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14 Years
in Print**

THE GROUNDHOG

Mentone • Valley Head • Hammondville • Cloudland • Menlo

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by M.A.P.A.**

Volume 14, No. 4

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

April 1996

J. R. Bain

By Pat McKenzie

Having careers in farming, lumbering, mining and railroading, John Ranzy Bain--better known as J.R.-- is living a very full and rewarding life. Born eldest of 9 children (6 boys and 3 girls) to Ed and Lula Bain on March 22, 1914, in Cherokee County, Alabama, he remembers one of his earliest duties at age 4 was to remove insects from the cabbage and green beans and place them into a small can of kerosene. This simple skill of gardening was the beginning of his lifelong love of farming.

Along with his continuing aid to his father on the farm, at age 12, he followed in his father's footsteps to acquire the knowledge of the woods. The woods provided the habitat for the game which he hunted for food and the resources of the products he could harvest as a lumberjack.

J.R. also worked at odd jobs to earn money and build character as a young boy. One of these jobs was yard keeper for a retired lawyer, Cebe Wright. Cebe and wife developed a great affection for him. Cebe's wife recognized his potential and offered to take J.R. into their home and educate him through Berry College. But J.R.'s father refused to allow him to leave home. He was needed too badly to help with the family chores to attend school past the 10th grade.

Throughout his teens, J.R. continued to work in the woods and on the farm. He hauled cross-ties to town on a horse-drawn wagon to sell for his father and other people. He also helped his father deliver



Front: J.R. Bain, Ed Bain, Lula Bain, Annie Watkins; Back: Emmett Bain, Dewey Bain, Dolas Bain, Naomi Potts and Ruby Stalvey

(Photo taken in 1978)

fresh vegetables on an old 1925 T-model which had had the back cut off, converting it into a pickup truck. They delivered vegetables to the two large hotels in Mentone and the two hotels on the east side of Lookout Mountain near Cloudland. The "summer folk" as the part-time residents were known, would rely on the Bain's farm to provide the best vegetables available. Ed Bain's vegetables were known throughout the area for decades.

In 1932, J.R. became enamored with a young lady from Rising Fawn, Georgia, whom he met during a visit to her sister, Ethelene Simmons, in Mentone. This young lady was Kathryn Hale. J.R. and Kathryn were married April 21, 1932, in Mentone at the home of Ernest Shigley.

After starting their new life together, the newly

weds resided in Mentone only a few months. Then, hearing of an offer, they moved to Rising Fawn, Georgia, to house sit and care for the two-year old son of Owen Woodyard while he, accompanied by his wife, worked out of town as a lineman for the electric company. During this two-year period, J.R. and Kathryn operated a little convenience store and service station. When the Woodyards returned, J.R. managed to get on with the WPA building roads and sidewalks for Dade County, Georgia. This lasted just two years. Over the span of the next 4 years, from 1936 to 1939, J.R. and family would move several times between Rising Fawn and Mentone, doing whatever

er necessary to provide for his family, even making elderberry wine and home brew to sell.

In late 1939, J.R. took advantage of another job offer in Bluefield, West Virginia, to work for the Jacobs Fork Coal Co. He quickly advanced and

Continued on Page 8.

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Schedule of Meetings, Events, and Other Dates

• Sunday, April 7, 2 a.m., Daylight Saving Time begins

• Sunday, April 7, Easter

• Monday, April 1, 6 p.m., City Council Meeting,
Mentone Town Hall

• Tuesday, April 2, 7 p.m., MAPA Meeting, Town Hall

• Wednesday, Secretary's Day, April 24

• Saturday, Earth Day, April 27, Activities at Moon Lake
School Spring Festival (see flyer elsewhere)

THE GROUNDHOG

P.O. Box 387, Mentone, AL 35984



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THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

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MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Bernise Crow
Vice President.....Jim Lyday
Secretary/Treasurer.....Mickey Gough
Parliamentarian.....Homer Crow
Member-At-Large.....Ed Disney
Member-At-Large.....Donna Bouldin

In case of errors in advertisements, The Groundhog assumes liability only for the actual space that is incorrect in the advertisement. Call Evelyn Graves at 634-4390 for advertising.

Letters to the editor are welcome. They should be typewritten and of reasonable length.

The deadline for all material for The Groundhog is the 22nd day of the month preceding publication. The Publication is due out by the first Tuesday of each month.

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P.O. BOX 50, MENTONE, AL 35984

Your membership/subscription is tax deductible.

Rhododendron Queen Beauty Pageant

Applications have been sent to the area schools for contestants for the Rhododendron Queen Beauty Pageant that will be held on Saturday night May 11th - one week before the festival, which is May 18 and 19.

This year, the winner will receive \$100.00, Plus a full two year scholarship at Northeast Jr. College.

MESSAGE FROM

THE MAPA PRESIDENT

By Bernise Crow



Everything seems to be moving right along with plans for our Rhododendron Queen contest, which precedes the festival by a week. We did this last year and it gives us a little more time to devote to the main Rhododendron Festival. Also our contestants are not quite as busy as they are a week later.

We are receiving applications for booths, and calls are coming in daily for information concerning the event. One lady said she enjoyed being on the mountain so much that she would come even if she did not sell anything.

Homer Crow is general chairman of the festival, which means I get all the calls.

It helps us when the other community organizations work with us, because all of us can benefit from the festivals. I appreciate Jimmy Wright helping by marking off spaces for the vendors. He does this for the American Legion. Many thanks to Dr. Bill Berry who works with the boy scouts and the boys do the parking of cars for us. All of us are volunteers in one way or another and we need all the help we can get.

You have a special invitation to our May meeting. Maybe you are not a member of M.A.P.A. because you have not been invited. This is an open invitation; please join and enjoy our meetings which are not long and Jim Lyday has provided us with excellent speakers this year on a variety of subjects. Our refreshments are usually tasty and plentiful.

Hope to see you at our next meeting, May 7, at the town meeting hall at 7:00 P.M.

APRIL MAPA MEETING



The Mentone Area Preservation Association (MAPA) meeting was held at the Mentone Town Hall on Tuesday, April 2, at 7 p.m. President, Bernise Crow called the meeting to order and Ed Disney gave the opening prayer. The minutes from the March meeting were read by Mickey Gough and approved. The financial report was given and filed. Eighteen members were present.

In the absence of Sherman Gough who was on jury duty, Bernise announced that the MAPA Adopt-A-Mile pickup took place on March 25, with Mickey, Sherman, Homer, Bernise and Marie doing the trash removal. The plans for the upcoming Rhododendron Festival on May 18 and 19 were discussed. Everything is already in motion. Volunteers are always needed and very much welcome. Lola Mae Blalock made the queen size quilt in the log cabin pattern that will be given away at the festival. Chances on the quilt are still only \$1.00 each.

Evelyn Graves gave a financial report on The Groundhog. A discussion followed on the costs of publication. Several suggestions were made to keep the cost of publication as low as possible. These suggestions will be looked into.

MAPA will again have a booth at the festival, and a membership drive will be part of the weekend. Video tapes, books, issues of The Groundhog, and other materials will be available to the public.

Homer announced that the board had voted to charge a fee for the use of the MAPA tents by other than MAPA members.

A nominating committee will be appointed to present a slate of officers for the next year.

There was no other old business. Under new business, Donna Bouldin, who was absent, requested that Bernise bring up to the members her request for the reprinting of a map showing all the places in the Mentone area. The president indicated she would take care of locating the map and see how well it would reproduce for distribution.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, and refreshments served.

The next MAPA meeting is Tuesday, May 7, at 7 p.m., at the Mentone Town Hall.

LETTERS FROM READERS

2-28-96

Dear Evelyn,

I am sending my subscription, and to tell you how much I enjoyed the article on the Wright Twins, brings back some fond memories.

I would also like to thank the Twins, Mary Ellen, and you, for your thoughtfulness, and support at the time of the death of my brother Buck.

Thanks,

I look forward to the Groundhog each month.

Patsy Ellis Crowder

Estell Springs, TN

March 11, 1996

Enclosed is my check for \$20.00, to cover two subscriptions to the Groundhog.

We have been part-time residents of your area for almost three years, and consider Mentone our "Heaven on Earth"!

Thanks,

Nan (and Cliff) Cadenhead

Prattville, AL

March 1996

Thanks for the Groundhog. It is like a visit to the mt. when it arrives.

Many new names. But a lot of kin and old friends.

Thank you.

Jessie (Kay) Jones

Polar Bluff, MO

Please join
Mr. & Mrs. J.P. Morrow
at the celebration of their
Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary
April 14, 1996
2 til 5 p.m. EST
The Lookout Restaurant
Cloudland, GA

Your presence is your gift

SPORTS ON THE SCENE

By Phil Harris

Fort Payne won the DeKalb County baseball tournament held at Ft. Payne. The Wildcats went undefeated knocking off Plainview in the finals. Geraldine finished third and Crossville fourth. Valley Head lost to Plainview and Geraldine in the first two games.

Area and state tournaments will begin next month. Ft. Payne and Plainview have solid chances of advancing, well into the state playoffs. DeKalb County teams are not known for baseball as well as for football and basketball.

Girls' softball continues to grow in popularity. The DeKalb County softball tournament should be exciting. Fyffe, Collinsville, and Plainview will be teams to watch out for. The county tournament will be held at the Ft. Payne Sports Complex.

Valley Head opened the season going 1-4 in a preseason tournament at Collinsville. The Lady Tigers open the regular season this week.

Congratulations to Nikki Smith for making *The Times-Journal* girls' all county basketball second team.

It's time to say goodbye to today's seniors and make room for tomorrow's stars. The county has enjoyed another great year for sports. Hopefully, next year will be even better.

Let's see if you can remember what happened over the course of this school year.

1. What coach took over the reins as head football coach at Fyffe, for the retired Ronnie Haushalter?
2. Who eliminated Sylvania in the quarter finals of the 3-A state playoffs, and what was the score?
3. Who was the leading rusher in DeKalb Co?
4. Which DeKalb Co. school was the last to win a football state championship?
5. Who won the DeKalb Co. boys' tournament and the DeKalb Co. girls' tournament?
6. What two schools represented the county in the state tournament in Birmingham?
7. Coach Dale Pruitt left Plainview after eleven seasons. What school did he go to?
8. What team was the last boys state champion from DeKalb County and what year? Hint: 1-A school
9. Besides Fyffe's four girls' state championships, who is the only other girls' state champion of DeKalb County since 1985?
10. Who won the 2-A girls' state tournament MVP award this year?

Baseball and softball at the Ft. Payne Sports Complex begins April 15th. Local men's softball teams CBS and Mentone will again play this season. Good luck guys!

That's it for now, see you next month and may God bless us all. Have a super Easter holiday!!

Answers to questions:

1. David Wofford
2. Lauderdale County (16-12)
3. Brent Tinker (Ider)
4. Crossville (1986)
5. Collinsville (boys) Fyffe (girls')
6. Collinsville and Fyffe
7. Boaz
8. Collinsville (1975)
9. Ider (1985)
10. Joy Simmons (Fyffe)

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NATIONAL SPORTS AT A GLANCE

By Phil Harris

Trivia: Who scored the first ever three point basket in college basketball?

Men's College Basketball: Kentucky reined supreme as the nation's number one basketball team. Nearly everyone picked the Wildcats to win it all, and they did. Coach Rick Pitino may have coached the best team of all times. How about the SEC, two teams (Miss. St. and Kentucky) in the final four? The SEC is not just a football conference anymore.

Women's College Basketball: The Tennessee Lady Vols dominated Georgia to win the Women's National Championship. Coach Pat Summitt's team came out of nowhere to win an unprecedented fourth national title. Tennessee was picked as low as third in many preseason SEC predictions.

The SEC continues to dominate women's basketball. Four SEC teams (Auburn, Georgia, Vanderbilt, and Tennessee) made it to the final eight. Not to mention an all SEC final.

Note: Did you know that the women's final four had more fans than the men's final four? 22,000 in the women's final at Charlotte, to 19,000 in the men's final at East Rutherford, NJ.

