118 - 3.04 WOODED ACRES in Oakwood Sub. \$25,500.
#1021165 - 2 ACRE LOT offering lake and brow footage. \$78,000.
#1032720 - 2.8 acres with travel trailer, water, septic, dock. \$92,000
#1034400 - 1.29 ACRES with gorgeous brow view. \$110,000
#1034402 - 1.3 ACRES with gorgeous brow view. \$110,000



104

4-acre retreat in Mentone. Vaulted ceiling great room, 2-3 BR (or 2 BR w/office), 2 tile baths, and lge laundry room. Wood walls & floors, fireplace, wrap-around porch, garage/workshop. Convenient to downtown. \$225,000. MLS#1034271.

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Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

The Rhododendron Garden Club met on Tuesday, December 8th at Mellanie Tuttle/Penny Lyday's home. The December meeting is always a potluck luncheon, lots of fun, but also a time to review the past year and make plans for 2016. Martha Wood brought evergreen boughs, candles, and ornaments; so, while waiting for all to arrive, six table decorations were constructed for the senior lunch. They were loaded into Marsha Merrell car for transport to the MERF House.

The meal was delicious, members being quite handy in the kitchen as well as the garden. Nary a white, red, gold, Irish, or Russet was on the table so we may have gone a little overboard in NOT having an overabundance of potatoes this year. While eating we discussed our successes at the Fall Flower Show, the field trips, things learned from the programs and our sadness over the loss of members' passing. Peggy and Linda are missed. Sign-up sheets were filled

for hostess and meditation duties. Program topics include Winter for the Birds, Mason Bees, Container Gardening, Living Wreaths and Green Christmas. Mellanie Tuttle read "A Gardener's Night Before Christmas" by Tony Fulmer with apologies to C. Clement Moore for the meditation.

We look forward to another year of sharing and learning--or perhaps increasing our awareness of how much we don't know, but always willing to try to expand our knowledge. I agree with Carl Bard, "Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12 at the MERF House.

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.



Sage Advice: A New Year of Gardening

By Susan Seago

Co-Owner of Earthly Elements Garden and Rock Shop

The holidays are over and a new year has begun. Perhaps, one of your goals for 2016 is to renovate or install landscaping for your home. The Mentone area provides beautiful scenic views for outdoor enjoyment. The right landscaping can truly enhance those views, whether they be of the valley below or the forest outside your door.

Now is the time to PLAN for your garden this year. First, think about the area you want to improve. By using the appropriate plants, you can have a very formal garden or a cottage garden, a low maintenance garden or one that will require much weeding, pruning, and water.

When does it receive sun? Is it in full sun

or full shade all or part of the day? Some plants require morning sun which is cooler or afternoon sun which is much hotter. Other flowers and shrubs want partial to full shade. This is the major concern for placing your plants. Each plant has its own needs.

Some plants want moderate to moist soil while others can tolerate dry soil. Draught tolerant plants can handle dry soil after their root systems become established, usually six weeks or so after planting with regular watering.

The plant catalogs will soon be arriving in the mail, and while you sit inside on these cold, long evenings, get your note pad and begin your "want" list. Most of the catalogs specify

the planting needs, i.e., sun or shade, heat zones (our area is 6B to 7), and moisture requirements. Some even list if the plant is deer resistant, which is a good thing to know in Mentone. If you enjoy searching the internet, check out the plants you are considering.

By this time, if you are totally confused, call your local garden center or landscaper for an appointment to discuss which plants are appropriate for your yard. Doing your homework before you begin your spring gardening will ensure great results.

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Welcome To Mentone!!



Stop in and see us at our log cabin office in the heart of Mentone. Best coffee around!

