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THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone, Valley Head, Hammondville, Menlo, Cloudland
P. O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984

Volume 34, No. 12

"Neighorly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

December 2015

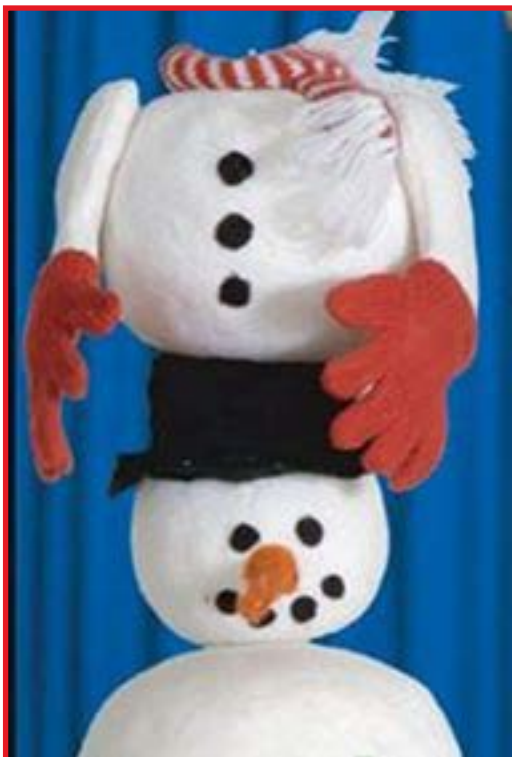
An Unforgettable Canyon Christmas

Little River Canyon Center will be hosting "An Unforgettable Canyon Christmas" for the whole family on December 5. The day will include two puppet shows, nature-inspired crafts, songs of the season, and jolly old Saint Nick! JSU Field Schools and the Little River Canyon Center staff truly enjoy creating free, fun-filled family activities. This event is no different.

The day will begin at 11 a.m. with "Make and Take Christmas Ornaments." JSU Field School instructors will guide participants as they make decorations that will bring nature into their homes for the holidays. All you need to bring are family members.

The Canyon Center is delighted to present That Puppet Guy from Atlanta who puts on an incredible show that will amuse kids of all ages! His first presentation will begin at one o'clock.

(cont'd on page 13)



Don't miss incredible puppet shows!

Mentone Salutes its Veterans



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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Have a Letter to the Editor or a story idea? Send it to The Groundhog at groundhognews@aol.com.

MENTONE MATTERS

By Mayor Rob Hammond



Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter and Senator Steve Livingston were at the Mentone Town Hall on November 16 for a legislative update. They discussed the complexities and difficulties in reaching an agreement on the state budget. Both were disappointed that some state parks and

driver's license offices were closed. The bridge was discussed. ALDOT is holding a public involvement meeting December 3, 4:30pm to 6:30pm, at Moon Lake School Gym.

The question of allowing Mentone to vote on the wet/dry issue was discussed. The present law allows only municipalities with a population greater than a thousand to vote on this issue. The town feels that whether you are for or against it, our citizens should have the right to vote on this. Right now, people only have to drive five miles in two different directions from Mentone to buy alcohol. Much of that revenue could be kept in Mentone to benefit our local businesses and the town itself. Representative Ledbetter and Senator Livingston agreed to try to find a way through legislation to make it possible for Mentone to have the opportunity to eventually have a vote on this. As always in Mentone, there will be a healthy and ongoing discussion!

From The Editor

Time is a very relative measurement. It seems as though there are not enough minutes in the day to get everything taken care of, nor enough hours at night for rest--yet the years feel as though they are fleeting. Once again, the cool air is upon us as we count down the days until Christmas and the beginning of the New Year.

Being thankful, giving with love should be a part of every season. As the warmth and sharing

of the holiday season embrace us, let us hold them near our hearts throughout the upcoming year. May you receive the gifts of happiness and love this year, and may your new year be filled with success and laughter. Happy Holidays from our hearts to yours.

Anna Mae

From a Reader:

My husband and I enjoy our visits to the Mentone area. We came up a few weeks ago and spent the weekend at Desoto State Park Lodge. The fall colors were nice and the temperature was comfortable. We were sitting outside reading *The Groundhog* while we enjoyed nature. For a while, we sat and watched a little groundhog playing on the big rocks that are near the lodge. He climbed on them, in between, and all around them--never knowing that he was entertaining us. These are the simple pleasures that bring us happiness. We also like to eat out and visit the shops in town. *The Groundhog* paper keeps us up to date on the happenings until we can return for another visit.

From Glenda Blow, Prattville, AL



Join MAPA Today!
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MAPA
P. O. Box 50
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MAPA NEWS

By Ray Padgett

In 1982, a group of Mentone citizens formed The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) and incorporated it as an Alabama non-profit organization. The first officers were Bruce Bon Fleur- Director, Grace Howard- Associate Director, and Bernise Crow- Secretary/Treasurer – thus began MAPA and The Groundhog community newspaper. Over the next few issues, MAPA plans to honor all the past officers, board members and editorial staff who recognized and kept the vision of protecting and preserving Mentone's history alive.

Other than forming the organization and creating The Groundhog, the major accomplishment during that first year was building the Bulletin Board that still sits in front of the Mentone Post Office.

A new group of volunteers stepped up in 1983: Charles White McGehee- Groundhog Editor, Jean McGehee- Associate Editor, Donna Buckley- Advertising, Homer Crow- Director, Mabel Kirk- Associate Director, Marie Shadgett- Secretary, and Ann Climer- Treasurer. Photo of the year was Homer Crow holding a live Groundhog – very carefully.

The volunteer force continued to grow in 1984 and added Eleanor Moerlins as Features writer and Shurlee Froehler as Treasurer. In this

centennial year, Bernise Crow announced that a Mentone Museum was established in the front corner room of the Hitching Post.

While The Groundhog volunteer staff remained the same in 1985, new MAPA officers were installed: Amelia Brooks- Director, Donna Buckley- Associate Director, Bill Riedesel- Secretary, Shurlee Froehler- Treasurer, and Homer Crow- Past President. The Groundhog proudly announced the beginning of Adult Education Classes at Moon Lake Elementary School in the fall of 1985.

A changing of the guard for the volunteer Groundhog staff occurred in 1986: Luther Keith- Editor, Darlene Keith- Associate Editor, Desmond Disney- Contributing Editor, and Gregory Purvis- Reporter. However, MAPA officers were unchanged except for Polly Cameron, who assumed Treasurer responsibilities. The big event of the year was the beginning of work to rebuild the rock wall along Alabama Highway 117 down the west side of Lookout Mountain (Alabama Department of Transportation completed the wall in 1994).

We plan to continue paying homage to all past Mentone volunteers who sustained MAPA and The Groundhog since its inception.

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 first Tuesday of every month, 6:00 P.M. at the MERF House. Visitors and members are encouraged to attend. MAPA is a community organization and needs everyone's ideas, energy and input.

Christmas in Mentone December 12 5:00 p.m.

Come see the lights in Mason Park
and listen to the holiday music!
The music will be in the gazebo
or the council room,
depending upon the weather.

There will be
refreshments afterwards.
Music starts at 5 p.m.
Everyone is invited to come
and participate in this annual event
to stir up
the spirit of Christmas.

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Mentone Area Arts Council's Home Tour & Silent Auction a Success

By Rhea Pirch

A blend of ten charming homes and landmarks, peak fall colors and a wide array of auction items brought close to 400 visitors to this year's Home Tour and Silent Auction, sponsored by the Mentone Area Arts Council. Ticket sales started early at Mentone City Hall on Saturday, October 24th for those who wanted to tour the homes and write in bids for the various works of art, gift certificates and merchandise offered at the Silent Auction.

Visitors collected their maps and started the tour at the quaint Walnut Cottage, a newly renovated three bedroom home a block from downtown Mentone. They then proceeded to the John Miller Home, newly built and designed with the character of the Mentone Springs Hotel in mind. Here, guests were treated with world class architecture, along with one of the finer art collections in the area.

The tour continued with a stop at the newly renovated St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church, rich in history and craftsmanship, then carried on across Scenic Highway to the whimsical Tall Meadow Rue. Here, visitors were able to take in the ambiance of the restored gardens, tea room, chapel and English cottage.

Further down Scenic Highway, visitors stopped at Johnson's on the Brow, a home designed to magnify the view of the valley below, with its wrap around deck, great room and three bedroom suites. Nippersink Lodge was next on the map. Here, visitors explored the rustic and lovely nine room lodge on the river, originally built in 1934 as a summer home and turned into an inn in 1944.

The tour then continued across the state line to Georgia and Little River Escape, the new riverfront community specializing in tiny cabin homes set in natural surroundings. After touring the tiny home community, visitors stopped at the Mountain Grove Bed & Breakfast in Cloudland-a five bedroom home that combines history



Nippersink Lodge



St. Joseph's On The Mountain

with luxury. Then, participants went on to Camp Juliette Lowe, the historic girl's camp set on 340 acres which are bisected by the East Fork of the Little River.

The last stop on the tour was the Huggins Riverfront Cabin, in Mentone, near the Georgia state line. This three-story rustic home, nestled in the woods above a band of rhododendron and laurel, offered visitors a scenic view of the river and nearby waterfall.

The Mentone Area Arts Council would like to thank all those who participated in this year's Home Tour and Silent Auction, including the homeowners and business owners who so willingly opened their homes to the public, the volunteers who welcomed visitors to each site, the artists, business owners and individuals who offered items for the silent auction, and the many visitors who bought tickets and bid on items to make the event the success it was.