College Baseball: Seven SEC teams are ranked among the top 25. Auburn, Alabama, LSU, Tennessee, Arkansas, S. Carolina, and Florida are currently the ranked teams. Tennessee (East) and LSU (West) are considered the teams to beat. The SEC baseball tournament in Birmingham will be a great chance to see some top notch college baseball.

Auto Racing: Jeff Gordon won the rain shortened Food City 500 at Bristol, Tenn. Gordon led with 135 laps remaining, and won as the rains came. Gordon moved to sixth in the NASCAR points championship standings. Dale Jarrett, Dale Earnhardt, Ricky Rudd, Ricky Craven, and Terry Labonte make up the top five. Drivers will take Easter weekend off, before moving on to North Wilkesboro April 14th.

NBA Basketball: The Chicago Bulls are attempting to make NBA history. They are trying to win 70 games in a 82 game season. Can Chicago win the NBA title? Who knows? It would be a good bet. Orlando, Houston, San Antonio, Seattle, and Indiana will challenge, but they all have a huge mountain to climb.

ML Baseball: The Atlanta Braves are off and running again. Anything less than a second World Championship will be a major disappointment. The Braves are clearly the favorite to win the National League pennant again. I find myself looking forward to the play-offs in October. Let's hope the Atlanta players stay focused, unlike us.

Golf: Fred Couples Won the Player's Championship at Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Twenty-nine year old Tommy Tolles led the first three rounds, looking for his first major win. Pressure took its toll in the final round. Couples shot a final round 64 to win by four strokes. I hope you got to see some of the action of this exciting tournament. I'm already looking forward to The Masters.

Tom Weiskopf won the Dominion Seniors event at San Antonio.

Answer to trivia: Ronnie Carr of Western Carolina against MTSU November 1980.

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From
Between the
Counters

By
BRUTUS



Devoted Readers, spring is finally coming to Mentone and moi is having strange rumblings of amore. However, as we ALL know, the butcher vet McNew nipped all that in the bud. Now, Pop is telling me it's time for a visit back to the meat market for a "toe nail cut." Moi fell for that lie some months ago. "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on ME!"

Always a bright spot in my day! Robin Cryer just brought in her daughter, Stephanie (5) for an adoration session. Man, does that dear child know an extraordinary canine when she sees one. Such sweet sugar that little thing gives moi! "Lo, a little child shall lead them." I just hope all those flatlanders who will start swarming all over the mountain this month will take note of the proper way to treat the Legend of Mentone, moi!

The sweetest lady has taken Crickett Lyles' place in the store while Cricket is off to make a beautiful baby. Her name is Cheryl Crane, and she's Cricket's mother.

Wil Blackburn was just in and shared his sherbet cone with moi. The thing I hate about his visits to moi's shrine is he plays with that loud, terrible Bumble Ball, and moi just hates it. It makes Wil's sister, Alex's hair stand straight out. Come see the monstrosity for yourself!

Clark Crow is a regular who always shares! He and Heather Plunk just shared ice cream with moi. Two more little Mentonians who already recognize majestiness, "Bring up a child in the way he should go!" Moi always says.

All you loyal readers need to make a visit to adore moi and contribute to the fund (jar on counter) for Markettio Goss Crane. She was taking Melissa to school and a kerosene heater burned her house down out at Fischer Crossroads. (Markettio is H.P. and Gladys Goss' daughter.)

Pop's beginning to dance in place, and we all know what that means! Time to drag him to the house. Oh, Lord, why moi? Gird your loins for the flatlanders stampede - they're Back!

Editor's note: A televised interview with Brutus will be shown by Channel 31 in Huntsville aired Wednesday April 10, 1996, during the 6:00 p.m. news.

Catherine's
Wild Flower

located within The Mentone Inn invites you to join us for a special Easter Sunday lunch with service on the porch (weather permitting)!

Menu includes choice of

- ham or roast beef
 - asparagus casserole and new potatoes or snow peas
 - carrot, pineapple & raisin salad
 - coconut cake
 - rolls and drink for \$6.95
- Dining room open 11 a.m. til 3 p.m.

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new hours giving groups and private parties greater opportunity for special service.
Bookings available
7 days a week by reservation.

New hours

Lunch now served Thurs.-Sun.: 11 a.m. til 2 p.m.
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Mentone's much beloved Mabel Kirk is back home after a fantastic three-week visit in San Francisco with daughter Amelia and her husband, (ret. Maj. Gen.) Andrew Jolie. Amelia flew back to Mentone for a short visit with Mabel and left this week to fly back home to California.

On March 29, Jack Corey represented DeKalb County in the National Geographic Bee at UNA in Florence, Ala. Jack won the Ft. Payne Middle School spell-off, and then took a written test at the county level to qualify for the state contest. Congratulations to one of Mentone's finest young scholars and his family.

Margaret Stallings is back in Ft. Payne after recovering from a broken hip in Chattanooga at a rehab center. She is in The Fountains at 1301 Forrest Ave. NW, Ft. Payne, AL 35967, for those friends who would like to visit or send a card.

David and Claudia Wassom, new owners of the Mentone Springs Hotel, opened bed and breakfast rooms on Friday April 5. Well-known chef, Roy Strickland, is preparing the food. Painting is under way on the exterior, using white with dark green trim as the landmark was painted originally. The restaurant, Caldwell's, named for the builder of the hotel, will open to the public on May 2. Welcome to Mentone, Wassoms!

The prom at Valley Head High School will be Saturday April 27. Call the school at 635-6228 for further information.

The Valley Head High School yearbook, the Boomerang, is now on sale for \$31.00 in the school office.

Report cards for VHHS will be distributed on a delayed schedule for this sixth weeks. Cards will go out on Friday, April 26.

Spring bedding plants are now ready to distribute at VHHS. Call L.A. Smith, Agricultural Sciences director, at 635-6228, for details of varieties and prices.

It is great to see Sue and Bill Schwarz back home in Mentone. Besides being two super Groundhog staff writers, they're just neat people. Same for Col. George and Hope Walker, Alyce Springer, Jim and Gail Gaylord, Bob and Barbara Nancarrow, Homer and Bernise Crow—all pillars of Mentone. You are all missed when you're away!

Inez Guffey, Mary Kiefe, and Vickie Biddle have returned from a trip to the Bahamas. Vickie shared a cabin with Candy Sorenson from Grand Rapids, MI. Vickie says she and Candy became "soul mates," and it was as if this friendship was meant to be. Later, Vickie met Paul and Candy on Marco Island where she had a chance to meet the two Sorenson children, Nicki (3-1/2) and Jeffery 6-1/2. Vickie can't wait for a chance to introduce Valley Head to the Sorensons on a visit soon.

Lula Blalock had a recent visit from Harrison and Molly Webb who used to live in her community. She also played Rook with Casey and Ruby Jones from Ft. Payne. Lula and her late husband used to play Rook regularly with the Joneses, so the event brought back fond memories.

Foots Rector celebrated a BIG birthday on March 30. He says if you missed it, he's still accepting presents and tributes!

Did you see Jack Jones on Channel 31 last week? He and his whole crew from Cloudmont put on a great show for the morning news. Way to go, cowboy! Speaking of Jack Jones. You need to visit the Big Mill Antique Mall in Ft. Payne to see a display of some of his paintings. It's quite a show.

Dennis and Sheryl Lewis, Tommy Cooper, and Tommy Gregory have worked VERY hard on organizing T-Ball teams for the 5, 6, 7, and 8 year olds in Valley Head, Mentone, Hammondville, and the Sulphur Springs area. Thanks to their efforts and hard work, there are a lot of happy boys and girls in the area. They were able to purchase all the equipment and uniforms with donations from generous business owners.

Many thanks are due all around. Lets play ball, folks!

The Valley Head Band is still hard at work on their auction to be held on May 4. Band Boosters will have lots of great items donated for the event.

Four members of the Valley Head Band played in the DeKalb County All County Band on Sunday, March 17, 1996, at the Fort Payne Middle School. They did a wonderful job. Shirley Collins played in the Senior High Band and Effia Harrison, Annie Harrison, and Justin Fischer all played in the Junior High Band. Both bands sounded superb.

Annie Harrison (12) of Valley Head and Kelly Traylor (9) from Mentone were weather artists for March. Congratulations to these fine young artists.

Local students at Gadsden State Community College on the President's List include Jeremy Albright, Tammy Harris, Jerime Keith, and Marcia Tucker. On the A & B Dean's List are Terra Fletcher and Dennis Goolesby. Way to go, scholars!

James Earl is the latest new Mentone resident. He will be taking over the little log cabin shop opposite the Deli and plans on selling custom made jewelry. The shop should be opened by mid April.

A postcard was received from Kregg Wilhelm, who spent his winter in Ireland. He said that he had a wonderful stay and worked as a carpenter to support himself while there. He is now on his way to France, Spain, and Portugal with two other American friends that he enticed to join him. Boy, his neighbors sometime wish that they had no heavy responsibilities like children and so forth and be able to take such jaunts over the continents.

The many friends of Norma Williams will be interested to know that she has been admitted to the Health South Longshore Hospital, 3800 Ridgeway Drive, Birmingham, Ala. 35209, Room 106 A. She needs cards of cheer to let her know how much she is missed back here in Mentone.

Jo Beaubé, Maureen Brewer, Hope Walker, and Betty Chapman, hosted a retirement dinner for John Wilkinson on Thursday, April 4. John and wife Jan were toasted by a host of friends. Welcome home to Mentone, "Big John" (and he is BIG!).

On March 23, Marilyn Blanton Campbell received a surprise drop-in visit from "Number One Son," John Campbell and his son, Johnny, age 11, who were delivering a belated Christmas present. After a short visit, the visitors headed to the home of Grace and Milton Howard in hopes of purchasing some rock cutting equipment. The home of friends, Kent and Mary Percy in Powder Springs, Ga., was the site of a gala party, on March 16, to celebrate the opening of Kent's private dental practice. After an overnight stay at the Kents' home, Marilyn visited with Charles and Mary Shepherd in White, Ga., on her way home. A birthday supper on March 14, at Daniel and Sharon Blanton's home in Rome, Ga., was to celebrate the 11th birthday of Sharon's son, Ryan Stroupe. Marilyn and her mother, Mary A. Blanton, also attended.

Deepest sympathy to H.P. Goss whose nephew, Paintney, died April 4, 1965. Also to Leland and Gertrude Cox whose son, Sheldon Cox, died in Florida March 28, 1996. Sympathy to "Foots" Rector who lost his sister, Willodean Thomas, on March 30, 1996.

Robert and Irene Green are preparing for another Honda Gold Wing Trip. This time, their destination is Gulf Shores, Ala. Here's hoping for good weather for that big motor cycle jaunt.

Ovie Blalock, Woodmen of the World Lodge 436, hosted a beautiful Woodmen of the World dedication of what used to be the Promenade Hall. National President, John Bookout, conducted the impressive ceremony, followed by a delicious buffet dinner.

Local athletes are chalking up all sorts of post season honors. Jon Baggett, Sr., Valley Head was described as the big man in the middle who carried the scoring load for the Tigers most of the season. He averaged 19 points, and 13 rebounds a game this season. Jon was named to the All Star Team. On the Lady Tiger side, Nikki Smith, Sr. guard, was picked All Star Second Team. Sports writers said of Nikki, "The Lady Tigers top offensive player, led Valley Head to the Northeast Regional." Kayla Bell and Jamie Baugh were selected for the All-County Basketball Team. Now, sports writers are tauting the strength of the Tigers baseball pitching corps made up of Daniel Vest, Heath Dalson, Jonathan Brower, and Jim Phillips. Congratulations all around, athletes, the recognition you bring to our home area makes us very proud!

Deepest sympathy to the families of:

•Randall Hawkins, 57, who died Mar. 31, 1996.
•Myrtle Brown, 91, who died March 21, 1995.
•Jerry Ted McPherson, 55, who died March 22, 1966.
•Barry Lee Watters, 49, who died March 23, 1996.
•Essie Ionia (Oney), 93, who died March 5, 1996.
•Hubert F. McSpaden, 87, who died March 8, 1996.
Belated March birthday wishes go out to •Inez Guffey, March 6; •Johnny Cooper, March 22.