••••• LOTS and LAND •••••

NEW LISTING! 2 WOODED ACRES with a tiny little rustic cabin & a whole lot of promise for your future mountain home site. Hardwoods, picturesque boulders, wild turkey, deer...most any kind of wildlife found in these hills. A quiet place to find yourself returning at the end of the day, or as a weekend getaway. \$45,000. (1034503)

FRONTAGE ON WEST FORK, Little River. 3.69 acres, lightly restricted, private. Rhododendron, mountain laurel, sandy riverside bank & seasonal creek. Water meter already in place, adjacent lot also avail. Own your own piece on Mentone, riverside! 65,800.(1032896)

DAY SPRING. One seldom hears of lots for sale in this private, gated community with its common areas of massive, dramatic boulders; walking paths & access to E Fork Little River. Lot 14, 3.25 acres. Beautiful hardwoods & level-to-gently-rolling topography. \$40,000. (1027151)

LAKEFRONT LOT; pleasant walking paths & a common area with gazebo for special events. One-acre lot; 139' lake frontage. Restricted, gated community. Adjacent to Little River Canyon Nat'l Preserve. \$40,000. (1023260)

DOWNTOWN MENTONE lot. Remnants of the old stone foundation and hand-dug root cellar still in place. Septic tank of unknown condition also on property. Commercial or residential possibilities! \$39,000. (765396)

4.43 WOODED ACRES, unrestricted. Septic tank, gravel drive, public water & power already in place! Great place for RV or to build your getaway. \$39,900. (311288)

257' FRONTAGE ON WEST FORK, Little River. 2.83 acres, lightly restricted, private. Rhododendron, mountain laurel, sandy riverside bank. Water meter already in place, adjacent lot also available. Own your own piece on Mentone... riverside! \$50,800. (1032895)

8.9 ACRES WITH APPROX 136' BROW FRONTAGE on Citadel Rock Rd, near the back entrance of DeSoto State Park. Beautiful wooded land with large paved road frontage. \$89,000 (692925)

2.2 UNRESTRICTED, WOODED ACRES Mentone. Corner property; excellent areas to walk, bicycle or keep a few chickens. Public water & power at the road. Great building site for one or a couple of cabins. \$20,000 (1011111)



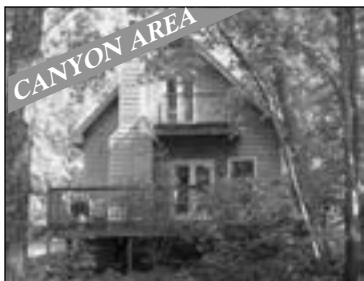
YOU'VE SEEN IT; ADMIRIED IT; WONDERED ABOUT IT. Now's your chance to own it. The Biddle Farm. The land grant goes back to 1910 when the root cellar & log cabin were built. The charming English cottage main house was built in 1921. The 23.5 acres are beautiful, approx 13 acres of pasture, the rest wooded, except for the land across the road with 180' frontage on W Fork Little River (navigable from Mentone to DeSoto Falls). New pine floors in Kit and "Apple Room" BR. Exterior restoration work is complete, inside still needs some TLC. Yours for only \$375,000 (1027046)



GREAT POTENTIAL HERE! 4 acres w/barn; small pond; 14 RV campsites; 8 primitive campsites (all sites have power & water); bathroom; country store building w/huge front porch that could be made into a charming cabin (there's a 2BR/1BA basement apartment, too). Unrestricted commercial or residential use property w/300' frontage on Hwy 117. \$150,000 (862974)



CARPENTER GOTHIC-style cottage, sweetly-situated on a naturally-landscaped yard with wildflower gardens; a carpet of green moss for most of the yard (no mowing!); wet-weather stream; peaceful woods. Built to be energy efficient. Screened back porch to enclose for add'l living area if you choose. Warm, comfortable, cozy & so, so cute! 2BR/1.5BA. \$127,000 (1006846)



THE BEAUTY OF LITTLE RIVER CANYON! Listen to the river rushing below from this attractive, quiet & secluded 3BR/2BA cabin, bordered by LRC Nat'l Preserve. The rim of the canyon is just outside the back door. Enjoy the changing colors of the mountain from the 12x24 deck or one of the balconies off the upstairs bedrooms. Wood-burning Fplc; wood floors; all appliances. Just reduced to \$149,900. (1001006)