Proceeds from this event will go towards educational opportunities and support for local artists and musicians.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2015 HOME TOUR

Kathy Casler, owner of Walnut Cottage and Tall Meadow Rue
John, Julia & Joe Miller, owners of the John Miller House
Father Bill Winters & Church Members of St. Joseph's on the Mountain
Ronda Bruckno, Realtor for Johnson's on the Brow
Therese Cox & Staff of Nippersink Lodge
Ed Watters, Owner of Little River Escape
Susan Cheronos & Staff of Mountain Grove B&B
Tom and Peggy Carter & Staff of Camp Juliette Lowe
Barry & Kay Huggins, owners of Huggins Riverfront Cabin

VOLUNTEERS

Barbara Scott
Sharon Habin
Lisa Schad
Hank Willett
Scott Thomas
Don Pirch
Richard Ganguet
Valorie Barnes - Key Club of Ft. Payne
Key Club student volunteers:
Logan Ellis, Vicky Cruz, Lupita Robles, Estefany Perez, Maria Limon, Paloma Astrain, Lexy Mashburn, Allison Martin, Larissa Roe, Ian Hilyer, Macy Leath and Erica Estes

THANK YOU ALSO TO THE ARTISTS, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS WHO DONATED ITEMS TO THE SILENT AUCTION.

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Your Library News Your Library News Your Library News



Merry Christmas! By Barbara Stoll

Well, the holidays are amongst us, and I can smell the fruit cake. Right about now you are wondering "what am I going to get Uncle Ed or Aunt Mabel?" But hey, your Community Library has just the thing. Here is a short synopsis of some great books we recently acquired for you. You can check them out in the library and see if Uncle Ed or Aunt Mabel may like a copy for the long winter's nights ahead, or come and just check them out for yourself. Also, stories of adventure are a great way to occupy older kids while they are out of school for the holidays so you don't hear "I'm bored!" No matter what you decide, we at your Community Library wish everyone a safe, joyful and very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Off The Grid By P.J. Tracy

This is the fifth "Monkeewrench" novel series. The mother-daughter team has done it again with a thrilling mystery sure to please. Grace and her partners Anne, Roadrunner and Harley Davidson find themselves in the middle of a shocking collision of violence on a remote

northern Minnesota Indian reservation fighting for their lives.

Come Rain or Come Shine By Jan Karon

In this Mitford novel, Jan Karon delivers the wedding that millions of Mitford fans have waited for. It's a June day in the mountains, with more than a few creatures great and small, and you're invited--because you're family. Enjoy as Dooley Kavanagh and his soul mate Lace Harper try to keep their wedding simple. Piece of cake, right?

The Quest By Nelson DeMille

A sweeping adventure that's equal parts thriller and love story. Nelson DeMille's newest novel takes the reader from the war-torn jungles of Ethiopia to the magical city of Rome. When a Catholic priest, two journalists and a freelance photographer take refuge in the jungle, thus begins the impossible quest that will put them against murderous tribes, deadly assassins, fanatical monks and the passions of their own hearts. This is a suspenseful, romantic and action-filled story.

Skink No Surrender By Carl Hiaasen

In Carl Hiaasen's outrageous, hilarious, and wildly dangerous state of Florida, there are a

million places an outlaw might stash a teenage girl, a million unpleasant ways to die, and two who'll risk everything to rescue a friend...and to, hopefully, exact a bit of swamp justice. This is Hiaasen's first book for teens and features one of the most iconic characters--the reclusive ex-governor of Florida now known as Skink.

The Target By David Baldacci

David Baldacci introduced readers to Will Robie, the government's most lethal assassin. Now, Will Robie returns in a shocking and surprising new thriller. When the president needs to bring down a global menace, he turns to Will Robie and his partner Jessica Reel. But there are some in power who don't trust the pair and will do anything to see that the two operatives succeed--but that they do not survive. But it does not end there. This time they are stalked by a new and deadly adversary.

So, there you have it folks--five great books, all waiting for you at your library. Also, don't forget we are getting new books and DVD's in all the time. Also, the new Mentone calendars are out. You can find them at Kamama's, Citizen's bank, Mentone Town Hall, and Moon Lake Community Library. Grab a calendar now because they go fast, and enjoy!

Moon Lake Elementary School Christmas Event



Presented By

Moon Lake Elementary Students

December 15, 2015 6:00 PM

Moon Lake Elementary Gymnasium

Admission: A canned food item for Saint Joseph's
Food Pantry

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Author Recounts Local Stories of WWII

By Anna Mae Horn

Lee Grimes was born on Sand Mountain at the end of World War II. Stories from her mother and grandmother of Rosie the Riveter and Pearl Harbor piqued her interest about what was happening just before she was born. In particular, talks of WAVES and WACS and rations sparked her curiosity about women's roles in that massive time of war. This led her to write the stories of some of those people.

One of Grimes' books, entitled "Women on Sand Mountain During WWII," shares a glimpse of what life was like for women in this part of the country as they struggled to both provide and care for their families while many men were off at war. She recounts stories from fourteen women that lived from the Tennessee state line down to Albertville. Personal truths like the fact that a truck had to be converted in order to pick up ration stamps. Life was not easy for these women, but they were strong and determined.

The book "Lady WAVE" is the biography of one woman- Frances Wilson from Hixson, Tennessee. Frances was in her 20s, with a degree from Vanderbilt, and saw no reason not to learn about the Navy and help all she could from stateside. Because of her degree, she was placed as an officer in WAVES which meant she was in charge of women who already knew their job. This took some adjustment, but Frances had a wonderful experience serving her country. She and Mr. Wilson were married shortly after the war, as soon as they were both discharged from the Navy.

She then became as devoted to her family as she had been to her country. She shared a life with her husband for 68 years, often staying up late to reminisce about their long life together. Last year, both of them in their 90s, they passed from this life. Frances went first and her husband a short time later after allowing her to "get the table ready" for him. Lee Grimes felt fortunate to be able to share one woman's lovely and encouraging story of a lady's life during World War II and afterward.

Lee also wrote a very inspiring book about a Chattanooga man who did not finish high school, but served his country in the Army during the war. "A Man Can Only Do So Much" is the simple but extraordinary story of Joe Hutton who worked hard to earn his money. He did home construction projects, paving jobs and led numerous horse-packing trips. Through hard work and much effort, he earned his first million dollars by the age of 34. Often, people who come from nothing have the drive to do a lot.

Lee Grimes treasures the stories of a time gone by and holds dear the remnants of history. In her free time, she is an active member of the Madison Station Historical Preservation Society and is helping with Madison Christmas Magic Homes Tour 2015 which will be on December 5th, 10am-3pm. Tickets are only \$15 to enjoy homes that reach out to everyone's nostalgic side. Nine homes will be featured; some will have over-sized Christmas cards or Edwardian carolers to greet you with music. One of the elegant homes will even be photographed for Victoria Magazine, which is known for its tribute to southern heritage. She is a self-published author who likes catering to the local market of readers by sharing local stories that need to be remembered. You will not find her online, except through email (LeeGrimes44@gmail.com). You can also call her (423-994-0005) to ask about her books or a speaking engagement on the many stories from her books.

Pearl Harbor Remembrances

When the 'new' bridge on Highway 35 near Little River Canyon Center was being built, the pedestrian walkway inspired Fort Payne VFW Post 3128 to begin a Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony. They knew it would be the perfect place to pay tribute. They have held this ceremony for each of the last six years, and it is the only program of its kind in the area. Everyone is welcome to attend this heart touching program.

This year's ceremony will be on Saturday, December 7, starting at noon in the Exhibit Hall of the Canyon Center. Members of the Fort Payne High School Choir will be singing, and there will be two trumpet players from the Fort Payne Marching Band that will participate. Fort Payne VFW members will give a short narrative about taps and read the names of the sailors that were killed aboard the USS Arizona, approximately thirty Navy servicemen. The program will culminate at the bridge. Each year, Traci's donates a wreath that is dropped from the bridge and carried downstream in tribute to those who gave their lives in the line of duty at Pearl Harbor. Please join the VFW members in this Pearl Harbor Remembrance ceremony.



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December Birthdays

Dec 1 – Gayla Blalock
Dec 1 – Mark Hatfield
Dec 1 – Morgan Crane
Dec 1 – Marcia Tucker
Dec 1 – Christine Brooks
Dec 2 – Ladon Willingham
Dec 2 – Dwayne McKenzie
Dec 2 – Angel Baggett
Dec 3 – Karen Saferite
Dec 3 – Austin Battles
Dec 4 – Lloyd McElhaney
Dec 4 – Nichole Williams
Dec 4 – Lydia Gifford
Dec 4 – Heath Blalock
Dec 4 – Sibyl Sadowski
Dec 5 – Jess Goggans
Dec 5 – Brian Howard
Dec 6 – Austin Potts
Dec 6 – Judy Johnson
Dec 6 – Lisa Hulkan
Dec 7 – Gavin Myers
Dec 7 – Keesha Burgess
Dec 7 – Reagan Owen
Dec 7 – Nathan Owen
Dec 7 - Olivia Burton
Dec 8 – Bailey Pryor
Dec 8 – Trish Clink
Dec 8 – Ross Hulkan
Dec 10 – Kevin Worthey
Dec 10 – Tammy Frost
Dec 10 – Bobbie Smith
Dec 11 – Christine Ballenger
Dec 11 – Toni Freeman
Dec 11 – Hannah Blansit
Dec 12 – Valerie Logan
Dec 12 – Jeff Nelson
Dec 13 – Moria Potts
Dec 13 – Deborah Mason
Dec 13 – Crystal Poteat
Dec 14 – Ginny Zulker
Dec 14 – Jim Phillips
Dec 15 – In memory of Kenya Bain
Dec 15 – Jessica Van Pelt
Dec 15 – Brody Baber