Happy Birthday to the following: •1, Michelle Hopper Kinser, Jerod Hulan; •2, Milton Chambers (50); Mary Pearson, Effia and Annie Harrison (twins); •3, April Shilton, W.A. Chambers; •5, Chris Black; •6, John Chambers, Jennifer McGee-Robertson; •7, Shannon Chappell, Verna Livingston; •9, Francis Huff, Ashley Hartline; •11, Kami Brown; •12, Leslie Day; •15, Tim Carden; •16, Danny Hopper; •17, Melanie (Wright) Woodard, A.J. Palmer; •25, Jennifer Robertson; •29, Jim Whiserant.

Thought for April: He is Risen!

Alleluia!

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OUTDOOR TIPS

Compiled by Dr. Pat Seymour

•**TURKEY FACTS:** Few wilderness sounds imply excitement and challenge the way a springtime gobbler does. It's love in the air for the birds, but there's excitement of another kind awaiting the hunter. And so it is that in the spirit of engorged wattles, April is devoted to the wild turkey...my kind of bird.

Tuft Stuff: curious stuff, turkey beards. These tufts of keratinous bristles protrude from a raised oval of skin called a papilla; turkeys with multiple papillae will grow multiple beards. A beard first pushes through the breast plumage when a turkey is six or seven months old and grows at a rate of 3 to 6 inches per year, although overall beard length is pretty much limited after the second year, when it starts to wear from contact with the ground. Occasionally, hens have beards, but rarely are they longer than 7 inches. The longest beard on record measured 17 inches.

Skin Deep: One of the more striking aspects of the gobbler is its really ugly head. To anything but another turkey, the head appears to be a motley collection of random protuberances (caruncles), which at times sell and glow a brilliant red. Actually, the head can change, moving through a spectrum of colors--red, white, and even blue--when the bird is sexually aroused or frightened. Head coloration is also the best means of distinguishing gobblers from hens: in the spring males have a white crown, a prominent snood, and their dewlap and caruncles are larger and redder than those of hens, whose heads are mostly blue-gray.

Downy Fresh: Survival is a tricky proposition during the first two weeks of a turkey's life: a typical brood of 9 to 12 poults suffers a mortality rate of about 70 percent. Fortunately, turkeys can fly well enough to flee predators after only 8 to 10 days, although they do not begin roosting in trees until around 14 days after birth. Taking to the trees is a milestone for the survival of the young poults, as this significantly reduces the chance that a hen's entire brood will be wiped out during a nighttime raid by just one predator.

Full Strut: Of all turkey behavior, the strut of a spring gobbler is the most endearing. The courtdance begins with two or three quick steps, while the tom fans its tail, puffs its chest, drags its primary feather tips on the ground, and emits the unmistakable "spit and drum": pfffttt duuuuuuuuu.

FISHERMEN should wear wet cotton gloves when handling fish that are to be released. Gloves allow you to get a grip on the fish without having to squeeze hard, thus preventing bruising and damage to internal organs.

PINE trees, spruces, and firs produce blisters of resin which harden into nuggets wherever the bark has been broken. These nuggets make good fire starters, when building a campfire in the rain. Carry a handful in a plastic bag on camping trips.

WALKING in thick brush will sometimes untie the most carefully tied bootlaces. One way to avoid this is to wrap a strip of duct tape around your boots so that it covers the knot.

By the way: According to the International Game Fish Association, the biggest fish ever caught was a great white shark that tipped the scales at 2,664 pounds. It was taken by Alfred Dean on April 21, 1959, from Ceduna, South Australia.



RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

By Mickey Gough

The March 1996 meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held on March 9, at Flo and Ken Kirby's lovely home. Hostesses are Flo Kirby, Patti Bryan, and Karen Wright. President, Marie Dillenbeck, called the meeting to order, and Mildred Wylie gave the devotional, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Hope Walker. Minutes of the February meeting were read by Mickey Gough, secretary, and approved. The treasurer's report was given by Flo Kirby, and filed. One guest, Carolyn Shaw, from Atlanta, Ga., was present.

Corresponding Secretary, Marilyn Blanton Campbell, reported she had sent cards to Mrs. Stallings, Betty Haynes, and Norma Williams. Patti Bryan gave a report on the progress of the butterfly garden at Moon Lake School. Robert Huskey cleared out the large piece of metal. The rest of the area will be layered with clay base chert. Mr. Ken Kirby has donated many large rocks for the stream bed. Patti urged everyone to participate in Earth Day, April 22, and help plant seeds, flowers, shrubs, etc. The students at Moon Lake School will be planting and helping clean up the area. (See a list on this page of donated items needed for the butterfly garden area.)

Ann Wright reported that she had fertilized the plants at the triangle and also at the city hall.

The members voted to change the April meeting from the home of Bernice Crow to a field trip to the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham. April is a good time to see the flowers that are in bloom. All members who are going will meet at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church parking lot at 8:00 a.m. on April 9, and go in a group. There will be no regular meeting in April.

The president announced that the club dues were to be paid in April.

Ann Wright reported that the Home and Garden Show will be March 16th and 17th in Rainsville, and Linda Brown and Marie Dillenbeck will represent the Rhododendron Garden Club.

Karen Wright invited the members to enter the Flower Show to be held on April 27 at the Moon Lake School Spring Festival.

The president thanked the hostesses, Flo Kirby, Patti Bryan, and Karen Wright for the delicious refreshments.

Bernice Crow presented the program "Trees to Attract Birds: The Birds Who Came To Dinner." She spoke of the birds they had enjoyed this winter at their place in Florida, particularly the scrub jays. Many would come and eat out of their hands. It is important to plant trees, such as the Junipers, Birch, and any tree with a berry to attract the birds. Be sure if you start to feed migrating birds in the fall to keep it up during the winter months. Many birds will stay together as a family and are good parents. She said it is fun to answer a singing bird back, and it will answer you back. Birds must also have water with their food. She said we should all stop and enjoy our feathered friends.

Karen Wright won the hostess gift. The club made \$21 on their April ways and means project.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, and the members visited over refreshments.

The next regular meeting is at 12:00 noon, on May 14, 1996, at DeSoto State Park. Hattie Lide has the devotional, and the flower arrangements will be by Gladys Crane, Ann Jackson, and Ann Wright.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc.; Deep South Region; The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.; Garden Clubs of District II; and DeKalb County Federation of Garden Clubs.

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CLOUDLAND - Nice residential building lot in good neighborhood containing approximately 1/2 acre - \$4,500.

CLOUDLAND - Highway 157 - good camping lot - 60'x160' - Only \$1200.

MENLO - Approximately 12 acres just outside Menlo city limits - level and wooded. Priced at \$3000 per acre.

LAKE LAHUSAGE - Summer Get-Away-Very rustic. 1 BR cabin on 2.3 acres - \$65,000. Co-Broker of Southern Properties, Inc.

MENTONE BROW - Brow lot with 240' of brow and road frontage - \$25,000. Co-Broker of Southern Properties, Inc.

CLOUDLAND - 4 bedroom, 2 bath house features living room fireplace, kitchen/dining, central heat/air, one car garage, all on approx 1.2 acres - \$75,000.

SUMMERVILLE - 3 bedroom, 1 bath home with carpet, utility room, hardwood floors and electric heat on nice corner lot. A must see at \$47,500.

Call Us For Information On Other Listings.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR BUTTERFLY GARDEN PROJECT OF RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

FLOWERS, SEEDS OR PLANTS

zinnias
impatiens
cosmos
verbena
madagascar periwinkle
pincushion flower
Mexican sunflowers
Other sunflowers
calendulas
salvia
cleome (spider flower)
hollyhocks
butterfly weed
lantana
coreopsis
purple coneflower
narrow
daisies
bee balm
blazing star
dill
fennel
parsley
perennial phlox
wild violets

BUSHES, SHRUBS, TREES

butterfly bush (buddleia)
abelia
sweet pepperbush
lilac
hibiscus
blue berry
Firethorn (pyracantha)
juniper
Rose of Sharon
evergreens: juniper
American holly
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"scarlet bees" bean blossom

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A Friendly Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

Editor's note: Thanks to Eloise's many friends, her column is in this month's Groundhog.

The Valley Head United Methodist Women observed a Quiet Day Program in the Fellowship Hall at the church Tuesday, March 19. The program on Alleviating the Trauma of Violence, was led by Laura Margaret Allison. Also participating in the service were Helen White, Venna Hammond, Mary Holleman, Adelaide Biddle, Velma Livingston, Frances Longshore, Leslie Rogers and Ansley MacGinnus, daughter of Mrs. Allison who was visiting her mother. Rev. Arno White joined us for the noon meal. We were sorry that our president, Eloise Brown was not able to be with us due to illness. Eloise is a faithful member of the church and Sunday School and we miss her when she is not with us. Eloise wrote a very appropriate poem for St. Patrick's Day which was read by our pastor, Jeff Adkins on March 17.

The Sunshine Club met for their annual Spring Fling on March 28, at the Wild Flower Restaurant, Mentone, Al. Members present were Leona Chadwick, Bess Bauerle, Gladys Cobble, Jewell Palmer, Violet Barker, Glenda Savage, Susie Clark, Ruth Pickett, Anna Daniel, Evelyn Clark, Lillie Bowden, Billie Harper. Several members were unable to attend due to illness. Eloise Brown, Carmel Gifford, Willie Palmer, and Geraldine Hawkins were missed very much. Although Addie Hall could not be with us, we remembered her 94th birthday, today. She is the oldest charter member of our club. Miss Addie now lives with her daughter, Mary Elizabeth Porter, in Chattanooga. We miss her very much.

It is so good to see our special friend and neighbor, Paul Burnett out and about after his recent surgery. As always he is his usual cheerful self. He is a much loved citizen of this town, always one of the first to offer his and his wife, Ruth's service in time of need. We enjoy his wit and his beautiful singing voice and hope he will be around for a long, long time.

Many friends attended the funeral for Bill Ellis of Summerville on February 29. Bill grew up in Valley Head and was fondly known as "Chukker Bill." He played football for the Valley Head Tigers and earned a football scholarship to Auburn. After serving in the Philippines during World II, he completed his education at Auburn University with a B.S. degree, and his Masters Degree from Indiana University. He also had a 6 year certificate in Guidance counseling. He was a successful football and baseball coach in several Alabama schools. He completed his career in education as guidance counselor in Summerville. Following the funeral at Burt Chapel in Valley Head, there was a Military Service at the Valley Head Cemetery with the flag being presented to his widow, Frances. Bill will be greatly missed not only by his family, but by the many friends, students, and others he came in contact with over the years.

Dr. Quimby is back in his office following surgery recently. Dr. Quimby has been a wonderful asset to our town and community. He has always been a great supporter of Valley Head and the football team at Valley Head High School where he was a familiar figure on the sidelines for many years.

Ted and Mary Holleman visited Catherine Crumbly in Geraldine on Sunday afternoon, March 17. She is doing well but says she still misses Valley Head. Jimmy and Catherine were a well known, popular couple in Valley Head. Both were active in civic affairs and especially the Methodist Church.

Adelaide Biddle and her friend, Eloise McCurdy joined a tour to Savannah, Brunswick and other points of interest the last of March.

Randall Hawkins died March 31 at his residence. He was the son of Howard and Geraldine Hawkins. Sincere sympathy to his family.

Virginia Livezey was in an automobile accident recently

when it ran into her car. Virginia is sore and shook up, but is all right.

Bert Pickett celebrated a memorable 75th birthday with dinner at the County Buffet Restaurant in Chattanooga, with family members present. They were Ruth Pickett, Joe and Lillian Pickett, Billie Pickett, Patti and Syd Spencer, Syd Spencer II, Matthew Pickett, Kenny and Brandy McDade, Beth Wright, Curt and Mary Winfrey. Everyone had a fun time.

Easter Season

Easter is a season of newness,
When all the world seems so clean,
Fresh washed by Winter's stormings,
From drabness to glistening green.

Easter is a season of beauty,
of blooming colors so bright,
That thrill and fill the senses
With feelings of deep delight.

Easter is a season of music,
When the world takes wing to sing,
Anthems of living gladness
In homage to its God and king.

Easter is a season of worship
For a Savior's resurrected--
Personification of God's love--
Eternal hope perfected.