WOODLAND CABIN & 20 ACRES Where the peace & quiet kind of grows on you. Great porches, open & screened, on a rustic, 3BR/1.5BA main cabin with woodburning fireplace. Put extra folks in the 1BR/1BA guest cabin with screened side porch. Sweet well water to quench your thirst after a day of relaxing or playing on the property. The land consists of beautiful hardwood forest with walking/4-wheeler trails. This is a true getaway at the end of a quiet, dirt lane. Away from traffic, but only 15 min from downtown Mentone. It doesn't get any better than this! \$225,000 (1028955)



FAMILY COMPOUND, VACATION RENTALS OR BOTH! 3 fully-furnished cabins & private, fully-stocked lake. Just bring the fishing poles & gear. 1st floor access to lake, or just the stairs to the hot tub. 10 acres up to 100 acres avail. Just 2 miles from downtown Mentone, on a private road. Great rental history! \$599,000 (1016963)



QUALITY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. Cedar-sided cabin on 2.91 nicely-wooded acres w/small, wet-weather stream & winding, private drive. 8x42 front porch; 12x42 back porch! Kohler fixtures & Corian solid-surface counters throughout. Spacious LR w/19' vault. Main-level MABR. Custom cabinetry. Wide, pine-plank floors. Huge laundry! On-demand water heater. 10x12 shop. \$223,500. (749941)



HOME ON 3.31 ACRES with detached guest quarters that could be used as an office, classroom or business. 1-level home; 3BR/2BA; spacious KIT; LR w/mtn stone Fplce (fitted w/gas logs); large sunroom (currently used as office by owner). Plenty of room to build whatever you're needing. If gardening is your thing, the land has great drainage & sun exposure for crops/fruit trees, etc. \$165,000 (1030378)



3 ACRES NEAR CAMP LANEY. 4BR/2BA classic 2-story summer home on property that has been in the same family since 1900. Welcoming front porch; spacious LR w/mtn stone & masonry Fplce. Main-level updated (but original heart pine floors remain). Renovations started on 2nd level but incomplete. The 3-acre parcel consists of a level yard & gorgeous, ancient trees. Corner property; great walking/biking area. \$144,900 (1027048)



COTTAGE OR SHOP? OR BOTH? Downtown Mentone. This is one of those rare opportunities to own a place that has been used for a business & living qtrs right in the heart of the village. Built as a beauty shop & residence. 1BR (or 2 if you finish the loft)/1.5BA; kit; LR; sunroom; side porch; private back yard; front showroom/ office/studio. Multi-use space perfect for the wknds, festival times, part-time, all the time. \$110,000 (403324)

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Back in the Day... 100 Years Ago

Here is a suggested budget for an “upper middle class family” that lived a century ago:

- \$25 allotted for monthly rent, but not more than 20% of your income
- \$18.50 for utilities and general household expenses (electricity, coal, toiletries)
- \$37.50 monthly for food
- \$25 a month for the “higher life,” defined as art, music, recreation and health care

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New Mentone Overlook
in the Works

By Harriet O'Rear



The Mentone railings project, more than two years in the making, is underway. Connected to the “Mentone” sign on Highway 117 at the end of the rock wall, the railings will be a place for people to stop, take a look from the brow, and photograph their visit to Mentone. It will showcase the entrance to Mentone.

The rock columns, in the style of original Civilian Conservation Corps projects, are being built by Dennis Gregory, a rock mason in the Mentone/Cloudland area. The overall project is a joint effort between the City of Mentone and Mentone Area Preservation Association, which are funding it.



Christmas 2015 was not white, but it was wet. The abundant rainfall converged at the falls and made for a beautiful site the next day. The temperature was very comfortable and crowds gathered to see DeSoto Falls surging over the brim and into the canyon below.

Moon Lake Christmas Play (cont'd from page 10)

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