Dec 17 – In memory of George Battles
Dec 17 – Holly Day
Dec 17 – Chris O. Smith
Dec 18 – Ashley Pounders
Dec 18 – Daniel Brown
Dec 19 – Brynda Hopper
Dec 19 – Jake Nelson
Dec 20 – Shelley Meadows
Dec 20 – Denise Carden
Dec 21 – Tyler Dean
Dec 21 – Jordan Henderson
Dec 21 – Coby Harrison
Dec 22 – Dale Howard
Dec 22 – William Beasley
Dec 22 – Briana Kilgore
Dec 22 – Ashlee Smith
Dec 23 – Daniel Gray
Dec 23 – Aubrey Smith
Dec 24 – Caleb White
Dec 24 – In memory of Carolyn Green
Dec 24 – Joe Kent
Dec 24 - Emma Lee
Dec 24 – Avion Gelfenstein
Dec 25 – The Birth of Christ – Merry Christmas!
Dec 25 – Mary Porter
Dec 25 - Irene Willingham
Dec 26 – Jason Goss
Dec 26 – Melanie Grisham
Dec 26 - Sheila LaRock
Dec 26 – In Memory of Carolyn Smith
Dec 27 – Melissa Shoults
Dec 27 – Houston Downer
Dec 27 – Jennifer Blalock
Dec 28 – Avice Pearson
Dec 28 – Annette Chappell
Dec 28 – Brooke Morris
Dec 28 – Elizabeth Turner
Dec 29 – LeAnn Bain
Dec 29 – Christie Langston
Dec 30 – Dawn Langston

December Anniversaries

Dec 1 - Cotton & Pam Baggett
Dec 1 – Hoyt & Helen Ashley
Dec 2 – Joe & Donna McClure
Dec 12 – Walter & Christine Brooks
Dec 13 – Ron & Valerie Logan
Dec 14 – Benny & Brenda Goss
Dec 15 - Johnny & Sissy Crider
Dec 17 – Rob & San Hammond
Dec 20 – Sherry & Allen Powell
Dec 20 - Dave & Jamie Vest
Dec 23 – Heath & Tara Kirby
Dec 23 – Eddie & Mary Porter
Dec 23 – Brent & Stephanie Haney
Dec 28 – Lendell & Annette Chappell
Dec 28 – Danny & Julie Mewes
Dec 28 – Howard & Tonya Hilyer
Dec 30 - Matt & Ginger Lee
Dec 31 – Steve & Patti Watkins

POLK SALAD TRAIN

By Doug Kiker

When I was growing up, there weren't many store bought toys.
This was true of girls and boys.
We made do with what we had,
And looking back, some toys were not half bad.
Oh, yes, sometimes I saw things in stores
That doing without would make me sad.
Once, I remember seeing a bright red choo choo train,
And it became stamped on my brain.
I wanted that train, without it, my playing was not the same.
There was no money a train to buy,
I knew this, and there were tears in my eyes.
Then, my granddad saw that train,
And felt my child's pain.
No, he didn't buy it, this I can't claim.
He probably had only a couple of dollars to his name.
What he did have was a good sharp knife,
And some small blocks of wood.
But, most of all, he understood.
Soon there were shavings on the floor;
I remember peeking through a crack in the door.
Then there were tears in my eyes no more.
The blocks took the shape of train cars,
Much like the one in the store.
A trip to the edge of the cornfield
Produced polk salad berries yielding red dye,
And the cars looked real.
Soon, I had my train.
It brought me many hours of joy, this I can claim.
And every time I see a choo choo train,
I think of my granddad, his sharp knife,
A few blocks of wood,
But most of all, I think of a man who understood.

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**THE
RECIPE CORNER
BY
ANGIE CARDEN**

Warm fuzzy blankets, hot cocoa, warm apple cider and crackling fires; these are a few of my favorite things! It's a well established fact that I love winter and all the comforting and cozy things that come along with it. We all crave and enjoy different types of foods and beverages when "Baby, it's cold outside..."!

Most of us, when thinking of winter foods, begin with the staples and traditions of soups and stews. Then follows the images of large, juicy, glistening birds and steaming sides and desserts of the holidays! We can just about smell and

taste them now. But normally we don't conjure images of hard working mothers, aunts and grandmothers as they slave away, days on end, to prepare these picturesque feasts of beauty! Well, being one myself, I do! So I decided to help take some of the stress of holiday cooking away with one simple item... my slow cooker (a.k.a. Crock pot).

Do you know how simple it is to cook a supple ham in a slow cooker? I promise you will be nothing short of amazed at how delicious and easy it really is!

Glazed Slow Cooked Ham

This is for a 7-8# ham (fully cooked). Simply place your ham into the slow cooker and cover with foil (in all likelihood, your lid will not fit). And no, you do not need to add any fluids! Cook on low for 5-6 hours. Carefully remove the foil, mindful of steam, and add your glaze.

For this one, I'm suggesting a simple brown sugar glaze which consists of 1 ½ c brown sugar and ½ c honey. Mix together and pour over your ham and, at this point, leave uncovered for one more hour.

When the internal temp is 140 degrees, you are all done! This ham is so tender and juicy you can't believe it!

Wishing you all a very tasty, safe and happy holiday season!

Holiday Recipes

Enjoy these holiday recipes from our friends and neighbors in and around Mentone.

Easy Apple Bundt Cake with Brown-Sugar Glaze

By Rachel Denton

Blend 3 eggs, 2 cups sugar, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, and 1 ¼ cups oil together. Then add in 2 ½ cups self-rising flour - a little at a time. Blend well, until the batter is stiff. Then, fold in 2 medium apples (peeled, cored & chopped) and 1 cup chopped pecans. Pour into greased and floured Bundt pan. Alternatively, you can brush the Bundt pan with melted butter, add a couple of tablespoons of flour, rotate to evenly coat, and tap out the excess. Bake for 1 hour at 350. For the glaze: 1/2 c brown sugar, 1/3 c milk. Mix 1 stick margarine, 1/3 cup milk and 1/2 cup brown sugar in a saucepan. Boil this for 3 minutes; then, pour it over the warm cake.

Goat Cheese Truffles

By Kayla Worthey

These delightful appetizers are colorful, serving size and just right for holiday events. The unique flavor combination of earthiness from the nuts and mint, a hint of sharpness from

the goat cheese, and a little sweetness from the cranberries make it appealing to a wide variety of guests.

In a medium bowl, blend 8 oz. plain goat cheese and 4 oz. softened cream cheese with a spatula until smooth and creamy. Place in refrigerator and allow to chill for 30 minutes. In a small bowl, mix ¼ cup chopped pecans, ¼ cup dried cranberries, and ¼ cup minced mint leaves (or parsley, basil, etc.) for the coating. Scoop 1 tablespoon of the cheese mixture and make a ball (it will be sticky). Drop the ball into the bowl with the coating and gently roll the cheese ball around in the mixture until it is fully coated. Place on a piece of wax paper and place in the refrigerator until ready to serve.

Pear & Pomegranate Christmas Salad

By Anna Mae Horn

The red and green colors along with a fabulous combination of flavors make this salad very appropriate for Christmastime.

In a serving bowl, toss in 1 bag of baby spinach. Peel and thinly slice 1/4 of a red onion, then add it to the spinach. Halve and thinly slice 1 pear. Fan out these pear slices on top of the mixture. Next, sprinkle 2 Tablespoons each of

crumbled gorgonzola, pomegranate seeds and pecans (roughly chopped) on top. DO NOT TOSS or all of the smaller ingredients will fall to the bottom. Serve with your favorite vinaigrette.

Green Vegetables with Bacon and Mushrooms

By Anna Mae Horn

Cook 8 slices of bacon in a large skillet over medium-low heat until crisp. Remove bacon, and drain on paper towels - reserving 1 ½ Tablespoons of the drippings in skillet. Discard remaining drippings. Crumble bacon in small bowl and hold back. Sauté 3 cups sliced shiitake mushrooms and 1/4 cup chopped shallots in hot drippings over medium-high heat for 5 minutes or until shallots are tender. Add green vegetable of choice and 1/8 to 1/4 teaspoons crushed red pepper, as desired. Sauté 2 to 4 minutes or until thoroughly heated. Stir in crumbled bacon, 1/2 tsp. black pepper, and 1/4 tsp. salt.

This diverse recipe can be used with asparagus (2 lbs cut into 2-inch pieces), sugar snap peas (1 ½ lbs trimmed) or green beans (2 cans, 16oz each) depending upon the preference of the cook. Also, garlic powder or steak seasoning can be used in place of the red and black pepper seasonings, if desired.

Holiday Recipes

Cheese Balls Stuffed With Olives

By Beverly Bates

Your friends will be begging you to bring these to the next party! I usually double this recipe.

Sift together 1/2 cup of flour, 1/4 tsp of salt, 1/4 tsp of paprika. In a separate bowl, blend together 1 cup of grated sharp cheddar cheese and 3 T of margarine of butter. Stir in dry ingredients and blend into a dough. Chill dough for about an hour. Wrap 1 tsp of dough around each stuffed green olive and form into ball. Place on slightly greased cookie sheet and bake 10-15 minutes at 400 degrees. Serve warm.

Date Balls

By Beverly Bates

My mom made these every Christmas.

Combine an 8 oz. package of chopped dates, 1 cup of sugar and margarine in a pan and cook on low heat for 2-3 minutes. Add 1 cup of Rice Krispies and 1 cup of chopped pecans. Cool and form into balls. Roll balls in powdered sugar.