Easter is the season of seasons,
That gives all living meaning
Because Christ arose from death,
In resurrection's redeeming.

--Eloise Brown

The Mystical April Rain

The mystical April rain
softly strokes my window pane,
like shimmering cellophane.
It lulls me to peace from strain,
then wakes me to life to gain
all beauty's exquisite pain.

As it touches field and plain,
all the colors they contain,
spring forth lovely to remain.

Earth its mirth cannot contain
it bursts forth in glad refrain,
all happiness to sustain.

As life from death, so inane,
blooms in glory to maintain
its eternal live domain.

Nothing ever dies in vain
death is rest that life can feign,
its perfection to attain.

In life's perpetual chain,
we see God's plan pre ordain,
resurrection to obtain,
represented once again--
magic man can not explain
in mystical April rain.

--Eloise Brown

VALLEY HEAD SENIOR BETAS ATTEND STATE CONVENTION

On Thursday, March 16, five members of the Valley Head Senior Beta Club and their sponsor left DeKalb County for Birmingham and the 1996 Alabama State Beta Club Convention.

The following five members attended and participated in various competitions: Shaunathan Bell, Christina Fitzgerald, Rhonda Owens, Haley Johnson, and Teri Campbell. Their sponsor and chaperone was Mrs. Patsy W. Sax.

The convention was held at the Birmingham Civic Center, and the members and their sponsor stayed at the Sheraton Civic Center Hotel, the host hotel.

The Valley Head Betas participated in some of the following competitions: Quiz Bowl, Academic Contests, Creative Writing, and Scrapbook.

Even though the Valley Head Beta Club did not win any of the contests this year, fun and fellowship was had by all.

Fund-raisers such as the "Pie-In-The-Face" contest and Faculty vs. Beta Club ball games help fund the club's expenses for the convention.

The Valley Head Senior Beta Club and sponsors appreciate all the support we receive from the faculty and student body of Valley Head High School. A special thank you to the Beta parents and the local community for your continued support.

NORTHEAST ALABAMA ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS RELEASE

The Northeast Alabama Adult Education Program will hold its Sixteenth Annual GED Graduation for GED recipients on Friday, May 3, 1996, at 7:00 p.m. at the Rainsville Civic Center. The graduation will honor all GED recipients from DeKalb, Jackson, and Marshall Counties. Robert Reeves, host of WHNT TV's "Mornin' Folks" which is broadcast on Huntsville's channel 19, will be on hand to assist in the presentation of certificates.

Through adult education, many individuals have had the opportunity to get their GED, which has enabled them to secure or upgrade their employment or attend college or technical school. Many others have enriched their lives by learning to read and write. Adult education has lessened the burden for our welfare system because it has helped many public assistance recipients to become self-sufficient. The GED graduation is one way to express congratulations to those students who have worked so hard.

Any adult (including those who did not attend adult basic education classes) who has successfully completed the GED Test and has not previously participated in a graduation is invited to be a part of this ceremony. All family and friends are also welcome to attend the graduation exercises.

Those interested in participating in the GED graduation or anyone needing more information should contact the adult education program at 845-8577 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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PEACH TREE CREEK

Scott's Brigade Captures the State Flag of the 33rd New Jersey Regiment.

The Atlanta Campaign was growing in intensity. The Confederates had withdrawn from Resaca, then Dallas-New Hope Church, then Kennesaw Mountain. The Federal armies had crossed the Chattahoochee River, then Peach Tree Creek. Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood had replaced General Joseph E. Johnston as commanding officer of the Army of Tennessee. It was now time for the Confederate army to respond.

On the afternoon of July 20, 1864, Hood ordered the advance of Hardee's and Stewart's Corps to drive the Federals back to Peach Tree Creek and west into the angle formed by Peach Tree Creek and the Chattahoochee River. Scott's Brigade of Loring's Division attacked the outpost of the 33rd New Jersey Regiment, overrunning the position, and capturing the state flag of the New Jersey unit. Its Adjutant Stephen Pierson subsequently recalled the surprise assault:

"Colonel Fourat ordered me to ride out to the open on our left. And there I saw a beautiful sight. Down through the great, open fields they were coming, thousands of them, men in gray, by brigade front, flags flying. Hood was making his first general assault and it was against Thomas that he was making it....How the bullets did come in! for a time we held them (but) our isolated position was no longer tenable and the order to retire was given and our line was soon broken in confusion." Quoted in Scaife, *The Campaign for Atlanta* (1985) at p. 56.

Peach Tree Creek by Rick Reeves portrays the onset of Scott's surprise attack. The Federal outpost is overrun. John Abernathy of the 27th Alabama Regiment holds the captured New Jersey flag. For the moment the momentum swings in favor of the Confederate cause.

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CLOUDLAND, GA. - New listing for 3 bdrm, 2 bath home on 4.5 acres. Beautifully landscaped yard, and garden spot. Large open kitchen, living room with fireplace. Quiet surroundings. Priced at \$55,000. Co-Broke with Gay Cole Realty.

HAMMONDVILLE AREA, 2 bdrm, 2 bath home on 7.25 acres. Home located on the top of Big Ridge Hwy 11, North. \$41,500, appt. only.

FLAT LANDING FORD ESTATES - 3 acre tracts located on the East Fork of Little River, near Mentone. 250 to 360 feet of river frontage. Restricted, and Owner financing available. Perfect for swimming and rafting. Selling fast, \$12,000 to \$30,000.

GREAT POTENTIAL FOR BED AND BREAKFAST in this 3 level home with elevator on the BROW on DeSoto Parkway, Mentone. With so many amenities, here is just a few. 5 bedrooms, 5-1/2 baths on 2 levels with a full basement with another 10 rooms. C/H/A, 3 fireplaces, screened porch and open deck, plus a sunroom. Large Great room and separate dining, kitchen, and breakfast room. 270 ft. of Brow frontage, with a sunset view. \$250,000 firm with owner financing to qualified buyers.

2 ACRES ON THE BROW, minutes from all attractions in and around Mentone. 146 ft. of Brow frontage (west, sunset). On DeSoto Parkway, with city water. Great buy at \$20,000.

78 ACRES ON THE WEST BROW minutes from DeSoto State Park. Great investment property with over 1,000 ft. of brow frontage. Rocks, Creeks and a beautiful view, all one could ask for at a great buy of \$117,500. Call to see.

Lookout Mountain Properties is looking for Listings on Lookout Mountain and Mentone. If interested in renting, leasing or selling,

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J. R. Bain: a "Jack of All Trades," But Born to Farm

(Continued from page 1)



J.R. on train in Harvey, Illinois

(Photo taken in 1976)

was made foreman. When WWII broke out, J.R. was one of the first to be called. But the officials of the mine were successful in getting him deferred from the army twice. Production of coal was extremely important during the war.

Upon medical advice, in 1944, J.R. quit the coal mines and returned to Mentone and lumbering. While working in the woods one day in 1945, he survived being crushed under a load of green lumber. His recovery was slow and painful. This accident proved to be a major factor in his physical complications throughout his life.

Through the next few years, J.R. struggled, as many did at that time, to provide for his family, even for a while received government "relief." In 1949, he received religious salvation which changed his life. He began to dedicate his life to God. He fasted and prayed diligently. Upon receiving a sign from God, J.R. returned to the coal mines where he felt a job would be waiting. There, as God had promised him, a job just became available. He was a miner again from 1950 until 1953.

Seeing many friends and co-workers suffering and dying from black-lung disease caused by the coal dust in the mines, J.R., fearing for his own health, quit the mines, and once more returned to his beloved Mentone. For the next three years, he worked for Chattanooga Boiler and Tank Company until his lay-off.

Then, in 1956, while visiting his daughter, Ethel Manifold and son-in-law, Jim, in Harvey, Illinois, he found the job of his life. He became a railroad switchman for the Indiana Harbour Belt Railroad. It was hard, unreliable, and at times very dangerous work. During his 21-year railroad career, he was arrested for tying up a major highway crossing with the train because he could not get the yardmaster's approval to move the train. He also suffered a trau-



Homer, J.R., Dolas, Dewey, Harry Cash, and J.C. Flora (J.R.'s best friend)
(Photo Taken in 1926)

matic head injury in an accident while riding in the caboose. But he loved trains and his work.

During his railroad career, he always managed to pursue his love of farming. If not a small garden in the back of the house, it was acres of land loaned to him by a couple of widows. He provided fresh vegetables to many church members, family and friends, and even sold produce to a large grocery chain.

They lived a very full and rewarding life in Harvey until a heart attack in 1977 caused J.R. to take early retirement. In 1978, J.R. and Evelyn retired to Mentone where they still live.

J.R.'s contributions to live are his six children by wife, Katherine: Bobbie Sue Smith, Ethel Manifold, Mary Porter, Charles Bain, Johnny Bain, and Pat McKenzie; 19 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great grand children. Throughout his Christian life, he has been very active in the church of god. J.R. attributes his richness of life to his faith in God, a loving family, and hard work.



Front: Roy; 2nd row: Dolas, Homer, Emmett; back: J.R. and Dewey
(Photo taken in 1942)





**J.R. and Evelyn taken at their
25th Wedding Anniversary in 1985**
(Inset was taken on their wedding day in 1960)



J. R. and Evelyn Bain Happy Birthday, J.R!

On March 20, **J.R. Bain** was 82 years old. His family gave him a birthday dinner party, which was held at the Church of God on Highway 117 in Mentone. There were 75 guests/family, some of whom came from out of state. ●Son-in-law Ed Porter and his daughter in law's father, John Isenberg, from Markham, Illinois; ●Granddaughter Sandra Sanders and son Clay from Gainesville, Ga.; ●Granddaughter Sheila Smith from Cartersville, Ga.; ●Brother Dewey and wife Addie Bain from Trenton, Ga.; ●Son Johnny Bain and wife Jo Ann from Mobile; ●Granddaughter and grandson Joy Rich and Joseph Bain from Gadsden; ●Grandson Jeffrey and wife Sherrie Bain from Auburn; ●Grandson Jack and wife Melissa Manifold and their 7 children from Auburn; ●Great granddaughter Kristy Tillman from Auburn; ●Brother Dolas and wife Della Bain and son Bob from Henagar; ●Sister Ruby and husband Russell Stalvey, Mentone; ●Sister Naomi Potts, Mentone; ●Brother Emmett and wife Jo Bain, Mentone; ●Son Charles Bain and wife Loretta, Mentone; ●Daughter Ethel Manifold, Mentone; ●Robert and Ilene Green; ●Clara Cash; ●Joyzelle Webb; ●Rev. Ken and Sandy Shelton and children, April and Josh; ●Daughter Bobbie Smith and husband John, Mentone; ●Daughter Pat McKenzie, Mentone; ●Grandson Jon Bain and wife Tara and Baby Katherine from Ft. Payne; ●Grandson Stan Smith and baby Courtney Summerville; ●Other friends and relatives.

Special hymns were by Johnny Bain, Ethel Manifold, Loretta Bain, and Bobbie Smith, Johnny Bain, J.R. Bain, Dolas Bain and Bob Bain. Guest singing was led by Howard Carson. Karen Powell played the keyboard.



Seated: Pat McKenzie, J.R. Bain, Evelyn, Bobbie Smith
Standing: Charles, Mary Porter, and Johnny
(Photo taken in 1984 at J.R.'s 70th Birthday)

The White Elephant



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**Front: Pat; 2nd row: Johnny, J.R.,
Bobbie (holding daughter Sandra), Rev. Willie Howard;**
back row: Charles, Mary, and Katherine
(Photo on page 8 taken in 1956)
(Inset is J.R. and Katherine taken in 1954)



Happy Easter To You



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(1) OWN YOUR OWN WEEK-END PARADISE with 150 feet on the East Fork of Little River. 3 bedroom, 1 bath cottage, and detached garage with upstairs room. Fish from your own private dock or canoe down Little River. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty. \$75,500.



(5) LOFTY CONTEMPORARY on the Brow of Mentone. Offering 3 or 4 bedrooms - 2 baths. Fully equipped kitchen—pine floors—dressing room, and solar room. Floor to ceiling glass in the 2-story living room produces a feeling of openness to the outside from both floors. Appointment only. \$225,000.



