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Volume 23, No. 4

"Neighborly" News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain

April 2005

FORT PAYNE OPTIMIST CLUB ORATORICAL CONTEST WINNERS AND PRESENTATION OF THE DR. PAT SEYMOUR MEMORIAL AWARD



L/R: Brenda Bartley, Optimist Club President, Devin Kennamer, 1st place winner of the boys' division, (home schooled son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kennamer, Mr. Kennamer is Adult Education and Training Coordinator at Northeast Alabama Community College); Carrie Keef, 1st place winner in the girls' division (Ruhama), and winner of the Dr. Pat Seymour Memorial Award; Jana McAbee, 2nd place (Fyffe), Nichole Moreno, 3rd place (Plainview), and Charlotte Gentry, Oratorical Contest Chairperson and moderator.

By Marie S. Dillenbeck

The Optimist Club of Fort Payne held its annual Oratorical Contest at the DeKalb Theatre. Participants represented several county schools, as well as one home school. The Optimist Club sponsors the oratorical competition for young people ages 15 and under. This year's topic was "My Hero Is...." The first place winners will go on to compete at the Zone Level in Guntersville.

The Optimist Club goal and motto is "Bringing Out the Best in Youth" and their endeavors are geared toward youth-oriented projects and accomplishments. The club members are actively involved and support Sheriff Cecil Reed and Ft. Payne Police Chief David Walker in the D.A.R.E. Program and will

participate in the D.A.R.E. graduation at the DeKalb County Coliseum in Rainsville on April 26. It is an awesome pleasure to be exposed to the incredible ethics and honor among our young people.

Laura Stone said that "Since the death of Dr. Pat Seymour in October 1996, the Fort Payne Optimist Club has had an additional award, which began with the 1997 competition, for the best presentation from a first time participant. This is called the Dr. Pat Seymour Memorial Award." Dr. Pat Seymour was involved in the oratorical competition for several years before her death. She spent her career motivating others, whether it was in the classroom at Andalusia, the University of Alabama, or in the many speaking venues she enjoyed.

Ray Stone commented that "Dr. Pat devoted a great deal of her time and resources in helping others, offering uplifting words to the discouraged, promoting food and clothing drives for the needy, and providing a spark of motivation for everyone whose path she crossed, both young and old. Mr. Stone said he remembers the interest Dr. Pat showed in the oratorical contest, and her participation helped put the children at ease prior to their presentations."

Mrs. Joan Keef said she understood that the Dr. Pat Seymour Memorial Award was established, in one aspect, to encourage first time speakers who showed potential. This was Carrie's first public speaking. Carrie is the 10-year-old daughter of Anthony and Teresa Keef of Lookout Mountain. She is in Mrs. Karyn Pickett's class at Ruhama. Her presentation that she made at the competition on March 5, can be found on page

Anyone interested in learning more about the Optimist Club is invited to visit at the regular meetings held at Western Sizzlin in Ft. Payne each 2nd and 4th Friday at 11:45 A.M.

(Continued to page 14.)

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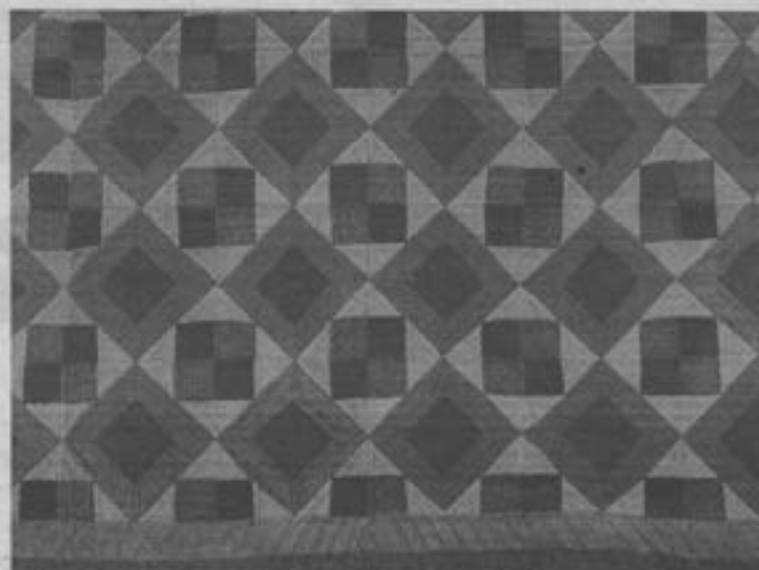


The next MAPA meeting will be on Tuesday, April 3, at 7PM at the Church of God of Prophecy Fellowship Hall. Visitors are always welcome.

TIME CHANGE

The time will change on Sunday, April 3.

Be prepared to set the clocks AHEAD one hour as Daylight Savings Time begins.



Quilt made by Maudell Tidwell from Dawson, AL. The colors of this beautiful quilt consist of tones of pink, gray black, tan, and blue. This quilt will be raffled off at the Rhododendron Festival on Sunday, May 1st at 4PM. Tickets are \$1.00 each and can be purchased at the festival or by contacting Homer or Bernise Crow at 256-634-4664. For those who receive The Groundhog in the mail, tickets will be mailed to you asking that you please support the festival and the efforts of MAPA by mailing in your donation for the tickets. The tickets must be in by Saturday, April 30, in order to be included in the drawing on Sunday, May 1, 2005. MAPA appreciates everyone's participation in the purchase of the tickets as the funds are used for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone area.



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MEETINGS FOR 2005**

APRIL 21

JULY 21

OCTOBER 25

**ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 5PM
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MEETING ROOM.**

Thank you from the Mentone Waterworks Department

Last week's water leak on Wednesday morning, Mar. 23, was caused by lightning strikes around 12:30 a.m. We replaced 280 feet of water pipe and appreciate the community's patience and perseverance as we worked to repair the damage.

Please remember when you are out of water to leave your personal faucets closed. Once we repair the line, we flush it and cleanse the sediment that gets into the line from the repair. If your lines are left open, this sediment can block up your meter and cause additional problems the next day when we are cleaning out those lines. When you notice that your water pressure has dropped, please remember that all faucets outside should be closed until water repairs are made and the lines flushed.

Feel free to call 634-9106 if you notice a drop in pressure or other problems with your water. Remember, we are always here to serve and to provide you with the best water that we can. Again, thank you for your patience and understanding.

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Mentone Wedding Chapel

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



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

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BENEFIT SINGING

Jonathan Rape, 19, was in a car wreck and is now confined to a wheelchair. He is required to have physical rehabilitation, and he has no insurance. There will be a benefit singing and cake auction for Jonathan on April 16, at 6:30pm (GA time), at the High Christian Community Church. The singers are Four Chords and a Cloud of Dust, Jerry Abbott, Masterworks, and others.

Everyone is invited to attend.

FORWARD, BACKWARD or WHAT?

By John Baty

Recently I had a little repair done to the car. When the assessment call came, they told me that a little of this had leaked on that and made both useless. And while they were at it, other damage done because a former service person had used an inferior tool, and caused still other problems, etc.

"Well," says I, "Just fix the little initial breakdown and we will all be happy." "It doesn't work like that, exactly," they said. "The malfunction is a component of a unit and we will have to replace the entire shee-bang!" I asked if they couldn't just fix the broke part. "No," was the answer.

Notwithstanding that we drive the best autos ever on this planet, there seems to exist an inverse correlation between an ascent of componentism and the descent of self-help. Some have even charged that some sort of conspiracy has hastened the demise of do-it-yourself. Throw away and replace is everywhere the word.

We can now sit in our den in a soft recliner, our feet up, the environment brought to optimal temperature and humidity, sipping drinks ready-made for us. Our big-screen bringing the world to us. We can let out bellies flop out and not be concerned about any malfunctions and shortages. Let the other man fix the problems; flash the plastic and recline some more.

From the self-sufficient pioneer and his hard role, to the life of 2005 ease, man has strode into sophistication. But what has it cost him? It has cost self-reliance, componentism, intent law, civil asset forfeiture, and many, many restrictions on individual choice. It has cost a stupendous array of "you can't do's."