Easy Lemon Bars

By Beverly Bates

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Press a roll of refrigerated sugar cookie dough evenly in bottom of ungreased 13 x 9 inch pan. Bake 15-20 minutes or until light golden brown. In large bowl, beat 4 eggs with fork or whisk until blended. Beat in 1 1/2 cups of granulated sugar, 2 T of all-purpose flour and 2 T of softened butter or margarine. Stir in 2 T grated lemon peel and 1/3 cup of fresh lemon juice. Pour mixture over warm crust and bake 20-30 minutes longer or until edges are light golden brown. Cool completely, about 30 minutes, and sprinkle with 1-2 T of powdered sugar. Dip knife in hot water and cut into 6 rows by 6 rows.

Banana Pudding

By Angela Chambers

- 2 small boxes vanilla pudding
- 2 cups milk
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 -8oz sour cream
- 1 -12oz cool whip
- 5-6 bananas, sliced
- 1 box vanilla wafers

Mix vanilla pudding with milk, then add sour cream and sweetened condensed milk and fold in cool whip. Layer wafers, sliced bananas and pudding mixture. Crush 5 wafers on top.

Grape Salad

By Michele Wooden

- 1 -8oz sour cream
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 -8oz cream cheese, softened
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup pecans
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 bags grapes, your choice, washed and dried

Mix sour cream and vanilla, then mix cream cheese and sugar. Combine all 4 ingredients and mix well. Then mix in grapes. Top with brown sugar and pecans.

Creamy Corn

By Christy Harrison

- 1 sleeve frozen cream corn
- 4 cans whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 -8oz cream cheese
- 1 stick butter
- 1 jalapeno pepper

Melt cream cheese and butter together. Combine in Crockpot and cook on low for about 3 hours.

Old-Fashioned Tea Cakes

From Mary Anna Bryant's recipe collection
Submitted by Anna Mae Horn

- 3 cups plain flour
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup shortening
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

Sift dry ingredients into a mixing bowl. Cut in the shortening. Add eggs and vanilla, then mix well. Drop onto a greased cookie sheet and bake at 425 just until the edges are brown. Makes about 4 dozen tea cakes.

Cranberry Orange Chicken Breast

By Anna Mae Horn

- 6 Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breast
- 5 3/4 oz Dried Whole Cranberries
- 1 Cup+ 1 Tablespoon Orange Juice
- 2 1/4 Teaspoon Fresh Grated Orange Rind
- 3 3/4 oz Light Brown Sugar
- 3 Tablespoons Brandy

Place cranberries, orange juice, orange rind, brown sugar, and brandy in a saucepan over medium heat. Stir it and bring it to a simmer. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 20 minutes or until sauce is thickened. Keep warm. Bake

chicken breasts on sheet pans at 375 for 10 minutes or until juices run clear. Spoon out sauce evenly onto each chicken breast. Enjoy!

Sweet Potato Casserole

By Anna Mae Horn

Peel and mash 4 1/2 pounds cooked sweet potatoes. Add 1 cup granulated sugar, 1/2 cup softened butter, 1/4 cup milk, 2 large eggs, 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Mix on medium speed until smooth. Spoon mixture into a greased 11x7 baking dish. Combine 1 ¼ cup cornflakes cereal (crushed), 1/4 cup chopped pecans, 1 tablespoon brown sugar and 1 tablespoon melted butter in a small bowl. Sprinkle over casserole in diagonal rows 2 inches apart. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Remove from oven; let stand 10 minutes. Sprinkle marshmallows in alternate rows between cornflake mixture; bake 10 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

Copper Pennies

By Beverly Bates

- 2 pounds carrots, sliced
- 1 green pepper, sliced in rings
- 1 onion, sliced in rings
- 1 can tomato soup
- 1/2 cup salad oil
- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup vinegar
- 1 tsp mustard
- 1 tsp Worcestershire Sauce
- Salt and Pepper

Cook carrots in salted water until slightly tender. Drain and cool. In large bowl, alternate layers of carrots, pepper and onion. Combine marinade ingredients and pour over vegetables. Cover and refrigerate. Serve cold, Keeps well.

Corn & Black-Eyed Pea Salsa (or Redneck Caviar)

By Beverly Bates

Here's a great recipe for your New Year's Eve party.

Blend 1/3 cup of balsamic vinegar, 1 T hot, sweet mustard, (southwestern mustard), 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley, 1/2 tsp salt, 1/4 tsp pepper, 1/2 tsp creole seasoning. Whisk in 1/4 cup of extra virgin olive oil and set aside. Combine kernels from 2 ears of fresh cooked corn, 2 cans of black-eyed peas, drained, 1 chopped medium bell pepper, 1 chopped medium vidalia or sweet onion and 3 chopped stalks of celery. Toss dressing with vegetables. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Serve with Scoops or tortilla chips.

What To Do Around Here!

December 2015 Community Calendar

Dec 1 - Zip Line & Sky Swing

Adventure. All our zip lines and sky swings are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 pm the day before adventure. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 1 - 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.

Dec 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23 - Play Bridge. Join us at the DeKalb County Council on Aging for a game of bridge. 12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Call for more information. 256-845-8590.

Dec 2, 14, 28 - 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. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 3 - DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center Holiday Market & Open House. We are so excited about doing our Open House and Holiday Market here at the CAC! We will have dinner theatre tickets on sale, t-shirts, refreshments, Santa and more. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pictures with Santa will be from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. We will also have information available to those who would like to "adopt a child" for Christmas. 256-997-9700.

Dec 3 - 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. TAS. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 3, 10, 17 - Bridge Class. Seniors can learn to play bridge at the DeKalb County Council on Aging. 12:30p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 256-845-8590 for more information.

Dec 4, 23 - Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 p.m. the day

before the adventure. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 4, 16, 19, 22, 24 - 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.

Dec 5 - Valley Head Christmas Parade. Line up will be at 9:30 a.m. starting in front of Valley Head School. Parade will start at 10 a.m. and prizes will be awarded to the top 3 entries. After the parade, please come by the Town Hall for refreshments and pictures with Santa. For more information, call 256-635-6814.

Dec 5 - Henagar Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun festive event. Parade begins at 10 a.m. 256-657-6282.

Dec 5 - Ider Christmas Parade. Fun for the whole family! Parade begins at 1 p.m. 256-657-5717.

Dec 5 - A Cheery Canyon Christmas. An enchanting day full of holiday programs such as winter wildlife feeding, sustainable giving, Christmas arts & crafts, secret Santa gift shop, photos made with SANTA, storytelling and more!! Little River Canyon Center Most programs are free... call for more information. 256-782-5697.

Dec 5 - Basic Pine Needle Basketry Class. Learn the basics of pine needle basketry, an old craft with a long history. Join DSP staff and volunteers to learn the basic steps to making a coiled basket from longleaf pine needles. All materials will be furnished. Class is for ages 12 to adult. DeSoto State Park Nature Center. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. \$20 supply fee. Pre-registration required; class number is limited to 12. 256-997-5025.

Dec 5, 12, 19 - Blow Your Own Ornament. Design and blow your own ornament with the help of one of our glass artists. No reservations are needed, it is on a first come, first serve basis. For this, we welcome people ages 5 and up. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Orbix Hot Glass. Cost is \$38 per ornament 256-523-3188.

Dec 5, 8, 29 - Rappelling Adventure. Come experience the thrill of rappelling down

the sheer sandstone gems of NE Alabama. Each trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. TAS. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 5, 8, 30 - 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.

Dec 7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Come and be a part of this remembrance program presented by the DeKalb County VFW. Held at the Little River Canyon Center and ends with a wreath dropped into Little River. Program starts at noon. 256-845-8192.

Dec 7 - 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. TAS. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 9 - 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. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 10 - Homer Hickam Book Signing. Homer Hickam will be doing a book signing at The Book Shelf. He is the author of "Rocket Boys" which became the movie, "October Sky". He is a NASA Engineer and author. He will be signing his new book, "Carrying Albert Home". I will also have some of the Rocket Boys books. A signed book from him would make a really great Christmas gift. 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. 256-844-8663.

Dec 11 - Afternoon Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 p.m. the day before the adventure. 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 11 - Fort Payne Christmas Parade and Christmas in the Park. Join in the festivities in Fort Payne City Park. Free soft drinks, hot chocolate, refreshments, caroling, then a huge parade to make this

annual event tons of fun! Festivities start at 4 p.m. Parade starts at 6 p.m. 256-845-2741.

Dec 12 - Christmas Music in Mentone. Christmas music at the gazebo in Mason Park or in the council room at town hall, according to the weather. Everyone is invited to come and participate in this annual community celebration and enjoy Christmas lights in Mason Park. 5:00 p.m.

Dec 12 - Fyffe Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun festive event. Parade begins at 12 p.m. 256-623-2222.

Dec 12 - Collinsville Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun festive event. Parade begins at 2 p.m. 256-524-2135.

Dec 12 - Geraldine Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun festive event. Parade begins at 2 p.m. 256-659-2122.

Dec 12 - Sylvania Christmas Parade. Bring your family to this fun festive event. Parade begins at 2 p.m. 256-638-2604.

Dec 12 - Annual Rainsville Christmas At the Crossroads and Parade. Come and enjoy a celebration of the season with this fun festive annual event. Parade begins at 4 p.m. 256-638-7800.

Dec 12, 25 - Zip Line & Sky Swing Adventure at Night. All our zip lines and sky swings are set up just before the adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 p.m. the day before adventure. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 13 - Tri-State Paper Crafting. Join us to learn, create and be inspired while crafting with papers, stamps, inks, punches, and die cuts. No experience needed. This month we will make gift tags! Kamama Gallery in Mentone AL 1:00-2:30. Reserve by noon Sat the 12th. Cost is \$5. To learn more or reserve a spot send an email to cottagepaper@bellsouth.net or call 205- 349-4026.