(8) WATCH THE SEASON CHANGE IN THE VALLEY BELOW from in front of the rock fireplace of this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, custom log home. Fully equipped kitchen, pine floors, exposed beams in living room, and central heat and air on a 7.2 acre brow lot above Mentone. Ready to move into and start enjoying the fantastic view from the large deck where you can spend many lazy afternoons. \$129,900.



(2) LIKE NEW—LOW MAINTENANCE BRICK HOME with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large eat-in kitchen, and fireplace with insert. Room for expansion in this 3/4 basement with full bath. Sitting on a low maintenance lot with adjoining land available. \$75,000.



(6) TAKE A HEALTHY LOOK AT COUNTRY LIVING and breathe the clean air at this 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 year old home on 4 acres. Front porch, screened back porch, a single car garage, barn, and gazebo. All appliances and furniture to remain with house. A must see at only \$72,500.



(9) Own from Highway 117 to Cutler Ave. Downtown Mentone - 100' lot on Highway 117 zoned B-1 - 2 bdrm, 1 bath, rental house on 3 lots and 2 lots on Cutler Ave. All for only \$68,500



(3) 3-bdrm, 1 bath FARMHOUSE on 40 acres. Hardwood & Pine Floors, Rock Fireplace - 2 car garage - equipment shed & Greenhouse. \$78,500.



(7) COZY COUNTRY COTTAGE - 1 acre wooded lot on East Lake Drive. Less than 2 years old. 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, large living, dining & kitchen. Fireplace. Front & Back porches, 2 car carport & detached garage. REDUCED to \$79,500.



(4) MENTONE BROW - Spectacular View-Beautiful, unique, unusual describes this finished home which offers three bedrooms, one full bath (with Jacuzzi), two one-half baths, great room with wet bar and fireplace, kitchen area features ceramic countertops and an island with custom hood, range, disposal, dishwasher and refrigerator. A two-car garage, glass-enclosed octagon-shaped casual pool with patio overlooking pool, sauna, shower area, recreation room with pool table, hot tub, and decks are just some of the amenities. All this and approximately 700' of brow frontage! Shown by appointment only to qualified buyers. Great for a restaurant. \$295,000.

OTHER LISTINGS

- (10) THE WEST FORK OF LITTLE RIVER flows quietly by these 3-acre wooded lots with 300 feet of River Frontage. Restricted for property owner's protection. Prices starting at \$20,000.
- (11) 13 BROW LOTS with additional acreage across the road for a mini-farm. Just over the Georgia line. Restricted. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty.
- (12) OVERLOOK THE BREATHTAKING GEORGIA VALLEY from this 3.76 acre West Brow lot, about 10 miles north of Mentone. Lightly restricted. Co-Broke with Cloudland Realty. Only \$22,000.
- (13) LAKE ON THE BROW - Where else can you find magnificent sunrise and lake view in the same place? Only at Lake on the Brow. Restricted building lots 10 minutes from town. NOW OPEN—PHASE II - look now while the choice is prime—starting at only \$12,500.

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Vegetables Both Night & Day

About Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



The month of March has come and gone another year. I always think that when March is finally over, spring and summer can't be far behind. This March may be the exception. So far nothing is looking like spring. The flowers are not blooming, the trees are not getting green and the Easter bunny is sure to go back into his hole when he comes out to visit the children this year. Recently, I heard an announcer say that this was the winter that wouldn't go away. This seems to be an accurate description.

The question of where a Bed and Breakfast inn can be established continues to be an issue in Mentone. The Zoning Commission has proposed the establishing of a new district to be called R-T (Transient Residential), this would permit houses to be used as Bed and Breakfast inns and that only.

No other business could be established there. A public hearing has been set for April 5. If you have an interest in this issue or just want to know more about it, attend the meeting. I have always been disappointed that more citizens don't attend these public meetings. They are held because of something that is of public interest. Don't wait until the issue is settled to inform yourself of the facts (you might disagree). Find out what is going on in your town.

I have read all of the news articles and letters to the editor regarding the one-cent tax that was recently passed by the DeKalb County Commission. I can't help but think that something is wrong somewhere besides DeKalb County.

Why do all of the small towns have to have such high taxes? Do they need to be incorporated as small towns? Are we a society that wants but doesn't want to pay for our wants?

Who are we responsible to and who is responsible to us? Where should the money come from to educate our children, pave our roads and make our lives more pleasant? So many questions and so few answers, or maybe there are answers but we don't want to hear them. I think that this tax (should it stay on the books) will hurt the elderly the most. They cannot travel to another state to do their shopping. This is the most unfair thing about it. Couldn't there be a source of revenue that is more fairly distributed? The extra fee on certain documents at the office of the Probate Judge seems a good idea. Why not charge more for drivers license, twenty dollars is a very small fee to enable me to drive a car for four years. Why not higher property taxes? If you have the money to buy property you should be able to pay a reasonable tax for the use of that land. No one owns land anyway, we are only allowed to use it during our life time. Many people will tell you that the reason they have purchased land in this area is because of the low property taxes. The Homestead Exemption makes it easier on those who live on their land and especially who farm on it. The bottom line is there is no free lunch!

On a happier or at least more pleasant note. The summer season is almost here and with it comes the arrival of more people and more activities will be happening. The camps will be in full swing in June and they always bring more activity to Mentone. Years ago I would hear people in Mentone saying that they didn't like the camps here. Maybe they do cause some inconveniences such as more traffic on opening and closing days and joggers who hog the road, but they are a boon to the economy of Mentone. A large amount of money is spent at the local businesses and you would not believe how many local people have summer jobs because of the camps! The parents stay at the local inns and B and B's and eat in the restaurants. They do help Mentone. No person (town) is an island.

Those of you who were born and reared in Mentone, and those of us who moved in later, all have a common goal. We want the best for Mentone. This is a unique place. We have persons living here from all walks of life. Some have money

and some do not. Some have a high degree of formal education and some were educated by the hard knocks of life. No where else can you find such diversified life styles in so small an area. This is why we have to work together.

My wish for everyone is that you have a happy Easter. Easter is one of those holidays that is based on a religious event but has come to have a secular meaning as well. I understand that the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ was celebrated during the Spring Festivals. This has brought about all kinds of celebrations, from sunrise services to egg hunts! Things that are so simple sure can be complicated. Why not celebrate both aspects, we as humans take ourselves too serious, we should laugh more, play more, and enjoy life more! That's my soapbox oration for this month.

The Bed and Breakfasts in and around Mentone, AL Welcome You

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Winston Place	(205) 635-6381 or (800) 780-3915
Woodhaven	(205) 635-6438
Ye Ole Heritage House	(205) 634-4040

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Sheldon Philip Cox
December 3, 1950-March 28, 1996

Sheldon was born in Ft. Payne, Alabama, raised in Mentone, and was a 1968 graduate of Valley Head High School. He received a B.S. Degree in the School of Business in 1974 from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. Mr. Cox was the General Manager of Hotel Group of America in San Francisco, California. Sheldon died while on vacation in Orlando, Florida. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leland M. Cox of Mentone, Alabama; five sisters: Marsha Merrell of Northford, CT; Treva Lindsay of Ft. Payne; Edie Neeley of Huntsville; Felicia Blackwell of Mentone; Alesia Justice of Ft. Payne, a brother, Leland Cox Jr. of Huntsville, and 15 nieces and nephews. He was a member of Moon Lake Baptist Church in Mentone. A memorial service will be held there for him on Saturday, April 13, at 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to The University of Alabama Alumni Association In Memory of Sheldon P. Cox (Scholarship Fund), P.O. Box 1928, Tuscaloosa, AL 35486 (which will be matched by DeKalb Alumni Association, and also, his brother Leland's company Aquastar in Huntsville, Ala.), or to AIDS Service Center, P.O. Box 1392, Anniston, AL 36202.

GARDEN HINTS

By Madeleine Bullock

April is the busiest month for gardeners in Alabama, so I did intend to stick to the point until I heard a bit of disquieting news on the 15th March ('96 of course). It was reported that a North Carolina man is in a coma caused by a mosquito bite that he got in Utah. The symptoms preceding the coma were flu like. So far, doctors and specialists have not identified the infection. That bit of particular news did make me think of the book *The Hot Zone* written by Richard Preston about infectious diseases that still hold great mysteries and one particular one is DENGUE FEVER caused by the bite of mosquitoes, and was traveling northward from Mexico and Texas to the lower southeastern states.

I would like to pass on some tips on trying to keep your homes and yards free of the pests, if possible. First, try not to let any water stand in containers outdoors. If you have ponds, streams or some other form of body of water close by, you can get some Bt tablets from the Ft. Payne Feed and Seed Store on Gault Avenue; or if you prefer, you could try spraying the water with a bit of kerosene, that kills the mosquito and its larvae.

Now, I will get on with some useful hints that may help make your gardening more pleasurable and rewarding. First, let's see what we can do about rejuvenating some overgrown house plants by air-layering, a technique that encourages roots to form on aboveground stems wrapped in sphagnum moss. This technique works well for tall house plants such as schefflera, croton, dracaenas, dumb canes, fatsias, rubber plant and other ficus species, and Swiss-cheese plant. Layering is a good way to make two plants from one. Air layering is used to keep rubber plants and schefflera as in bounds. You can also experiment with air layering on plants outdoors that don't respond well to other types of propagation. Be sure you choose a healthy, vigorous stem for air layering.

1. Using a razor blade or small sharp, make a shallow, 2-inch-long slit in the stem anywhere from 6 to 18 inches behind the growing tip.

2. Sprinkle some rooting hormone on the cut, insert a wooden match stick to keep the cut open, and then wrap with damp, long-fibered (unmilled) sphagnum moss.

3. Cover the moss with clear plastic, and secure the bundle at its top and bottom with masking tape.

4. When you see roots poking through the moss, cut off the new plant just below the new roots, and remove the tape and plastic. Soak the root ball of the new plant for 3 to 4 hours, then pot it up.

How do you know which of your plants are easy to root by layering? Look for pre-formed adventitious roots, which are roots occurring in other than their usual location, such as along stems. At every node of the house plant wandering Jew, you will see two little roots protruding from the stem, they're just sitting there waiting to grow out. Other ivies are easy to root, too, because of their adventitious roots.

Planting and Aftercare of Tomato Plants: You will need tomato plant(s), trowel, stake or wire cage, compost, fertilizer, mulch. ●1. After the last frost, plant your tomato in a large hole with a support. Mulch and supply plants with 2 gal. of water per week. ●2. Carefully tie tomato plant to the stake or wire cage for support as it grows taller. Fix stake to a wall for heavy-fruited plants. ●3. Check regularly for little sideshoots in the leaf axils. Pinch out between fingers and thumb when they are about 3/4 in. long. ●4. Pinch out the top of the plant once it has brown four flower bunches. Now the plant can ripen its fruit instead of growing taller. ●5. Harvest fruit until temperatures fall. Green tomatoes will ripen off the vine if they are mature; their skin should look glossy.

Tips: Helpful partners such as Nasturtiums, Poppies, and Marigolds, attract insects that eat aphids and other pests.

Troubleshooter: ●Split skins are a common problem for tomatoes caused by irregular watering habits. Give plants a steady supply of water rather than watering heavily after letting them go dry. ●Skin imperfections are a normal sign of changes in temperature. They do not affect the taste. Keep plants at an even temperature and protect them from excessive heat or strong wind.



Miss Clifton

Clifton-Foreman

The engagement of Winona Dowe Clifton and John Michael Foreman is announced today.

Miss Clifton is the daughter of the late Roy and Oleta Clifton of Mentone. Mr. Foreman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard P. Foreman of Elizabethtown, Ky.

Grandparents of the bride-elect are the late Mr. and Mrs. George P. Smith of Mentone and the late Mr. and Mrs. Roy Clifton Sr. of Trion, Ga.

Miss Clifton is employed by

Clyde's Beauty Shop in Mentone.

Grandparents of the prospective groom are Mr. and Mrs. Pat Powers of Ohio.

Mr. Foreman is employed by Ladd Engineering in Fort Payne.