You know, what is worse about marijuana and Jack Daniels than Jersey Butter? It cost us freedom man! Big time! Yes, I've got that "zipper" down the chest!

Yes, I've got that "zipper" down the chest!

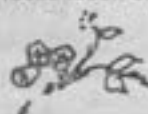
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Hummingbirds are very small birds who obtain the energy they need to maintain their astonishing metabolism from flower nectar and sugar water they find at feeders. Hummingbirds can consume up to 50% of their weight in sugar (nectar solution) each day. They actually lap up the nectar with their tongues. Some people believe that hummingbirds have a hollow tongue like a straw; however, their tongues have grooves on the sides that collect nectar. When the bill constricts, the hummingbird can swallow the nectar from flowers and feeders.

There are many imaginatively styled hummingbird feeders available. If your birds seem to prefer one style feeder over another, it's probably a simple matter of familiarity. Any feeder can attract hummers, so perhaps the most important design feature to look for is ease of disassembly and cleaning. All hummingbird feeders purchased these days have red on them somewhere, but if you are in doubt that there is enough red, try tying a red ribbon on the feeder.

It's important to keep hummingbird feeders clean and filled with fresh solution. You can make your own nectar by using one part sugar to four parts water which you have boiled for two minutes. Excess nectar can be stored in the refrigerator for up to one week. Red food coloring is not needed, or recommended. Clean and refill feeders at least twice weekly in hot weather. Try hanging your feeder in a shady area to discourage bacteria and mold.

The flight of hummingbirds is amazing to watch. They can fly right, left, up, down, backwards, even upside down, and can even stop in mid-air. Hummingbirds are famous for their aerial display. It's now time to welcome these captivating creatures into our area. Enjoy watching your Hummingbirds this season.

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Book Signing

With the Author's Comments



The Board of the Moon Lake Elementary School Community Library in Mentone is sponsoring a Book Signing by Frank Chappell. The signing will be held in the Library from 11am until 12 noon, Saturday, April 9th, 2005. Frank will offer his comments on the book at 11:00 am.

"Dear Sister" Civil War letters to a sister in Alabama, is a collection of letters written during the Civil War by a group of brothers to their sister and parents in Union Springs, Alabama. Frank Chappell, the great-great grandson of Lucinda Caroline Hunter Branscomb, to whom many of the letters were written, has transcribed the letters, which were a surprise finding while cleaning out his grandfather's house. He researched the history of the brothers' army unit: The Third Alabama Infantry Regiment, Company D, and has incorporated some of its history around each of the 100 letters. The letters written by and to members of the Branscomb family of Union Springs, date from before the Civil War to near its end. The book presents insight into how life was during those trying years.

Frank Chappell was born and raised in Union Springs. He attended Georgia Tech and Auburn University, where he received a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is retired, having served with the Air force and as a civilian with the Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Huntsville.



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NO ROCKING CHAIR YET BOOK SIGNING

Jack Jones' has a new book, No Rocking Chair Yet, and he will be having a book signing on the porch of his new gallery, **Jack's Gallery, at 4238 AL Hwy 117 East, in Mentone**, April 28 through May 1st. He will also have his artwork on display and for sale in Booth No. 1 at the Rhododendron Festival during the weekend of April 30 and May 1 this year. At the book signing at **Jack's Gallery**, publisher David Carney, from Meridianville, will be here with Jack's new book, No Rocking Chair Yet. Come sit in the rockers on the porch of **Jack's Gallery**, at 4238 AL Hwy 117 East, in Mentone

Also, in **Jack's Gallery**, other artists will have the opportunity to display their art on special wooden easels.

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RECIPE CORNER

By Sue Schwarz

This month try a 'two-in-one' recipe. If you have tried to cook pot roast in a slow cooker and found it to be disappointing, then try this recipe. We cooked the roast and then made beef, barley and mushroom soup with the leftovers and both were hits at our house. Enjoy, and let me know what you think.

COUNTRY-STYLE POT ROAST WITH GRAVY

5-1/2 pound boneless beef chuck roast

Salt and Pepper

4 t vegetable oil

3 medium onions, chopped

1 large celery rib, chopped

4 medium carrots, chopped

6 cloves garlic, minced

1 C red wine

1 (28-ounce) can crushed tomatoes

2 C low-sodium chicken broth

1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes

3 bay leaves

1 t dried thyme

2 T chopped fresh parsley

Season roast with salt and pepper. Heat 2 t oil in skillet and brown roast thoroughly on all sides, and transfer to slow-cooker. Add red wine to empty skillet and simmer for 5 minutes. Add tomatoes and broth and bring to boil. Add pepper flakes, bay leaves and thyme and transfer to slow cooker. Cook until tender: 6-7 hours on high or 9-10 hours on low. Take meat from cooker and skim fat off top of broth and remove bay leaves. Puree liquid and solids in batches in blender or food processor. (Alternatively, use immersion blender and process until smooth.) Stir in parsley and season to taste. Slice meat and serve with gravy. Save leftover gravy and meat for soup. Serves 6.

BEEF BARLEY SOUP WITH MUSHROOMS

2 t vegetable oil

1 large carrot, chopped

10 ounces button mushrooms, sliced

6 C gravy from Country-Style Pot Roast

2 quarts water

2/3 C pearl barley

2 C shredded meat from

Country-Style Pot Roast

Salt and pepper to taste

Heat oil in large stockpot or Dutch oven and add carrot and mushrooms, stirring frequently until liquid that mushrooms release evaporates, about 4 minutes. Add gravy water and barley. Increase heat to high and bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, until barley is tender, about 45 minutes. Stir in shredded meat and season with salt and pepper. Serves 6-8.

Lookout Mountain Natural Healing: Yellow Root - Bitter Sweet

Yellow Root is a bitter tonic that gives sweet results to those willing to continue use after tasting the root. Yellow Root (*Xanthorrhiza simplicissima*) is well known among many natives of Lookout Mountain. It is a native plant that has helped many native people. Yellow Root is often described simply as a tonic because of the many uses from which people have received relief. Yellow Root is one of the herbs that I would put in the category of miraculous, in which you may detect substantial improvement after only a few uses. Yellow Root grows along the edge of rivers and streams. What a glorious feeling it is every time I walk along the banks of the Little River and bear witness to the abundance of the small 1 to 3 foot tall shrub. I am grateful that Yellow Root has not been over harvested and become endangered like Golden Seal—*Hydrastis Canadensis* (which also bears the common name of Yellow Root).

Yellow Root is a viable alternative to Golden Seal. Yellow Root and Golden seal contain the active compound berberine. To name a few of the benefits of the compound berberine, it has scientifically shown to be antibacterial, astringent, and anti-inflammatory. There has been very little scientific research done on Yellow Root. It is known by such herbalists as the late Tommie Bass and James Duke, Ph.D, though you will not find this herb listed in the Physicians Desk Reference to Herbal Medicines. Yellow Root is truly a folk herb and was used by the Native Americans.

Native Americans used the herb internally for colds, jaundice, sore mouth and throat, blood tonic, cramps and menstrual disorders according to Peterson's Field Guide Eastern/Central Medicinal Plants and Herbs. Peterson's Field Guide also states that the American Indians used the root externally for cancer and piles.

Tommie Bass received a lot of his knowledge regarding Yellow Root from the American Indians. It would be difficult to discuss Yellow Root without mentioning Tommie. He was an avid believer in the benefits of using Yellow Root. Tommie's testimonies to the countless people that Yellow Root helped during his life are documented in several different books. One of the main uses he recommended the root was in the case of stomach ulcers & disorders. Darryl Patton recounts in his book Mountain Medicine that the FDA actually came out to Tommie's modest dwelling in Leesburg, AL, and told him he had to quit making claims that Yellow Root would cure stomach ulcers and help cure cancer. Of course, Tommie did not quit helping people with the root; and, as cited above, the scientific evidence did finally surface to back up Tommie's claims. Patton's book cites many other uses for which Tommie would recommend Yellow Root, i.e., strengthening bleeding gums, toothache, skin disorders, mouth and canker sores, diabetes, liver and gallbladder cleanser.