Dec 13 - Christmas Cantata. There will be two performances of the Cantata "His Very Own Star." 5:00 p.m. at the Mentone United Methodist Church. 7:00 p.m. at the Valley Head Baptist Church.

Dec 15 - Sky Swing Adventure. This is an adventure of a lifetime. Enjoy the thrill of the swing at night. Pre-registration

required at True Adventure Sports by 6 p.m. the day before the adventure. Meet at True Adventure Sports. 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 15, 21, 26 - Bouldering Adventure – Atop Lookout Mountain. Come experience first-hand what bouldering is all about with guides who are fun, safe and energetic. This trip includes all the gear plus basic instruction. We will climb on some of the best boulders atop Lookout Mountain. True Adventure Sports. 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 17 - Knot Class & Application. Introduction and instruction to essential knots and their application for camping, rappelling, rock climbing, outdoor survival, and other applications. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 17 - Kamama Music Series. Come and enjoy music with the Pierce Pettis Christmas Concert. Kamama stage and seating provide the audience an intimate listening experience where live music can be fully appreciated. Admission is \$10 and seating is limited. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. and Music at 7 p.m. 256-634-3001.

Dec 18 - 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. True Adventure Sports. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 18 - Night Zip Line Adventure. All our zip lines are set up just before the

adventure to ford a gorge or cross from one high point to another. Pre-registration required at True Adventure Sports by 6 p.m. the day before the adventure. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 18 - Landmarks of DeKalb County presents The Forester Sisters, Fort Payne Opera House, 7pm with reception afterward in Hunt Hall. Tickets \$20 (tax deductible). Available online at landmarksdekalb.org and in Fort Payne at Brown's Cleaners, Cranberry Corner and The Book Shelf.

Dec 19 - 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, flash light, change of socks, warm clothes, camera, trail mix, water, small first aid kit, emergency blanket and emergency poncho. TAS. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 256-997-9577.

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Service. St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church will hold a special Christmas Eve service at 8:00pm. The community is welcome to come, sing carols and worship.

Dec 25 - Christmas Day. Enjoy the day with loved ones and have a Merry Christmas!

Dec 26-January 2 - Sand Mountain All-Star Old Timers Basketball Tournament. Put together a team of old timers, register and compete for a good cause. There will be men's and women's divisions. All proceeds go to the Long Ranch 4 Boys. 256-717-9512.



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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 first Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the MERF House in

Mentone.

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

Lookout Mountain Parkway Association meets every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 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 Beville Center in Rainsville by Duos and Solos Dance Club.

256-638-2780.

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

FREE FOOD for 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.

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.

This is a season of giving and receiving. Many gifts have been received this fall from great friends of MERF. Tutors and students have been meeting each week. MERF is thankful for time and expertise given by Kat Griffith, Joyce Smith, Megan Halderman, Carl Ferguson, Anna Mae Horn, Bill Rutledge, Lolly Howser, Kara McMunn, Ivy Tarrant and Morgan Reynolds.

Senior lunch enjoyed great meals from Camp Laney, Kamama, Mentone Community Church, Mountain Laurel Inn B&B, Mentone Market, Alpine Camp for Boys, Mentone Inn, St. Joseph's Episcopal Church, Camp DeSoto and the Farm at Windy Hill. The after-meal entertainment has been orchestrated and performed by many such as The Black Hat poet, Elizabeth Romans, Martha Sprayberry, Wilma Fletcher, Jan Wilkinson, Hoyle Smith and several

singers. And what capable hands have helped to set up, serve and clean up from each meal- Pat Peterson, Shirley Hussel, Carolyn Nail, Kathy McMunn, Hazel Bickerstaff, Dee Dee Dunkerly and Thomas Qualls. Everyone is looking forward to the Christmas Party on December 9th. Come early for some cute little elves!

Just as giving as the volunteers are, so are the MERF board members. As a working board, members are active in many areas of MERF's activities whether it is setting up for a festival, tutoring or putting on a spectacular art auction. After many years on the board, both Linda Lawton and Joyce Smith needed to retire this year. MERF is grateful for their time and gifts, as they were always willing to help and to promote MERF. Their insight and commitment will be missed. The board welcomes Marsha Merrell and Teri Beth Perkins, who will add humor, insight and vision. May all our gifts be used well this season and in the year to come to enrich and encourage those around us.

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 POB107 Mentone, AL 35984 or contribute online at www.crowdrise.com/MERF. Contact us at merf.mentone@gmail.com or 256-634-4673.



"Leave Me in Mentone" mugs and ornaments make great gifts this Christmas and support MERF programs. For purchase at Kamama, DeSoto State Park country store and from merf.mentone@gmail.com.

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Front row: Sarah Wilcox (Executive Director), Marsha Merrell, Teri Beth Perkins
Back row: Roland Hendon, Kathy McMunn, Walt Pullen, Lea Long, Kristen Emory
Not pictured: Bill Berry and Yon Hopper

TINY CABINS ON LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN



There is a new community in the making on Lookout Mountain. Only a few miles inside the Georgia state line on Lookout Mountain Parkway, Little River Escape is in the budding stages. On September 24, the Chattooga County Chamber of Commerce, the Rome Area Chamber of Commerce, and guests convened to welcome Little River Escape to Cloudland and to Lookout Mountain. The air at the ribbon cutting was filled with excitement. The “tiny” movement has reached Lookout Mountain!

Tiny homes have become a popular idea across the country. They are designed for

economy and efficiency. The footprint is small, so there is less of an impact to nature. Often, tiny homes are designed to enhance or utilize the natural surroundings of the area. Because they are so small, owners must become creative with space and have little room to be wasteful. It is wonderful to see this type of living arrangement come to our area where we value the wise use of resources.

After a year of site development, the gates to NW Georgia’s first private “tiny cabin” community are now open. Ed Watters says, “Not only are these tiny cabins ‘cute,’ but the designs

are clever.” The landscaping at the community is designed to enhance all the best features of Lookout Mountain. This little area is full of natural beauty--colorful hardwoods, wildlife, and the soothing sounds of the lake. Life at Little River Escape is about relaxing- reading a book on the porch or walking nature trails. It’s about having fun--kayaking on Lake Lahusage or joining friends poolside. It’s also about discovering all the possibilities in the Menlo and Mentone area.

The idea emerged two years ago when Mr. Watters, a Rome, Georgia developer, purchased property along the East Fork of the Little River with a vision of designing a unique cabin community as an affordable second home alternative. The Watters family has enjoyed a vacation home on Lake Lahusage for over twenty years. They enjoy the relaxing atmosphere of the area and the activities available to them by living on the lake. Ed wishes everyone could have the opportunity to experience Lookout Mountain. He hopes for “those who have dreamed of owning a vacation home on Lookout Mountain, to find Little River Escape as the ideal solution.” Owners select a small lot of land and a custom designed “tiny cabin” which keeps the homes unique and the price economical, while the landscaping is designed with privacy in mind. Being located in a community, offers owners shared access to amenities and the natural wonders this area is known for. Lookout Mountain is growing a “tiny” bit at a time.

Canyon Christmas (cont'd from page 1)

An Unforgettable Canyon Christmas

This is an event the whole family is sure to enjoy! The day will include two puppet shows, nature inspired crafts, sounds of the season and a visit from the jolly old elf himself!

11:00-3:00: "Make and Take Christmas Ornaments"
1:00-2:00: That Puppet Guy
"The North Pole Fa-la-la-la Follies"
3:00-4:00: That Puppet Guy "Trouble in Toyland"
4:00-6:00: Santa & Photos
Where: Little River Canyon Center
Date: Saturday, December 5th
Fee: FREE



“The North Pole Fa-la-la-la Follies” includes characters like the tumbling teddy bears, a duo of dancing deer, and the “not-so-abominable” snowman. “Yule” love it! At three o’clock, the show entitled “Trouble in Toyland” will be presented. It’s Christmas Eve - but the toys aren’t finished, the elves are on strike, Santa has lost his laugh, and Rudolph has a runny nose! Will we have to cancel Christmas? Of course not! However, there will be lots of laughs for everyone.

Santa himself will be available for photos with the children after the puppet shows and activities. Be sure to have the kids bring their list for Santa, along with their best smile.

JSU Field School and Little River Canyon Center are happy to bring the puppet shows and activities to the area. Everyone is encouraged to tell a friend and join the festivities. All activities are free and supplies are furnished for the ornaments. So, bring the family out to enjoy “An Unforgettable Canyon Christmas.”

Mentone Wedding Chapel



*Candle Lite Ceremonies
Music • Photographs
Flowers • Receptions
Lodging
Limousine*

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
256-634-4181*

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.



Not Ours to Keep

By Elvira Fitzgerald

Grand Hills, California

Grand Saturday morning in October, and oh, what a beautiful day! The children were excited—all six of them. It was moving day; everything was packed and ready to go. Little Bart was running around like a little elf, happy and laughing. He was going to celebrate his third birthday on a ranch with chickens and horses, only the horses weren't there yet. Bart was going to be three on December the twenty-seventh, and he was so looking forward to his birthday party. He was the youngest- and loved and spoiled by all of us. He was a happy child and enjoyed everything and everyone around him. The world he lived in was a big beautiful place to enjoy and explore. He had a fair complexion, brown eyes and a little thin. His smile was quick and infectious; everyone who saw him remarked about his smile.

Jim and I had promised the children we would move from the city to a ranch where they could have their pets with plenty of room to run and play. Mike, the oldest, could ride his motor bike in the hills, Debbie could have her horse, and of course Barry, Cindy and Reece all had plans too. Bart went along with all of them.