The wedding is planned for Sunday, May 5, 1996 at 2 p.m. at the Camp Comer Outdoor Amphitheatre in Mentone. A reception will be held in Camp Comer Reception Hall. All friends and relatives are invited.



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David and Claudia Wassom

New Owners of Mentone Springs Hotel

Claudia and David Wassom are the new owners of the Mentone Springs Hotel, having purchased the hotel in March. In June of 1983, the National Register of Historic Places accepted the Mentone Springs Hotel on its list of notables. Renovation of the hotel is under way, with a new paint job being done this week to restore the structure to its original colors, white with dark green trim. Built in 1884 by J. Frank Caldwell, it is the oldest hotel standing in Alabama. April 5 is the scheduled re-opening of the bed and breakfast. On May 1, the couple plans to open the restaurant located in the hotel under the name of Caldwell's Restaurant, in honor of the builder of this historical landmark.

In the late 1800s, a cool climate and mineral springs that promised curative baths attracted the rich to the luxury hotel. The mineral springs promised to restore a rundown patient to health.

The hotel served as a Baptist retreat from 1921 through 1931, and a group of ministers formed the Mentone Spring Co. to purchase the hotel for church use several weeks out of the year. In 1946, the hotel was sold to Edward H. Moore just to cover debts.

Norvill Hall, a master of pipe organ construction and repair, leased the building until his death in 1979. He had previously operated the 60 room hotel from 1945 to 1950. Ray and Sandra Padgett bought the Victorian hotel in 1980 and spent almost three years partially restoring the hotel to its original condition.

Charlie Johnson of Mentone, Ala. acquired the hotel in 1992, and after his death in 1995, it became the property of his wife, Bobby Johnson.

The great free-standing gray stone chimney in the center of what was the main lobby has a fireplace on three sides. Fires warmed guests on chilly nights at the Mentone hotel.

CLAUDIA WASSOM

Born in Ohio, Claudia Wassom was raised in Southern California. She has three brothers, the oldest one, Gary Albrecht, lives here in Valley Head, the other two live in California. She married Chester Lowe, who passed away in 1993. Chester and Claudia had two children, Randy and Virginia. Randy lives in Northern California with his wife and two children, Matt and Allison. Virginia lives in Houston, Texas, with her husband, and they are expecting a child on July 4th—Claudia's third grandchild. In a grandmother's view, her grandchildren are, of course, the greatest. Claudia's mother, Virginia Albrecht, lives next

door to her brother, Gary, here in Valley Head.

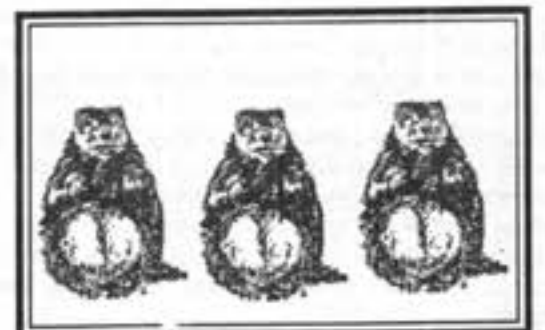
Mrs. Wassom has been a professional buyer for Silicon Valley firms and Site Manager for Bechtel Corp. Her hobbies are all kinds of hand work from weaving to lace making. She also likes to do backpacking, and cross country skiing.

DAVID WASSOM

David was born in Utah and raised in Concord, California. His mother was a 2nd grade teacher, and his father a school principal. David graduated from UC San Francisco Dental School in 1974, and has been practicing dentistry for 22 years in Fremont California. He is the father of 6 children from a previous marriage, 3 boys and 3 girls. On May 14, 1995, he married Claudia Lowe. She was an acquaintance of 18 years as well as a dental patient.

David's interests include being a Scoutmaster, enjoying all phases of Scouting; being involved in many sports over the years; enjoying down hill skiing, backpacking, football; and even running a marathon in 1983. He enjoys working with his hands, not only in the mouth. In 1986, David built his own 5,000 sq. ft. home without the aid of contractors. He said he may practice dentistry part time, depending on his passing the Alabama Boards.

Claudia and David said, "Our main concern is the beautiful old lady named the Mentone Springs Hotel, and we intend to give her as much T.L.C. as possible."



Woodman of the World Lodge No. 436 dedication of building pictures

On Friday, March 29, 1996, a ritual was conducted officially designating the building known as the Promenade Hall to be the meeting place of Lodge No. 436.

Photos show the cutting of the ribbon by the National President, John Bookout, from Omaha, NE. Shown with him is Ovie Blalock, president of Lodge No. 436, and other members of the lodge. In other pictures, Ovie is receiving the gavel from Mr. Bookout, and is also distributing pieces of the cut ribbon to each member.



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**Congratulations to
Melody Leeann Gideon**

for winning second runner up in the Little Miss Menlo Contest on Sat. March 18. Melody previously lived in Mentone with her daddy. She now resides in Menlo, Ga. She is the daughter of Michael Lee Gideon and Jerry Harris Gideon of Cloudland, Ga.

Melody's relatives include her Great Grandma - Tressie Thomas of Mentone (now deceased); her grandparents - Dude Mertis Brown of Mentone, Ala.; Frank and Bonnie Harris of Cloudland, Ga. She has 5 aunts: Pamela Barkley, Sandra Rogers, Annette Dyer, Janet and Jill Harris. Her one uncle is Jamie Harris. A few of her cousins are Jessica and Heath (Bubba) Barkley; Josh Rogers; Amanda, Daniel, Chris Dyer. Melody has one half brother named Joseph Lee Gideon (now deceased).

Congratulations, again, Mel. I love you.

Love always, your daddy, Mike.

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Photo taken at the 50's Dance, sponsored by the North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Volunteer Fire Dept. in Mentone, and held at the Promenade Hall in Valley Head on December 9th, Photo provided by Kim Worthey



Some Remembrances

Just the other day, Sue and I were on our way from Huntsville to Marianna, Florida (in a rental car), to get our car out of the carpal. It had fallen ill along the highway a few miles south of Marianna; it was suffering from a severe case of "lack-o-power," and was belching white smoke from its nether region. The tow truck driver looked under the car and pronounced, "A blown front seal on the transmission." I had visions of a "trany" transplant because of internal damage, but the skilled surgeon at the Ford agency saved it from some new parts. However, it took five days to accomplish.

Anyway, that episode just sets the stage as to why we were on our way from Huntsville to Marianna in a rental car and is not the real story. (Maybe in a few years I can look back and see something amusing about that, and write about it, but not now, however.) Because we had started this journey late in the day, we found ourselves in Montgomery about 8:30 or 9:00 p.m. in search of a motel to spend the night. The night clerk at the Hampton Inn explained that there was a convention or legislative meeting, and so rooms were hard to find. After several telephone calls to try to find us a room, she had run out of ideas. I suggested that she try Governors House on South Boulevard. She did, and we had a place to spend the night.

On our way to the motel, Sue, like any good inquisitive, suspicious wife, wanted to know how come I knew about Governors House. Well, that explanation involved a long story concerning an adventure that occurred about 30 years ago, in my wild youth.

Back in the mid-60s, I had a very good friend (actually, he is still a very good friend) with whom I worked, and who wanted to get into amateur auto racing. This friend, whose name is also Bill, had a 1958 Porsche 356 Speedster, a convertible. With its top taken off (an easy job in those days), it looked for all the world like a traveling bath tub; and, so, in the racing community it was known as a "bath tub" Porsche. It was a very popular car for racing in events sanctioned by the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA). Bill asked me to be his pit crew, which meant traveling to races, helping with repair and tuning the car, and general support during the time we were at a race. It was a most exciting and pleasurable period in my life...met lots of interesting people and had some wonderful, if not exhausting, weekends. I just thoroughly enjoyed those few years!

There was a chapter of SCCA in Montgomery, and for a few years, that chapter organized and conducted an annual race on the streets of an industrial section of Montgomery. Somehow, they got the city to close off a short section of two streets, and the industry in the area to empty out their parking lots. It was an interesting concept for a race, but Bill didn't care for the course, so we went only once.

It was and, I guess, still is, the custom for the organizing chapter to have a motel as "race headquarters"—a place for the drivers, crews, and race officials to stay, register for the race, and, most of all, a place to have the Saturday night party. Governors House Motel was race headquarters for this event.

Races were always held on the weekends with practice and some short races on Saturday, and the big long races on Sunday. Saturday night, however, was the highlight of the weekend's social aspect. Because the drivers and crews had to be alert and coordinated for the Sunday races, there was very little drinking that went on during the party.

At this time, there was a very distinguished gentleman from Winchester, Tenn., who was racing in a very competitive class. This man and his wife were in their late 50s or early 60s and were well educated and well off. Everyone knew Harvey T. and his wife who was known just as Ma. She always accompanied Harvey and was his pit crew for the races. (Harvey had his race car professionally maintained, however.) The couple

was well liked and were very congenial folks. "Ma" led an exceedingly active life, and had just returned from mountain climbing in Tibet.

During Saturday's practice sessions and races, almost everyone had noticed a big, brash, loud, and exceptionally dirty and loutish crewman. He had really gone out of his way to be a nuisance round the racing pits and paddock area. At the Saturday night party (held outside around the pool), he showed up in his grimy, greasy crew clothes. Now, don't get me wrong, we were all dirty and greasy in the pits and paddock; but, for the party, all but him were showered and well dressed. Ma T. always fashionably dressed at the party (although, she dressed like the rest of us in the pits), and she observed this character standing at the pool. I had just walked up to Ma to talk about her mountain climbing when she excused herself and moved over to "Mr. Obnoxious" and struck up a conversation. During that talk, she admired his watch and asked if she could see it, saying she had never seen one exactly like it. He removed the watch and handed it to her. As she accepted the watch, she placed her other hand on his chest and pushed him backward into the pool with the comment, "You need a bath." All who saw this little side play applauded vigorously. When Mr. O climbed out of the pool, he was red with anger, but the applause was still going on. Ma T. handed him his watch, smiled, and walked off.

That was the last time I saw Mr. O. Whatever point he was trying to make by his behavior was totally lost on the assembled group, and he dropped out of the picture.

So, now all of you gentle readers know how I happened to remember the Governors House Motel on South Boulevard in Montgomery. The connection between cars, car trouble, travel, and the need for a motel in Montgomery, brought it all back. Thanks for your time, folks, see you next month.

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Edward Jones

The Recipe Corner

By
SUE SCHWARZ

Hello again from Huntsville. We have recently returned from a nice two weeks with our daughter and grandchildren. Aside from the fact that it was warm and the campground had a heated pool, Grandma learned a new trick or two from granddaughter Rachel. She cooked chicken and dumplings for us, and it was delicious. She has given me permission to share with you. So, here is Rachel Hamilton's Chicken & Dumplings.

Chicken and Dumplings - serves 6
2 10 oz cans cream of chicken soup
4 soup canfuls of water
3-4 pounds of chicken pieces
2 C sliced carrots
1 medium onion (chopped)
1 stalk celery (chopped)
1 C frozen peas

Mix soup and water in large cooking pot. Add chicken, carrots, celery, and cook for 45 minutes. Remove chicken from pot and allow to cool. Remove skin and bones and cut chicken into bite size pieces and return to soup pot along with peas and pepper to taste. Allow chicken mixture to return to boil.

Dumplings
2 C Bisquick original baking mix
2/3 C milk

Stir until soft dough forms and drop by spoonfuls into boiling mixture. Turn heat down to medium and cook uncovered for 10 minutes. Cover tightly and cook for 10 more minutes. Careful timing of the cooking of dumplings is crucial to good results. If you have a favorite dumpling recipe, it can be used, but the baking mix ones are very good, convenient, and easy. And those of you who know me know how I love that.



Mentone Springs Hotel
Bed & Breakfast
(formerly Ye Ole Heritage House, A Bed & Breakfast)

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Bed & Breakfast opening Friday, April 5, 1996, under new management.

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CONTACT BARBARA TURNER 845-4406

UGF SPOTLIGHT CHOCOLOCCO COUNCIL BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

The Choccolocco Council Boy Scouts of America was incorporated in 1920 and is made up of eleven counties in Northeast Alabama. The Council provides for community organizations a program that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for boys 6-15 years old and for young men and women ages 15 to 21 years old.