Three other wonderful books—The Green Pharmacy, by James Duke, Ph.D; Trying to Give Ease and Herbal Medicine Past and Present by Crellin & Philpott of Duke University—further give testimonials by patients of Tommie Bass, Tommie's words, as well as scientific evidence supporting the claims Tommie made of Yellow Root being "good for what ails you." Tommie was a believer of Yellow Root for thrush (which is a fungal infection), lowering high

blood pressure, aiding to heal the liver, heartburn, digestion, as an eye wash in substitute for Eyebright, an ingredient in cough syrup and as a remedy to stop smoking. Tommie said chewing on a root twig would relieve the craving to smoke—which I must say that I feel is the least likely of the claims he made regarding Yellow Root to be true, but it is worth a shot.

I have used Yellow Root successfully for a bladder infection and for a cold. In both cases, after only two doses, I could tell a marked difference. By the end of the second day, I no longer had any of the symptoms in either case. I would like to note that when I used it for my cold, I noticed the signs of the cold approaching before they had the opportunity to develop any substantial mucous. I recently began using Yellow Root as a tonic for overall health about once a month and as a bitter for digestion as needed. I am quite satisfied with the results. I used the root as a hemostatic—to check bleeding—with less favorable results.

I would try Yellow Root for any of the above that I have mentioned. You will know the shrub by the unique way the leaves (which generally have five leaflets) grow only from the top of the plant with scars on the stalk beneath from the past year's growth. You can be sure you have found the plant if the stalk and root are yellow under the bark. One thing that I will ask of anyone reading this is, please, only take what you need of this precious herb should you harvest Yellow Root. It is not endangered now, though neither was Golden Seal. Ethical harvesting practices—particularly when you are harvesting a root—are to only take one plant for every ten that you see.

To make a decoction of the root, you can use either a large handful or a pint of cut up root to a half gallon of water. Boil the root for 20-30 minutes. You can save the decoction in the fridge; though, for canker and mouth sores, it is recommended to use it hot. For stomach ulcers, it is recommended to drink the root cold. I drink a wineglassful morning and night for general health; though, I up the dose to four times a day to treat an affliction. The root can also be used in tincture form, and in some cases, it is known to be even more effective in tincture form.

I will be hosting an intensive workshop May 14th & 15th, 2005, at the new Mountain Life Retreat just two miles from DeSoto State park, in which Yellow Root will be one of the many plants we discuss. Ginger Kogelschatz of Shinbone Valley Farm, and herbalist Patricia K. Howell, AHG, will be guest speakers/teachers at the workshop. If you would like any more information about the workshop, Yellow Root, other botanicals, or LCMoon Herbs, then you may contact me at (256)634-3333, LCMoon03@aol.com or www.MountainLifeMarket.com



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IT'S A GIRL!!



Sophia Ruth Blair

Hayley Woodard and Ian Blair announce the birth of their sister, Sophia Ruth Blair. She was born on February 4th, at Gaston Memorial Hospital, in Gastonia, NC. She weighed 9 lbs, 3 ozs, and was 21 inches long. Their parents are Jamie and Melanie Blair of Clover, SC. grandparents are Wally and Myrtle Meeks of LaFayette, David Wright of Mentone, and Roy and Marti Blair of Fairview, PA. Great grandparents are Willie B. Langston, Bill and Ann Wright, of Mentone and Henrietta Whaley of Oil City, PA.

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RECIPE CORNER

March 2005

By Sue Schwarz

March has come in like a lion and we are looking forward to spring and all of its treats. I love asparagus and hope you enjoy the recipes using it in this month's column. The first one is very easy and takes little effort. The second one is a close approximation to one I had at a wonderful little restaurant in Oregon when Bill's daughter and son-in-law lived in Portland. This recipe served with a nice green salad and good bread, makes a delightful meal. Enjoy and enjoy the blessings of your life and of the season.

OVEN ROASTED ASPARAGUS

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Wash and break the tough ends off of fresh asparagus. Put asparagus in a baking dish and drizzle with olive oil and season with salt and pepper to taste. Roast for 20 minutes. Asparagus should be tender, but still a bit crisp to bite. Before serving, sprinkle asparagus with some fresh lemon juice.

PASTA WITH ASPARAGUS, TOASTED BREADCRUMBS LEMON AND GARLIC

- 2 pounds asparagus
- 1/3 c plain breadcrumbs*
- 1/2 C olive oil
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 C minced fresh parsley leaves
- 1/4 C lemon juice
- 1 t salt
- 1 pound pasta - small spaghetti or vermicelli

Cook pasta according to package directions. While pasta is cooking, snap off the tough ends from asparagus spears. Cut the spears lengthwise and slice them into 1-inch pieces. Steam the asparagus until crisp-tender, about 2 minutes. Set the asparagus aside. Toast the breadcrumbs in a skillet, shaking the skillet to redistribute the crumbs, until golden brown, about 5 minutes. Set toasted breadcrumbs aside. Heat the oil in the empty skillet. Add the garlic and saute over medium heat until lightly colored, about 2 minutes. Stir in the parsley, lemon juice, and salt and cook for 30 seconds. Add the asparagus to the pan and mix well. Adjust seasonings if necessary. Drain the pasta, making sure that some water still clings to the noodles. Toss the hot pasta with the asparagus sauce and the toasted breadcrumbs. Mix well and transfer portions to warm pasta bowls. Serve immediately.

*The best breadcrumbs are made from stale bread. Crumble into coarse crumbs or pulse stale bread in the food processor.

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A Friendly— Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

It's a beautiful Spring day, today. The birds are happily singing, and flowers beautifully outdoing themselves in blooming and perfuming the atmosphere—Is anything sweeter than the perfume from an Easter Lily? Once more we were threatened with bad storms but were spared and given a day to attend church and consider our blessings!

Glad to hear **Dot Blackburn** is better. She is at Montclair Hospital in Birmingham with asthmatic bronchitis. She (as I) must get our stomachs to cooperate and like food, or at least accept it, and give us strength.

Doris Carmichael is recuperating at home, after having stenotic surgery at Brookwood Hospital in Birmingham. Glad to hear she is better.

Charlie Ingle had a rough time. He had knee surgery and took a virus and more virus—a month ago. His knee is better now. His wife, Lottie, fell in their yard and bruised herself. They have had nieces and nephews visiting them and Edith Cox took dinner to them last Saturday.

Edith and Alvin Cox have had visitors from Chatham, Ontario, Canada: Pete and Betty Wills spent several days and Frank and Jane Neill are visiting them this week. Their grandson, Michael Stack, is home for Spring Break from Auburn University, visiting them and mother, Susan Higginbotham, and Wade.

Capt. James Hulan is expected home this week for a few days from Fort Jackson, SC. His wife is teaching at Lawrenceburg and his children attending school there. He will join them and bring them to visit his parents, Norma and Danny Hulan.

Mozelle Crow is not well. She is feeling bad with an upper respiratory infection.

Millard McNutt is going to a doctor in Birmingham because of hip problems. I hope he and all others who are not well, will soon be completely well.

Christine Brooks and Ernestine Haney visited Patsy Duncan (who is disabled), and took sandwiches and ate lunch with her, March 24. They also visited Christine's stepmother, Catherine Bowen, at Crowne Health Center. March 25, Christine took Ethel Ferguson to Collinsville Nursing home to visit her sister, Madeline Chester.

Jonathan Dean came home from Fort Leonardwood, KY, and joined fifteen other family members at the home of his grandparents, John and Edith Dean, for that good Easter dinner.

Robert B. Brown came home during Easter week-end from Huntington College.

Howard and Jo Carson had twenty-four family members to enjoy Easter dinner with them.

Lance Corporal Mathew Pickett came from California to be with his parents, Lillian and Joe Pickett and grandparents, Ruth and Bert Pickett for

the holidays. His mother, Lillian, has been in the hospital in Chattanooga.

I hope all who are sick will completely recover and be able to enjoy this beautiful time and go places and do things according to their heart's desire!