Jim loaded the truck and station wagon, and, finally, we were on our way. We had sixty miles to go. It seemed we would never get there, but there at last, was the dirt road leading to our new home. Even though everyone was overjoyed, I had a feeling of foreboding. I didn't say anything and tried to go along with the merriment.

Monday morning, everything was in order, and Jim was off to work. It was a warm, sunny morning. I wasn't quite as apprehensive as I had been. I registered all the school children and, now, there was just Reece, Bart and I at home. We fed the chickens and talked about the horses we would get. The next Saturday, we went and bought two donkeys, Sal and Jenny. What a day that was! Sal and Jenny wouldn't let anyone ride them. They threw everyone that tried, so we all agreed that we would break them in gradually.

One day three weeks later, I missed Bart. I had given him a lollipop in the kitchen. I called, but no answer. I heard one of the donkeys bray and Bart laughing, so I ran out to the stable. There he was- sharing his lollipop with Sal. Everyday after that, Sal and Jenny got a lollipop and what carrots Bart could sneak from the refrigerator.

As the days went by, Bart grew more loveable. He was Daddy's buddy and Mommy's boy. At night, he would climb up on my lap and give me a big kiss and a hug and rub noses. He'd spend a few minutes arguing with Jim about whose Mommy I was, his or Daddy's. Then, he'd cuddle up, and I'd rock him to sleep. I'd put him to bed, but he would always come into our room through the night and say, "It's me, Mom." He'd squeeze himself between Jim and me and go back to sleep.

Then in November, the rains came. When it rains in California, everything is dreary and dismal (at least it seemed so to me). For three weeks, it rained without letting up. Jim was off from work because carpenters can't work when it rains. Bart and Reece kept slipping outdoors and getting wet. We didn't have a dryer, so I had clothes hanging everywhere to dry. I was getting more irritable and edgy every day. One day when Reece and Bart got wet, I scolded them and said, "Go on, get wet and catch pneumonia and die—see if I care." -never knowing that one day soon I would regret having uttered those words. My two little boys just looked at me and Bart said "You like me." I very disagreeably answered, "No!" Bart smiled and said "Yes, you do," making me smile too.

Shortly after, Reece, Bart and I went out and bought material to make slipcovers for Jim's chair for his birthday. As soon as Jim returned from the unemployment office that day, Bart flew out the door and down the walk as fast as his little legs could carry him. He took his Daddy's hand and guided him to the chair to show off the slipcovers. One day, I made a pair of corduroy coveralls and a plaid flannel shirt for Bart. When I tried them on him, he was so happy that he wouldn't take them off. I even had to put him to bed with them on.

Well, here it was December, Christmas was just around the corner, and I hadn't done any shopping. We didn't have much money to shop with. Monday, December fourth, Jim decided to get the tires he so badly needed for the truck. He took Reece with him while Bart and I did a little Christmas shopping. Bart saw two trucks he wanted from Santa, and I had them put in layaway. Then, we went into a jewelry store and spotted a rather expensive transistor radio he wanted to get Daddy for Christmas. We couldn't afford it, but I put a deposit on it anyway. Bart jumped up and down and clapped his hands; he was so happy. When Jim picked us up, Bart was so excited because he had seen Santa Claus and all the toys. He chattered like a magpie about Christmas and his birthday two days after. He said he wanted a fruit cake with candles. It was still raining and damp.

That night Jim decided to go over the checking account, which I always managed to mess up, and we quarreled. As I sat rocking Bart, I noticed he felt a little warm, but I didn't think too much about it then. He put his little arms around my neck and patted my shoulder and said, "It's alright, Mom, Daddy's not mad with you."

I awoke at two o'clock in the morning. Bart couldn't breathe! We tried everything, but he just got worse. We decided to take him to the hospital. I stayed with him the rest of the night and watched our baby get worse all the time. He kept wanting me to take him out of the oxygen

tent, but I was given strict orders not to. My arms ached to hold the little fellow close to me. Oh God, how he suffered, and all I could do was watch.

That morning at ten o'clock, the doctors decided to perform a tracheotomy. The little fellow's heart had stopped beating for two minutes. When he came out of the operating room, he seemed to be breathing much easier. He didn't like the intravenous feeding they were giving him, but he finally stopped fighting it and gave in.

I went home and cleaned up; then Jim and I went back to the hospital before dinner. Bart seemed so well--his color had come back and he seemed to know us. We had brought the little blue blanket he loved so much, and he held onto it for dear life. I was going to spend the night with Bart, so Jim and I went out to dinner. When he brought me back, he stopped in for awhile to see his buddy before going home to care for our other youngsters.

Bart slept most of the time and at eleven o'clock the nurse told me to go home and get some rest; she said he would be alright. I called Jim to pick me up, but I didn't want to go. I kept thinking, what if our little boy woke up and I wasn't there. I went back to his room twice to look at him. No one will ever know how much I wanted to hold him. My heart ached when I climbed into the truck and, deep inside, something kept telling me not to go. I remember thinking that the hospital looked as if it were in the middle of a lake surrounded by water. It had started to rain again.

It seemed I had just closed my eyes and the phone rang. The voice on the other end said, "Mrs. Fitzgerald, your little boy is very restless. Could you come in and perhaps quiet him down?" I ran back to the bedroom where Jim was already up and dressing. We flew to the hospital. When we got there, the doctors and nurses were all busy in Bart's room. He seemed to see us as we entered. Someone had called a priest, and I knew that he would leave us shortly. I was holding his hand when a cold chill swept over me. His little hand was getting cold. I remember telling Jim that he was dying; our Bart had gone to sleep never to wake again. Why had God taken him? The doctors let me hold his lifeless body for a few seconds and then made me leave him.

It was a cold December morning as we slowly left the hospital, still not quite believing what had happened. Jim said, "Look, the sun's out." Yes, the sun was out. The sky was so blue it didn't look real. I hated that sun and that sky.

Our friends and relatives tried to comfort us. My parents flew in from the east coast. I resented them all; they were intruders. Who were they

(cont'd on page 17)



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•••••
LOTS and LAND

NEW LISTING! 336' 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)

NEW LISTING! 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)

1.66 ACRES, wooded. Private. Public water & underground power. Lightly restricted. Common access to E Fork Little River. Lot 19, Hunters Ridge, Phase III. Adjoining 2.06 acre lot also for sale. \$15,000 (430891)



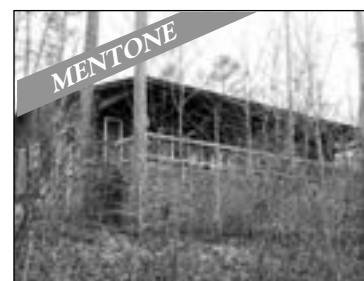
PRE-CIVIL WAR-ERA LOG CABIN w/additions, plus 2 add'l income-producing, small cabins. Main cabin has 2BR (one is a loft)/2BA; kitchen & dining area; huge living area divided by a Mountford-style fireplace. Fantastic stone work inside & out; fireplace, sidewalks, patio, etc. Handhewn logs & beams. Screened porch. 2-car carport. Stone garden waterfall & ponds. 3 cabins on approx 1.2 acres. \$197,000 (1014789)



OVER 300' BROW FRONTAGE w/views every which way you turn! 3-level main "lodge" house & det garage apartment. Some possibilities for a business or rental property. 2.47 acres, mostly woods w/nice outdoor areas & flower beds. The best deal on the brow \$239,000 (1010691)



CLASSIC MENTONE HOME on 3 acres, near Camp Laney. This property has been in the same family since 1900. Mountain stone & masonry fireplace. Some updating & modernizing on main level (they kept the original heart pine floors) & renovations started on 2nd level. Gorgeous, ancient trees. A true treasure in an area of Mentone where properties are seldom sold. Now \$144,900 (1027048)



CABIN & 6.14 ACRES. Enjoy your time in the mountains in this 3BR/2BA cabin w/large front porch, hot tub deck and one level of like-new rustic simplicity. Beautiful, wood-burning stone fireplace; pine floors, walls & ceilings; hand-hewn, wood-beamed entry to kitchen w/oak cabinets, pantry & stainless appliances. Split BR design. Most furnishings included. \$199,900. (562232)



A REMARKABLE BEGINNING, waiting for just the right finish. What could it be? A wedding venue with antebellum flavor? A B&B & add'l cabins? The groundwork is laid to create something magnificent! 2-story, 5000+ sq ft home w/expansive, open upper level for a ballroom? fellowship hall? banquet room? Small cabin; sheds & creek; 7.5 private acres. Approx 2 miles N of downtown Mentone \$175,000 (498126)



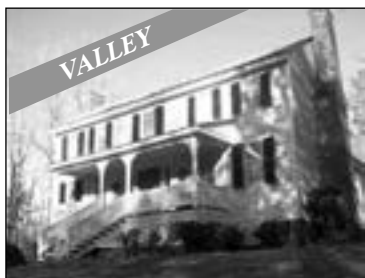
CUTE & COMPACT downtown Mentone cottage offers a variety of uses. A residence, art gallery, shop, vacation rental... the possibilities are endless! 1BR/1BA w/loft; 1.5BA; kit; LR; sunroom; side porch; private backyard; front office/studio. Multi-use space perfect for weekends, festival times, part-time, all the time. Or wknd rental. \$110,000 (403324)



HMM. A rare opportunity to own a place that has been used for a business & living quarters in the heart of the Village of Mentone. Built as a beauty shop & residence. 1BR (or 2 if you finish the loft)/1.5BA; kit; LR; sunroom; side porch; private backyard; front office/studio. Multi-use space perfect for weekends, festival times, part-time, all the time. Or wknd rental. \$110,000 (403324)