There are three different programs determined by age. Cub Scouting, ages 6-10, Boy Scouting, ages 11-15, and Exploring, for young men and women 15-21 years old. Approximately 18% of the available youth in Northeast Alabama are being served with one of these programs.

Scouting builds strong values and honors the home, school, and church or synagogue as the origins of our youths' values.

Scouting's goal is to nurture and extend these values by emphasizing the Scout Oath and Law.

Scouting is the largest youth organization here in DeKalb County with over 1,000 youth and adult volunteers involved in the program. Youth in the county are encouraged to join Scouting in their communities through flyers, advertising and other incentive programs. Gene Wright of Rainville is the District Executive for the Sequoyah District of which DeKalb County is a part.

The Choccolocco Council owns and operates Camp Scout Reservation which is rated as one of the top 20 Boy Scout Camps in the nation. Camp Corner is located on Lookout Mountain near Mentone. Local scouts plus scouts from across the south attend the Camp each year. This brings several thousand people into the area which has a positive economic impact on the area.

Camp Corner boasts the largest rope course in the State of Alabama. Called COPE, for "Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience", the rope course provides an opportunity for every participant to achieve success as an individual by building confidence, developing leadership, and inspiring cooperation among team members.

Explorer Posts are now registering to participate in the Explorer COPE Weekend scheduled for April 12-14 at Camp Corner. Another exciting event now being planned is the Fall Scout-O-Rama to be held at the Talladega Speedway. It is expected that this event will attract over 10,000 scouts.

Local scouts will have an opportunity to represent the Boy Scouts of America at the 1997 National Scout Jamboree set for July 29-August 5, 1997 in Fort A.P. Hall, Virginia. Local BSA councils will have application forms and additional information on the National Scout Jamboree.

The Choccolocco Council Boy Scouts of America is one of 14 agencies funded by United Givers Fund of DeKalb County, Inc.

Pre-registration for Kindergarten and First Grade

Pre-registration for Kindergarten and First Grade students will be conducted in all DeKalb County schools on Wednesday, April 10 between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon. This registration is for all Kindergarten and/or First Graders who have not previously been enrolled in a DeKalb County School.

Kindergarten students must be five years of age on or before September 2 and First Graders must be six on or before September 2.

Birth Certificates are required for enrollment. Other records are not acceptable but may be used to obtain a Birth Certificate. Applications may be obtained from the County Health Department. The immunization/health records (blue slip) will be needed prior to the opening date of school, August 14.

All students are required to have a Social Security number in keeping with state regulations. Parents are advised to begin the process of obtaining all necessary records for the 96-97 term.

The Health Department will give the measles vaccination for students entering the Sixth Grade as well as those entering Kindergarten and First Grade for the first time.

Registration for Moon Lake Head Start Program

Date: April 10, 1996

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Where: Moon Lake Elementary School,
Mentone, Alabama

Phone: 638-4161 or 634-4113

Requirements for Registration:

1. Proof of Income
2. Blue Slip (immunization/health records)
3. Birth Certificate
4. Social Security Card for all family members
5. Medicaid Card

We accept children without regard to race, color, national origin, or handicap in accordance with Title VI of the civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990.

NOTE: We cannot register your child without all required documents!!

This program is for 3 and 4 year olds.

MAKE-UP DAYS

The make-up schedule approved by the DeKalb County School Board of Education meeting Feb. 22: Monday, April 8, Monday, May 6 (already built into calendar); Monday-Friday, May 27-31. May 31 will be the last day for students. Saturday, June 1 will be a teacher workday.

Miss Spring Fantasy

Beauty Pageant

Saturday, April 20, 1996, 6:00 p.m.
at Valley Head School

Contestants ages birth thru kindergarten may live anywhere in DeKalb County.

1st Grade thru 12th Grade must attend Valley Head School or Moon Lake School.

Applications may be picked up at the school.

JR. BETA CLUB STATE CONVENTION

Seventeen members of the Valley Head Jr. Beta Club and their sponsors, Mrs. Kelley Madden and Ms. Rhonda Downer, attended the annual Jr. Beta Club State Convention in Montgomery on March 7-8, 1996. During the two day convention, members attended the general sessions, listened to campaign speeches and voted to select new state officers, enjoyed great statewide talent in the annual talent competition, and competed against other clubs in the scrapbook contest. The Valley Head scrapbook placed fourth in the state - a nice job for the first year to enter the competition!

Members also enjoyed meeting and socializing with Jr. Betas from other schools, both at the convention and at the local mall, where members shopped, ate, and ice skated. The trip to the convention was an enjoyable success, and the club hopes to attend next year. Members attending were: Eric Banks, Ashley Blalock, Tabitha Binsendine, Shelly Brown, Shalee Carden, Valerie Chappell, Emily Collins, Toby Corder, Virginia Hatfield, Shelly Ingram, Shelia McKinney, Laura Martin, Becky Mays, Laura Puller, Adriane Robertson, Derek Talley, and Leanne Wooten.

All club members would like to thank the Valley Head and Mentone communities for supporting the fund raisers that made this trip possible.

March 17, 1996

Dear Bobby

It's hard to believe it has been a whole year
We miss you so much and wish you were still here
We know there's a reason God took you away,
But we miss you more each and every day
There will never be another friend like you,
Who was always there and forever true
You are someone we can never forget
And we will always cherish the day we first met
It's hard not to be sad when we think about you,
When we remember the silly things you'd say and you'd do,
Now you are able to stand up and to walk,
And you can now meet with Jesus to just sit and talk.
We wish your great smile, your eyes and your touch,
We miss YOU Dear Bobby, we miss you so much
We think of you often and want you to know,
We will NEVER forget you and we still love you so

--Love, Lisa, Beth, and Mary

(written by Lisa Moore, Beth Moore, and Mary Pearson)

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for your recent induction into the National Honor Society at Fort Payne High School
Parents are Raymond and Becky Blalock
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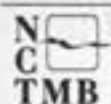
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Nicky Langston and Tina Baine

were united in Holy Matrimony on March 23, 1996. Tina is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Baine of Ft. Payne. The bride is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Brooks of Adamsburg, and the late Clarence Patterson and the late Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. Baine. She is a senior at Ft. Payne High School and employed at Premium Hosiery in Ft. Payne. Nicky is the son of Alfred and Eddie Langston of Mentone. His grandparents are Mrs. Nell Kent of Mentone, and the late H.E. Reed, Mrs. Louvinia Langston and the late Roy Lee Langston of Mentone. Nicky is a 1995 graduate of Valley Head H.S. He is employed at Ancro Specialties in Ft. Payne. His sister is Ashley Langston.



The Cloudland Rescue Squad Presents 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Meet the Easter Bunny

When: April 6, 1996 at 1:00 pm
Where: The Lookout Restaurant
Who: Everyone is invited
Children will be divided into age Groups
Prizes will be awarded
Within each age group
Come One Come All

Refreshments will be served



"People
Helping
People"



The Menlo News

BY OVIE "BO"
BLALOCK

•David Luther will seek the post of Chattooga County Tax Commissioner in the upcoming Democratic primary in July. Luther, a 1979, graduate of Chattooga High School, entered the hardware business in Menlo in 1980. In 1990, he sold his interest to partner, Eddie Massey. He and his wife, Pattie have two sons, Casy, 10 and Colby, four.

•Menlo resident, Mike Sellers, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sellers, has been named to the Cadet Corps Advisory Committee at North Georgia, Dahlonega. His committee will work directly with the president of NGC, Dr. Delmas Allen. Congratulations to a fine young man!

•Chattooga County jail inmates' meals will still be prepared by Maxwell's Restaurant. The bid price of \$7.50 per day per inmate is the same as the previous contract.

•Kimberly Lynn Bowman and William David Cavin were married March 12. Both are employed by Best Manufacturing and live in Chesterfield.

•Applications for any Chattooga County or Trion High School seniors are available for two Summerville-Trion Optimist Club scholarships. The \$500 scholarships will be awarded to one Chattooga and one Trion student. Applications can be obtained at the guidance office of Dennis Trosclair at THS and Dolly Rosato at CHS. They must be picked up by April 14 and returned to the offices by April 19. The awards will be given at the awards day program at the two schools.

Deepest sympathy to the families of:

- Mamie Horton, 85, who died March 1, 1996.
- Roy Lowery, 86, who died March 18, 1996.
- Orbin Hartline, 69, who died March 19, 1996.

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The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

"Spring is here when a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love" (Excuse me, but I do not know of whom I am quoting, but it sounds good and it is an ancient saying.)
(Editor's note: Lord Alfred Tennyson, *Locksley Hall*)

Spring is here when Jimmy and Lynette return to their mountain home; George and Hope Walker are back at stone-henge; Bubba and Martha Dunson are sprucing up their home on the river for summer use; the robins have appeared in numbers; the doves are calling in soft tones; the sun is warm but the wind is still chilly.

Spring is here when daffodils brave the cold wind, and even snow this year, to brighten the landscape with their blooms. Some of mine look like hot water had been poured on them but the others are lovely.

Spring has a lilting sound, especially pleasant after a long winter, but we homemakers know it has arrived when we have to do spring cleaning and uncover dust lying dormant in a corner of a room where we failed to observe it during darker days.

Spring is here when dear friends return to the mountain full of joy because of being able to return to the place they love. Spring is here when you see Tony Goggans strolling around Mentone visiting all his old friends.

Spring has arrived when we can open the windows on sunny days to let the breeze blow through and give the house a clean fresh smell, and removing the stale air that has been closed in and heated all winter long - Housitosis!

Spring has arrived when we are in the Easter season - when things seem to be resurrected from dormancy. It's a miracle of life that springs eternal. This gives me hope of the glorious resurrection from the dead and of life hereafter.

Spring is here when we prune our shrubs and trees and watch for new leaves to burst open with a bright new foliage. The fresh new leaves, as observed on the mountain side is wonderful. Every shade, hue, and tint of green is seen.

Spring is here when Talmadge Butler and his crew of workers start cleaning up trash from Little River Canyon. When M.A.P.A., under Sherman Gough's supervision, picks up the trash on Hwy 117 where we have adopted one mile to try to keep clean. I wish spring would encourage those "trashy" people to observe what a mess they have made and help us keep the roadside clean so that we might enjoy our scenic beauty better.

Spring is here when we get the urge to dig in the soil, plant new seed and hope for a good season of moisture and sunshine to cause them to flourish.

Spring has arrived when our hearts are warmed by a movement of life that is intangible and yet it stirs us to be creative. We always want to clean up, spruce up our surroundings and ourselves. Ladies used to work hard to get new dresses and spring bonnets for Easter - a true herald of spring.

Spring has come to the Hitching Post with the building of a new kitchen for the tea room that we anticipate opening soon - probably May 1st. Joe Hines and Terrance McCabe have worked faithfully, even on cold days. They are cooperating carefully with the health department and are also doing an excellent job of construction. We look forward to the time when we can sit and enjoy a cup of gourmet tea with goodies in the afternoon - like the old English custom.

Spring is here when our appetites do strange thing to us - we long for greens, lighter foods and, hopefully for me, a little less of all foods.

Spring is here when school children have Spring break during AEA it's good and healthy for them to rest their minds for a few days. Spring has arrived when we start working and planning for the Rhododendron Festival. Those who have never helped with a festival do not realize how many hours of

planning and sorting, writing letters, getting signs repainted, taking numerous phone calls, and getting general arrangements made. It's work!! But it is worth all the long hours spent when we see people having a good time and enjoying the fruits of our labor.

Spring means sending applications to the area schools for contestants for the Rhododendron Queen Beauty Pageant that will be held on Saturday night May 11th - one week before the festival. This year, the winner will receive \$100.00 Plus a full two year scholarship at Northeast Jr. College.

Spring has come when can put into action all those things we dreamed about during the long winter days. It's time to come out of hibernation.

Our first day of spring this year brought us snow, but it was beautiful fluffy stuff and didn't last long.

We know Spring is here when Ed Jones and L.M. Flannigan head up the wagon train for a nostalgic trip to Montgomery. Wagons Ho!!

More could be said such as digging worms for fishing, but the sun is shining and my feet are itching to get outside and walk to the tune of a spring rhythm.