A Story of Resurrection

This true story was given to Norman Vincent Peale by Inez Loudermilk, the wife of Dr. Walter G. Loudermilk. Many years ago, her husband found three yucca plants that had been uprooted and left by bulldozers along a new mountain road. He brought them to his rock garden in Berkeley, CA. Within a couple of years, two of the plants bloomed and did according to their normal life cycle. The other plant did nothing and seemed to be dead. Walter Loudermilk became an international authority on forestry and soil and water conservation, especially the useful distribution of the waters of the Jordan River and the Holy Land. He became ill forty-two years after the rescue of the uprooted Yucca plants. His life was ending. Soon after, a stalk appeared above the long dormant Yucca plant. It continued to grow as Walter's life passed away. Everyone watched as it grew almost a foot per day until it reached fifteen feet tall. On the day Walter died, it burst into magnificent branches covered with hundreds of small ivory bells. The beauty continued for a month.

What does this story say to us? We are here on earth a short time. God wants us to develop our talents and accept the plan for our life, that the resurrection message can reach the human heart in many selfless, constructive ways, and make the world a better, more beautiful place.

...Eloise Brown

Springtime Haiku

Butterflies flit by
Fluttering happy colors
Uttering mute songs.

The gentle Spring breeze
Likes to kiss, flirt and tease
Tender budding leaves.

Fish gaily leap high,
Ignorant of barbed danger
To snare them to die.

The puckered up sky
Is getting ready to cry—
Earth is dusty dry.

The bright Daffodils
Lift their golden cups to toast
Spring's beautiful thrills.

The Crocus raises
Her beautiful praying hands
And Heaven praises.

Forsythia glows
With arches in golden rows
Radiantly grows.

Hyacinths ring bells
Of lovely, clustered pastels
In the fragrant breeze.

Redbud lines her stems
With lovely amethyst gems
Adorning her limbs.

The queenly oak tree
Has put on her jewelry
For Spring's pageantry

Spring has sprung at last
She is greening and preening
And growing up fast!!

...Eloise Brown

Sylvester, The Solar Squirrel (News Item)

Sylvester, the solar squirrel,
Had a short, but high social whirl,
One hundred fifty mirrors bright
Focused heat from the sun ray's light—
On objects there to be tested—
Above their reflection nested—
Atop the ninety foot tower,
With solar energy power,
Sylvester did happily reign—
Strutting in vanity vain!
That squirrel really did have class—
Cheap fiber glass stuff he did pass—
Chose only the finest and best—
Sapphire insulation for his nest—
Radiation measuring wires
Seemed to satisfy his desires,
And many wires he ingested—
Alas, they could not be digested—
Sylvester fell dead in the grass,
China's Vice Premier Fang did pass—
Unaware of the fall of pride—
Observing all on the other side.
In burial's preparation,
Came a final revelation—
Sylvester--Sylvester must be—
Buried beneath a big oak tree—
A wooden marker does proclaim
Gratitude for transient fame—
"Thanks a lot, guys, signed Solar Squirrel,"
She had a high powerful whirl—
You can't deny she did have class—
From sapphire nest to grave did pass,
At foot of an energy tower
Where sun will generate power—
At Tech near Atlanta G-A-
Squirrels must be very careful today!

...Eloise Brown

Coins of Gold

My wealth in words cannot be told
My lawn is sprinkled with coins of gold.
they brighten and cheer up the scene
Nestled in setting of emerald green,
To hide down low, they're not content—
My wealth of gold will soon be spent,
They reach upward to the sun
It plucks the gold, its course is run,
It becomes a ball of fluff—
Like false riches and other stuff—
True to my life to taunt and tease—
As my riches are gone with the breeze.

...Eloise Brown

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The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

March gave us all the raw, damp, windy weather it could muster. But we didn't mind because we knew that spring would arrive at the end of the month.

We have been eagerly watching our bulbs and forsythia and enjoying their lovely bright blooms. It is resurrection time for all living things; it even gives my lazy bones a boost.

My cousin, Elizabeth King, drove up from Centreville, AL, and visited with us one weekend. She is a beautiful lady who always brightens our days when she visits. It happened to be a bright warm time and we just sat on the deck and took in the sunshine one afternoon while we talked over the problems of the world and spoke of our families, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She has a lovely family—two children, Beth and Jimmy, four grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. So, you see we had a lot to talk about. One of her grandsons, Matthew Downs, is a junior at the University of Alabama on a baseball scholarship. Lib never misses a game. Some of you might remember her husband, the late Kenneth King, who grew up around this area.

One evening while Lib was here, we invited Andy and Iva Lea for dinner and we had a good time. The next evening, we went to the Chinese restaurant in Ft. Payne, and then to Andy and Iva's cabin here in Mentone to watch a movie. These simple pleasures are hard to beat.

It's time for spring cleaning and we have a lot of it to do. I need some help!! My little playhouse (a room upstairs)—sorta like a child's tree house—is full of memorabilia but it desperately needs organizing. I bought a cabinet that I thought would contain all my picture albums, but is it bulging and does not hold half of them. Some of the books are half albums and half scrapbooks. I treasure each of them because they contain history of our family and friends. On a cold winter day, they bring a ray of sunshine to an otherwise gloomy day. Some snapshots are comic reminders and some are happy ones, some are sad.

I have a whole book of Jennifer's (our granddaughter) pictures, little notes that she wrote us, and some she wrote when she would spend the summer with us when she was small. These sometimes bring tears to my eyes, but others are happy ones when I can imagine that I can hear her laughing. We lost this beautiful granddaughter Dec. 7, 1993.

I love pictures of our great grandson, Alex Whatley, hunting Easter eggs when he was about 18 months old. The eggs were arranged so he could easily find them; and when he found one, he would put it in his little basket and say "mine". They used the right term when they said "Great Grandson" for he is "great." He is taking guitar lessons from Rachel Bryan now, and I am happy about that. Patty, Rachel's mother, says he

is coming along just great. He has wanted to play an instrument with his grandfather, Barry Crow, for a long time. Barry would play the piano or organ and Alex would try playing a harmonica. Most of our family are musical, either playing an instrument or singing. All four of our children played some kind of instrument in the school band. Coy is now playing bass guitar with a group that plays almost every Saturday night at Jackie Smith's. I don't know all of the players, but do know that Dale Kirby sings with them and he is great. I'm looking forward to hearing them play at the Rhododendron Festival which will be April 30–May 1, this year.

The wildflower Cafe sponsored music at the Hitching Post March 19. It was held upstairs where there is plenty of room and where many musicians played in the 30s, 40s, and 50s. We were very pleased that James and Patty Bryan arranged to have Norman and Nancy Blake from Rising Fawn, GA, to play with them and Rachel. What a performance!!!! (See photos in this issue.) About 150 attended this concert, and all of them seemed to enjoy the music and begged for more. I guess it would be typed as traditional folk type, which I love, not all country, not all bluegrass. (Norman did the music for the movie "O Brother Where Art Thou" and Coy took guitar lessons from him while he was in the 6th grade in Chattanooga.) We got so excited about the concert that we plan to have more, perhaps once a month—maybe the first Saturday night of each month, not to interfere with Glenda Hollis and Phil Faircloth's music on the lot of the Mentone Inn on the third weekend.

Our Rhododendron Festival is our main priority now. It will be earlier this year, and we don't have much time left to work on it. Homer works every day on some phase of it. We will be mailing tickets on a handmade quilt to members outside this area. We have some workers lined up to work Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1, but we need more. If you can help, please call Homer or Bernise at 634-4664. Let's hope the rhododendron bloom early again this year, as they have for the past three years. Joe Elrod says that the deer have eaten all the foliage off his rhododendron and mountain laurel. That is bad. The poor animals must have run out of their regular food before the forest budded. They have eaten my tulip plants down to the ground. That irritates me!

Easter came early this year, so perhaps spring will be early also, and we can open our doors and windows and let the breeze blow through.

Homer is recuperating and doing well. He sleeps a little more than usual and is not doing any lifting or heavy work. He enjoys the computer, but I have to remind him not to do that very long at a time. He minds me pretty well.

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L/R: Nancy Blake, James Bryan, Rachel Bryan and Norman Blake



L/R: Bernise Crow, Nancy Blake, James Bryan, Norman Blake and Homer Crow



L/R: Norman Blake, James Bryan and Rachel Bryan

GREGORYS CELEBRATE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Harold and Sarah Gregory

Harold and Sarah Gregory, Cloudland, GA, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Saturday, Feb. 19.