TINY LOG CABIN! It's what you want in a mtn retreat or in a place to live life more simply. Wood interior; new kitchen; 1BR/1BA (new bath); rocking chairs on the front porch (it's being sold fully furnished); wooded backyard, lovely front yard w/fruit trees & garden areas; flower beds; quaint "outhouse-look" well-house. Great rental possibilities, too! Now \$88,900. (840095)



THE LARMORE HOUSE, a landmark home built in 1836. Hand-crafted doors; wavy window glass; heart-pine floors; massive stone fireplace in the kitchen (there are six in the house altogether); 3BR/2BA; smokehouse w/hand-carved pegs in the rafters; servant's quarters with stone fireplace. 3.49 acres w/ancient cedars; walnut grove; 2 streams & spring. \$139,000. (535973)



FOREVER VIEWS & MARVELOUS SUNSETS! Once a part of historic Brow Park Lodge (a motor court of the 50s-70s) and located along the scenic DeSoto Pkwy. Approx 1600 sq ft; 2BR/2.5BA, one-level cottage (well, there are a couple steps). Enjoy views any time from the sunroom w/original stone floors. New exterior paint. Freshly painted LR. Spacious kitchen/dining area with fireplace. Furnished.. Single-car garage. Potential Plus! Near Camp Comer, DeSoto Falls & State Park. \$205,000 (970236)



480 ACRES OF MTN SPLENDOR where two creeks converge (Laurel Creek & Gilbert Branch). Combination forest & cleared areas for future pasture; boulders; level to rolling topography. An area where you can create a large estate or a quiet retreat with elbow room aplenty! Private road. Give in to your wanderlust & never leave your own domain. \$1,895/acre. \$909,600 (1011611)

Not Ours To Keep (cont'd from page 15)

to tell me that it was meant to be, that this was God's will? What kind of God was it that would take the life of a little boy? What reason did He have? They told me Bart's work here on earth was finished. Their voices just kept going on and on. How I wished they would shut up. None of them had ever lost a child, so how could they possibly know how great our grief was.

We laid him out in his brown coveralls and the plaid shirt I had made. He had his cowboy boots on. He loved that outfit because Mom made it. He had so many flowers the undertaker had trouble placing them all. As I looked down at him and touched him, I wanted to pick him up and take him home where he belonged. He was holding his little red pickup and clutching his blue blanket. He had taken a hammer and smashed in the front end of his truck, because Daddy's truck had a bent up front, and Daddy's truck was red, too. I kept thinking he would sit up and say, "It's me, Mom." Oh, Bart, please get up!

It was getting late and the undertaker wanted to close, so I had to reluctantly leave our little boy, never to see him again. Our house was cold and empty, even with our well-meaning families there. There was an empty space that no one could ever fill.

The next day as the funeral car took us over the freeway to the cemetery I kept thinking, why did the car have to be black, why not red or yellow. Bart didn't like black. Bart's casket was already there and so was the priest. I didn't hear what the

priest said, and when he handed me the little gold cross, I knew that cross would always be with me.

We weren't a religious family, but it was decided we would go to church that Sunday. As I sat in church, I kept wondering what I was doing there. I didn't want to worship a God who had taken my son from me. My being there would never bring Bart back, or ease the hurt in my heart. As the days went by, I became more withdrawn. I ignored Jim and the children. I decided that I wasn't going to love anyone or anything as much as I loved Bart. I felt that God didn't want me to be happy, and that's why he took Bart, so if I ceased loving the others, perhaps He wouldn't want them.

We moved away from the ranch, back into the city. One morning as I was packing lunches, I thought I felt a little hand patting me on the shoulder, and a little voice inside me said, "Mom, please don't be sad." In my imagination, I saw a little boy smile at me. I knew I needed help badly if I were ever to change my feelings. We had a very wonderful doctor who was both wise and sympathetic. I called her and made an appointment for the next day. She listened to me as I poured my heart out. Then, she read the autopsy report and explained it to me. When she finished, she turned to me and said, "Elvira, if someone gave you a very precious and priceless gem to take care of for awhile and you polished and cherished it and came to love it very much, would you give it back when that person asked for it?" I pondered her question for awhile and then answered, "Yes." I knew then and there what she meant. Bart was a precious gem which we

polished, cherished and grew to love dearly, but he didn't really belong to us. He belonged to God, and God wanted him back. Even though we had him for such a short time, he made our lives richer and fuller. We have five other gems that don't really belong to us, but they need us, just as

Bart needed us when he was here on earth. Now every week when we put a small bunch of flowers on Bart's little grave, I look down and think, 'here lies one of my precious gems who has done his work well.' Perhaps I'll shed a few tears, because the tears are still there, and my heart still aches. Nothing will ever erase all the beautiful memories I have. When I go to church on Sundays, I thank God for those memories. I'll look at the other youngsters and thank God for letting me keep them for Him. Someday, perhaps, I'll see my littlest gem again in another world. My little gold cross is always in my purse and goes with me everywhere.

Editor's note:

Elvira Fitzgerald is an amazing 93-year-old lady who has lived in many parts of the country but has been residing in the Mentone area for several years now. She has carried this story in her heart for many, many seasons of life, and now shares it with us in the hopes of bringing comfort to someone else in their time of grief.

We are listing a few free resources for those who would like to research and use them at their own discretion. Also, funeral home websites generally offer grief support topics as well.

Online resource for those who have lost a child: compassionatefriends.org or call (877)969-0010 for general information. The crisis hotline number is (800)840-6537.

In Ft. Payne, AL: DeKalb Grief Support Group meets the first and third Thursdays of each month at 6:30pm at Synergy Counseling Center, 521 Gault Ave. N. For more information, call (256) 979-1620 or text (256)273-7216. Information can be found online at synergycounselingcenter.net or on the facebook page for the DeKalb Grief Support Group.

In Rainsville, AL: 'Til Morning Comes is an informal, nondenominational grief support group for all types of loss that meets in conjunction with the Grieving Well Grief Support Group (Alacare and Hospice) at the Rainsville First Baptist Church on the first Monday of each month from 6pm to 7:30pm. For more information, directions or help, call (256) 601-8393.

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and Cultural
Center Fund?
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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. \$399,00. 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.
#1021674 - 10+ WOODED ACRES on CR106. \$75,000.
#1021677 - 39+ ACRES on CR642. \$135,800.
#1021691 - 3 PRIVATE ACRES on West Fork Little River. \$92,500.

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Snow Cream Secrets

By Anna Mae Horn

Well everyone, Desoto Red says we are going to have a cold winter with lots of snow. I will do my civic duty as well and give everyone the recipe and my secrets for making snow cream.

The ingredients are pretty simple: milk, sugar, and snow, of course. (Eggs and vanilla are optional.) Most people use 1 cup milk, 1/3 sugar and about 8 cups (give or take) of snow. 1 teaspoon of vanilla will add about the right amount of flavor for those who like it. I also like the richness that 1 egg adds. (It will not be cooked, so I leave that to your discretion.)

Mix all ingredients well with a whisk. Then, chill the ingredients in the freezer for about thirty minutes. This keeps it from melting the snow so quickly; the faster the snow melts, the more it takes, and the more watered down your cream becomes. This is usually just enough time to get your coat on, go outside, and gather the snow- fresh, fluffy, clean snow- in an empty bowl that has been chilled for about ten minutes. You

want to put the snow in the liquid mix as soon as it is brought inside the house, but mix it in gradually, until you get your desired consistency. It should be moist, but no visible liquid. If it gets



too thick, you can give it just a few minutes to melt; if you can't wait that long, add a teaspoon of milk or two until it is just right. Scoop it into dishes quickly and place the remainder in the freezer immediately to hold for second helpings. Typically, snow cream that is frozen hard (after a few hours) just doesn't taste the same as fresh and may need to be discarded.

However, the snow can be frozen easily if you place it straight into the freezer in an air tight container. It keeps well for a week or so. After the fallen snow has melted, you can make another batch of snow cream. You can also make snowballs, freeze them for several months, and have a springtime snowball fight! This is a huge surprise for kids that are out of school on spring break.

Now, for my "classified" top secret

information- I eat snow cream almost every time snow falls from the sky, even if it is only a dusting. How? Before the snow starts coming down, place a clean plastic bag in a flat area, such as a table top or the trunk of a car- wherever you typically collect your snow from. Use clean weights at each corner to keep it

from blowing away. When the snow stops, before it starts melting, remove the weights, gather the four corners, and transfer the snow into a cold bowl. For the light snows, I do things a little differently. I pour the liquid mix gradually in with the collected snow to make sure I make the right consistency. If you have one of those big old-fashioned dish pans, you can just set it out to collect the snow, mix your liquid in, and let the kids dig in; that's what my mama always did.

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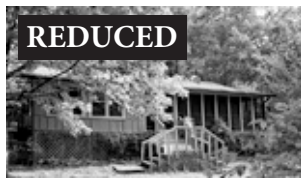
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 MOVE TO MENTONE and live in this wonderful home on the brow. 1.95 acres. 4 bdrm, 3 bth. Open concept living room, kitchen combo, with gas log fireplace. Formal dining room. Separate 30x40 garage/workshop. Native flora landscaping with rock outcroppings, 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)	 SOLD A SPECTACULAR SUNRISE/ Moonrise on the East Brow in Cloudland, GA. Wooded with 200ft on the brow. Secluded 4.36 acres. A must see!! \$30,000	 NEW 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).
 PENDING 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	<i>Christmas Greetings From L.M.P.R</i>	

LOTS AND ACREAGE

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

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. \$90,000 (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. \$114,900. (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)

Rhododendron Garden Club

By Mellanie Tuttle

The Rhododendron Garden Club met at the MERF House on November 10. Martha Wood called the meeting to order, committee reports followed, and plans were made for the December potluck luncheon to be held at Mellanie Tuttle's home at 11:00am. Discussion about the spraying of herbicides along State Road 117 was discussed and members were urged to send a letter expressing their concern to the Alabama Department of Transportation.