Happy Easter everyone.

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The Church News

By
EVELYN GRAVES



On April 6, at 1 PM, the **Mentone Wesleyan Church** is sponsoring a community-wide Easter egg hunt. All community children are invited. It will be at the home of David and Rachel Lee. For directions, please call 634-4210. On April 7, there will be a special Easter service with special music, communion, and an Easter message at 11 AM. On April 28, in both the 11 AM and the 6 PM services, there will be a special speaker, Dr. Jimmy Johnson, District Superintendent. The prayer series was finished on March 31, and was an exciting time. The drama went well, and everyone enjoyed it.

Moon Lake Baptist Church is happy to welcome the return of Brad Van Cleave who has come on the field as of March 24 and is working as Minister of Youth and Children. On Easter Sunday, Children's Church will begin for Kindergarten through sixth grades. There will be an Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 6, at 3 PM at the church. Each child should bring three eggs to the hunt. There will be two services on Sunday morning. The first one is 8:30 - 9:30 for the worship service, with Sunday School from 9:45 to 10:45. The second worship service will be from 11 to 12 noon. There will be no evening service on Easter Sunday. There will be a fellowship supper on Wednesday, April 10, at 6 PM. A business meeting will follow at 7 PM. The Wednesday schedule beginning April 17 will be 6:30 PM. Reverend Russell, pastor, will be preaching a revival at Temple Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa April 28-May 1. The pastor is Steve Traylor, who is a native of DeKalb County. J.O.Y. will be meeting on Thursday, April 25. There will be a memorial service for Sheldon Cox on April 13, at 3 PM, at the church.

The **Intercessors of St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church** meet on Tuesday evenings at 7 PM. The men's prayer group meets at 6:30 AM at Little River Hardware Store. Communion is at noon on Wednesday at the church.

On Saturday, April 6, the **Mentone Church of God** will present a drama entitled, "The Cross and the Christian", at 7 PM. On Easter Sunday night, there will be a special Easter service with communion. On April 21, revival will begin which will extend through April 25, with Evangelist Freddie Edwards. There will be special singing nightly. On Saturday, April 6, at 2 o'clock, there will be an Easter egg hunt for the children.

The **Valley Head Baptist Church** will participate in the Easter Sunrise service at 7 AM at the Lee Crow property at Mentone. On Tuesday, April 9, WMU will meet and provide hospitality bags for the people passing through town to the Olympics. Their quota is 200 bags. On April 13, there will be a Brotherhood breakfast at 8 AM at the church, and at 9 AM, there will be a church-wide trash pick-up for the Adopted Mile. On April 14, there will be three baptisms - Ashley Owens, Bob Forlano, and Peyton Bentley. On April 28, the fourth Sunday hymn sing will be held at 6 PM. Everyone is invited.

There will be an Easter service at **Valley Head United Methodist Church** on Sunday, April 7. Lilies will be placed in the sanctuary in memory of loved ones. Communion will be observed. The UMW will meet with Adelaide Biddle on April 30. Venna Livingston has the program. Sunday School is at 9 AM and worship is at 10 AM.

Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church invites you to worship on Sunday at 9 AM. Reverend Jerry Davis and Reverend L. A. Smith are the speakers on alternate Sundays.

Howard's Chapel, "The Church in the Rock", near DeSoto State Park, welcomes everyone to worship with them

each Sunday at 10 AM. Visitors are always welcome. Dress is casual. Vacation outfits will be fine. Visitors to this area who will not be able to attend a worship service on Sunday are welcome to visit the chapel at any time. The doors, like God's arms, are always open.

The **Union Hill Baptist Church** choir will be singing at the Sunrise service at DeSoto State Park on Easter-Sunday morning at 7 o'clock. There will be a special Easter service at the church on Easter Sunday, April 7, at 11 AM. There will be special music by the choir and also by the youth choir. New Member Orientation classes will be taught beginning April 14 and each Sunday evening thereafter at 6 PM for 13 weeks. The extension to the fellowship hall is coming along nicely and should be completed soon.

The **Mentone United Methodist Church** will have an Easter egg hunt and party at the church. Everyone is welcome! Bring your basket and eggs. Snacks will be served. Easter lilies are being placed in the Sanctuary Easter morning in honor of or in memory of loved ones. On Thursday, April 4, UMW met to prepare Easter baskets for shut-ins. There were 20 baskets delivered to 24 people. The members enjoyed visiting those to whom the baskets were delivered. The May UMW meeting has been changed with the June program. UMW will meet on May 9, at 2:00 p.m., at the fellowship hall. Catherine Bailey has the program, "All Are God's Children," and Pat Seymour is the hostess. The Administrative Board will meet in the fellowship hall Sunday, April 14, at 3 p.m.

In case you are curious about the lights and vehicles at the **Church of God of Prophecy** during recent days and nights, several people have been involved in the renovation of the church. Harold and Bobbie Broyles, Charles Flannigan, Ruby Brock, Lucille Crowe, Dave Vest, Donna Brock, Joel and Sue King, Donny King, Barbara Womack, Yvonne Brock, Margie Coots, Sherman Goss, Allen Bell, and several others have been assisting the contractors working long hours during the renovation. Many others have contributed. Donations are still welcome. The church is planning a Golf Tournament which will be announced next month. Proceeds will be applied to the renovation project. Charles Flannigan and the Sunday School Department are planning "High Attendance Sunday" and other Easter activities. The annual Easter Egg Hunt at the church is certain. Other special activities are planned. Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with us. Everyone is invited.

52 members of the **Mentone Revival Center** congregation went to the Tennessee Aquarium (8 car loads) on March 30. Vickie Davis and Angie Bagly made all the bag lunches for the group. April 10, 11, 12, Billy Grahams (Youth Pastor) will be preaching at 6:30 p.m. on the 10th and 11th, and at 8:30 on the 12th, a lock-in night. As a fundraiser for the church building fund, everyone is asked to donate or save aluminum cans and put them in garbage bags and bring them to the church office. Miles will take them to his workplace and sell them for the church. Easter Sunday will be Bro. Martin Williamson's last day as pastor at the Mentone Revival Center. Junior Fleming has been ordained as the new pastor.

North DeKalb Ministerial Association

The **North DeKalb Ministerial Association** will be conducting the annual Easter sunrise service at the Lee Crow property on Sunday, April, at 7 a.m. Remember the time changes. Everyone is invited to attend.

J.O.Y.

The **Just Older Youth** will meet on Thursday, April 25, at the Moon Lake Baptist Church at 11:30 a.m. Bring a friend and a covered dish and enjoy the fellowship and fun. This is a non-denominational community-wide organization, and everyone is welcome.

Valley Head Woman's Club

By Evelyn Graves

The Valley Head Woman's Club met at Woodhaven, home of Judith Lollik-Andersen, for the monthly meeting on March 20. Maurine Donahue, Vice President, presided in the absence of the President, Dot Blackburn. Jean Jones gave a beautiful devotional from Psalm 103 and Matthew 8, about Jesus' healing in his role as The Great Physician.

Evelyn Graves introduced the guest speaker, Dr. R. A. Igou, Jr., who gave a most interesting talk on Medicine Trends. He brought various objects for examination by the group that were used in the past and told about procedures employed in the past to treat various diseases. He related some experiences he had as a young doctor making house calls, and he was privileged to witness the first shot of penicillin given to a patient at Emory University Hospital. He is excited about genetic studies that are being made that will influence to a large degree patients' medical outlook for the future. The findings will help in the treatment and control of many diseases and medical problems. The future in medicine is full of hope and optimism. Dr. Igou related some medical truths to biblical truths that were fascinating, especially as he was able to diagnose the medical problems of Bible characters by the symptoms revealed in the scriptures.

There was a good time of fellowship with Dr. Igou following the meeting as delicious refreshments were served by hostesses Mary Holleman, Velma Hammond, Flo Kirby, and Judith Lollik-Andersen.

MOON LAKE SCHOOL NEWS

By Evelyn Graves

Pre-registration for Kindergarten and First Grade will be held on April 10, from 9 AM to 12 noon, and pre-registration for Head Start will be from 8 AM to 3 PM on the same date at the school. On Saturday, April 27, the Spring Fest will be held at the school. (See flyer elsewhere.)

There will be a piano recital of Mrs. Mary Clark's students on April 25, at 1:30 PM in the school gym. Everyone is invited for this event. The Athletic Club recently hosted two sports banquets, one for the third and fourth grades at Pizza Hut, and one for the fifth and sixth grade basketball team at Best Western. At both events, the players were honored with trophies, and the coaches for both basketball teams, Donny King and Dudley Easler, and the cheerleader sponsor, Becky Easler, were recognized for their successful work with the students. At the Best Western event for the fifth and sixth grade teams, Charles Bell spoke about the history of sports at Moon Lake.

April Showers

(This seasonal article and others to follow are from a scrap book belonging to long-time Mentone resident Mary Weigand. The large scrapbook of her favorite seasonal articles by various authors was found recently in a storage chest at "Madaperca" by Don & Yvonne Brock.)

A cloud. A dash of rain. Then a blue sky, and sunshine that makes each drop of rain that hangs suspended on a budding twig glisten like a bright jewel. The earth seems so grateful that in the warmth that follows, the grass grows green again. A crocus lifts a purple spear. Forsythia hangs bells. Gay cowslips border rushing brooks. And willow branches shake out in the breeze their delicate green leaves.

So April touches hillsides and bids the gardens wake, while robins sing their glad refrain of sunshine after rain.



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RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL



SATURDAY & SUNDAY

MAY 18th & 19th, 1996

NO ADMISSION CHARGE

Mentone, Alabama - On Lookout Mountain Parkway

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View Rhododendrons From River Boat Rides at DeSoto Falls

Tickets \$2.50 ea.

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***Parade on Saturday, May 18th at 2:00 PM**

***Clogging--Quilting--Arts & Crafts**

***Rhododendron Queen Contest Saturday,**
May 11th at 8:00 PM at the Hitching Post

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Good Food = Ice Cream = Popcorn = Cotton Candy

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On Highway 117 S.; Exiting Off I-59, Exit 231
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God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

And they said one to another, did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? Luke 24:32

After seeing the empty tomb, two of the disciples on their way to Emmaus were too carried away in their own thoughts and doubts they didn't know Jesus when he joined them, after all the time he had walked with them and taught them the scriptures.

What about you? How well do you know the risen Savior? Would you know his voice as he opened to you the scripture? Think about it.

Happy Easter

AUCTION

Saturday: May 4, 1996, at 6:00 p.m.
in the Valley Head High School
Auditorium.
Sponsored by the
Valley Head Band Boosters.

SPRING FESTIVAL

APRIL 27, 1996

10 AM-2 PM

AT MOON LAKE SCHOOL

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FUN:
games, dunking
booth, puppet
show etc.



**TRADITIONAL
MAYPOLE
DANCE**

**All proceeds
benefit
playground
fund.**

50th Wedding Celebration

You are cordially invited to join with friends and family in celebrating the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Howard and Jo Carson on Sunday, the 21st of April 1996, from 2 until 4 in the afternoon. The celebration will be at Winston Place, Valley Head Alabama

4TH ANNUAL

WILDFLOWER SATURDAY

MAY 4 & MAY 11, 1996

DESOTO STATE PARK NATURE CENTER

PROGRAM EVENTS

8:30 AM - ORIENTATION

**9:00 AM TO 11:00 AM - GUIDED
WILDFLOWER HIKE**

11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM - LUNCH BREAK

Lunch Served At the Lodge or Bring a Back Lunch

**1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM - GUIDED
WILDFLOWER HIKE**

FIELD TRIP LEADERS

Paul Franklin - May 4 - Audubon Society, Photographer
Linda Reynolds - May 4 - Naturalist, Guntersville
State Park - Herbs and Wildflowers
Dick Reynolds - May 4 - Naturalist - Dendrology, Wildflowers
Dot Threlkeld - May 11 - Huntsville Wildflower
Society - Wildflower Identification
Bill Threlkeld - May 11 - Huntsville Wildflower
Society - Wildflowers, Dendrology
Ken Thomas - May 4 & 11 - Ranger, DeSoto State Park -
Wildflower Identification