Harold Dudley Gregory, son of Allie and Hattie Mae Gregory, Mentone, Ala., married Sarah Ann Elizabeth Flarity, daughter of Cleveland and Lou Day Flarity, Cloudland, on Feb. 19, 1945. The Rev. Sam McCord performed the ceremony at his home in Cloudland a mile and a half from where the couple would reside for the next 60 years. At the time of their marriage, the groom, 21, was a member of the United States Navy, and the bride, 18, lived at home with her parents.

Harold Gregory is a veteran of the U.S. Navy, retired employee of Best Manufacturing Company, and operated his own upholstery business. Mrs. Sarah Gregory is a homemaker, seamstress, gardener, and assisted with the family business. Their love blossomed into a large loving family of four daughters: Wilma Gregory Whited, Betty Gregory Cook, Brenda Gregory Griffith, and Wanda Gregory Trammel; and one son, Dennis Harold Gregory. They have four son-in-laws, one daughter-in-law, eight grandchildren, 3 step-grandchildren, and one more grandchild on the way.

An anniversary celebration with family and friends was held on Feb. 19 at the Woodmen Lodge in Valley Head, Ala. Mrs. Judy McMahan, Mr. Gregory's sister, was in charge of the decorations, which included an "artifact table" containing a number of original photos, the marriage certificate, photos of their family, memorabilia of the year they were married, and a money tree. Mrs. Shane McMahan was in charge of refreshments and presented a wedding cake, a variety of finger foods, punch, and coffee. Debbie Walthour and Cathy Cooke contributed to the celebration by baking a chocolate groom's cake.

Talented gospel recording artist, LaDayne Sharp entertained the crowd of more than 100 people with her music. As a special gift for the couple, Ms. Sharp performed a song that she had written entitled, "Only God Could Love you More."

Article appeared in the Summerville News, Thursday, March 3, 2005.



SARAH GREGORY

Cloudland Resident
Dies March 2, 2005

Sarah Ann Elizabeth Gregory, 78, Cloudland, died March 2 at her residence.

Surviving are her widower, Harold D. Gregory, Cloudland; a son, Dennis H. Gregory, Cloudland; four daughters, Wilma Whited, Trion; Betty Cooke, Rossville, Brenda Griffith, Cloudland, and Wanda Trammel, Trion; two sisters, Kitty Flarity, Lafayette; and Lora Belle Shields, LaFayette; 11 grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at 1p.m. CST at the Burt Funeral Home Chapel, Valley Head, Ala., with the Rev. Jack Green officiating. Interment was in Little River Cemetery.

Thank you

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat upon a chair. Perhaps you sent us beautiful flowers. If so, we saw them there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words that any friends could say. Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much, whatever your part.

The family of
Sarah Ann Elizabeth Gregory

Braggin' Rights



Tackie Jackie

Hometown Hosiery would like to congratulate LaDayne Tidmore Sharp for her performance on March 11 through 17 as "Tackie Jackie" at the Louise Mandrell Theatre in Pigeon Forge, TN. This is LaDayne's first year to bring her comedy act to the NACMA "Country Music Week." Last year, she represented the ACGMA as Female Vocalist of the Year finalist in the Traditional Gospel category. LaDayne is no stranger to the stage. She had been singing and playing the piano since the age of 5, winning numerous area talent competitions, including the first place "National Hosiery Week" competition in Fort Payne.

MENTONE LISTED IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

The Lookout Mountain Parkway was listed in the National Geographic Traveler, April 2005 issue which came out this month. Mentone is shown on the map with the notation: "Set along the 93-mile-long Lookout Mountain Parkway, this historic community was founded as a health resort. Today, the 1884 Mentone Springs Hotel still operates."

The Town of Mentone is proud to have been included in this issue of National Geographic.

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Open Weekends

The

Church News

By Evelyn Graves



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

The **Valley Head Baptist Church** invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM; Worship Service at 11AM; Sunday Evening Worship at 6PM; Midweek Service (Wednesday) at 6PM; Brotherhood breakfast and devotional at 8:30AM the first Sunday of each month; Women on Mission meet at 2PM the second Tuesday of each month at different homes. Everyone is welcome to come.

The **Valley Head Methodist Church** Sunday Worship is at 10 AM. Pastor is Wayne Nesbitt. Everyone is welcome to attend the services.

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

The **Harmony Grove Baptist Church** invites everyone to come and worship with them. God's Country Church is located on Co. Rd 239 (Hawkins Road). Sunday School is at 9:45AM; Morning Worship is at 11AM; Evening Worship is at 6PM; Wednesday Night Prayer service is at 6PM.

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on N. Gault Avenue in Fort Payne holds mass services at 10:30AM each Sunday; and Communion services at 5PM on Tuesdays.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 1519 Smith Gap Road (County Road 85), Fort Payne. Regular worship services are at 10AM and Sunday School at 9AM. Steve Schrader, pastor - 845-4314. All are welcome.

Walnut Grove Baptist Church, on Highway 11 north of Fort Payne, welcomes everyone at Sunday School at 10AM, Worship Service at 11AM, Wednesday night youth meeting with snacks, lessons, and activities at 6PM, and Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30 PM.

Anyone interested in observing the **Sabbath and Holy Days**, call 845-2246 for time and location.

Presbyterian Church worship service at Cloudland begins at 10AM (EST), and the Menlo service begins at 11:15AM (EST).

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

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

Lighthouse Fellowship, Cloudland. Turn at the produce stand, pass the tennis court, and go to the stop sign. Go right two blocks. A church alive is worth the drive. Sunday School 10AM; Worship - 11AM, Alabama time. Everyone is welcome. Phone: 706-862-2607.

DeSoto Church of Christ invites you to attend Sunday Bible Study at 10AM, Worship at 11AM. Wednesday Bible study at 6PM. 256-634-4147.

The **Mentone Revival Center** and Pastor Leroy Nichols and wife, Nell, invite everyone to join in worship on Sunday at 10AM worship and 11AM worship and Sunday night at 6PM. Everyone is welcome.

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

Mentone Community Church Sunday School 10AM; Sunday Worship 10:45AM; Sunday evening service 6:30PM. Wednesday evening service 6:30PM with Bible study and Teen class. Nursery provided for all services. Pastor Rick Haworth welcomes all.

The **Mentone Church of God of Prophecy** Sunday School is at 10AM, with Worship at 11AM. Evening Services begin at 6PM. Rev. Charles Flannigan invites everyone to attend regular services.

Mentone Church of God invites you to attend their church. Sunday School - 10AM; Morning Worship - 11AM. Sunday evening - 6PM; Wednesday evening - 6:30PM. Pastor Brian Hancock welcomes all.

St. Joseph's on-the-Mountain Episcopal Church A place of prayer, thanksgiving, and celebration. Come by any time to pray and give thanks. Open 24 hours every day. Sunday service is at 10:30AM.

The **Mentone United Methodist Church** services are at 11AM each Sunday. Sunday School is at 10AM. Pastor Les Brown welcomes everyone. The Ethel Brown Unit of UMW meets on the 1st Wednesday at 11AM in the fellowship hall and the Mountain Laurel Unit of UMW meets on the 3rd Monday at 12:30PM, subject to change due to scheduling.

Moon Lake Baptist Church welcomes you. The Sunday schedule is: Bible study 9:45AM; Morning Worship - 11AM; Children's Choir Practice - 4:30PM; Youth Choir, Disciple-ship Training & YGAs - 5PM; Evening Worship - 6PM; Adult Choir Practice - 7PM; Wednesday: Team Kids, Youth & Adult Bible Study - 6:30PM. Young Women's Prayer & Share Group meets each Wednesday evening at 5:30PM.

Cove Road Baptist Church invites all children of the surrounding area to attend children's church. Parents are also invited for SS and church. *SS at 9AM; Worship at 10AM. Sunday Evening Worship at 5PM. All times CST.

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

The **Fort Payne Christian Center** and Pastor Ken & Elaine Holleman invite everyone to join in Worship on Sunday at 10AM. Wednesday Evening at 6:00 PM. God Bless you.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church will hold Lenten Services on March 2, 6 & 16, at 6:30 PM, preceded by a light supper at 5:30PM. The theme of these services will be the Blessings and the Blood of Christ.