The meeting adjourned, and the group traveled to Fort Payne for the Master Gardener's Lunch and Learn program. County Agent, Eric Shady, presented the program "Putting Your Garden to Bed." Mr. Shady offered information on soil testing, tool care and suggestions for preparing the garden for next year's successful yields.

To help in planning a garden and keeping records, Mr. Shady recommended SOW, an Alabama Cooperative Extension Service application for iPhones/iPads. The app is designed to tell the optimum time for planting fruits and vegetables in the home garden and will also facilitate record keeping. For big gardens, red clover seed is a great cover crop. Till the rows and leave the rest in clover. Red clover benefits include: fixing nitrogen to meet the needs of the next crop, protection from erosion, improving soil tilth and reducing weeds. To avoid the buildup of insects, turn your garden and keep the depth of mulch fewer than two inches so that moles, voles and roaches are not

attracted to the mulch. Mr. Shady stated that soil testing should be done every two years for raised beds and every three years for in-ground gardens. Each bed should be tested separately. Soil sampler mailers were provided (go to aces.edu/soil test for the Soil Testing Lab at Auburn University which provides all the info needed).

Taking care of tools in the fall will save precious gardening time in the spring, and Mr. Shady offered several tool preservation tips. The best product to clean tools is WD40. Spray on, wipe off and rust reduced! Put linseed oil on a cloth and rub into handles to prevent cracking and splintering problems. Repair any loose handles. Pruning shears should be oiled, sharpened and made tight. An application of rubbing alcohol on the blades should always be applied before putting away so that diseases are not spread between plants. Be sure to do this at the end of the year as well. Tool handles can be dipped in liquid rubber for increased cushioning or grip.

Gasoline driven equipment has its own requirements. Most gas contains ethanol that can break down rubber gaskets and fuel lines; therefore, gasoline should be drained from

lawnmowers. Mr. Shady also recommended a product, Seafoam, to use on 2 and 4 cycle gas intake systems to clean and lubricate. In weed eaters, run at full speed until empty, remove the head and check for dirt. Chain saws - be CAREFUL. Use only 2 cycle oil and be sure the lock works; otherwise, do not use! Wear chain saw chaps for protection.

The last meeting of the year will be a potluck luncheon at Mellanie Tuttle's home on December 8 at 11:00am. Former members and anyone who would enjoy delicious food and stimulating conversation is welcome. Food will be plentiful and, hopefully, this year the side dishes will not just be potatoes. Potato chips, scalloped potatoes, mashed potatoes, potatoes au gratin, and potato salad (two different kinds) graced the table last year - not a green vegetable in sight! We all laughed and thought of the Forest Gump scene where Bubba was expounding on shrimp dishes.

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.

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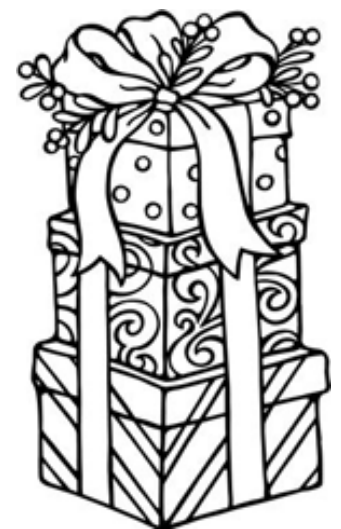
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Remember When

By Angie Carden

In December of 1985, The Groundhog ran an article titled "A Year In Review-- Mentone In 1985"? I love this article because of the vast array of reportings--from new businesses to the loss of beloved ones of Mentone. I was in the eighth grade in 1985, but I remember everything in this article, especially the losses.

It read as follows:

"Improved water lines, new fire hydrants, flooding, and pot holes were the principal news items during 1985 in Mentone. The plans for repairing and placing new water mains were announced in the January Groundhog.

Also in January, the Valley Head High School football team, with Mentone players Scott Tate, Jon Bain, Jeff Bain, Jeff Harrison, Jim Tate, Stacy Smith and Steve Campbell, was featured after they won the State 1-A Championship.

The big news in February was the February 11 snow. MAPA was three years old, and town employee Leroy Snider was praised for his outstanding work during the extreme cold weather in January.

There was reassuring news in March, when the plans to build a hydroelectric plant at DeSoto Falls were withdrawn because of concerted opposition from Mentone citizens. At the same time, an

increase in water rates was announced. Also, Charles McGee's death saddened citizens because of his involvement in the community.

Another fear arose in April, that our post office was on the list of those the Grace Commission in Congress suggested being closed to save monies and to decrease the national debt. Once again, Mentone residents wrote their representatives and senators, who were all opposed to the closing. All promised to vote against it when the proposal reached the floors of Congress. Another untimely death affecting Mentone was that of Eddie Worthey, who had served as police chief for a time before his fatal illness.

In May, citizens were appalled when 951 loads of chert were hauled to Sand Mountain by the National Guard to repair roads there, despite the fact that most of the protests had come from Mentone. Some of the pot holes had grown to pond size.

The Lookout Mountain Parkway was proposed in June. This was to use existing roads along the entire length of the mountain. A new roof was built by the Crafts Festival over the square dancing/shuffleboard slab at Brow Park.

The seven new fire hydrants were installed by July, and Bill Russell was chosen by councilmen to

replace Stanley Brown.

Because of the second flood of the year, and since Lookout Mountain roads were being neglected, August saw the beginning of a movement to urge legislators to create a new county district. This would give equal attention to roads needing repair in each district. In August, also, there was groundbreaking for the new square dance building at the foot of the mountain in Valley Head.

September saw the first publication of town and water work budgets, which is recommended procedure for small towns as well as large cities.

In October, a proposed neighborhood center grant was announced. Mayor Rob Hammond and Senator Lowell Barron believe this to be a feasible, possible grant to Mentone.

Principal news in November and December is the possibility of cable TV coming to Mentone. Fire Chief Sammy Cash resigned after all debts had been paid off on the building and equipment."

The story continued with a few more tid bits on the goings and comings of Mentonians. After reading this article, I really stopped and tried to figure out where all these years have gone. 1985 seems like yesterday. How can thirty years whiz by so quickly?

U.S. Ambassador Susan Coppedge is Sworn In

Ambassador Susan Coppedge Amato carries the stories of the victims she has worked with in her heart and now carries them around the world; those voices are what motivate her. On October 19, Mrs. Amato took the oath of office as Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons and as Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State. The office is more commonly known as the TIP office and advocates for all countries, including the United States, to end human trafficking and slavery.

The new Ambassador has been serving fourteen years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia. She has prosecuted numerous cases and encouraged many victims to

come forward. She has already made a tremendous difference in this fight and continues to do so- now on an international level. At the public swearing in ceremony on November 20, Secretary of State John Kerry described her as "someone who is smart and tough as nails. She's a true Steel Magnolia."

Susan grew up in Dalton and spent her childhood summers in Mentone with her parents, Pattie and Warren Coppedge, Jr. She continues to enjoy the atmosphere of the mountain when her and Lorenzo bring their children. We look forward to her continued visits to the area for solace and renewed strength as she begins this journey.

Congratulations Ambassador Amato!



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Public Involvement Meeting

Bridge Replacement on Hwy 117 in Mentone

Thursday December 3, 2015

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Moon Lake Gym

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MENTONE

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WINTER'S A COMING!

By Desoto Red

Howdy folks! Do you like winter? Do you like it real cold? Do you like lots of snow? Are you a heavy coat wearing, hot cider sipping, snowman making, sitting by the fire kind of person? Well if you are, boy are you in luck! Dig out them snowshoes; this winter is going to make your little dreams come true!

Them fancy weather predicting folks that like to be called "meteorologist" keep talking about "the boy", "the boy"! I don't know how they get their information but they claim that some young, Hispanic dude is going to make this winter cooler and wetter here in the South. It's "El Nino" this and "El Nino" that!

Shoot, I been knowing this since September! That's when all them squirrels started gathering up food. They're usually just kicked back or playing chicken with cars in September! Look at them squirrel tails too. Them tails are a lot bushier than normal! Folks, I base my winter prediction on scientific facts and observations. I don't need some kid

telling me something that is as plain as the nose on my face! Right here and now, Desoto Red is telling you to get ready, it's a coming!



I'm not trying to cause panic amongst y'all, but I will lay out more shocking proof about what lies ahead for us. Just notice muskrat houses. They're bigger than normal! Persimmon seeds are shaped like spoons this year. Spoons look like shovels-the shovels we'll need to

deal with all them heavy snows!

Then there is the hogs. The hogs are gathering sticks and straw to make their beds, a sure sign of a cold winter! Just look at how thick your dog's fur already is. You know what that means! Speaking of thick, look at how thick acorn shells are this time! It's the same thing with corn husks too! Winter is headed our way fast, and it's going to be a rough one up here on this old mountain!

I guess you're all wondering why I didn't mention the woolly worms crawling about before frost or how wide or narrow that orange band is on their backs. Well, I'll tell you. They ain't nothing to that one. That's just an old wives tale! I did count the foggy mornings in August. Each August fog means a winter snowfall. You don't want to know folks. You just don't want to know!

Well, I guess I've done my civic duty. You all know what to expect. Now get ready for it! Stay warm, Happy Holidays and don't eat too much snow cream. I hope 2016 is mighty good to you too neighbor!

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