During Holy Week, there will be services on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, also at 6:30PM. The church is located at 1519 Smith Gap Road NW (County Road 85).

Yearbook Sale

The **2004-2005 Moon Lake Elementary School Yearbook** is available for pre-purchase now through April 1, 2005. There will be no extra copies purchased this year. So, in order to get a copy, you need to place your order soon! The price for each full-color, hard-covered book is \$25.00. Please make checks payable to "Moon Lake PTO." Orders may be sent to: Moon Lake Elementary School, PO Box 166, Mentone, AL 35984.

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FORT PAYNE OPTIMIST CLUB

Continued from Page 1



**Carrie Elizabeth Keef
My Hero Is...**

Some people call a hero a fire fighter, a policeman, or even a person pushing another person out of the way of a car. But my hero is someone who made this happen. He created those heroes. God is my hero.

God is not only a God, but a King. His heart is your heart, His mind is your mind, and His soul is your soul. If it weren't for God, you wouldn't have the soul, heart, or mind right now. This world wouldn't be a world.

I also think that He's a wonderful hero for the family and friends we have today. He lets us have a loving mother and father to put the clothes on our back, food on our table, and even the roof over our head. You may be living among the streets, homeless or poor, but God says to not make our treasures on earth, but to think about our treasures in Heaven. He heals our family when they're sick. Then, in return, they praise Him and keep Him holy. They may have treasures in Heaven, then, too. Speaking of Heaven, that's another thing God does. When you think the world is ending, the world is not really over because He has a whole new other world waiting just around the corner. If you think you're not perfect, well, nobody is perfect. But you will be in Heaven. I can't really tell you what it's like, but you'll know if you go there.

God has a choice for you to make and you have plenty of time. Maybe if a baby dies when it is born, then it's not its fault it didn't have a chance; God doesn't blame the child. There is always a reason why these bad things seem to happen.

God has a home for everybody, but it's your choice to follow God. Like our church, for instance. We have a church family and blood family, but in God's will, everyone is family. We have our altar and our Sunday class, but do we really have God? God is always with you and always will be. So, when you ask that question, remember the word, God will always be there.

He also gives us help when we do drugs. He lets people like us, like D.A.R.E. officers who help us have a miracle. When a person drinks and says no to driving, that's a miracle; when a teenager says no to drugs and yes to an education, that's a miracle. If it weren't for God, we wouldn't have a miracle.

There are a lot of things that God has done. He can be a great hero to you and you can be a hero to Him. God is my hero.

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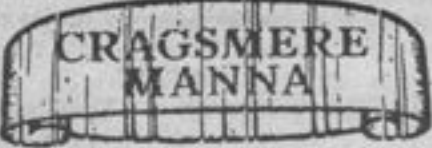
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THEN vs. NOW

By John Baty

I know a person who has lived on Sand Mountain, DeKalb County, Alabama, for eighty-seven years, with the exception of his Army days during World War II. He told me the following story, which I accept in its entirety as the facts.

I do not think the doctor in question would object to the use of his name were he alive. I will use his name. I hope I have the spelling right.

In 1931, my friend was a boy of fourteen years. He was helping his folks chop cotton when he realized that something was wrong; that he was sick. He left the field and walked to the house, the last few yards he was thinking that he would not make it. He had to resort to crawling on hands and knees to climb the back steps. Inside, his mother helped him into bed.

A doctor was called and duly arrived. Thinking the nausea and pain to be upset stomach and gastric problems, the doctor administered a laxative and left. The patient rapidly grew worse and another doctor, a Dr. Hansard from Ider, Alabama, was called.

After examining the boy, the doctor made his diagnosis: "This boy has a ruptured appendix," he said, "And he will die if he doesn't have surgery soon!"

The nearest hospital, which the doctor recommended, was Holy Name of Jesus in Gadsden, Alabama. There was no one available with an automobile who stood a chance of getting the patient there in time. Dr. Hansard made a decision: "I must go home to Ider to take care of some business that can't wait," he informed the family. "Then I am coming back and will personally drive the boy to Holy Name."

Shortly, the doctor was back and loaded the patient and headed for Gadsden. I do not recall if any of the family went along.

Arriving at Holy Name Hospital, Dr. Hansard ushered his patient into the operating room, then scrubbed and assisted the surgeon on duty. The doctor then followed his patient through recovery and post op, staying a "day or two" to make sure the surgery was going okay. Dr. Hansard then drove home.

Medical people say that even today appendicitis is not always easy to diagnose.

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Mountain Mamas Opens

By Mary Alice Stout

Mountain Mamas Crafts and Rock Shop opened for the 2005 season at noon (GA time) on Saturday, March 26th. It's our **ELEVENTH YEAR!**

The Shop is open **Saturdays and Sundays** from noon to 6:00 pm (GA time) until December 4th. Mountain Mamas sells consignment items made by over 60 women artists. New art and craft items arrive every week. During a visit to Mountain Mamas, you will find locally and regionally made pottery, candles, fabric items (rugs, pillows, wall hangings), handmade soaps, folk and yard art, collectibles, bird houses, a large variety of rocks and crystals, and homemade jams.

The wonderful **sunflower mural** on the front of Mountain Mamas was painted by 2 of the 8 owners—Morgana MacVicar and Sherry Tamburo. Pictured with the **open sign** are 2 more owners, Mary Alice Stout and Ellen Spangler.

If you'd like to put something in the shop on consignment, or come shop by appointment, call Mary Alice Stout at 706-862-2142 for more information.

Mountain Mamas is located on GA Hwy 48 in Cloudland, GA, on Lookout Mountain. Cloudland is a short drive from Mentone—go East on Hwy 117 to the AL/GA state line. Then about 1 mile into GA, on the Left, is the Shop.

Check out our website at
www.mountainmamas.com



Mountain Mamas opens for the season.



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RHODODENDRON GARDEN CLUB

March 8, 2005, Minutes, By Gethryn Giles

The Rhododendron Garden Club met on March 8, 2005, at the Mentone Community House. There were 18 members present. Dorothy Sheldon was a guest. Vice-President Harriett Lillich called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

After the pledge to the flag, Gethryn Giles gave the devotional. The hostesses were Christina Wise, Peggy Roark and Mary Crow.

The minutes of the February 8, 2005, meeting were read and approved.

Earth Day at Moon Lake School will be Monday, April 18. Lucette Dix made a motion to work in the school garden on Friday, April 15, beginning at 9:00 a.m. to prepare the beds for the students to plant on Monday. Motion passed.

Margaret Baker announced that work is continuing on the garden at the Mentone Fire Hall. There is a need for native plants. They can be left at the Fire Hall or given to her.

Ann Chesnut gave a report from the Spring Luncheon Committee. Lucette Dix moved that the luncheon be at the Wildflower Cafe. Motion carried. Christina Wise moved that the luncheon be on Monday, May 9, instead of May 10, since the cafe is closed on Monday. Motion carried.

Announcements:

Members of the club are asked to help at the Home and Garden Show on March 20 from 2-4 p.m. Virginia Setze, Linda Brown, and possibly Marilyn Campbell will serve as hostesses in the Hospitality Room at that time.

National Garden Week is June 6-10. An exhibit in the Moon Lake Library was suggested. More plans will be made later.

The DeKalb/Cherokee Federation of Garden Clubs will have a plant sale on April 2. Those making desserts for this event should carry them to the meeting room of the Mentone Town Hall on Friday, April 1, and Linda Brown will pick them up and take them to the sale.

The DeKalb/Cherokee Federation of Garden Clubs Spring Luncheon and annual meeting will be on April 30 at the Guest House in Fort Payne. The cost is \$15 per person. Reservations should be made with the treasurer, Virginia Setze. This club is responsible for the corsages and place cards for the head table. Martha Wood and Dianne Kuehl will be responsible for these.

Dorothy Cyr gave a report on Conservation. To reduce the weight of large planting containers, put plastic peanuts in the bottom of large pots, layer newspaper, and then the potting soil.

Virginia Setze moved to change the work day in the Heritage Garden of the Community House from this meeting to the April meeting. Motion carried.

Harriett Lillich had the program. It consisted of reviewing books on gardening, all of which are in the Moon Lake Library.

The next meeting will be at the Community House on April 12, at 12:30 p.m.

The Rhododendron Garden Club is a member of the Dekalb/Cherokee Federation; The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., District II; and the National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region.

Mrs. Mary Louise Jones Cauthen

Mrs. Mary Louise Jones Cauthen, age 76, of Winding Road S.W., Rome, died Tuesday at a local health care facility following a lengthy illness.

Mrs. Cauthen was born Jan. 31, 1929, in DeKalb, Ala., daughter of the late Hardie and Maude Jones. She was preceded in death by brothers, Colquitt, Lovejoy, and Edward. Mrs. Cauthen was a member of First Baptist Church Rome, and a member of The Fidelis Sunday School Class. She was a Registered Nurse, a CRNA and received her B.S. in nursing.

Survivors include her husband, Dr. Larry R. Cauthen; sons and daughters-in-law, Larry Randolph Cauthen and his wife Gina of Hartwell; Robert Howard Cauthen and his wife, Deborah of Jekyll Island; and David Hampton Cauthen of Rome; daughter, Lynn Fredrick and her husband Trip of Brunswick; four grandchildren; and a sister, Elizabeth Romans, Mentone, Ala.

Funeral services were held March 10 at 11am at the First Baptist Church of Rome with the Rev. Joel Snider and Dr. Floyd Roebuck officiating. Interment followed in Oaknoll Memorial Gardens.

The family received friends Wednesday from 5 until 8pm. at Daniel's Funeral Home.

Pallbearers include: Larry R. Cauthen, Robert H. Cauthen, David H. Cauthen, William Farmer, Gene Posey, and Walter Kirk. Members of the Scrap Iron Bible Class were asked to serve as Honorary Pallbearers.

Memorial contributions may be made to The William S. Davies Homeless Shelter, PMB 198, #3 Central Plaza, Rome, GA 30161-3233, or Touching Tomorrow, PO Box 1189, Rome, GA 30162.

Daniel's Funeral Home was in charge of the funeral arrangements.

**2005 RHODODENDRON
FESTIVAL IS ON THE
WEEKEND OF
APRIL 30 AND MAY 1,
2005. THIS IS A
CHANGE FROM
PREVIOUS YEARS.
PLEASE MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!**

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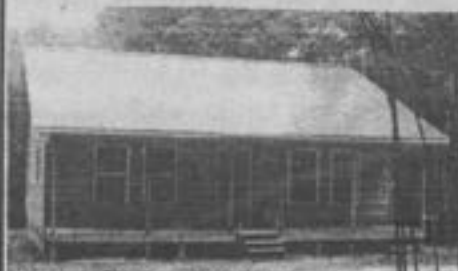
(1) **COTTAGE STYLE HOME IN VALLEY HEAD.** Original Pine Floors and Old doors. 3 bdrm, 1 bath. Living Room and Separate Dining. Large Oak Trees. C/HA. Sunroom. Termite bonded, and more. All on over 4 acres. Surveyed. \$88,000.



(2) **WEST FORK SUBDIVISION.** Private, yet only minutes from Mentone. 2 lots with combined footage on water of 593 ft. 4.4 acres wooded, on the cul-de-sac. \$65,000.



(3) **UNDER CONSTRUCTION.** The peace and tranquility of this beautiful mountain setting can be yours from this cozy cabin. The cabin features a wood burning fireplace, 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths. Laundry facilities, and a large living area with complete kitchen. A large screened porch with grilling deck opens off the kitchen. Heated and cooled area is 1056+/- sq. ft., with another 109+/-sq. ft. in the porch and deck. The exterior of the cabin is rough cut siding with a metal roof (30yr.) The interior is finished with drywall and pine flooring. The wooded lot is approximately 1.41 acres. \$149,000 Unfurnished; \$159,000 Furnished. (Photo to left)



(4) **BRAND NEW.** Weekend Getaway Cabin with 2 bedrooms 2 baths. Tin roof, Rocking Chair Porch. On a private wooded Acre. \$89,000.



(5) **WEEKEND COTTAGE ON LITTLE RIVER CANYON.** Over 10 acres with 650 ft of Canyon Frontage. 2 bdrm with sleeping loft. 2 baths, newly remodeled kitchen with all appliances and the cabin is furnished. Very Private. Call for appt. \$175,000



(6) **MENTONE FARMHOUSE,** with 4.46 acres to Roam. 2 Bdrm 1.5 bath. Country Kitchen, Pine Floors throughout. Deck and outbuildings. Newly Re-wired, plumbed, C/HA, Vinyl siding and a Root Cellar. \$118,500.



(7) **CHARMING BRICK BUNGALOW.** Nestled on a 1.65 acre corner lot. 3 Bedrooms, 1 bath. Living room with fireplace, separate dining, wood floors, C/HA. Level, fenced back yard. Quiet setting, Mentone. \$72,000.



(8) **WEST FORK SUBDIVISION** 5.9 acres with 700 ft on the River. Trails throughout, Large Hardwoods, and abundance of Unique Foliage. Private yet only minutes from Mentone. \$78,000.



(9) **INVESTMENT PROPERTY** 2 bdrm 1 bath cottage in Mentone, with One acre. Needs some cosmetic work. Sold as-is. \$51,500



(10) **AN INCREDIBLE, ONE-OF-A-KIND CUSTOM DESIGNED HOME** with breathtaking view in Cloudland, Ga., 1.5 acres with 100' road and brow frontage. Approx. 6000 sq ft home with 3000 sq ft heated space. Heart pine floors, all log walls, cedar-lined closets. French doors, four porches, two fireplaces. Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths, granite countertops, oversized shower, antique footed tub. Top quality appliances, furniture quality cabinets. Charm and elegance found in custom Millwork and moulding. 100 yr old Chestnut Mantle, and 1000 sq ft dormitory type bedroom, rec room and sitting room upstairs. Full basement with parking for 4 cars. Whole house generator. Gated. Asking \$425,900.



(11) **UNIQUE LOG STONE AND CEDAR SHAKE LODGE.** Custom through and through, complete with Heart Pine Plank floors. Open Great Room with stone fireplace. Loft with built-in beds. Commercial kitchen, with fireplace. French doors open to the sleeping porches and Master Bedroom. A must see, with so much to offer. Storage shop which can be turned into guest quarters. Small log cabin on the private 2.3 acres also. \$274,500.

OTHER PROPERTIES

(12) 3 acres in Cloudland, Fawn Dr. Power, Well in place. Joins Camp Juliette Lowe. \$15,000. **SOLD**

(13) **7.25 ACRES**, on CO RD 106, City water available, mostly cleared with lake site, Large Oak Trees, where the Old Homeplace used to be. \$56,000. REDUCED \$49,000.

(14) **80 ACRES of WOODED BROW PROPERTY** with creek and waterfall. Private drive with bridge. Great views. \$240,000.

(15) **HIDDEN BROW ESTATES**, Cloudland, GA. Spectacular Views East side. 7.5 acres, 500 ft. of brow frontage, private, large Rock bluffs, \$162,500--will divide.

(16) **10 ACRE PARCEL**, Co Rd 633, wooded, drive, quite, private location. \$35,000.

(17) **ONE AND ONLY LITTLE RIVER CANYON.** 3 acre tracts with a view of the Canyon Bluff. Very secluded and access private rd. with locked gate. Call for appt. \$40,000 and up (11959) LMP143

(18) **3.18 ACRES ON HWY 117**, Mentone. No restrictions. Wooded with city water available. \$20,000.

(19) **INDIAN TRAIL ESTATES.** Building lots on the West Brow, above N. Fl. Payne, county road, city water access, view lots starting at \$10,000; wooded lots starting at \$8,000.

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FOR INFO, CALL ANGELA WOOD AT 256-634-4672

LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

by Linda Brown

The members of the Board of Directors for the Moon Lake Community Library always have their annual meeting in March. This meeting is held at the home of president, Jan Wilkinson. We always enjoy a very good lunch and have a great time. If at all possible, we get Gene Giles to tell Cajun stories and this makes our day.

The purpose of this meeting is to report on the activities of the past year and to evaluate our goals and determine where we want to be at this time next year. The reports of 2004-2005 were better than most of us thought. One of the most impressive reports showed 256 patrons (or persons with library cards) and 3282 books on the shelves! The amazing thing is the quality of our books. We have very good books, both in content and condition.

The calendar project showed a good profit, but we would like to get more calendars into homes next year. The sale of calendars was off a little from the year before. We decided to enlist the help of the FRIENDS of the library in selling the calendars next fall. Marilyn Mathews, our chair for this project, informed us that there are a number of options that we are not utilizing. We are going to review these later and use some or all to make our calendars better.

The project of taking books to the senior lunches on Wednesday has proven to be one of the most positive things we have done. Usually six or seven books are checked out each week. This service is offered to those who may find it hard to get to the library during the designated open hours. The seniors can check a book out one week, keep it one or two weeks and bring it back to the lunch and return it.

We have sponsored several special days with the Moon Lake Elementary School. The last one for this year will be, "Clowning Around with Judy Dowlat". This should be a fun day for all. For anyone who would like to attend, the date is April 28 and all activities will be in the library. Be sure to check in with the school office before attending any activities on campus. You will be given a visitor's badge and they will know that you are in attendance. This is most important in this day of uncertainty in our public places.

During the longest yard sale in August, we will have the annual Book Sale under the front shelter of the library. This is our way of raising some needed funds and also finding a readership for our paper back and duplicate books. We have a lot of books on hand but would like to have more by the days of the sale. You can bring them by the library during the open hours for the community. Do not leave them during school hours. We will let you know the dates as soon as we know.

An American Inventor was the chosen title of the essay contest for the Moon Lake students in 2005-2006. Again this contest will be offered to the 5th and 6th grade students. Those students who are now in 4th and 5th grade can start to think about this subject for next year. You can file such information in a back corner of your brain, then when you see a story about an inventor, your brain will send you a signal to pay attention. It really works!

Some of the things that the members of the board will need to make a decision on soon are: a summer reading program, how to enlist more people to use

the library and a fall enrichment program for the students of MLES. We also need more volunteers to be trained to work in the library for the community. This has proven to be a fun thing to do and everyone looks forward to their assigned day.

One of the most exciting events that we sponsor is our book signings. On April 9, Frank Chappell, author of Dear Sister will be in the library signing his book. This is a collection of letters written by brothers who were fighting in the Civil War to their sister and parents in Union Springs, Alabama. These were found when Frank Chappell was cleaning out his grandfather's house. He researched the army unit of the brothers, The Third Alabama Infantry regiment, Company D, and has included some of the history of the unit in the book. This should be very interesting reading for anyone who has ever heard of this war. To quote an old and maybe tired phrase, "What was civil about the Civil War?" Maybe this book will shed some light on this question. Come by the library on April 9 from 11:00 am until 12 noon and hear Frank speak and buy one of the books for yourself and another (or two) for a gift. See more complete details in this issue of The Groundhog.

Most of us have to cross the bridge over the West Fork of Little River on Alabama Highway 117 as we go to the library or the post office. If you are concerned about the safety of this bridge, you need to attend a meeting regarding the proposed project of a bridge replacement. This meeting will be on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 in the Moon Lake Elementary School Gymnasium from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm. Representatives of the Alabama Department of Transportation will be on hand to answer any questions during this time. Written comments may be made at any time prior to, at, or within ten days following the meeting and may be mailed to: Johnny Harris, Division Engineer, ALDOT, PO Box 550, Guntersville, AL 35978-0550. If you have had a close call, or observed one, when on this bridge, write it down and take it by the meeting or mail it to the address above. Do not be guilty of thinking that your comments won't matter, we need to be sure that all ideas are presented on this project. Mark your calendar, this is very important.

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North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District Report

During this past month our volunteer fire department has responded to the following calls:

Activity Report:

Structure Fire	0
Brush Fire	6
Vehicle Accident	0
False Alarm	5
Natural Disaster	1
911 Response	1

The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District had a successful sale of vehicles that were out of service. The closed bid sale drew a lot of interest with only one truck left. The funds from this sale will be used to purchase needed equipment. Since the NLMFPD receives no city budgeted funds, your financial support is needed to meet the District's operational monthly expenses. The volunteer firefighters have several fund raising events planned for this spring. Interest and support from the community will help keep our volunteer fire department well funded and viable.

The firefighters from our Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District will be participating in the DeKalb County annual firefighter's competition. All the events are based on activities firefighters use in their volunteer fire protection efforts. These are timed to establish a department's skill level.

Ready and Willing

Donations are tax deductible and may be mailed to:

**North Lookout Mountain
Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 154
Mentone, AL 35984**

VALLEY HEAD SPRING FLING

The Valley Head PTO will sponsor a "Spring Fling" on Saturday, April 23, beginning at 10:00am. This will feature fun, games, and food for all ages. Any group, club, or class of VHHS wishing to participate, please notify Cindy Grider @635-0263 or Pam Dean @ 635-6674. All your group needs to furnish is a game or activity. The VH PTO will furnish the tickets and the prizes. Please plan to attend.

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(1) MENTONE COTTAGE WITH ACREAGE! Cozy cottage with 40 wooded acres near DeSoto State Park featuring 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, double French doors, wood burning fireplace, cathedral ceiling, ceramic flooring and 2 storage buildings. \$329,900 (PLS #12724)



(2) A RARE FIND - Established summer home featuring 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 3 living areas (2 with mountain stone fireplaces) and access to large deck overlooking the valley below. Sitting on over 2 acres with almost 500' on the West Brow of Mentone. Priced at only \$399,000. (PLS #13085)



(3) ALMOST NEW CABIN on the brow near DeSoto State Park! You'll feel right at home in this cabin on the brow featuring 2 bedrooms (1 up & 1 down), 2 baths, open living room with rock fireplace, kitchen cabinets with tin inserts, sunroom, unique wood ceiling, large back deck, enclosed landscaping and so much more. \$299,900. (PLS #12951)



(4) WIDE OPEN SPACES! You'll have plenty of space to roam on this 8 acres complete with a 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with a large pond and stream all surrounded by nature. The home features an open kitchen and living area, wood floors, sun porch with gas, iron stove, large bedrooms, and baths, 3 car carport with storage, front and side deck, and list goes on. \$179,900. (PLS #12941)



(5) Looking for a MOUNTAIN RETREAT-- 8 self contained cabins, office building that could be converted into living quarters, numerous RV and camp sites all on 13+ secluded acres adjoining DeSoto State Park. \$395,000. (PLS #10906)



(6) LESS THAN 1 MILE from downtown Mentone and sitting on over 1-1/2 acres, this home offers 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, an open porch on front and a sunroom on the back. All appliances to remain including washer and dryer, 2-car carport with workshop and a 20x24 building for extra storage... office... craft shop... etc. \$89,900 (PLS #11605)



(7) NEW CONSTRUCTION IN CRESTLINE SUBDIVISION - This new 1 bedroom, 1 bath frame cabin has 640 sq. ft. and features a rock fireplace and foundation, wood floors and walls, central heat and air, front and back porches and sits on 1.19 acres. \$96,500. (PLS #13364)



(8) MENTONE ... Rustic Cabin-Currently being remodeled - 1 bedroom with bedroom loft, living and dining room has cathedral ceiling, kitchen with ceramic tile countertops, utility, front porch, wooded area. \$95,000. (PLS #13047)



(9) NEW CABIN ON BRUSH CREEK! You can be the first owners of this all NEW 2 bedroom, 2 bath home with vinyl siding, metal roof, laminate and ceramic flooring, central heat & air, 550' screened porch/deck and so much, much more all on 1.31 acres. \$127,500. (PLS #13267)



(10) ESTABLISHED TIRE BUSINESS! This 40x100x14 metal building houses 3 lifts, 4 roll-up doors, concrete floors, Office, 2 restrooms, space heaters & window air unit and all inventory included. Call today for more information. \$249,900. Price REDUCED to \$199,900.



(11) You'll never want to leave this 4 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath home with open kitchen and great room with fireplace, sun porch, formal dining room, 10' ceilings, transom windows, authentic Heart Pine floors and so much more. The large back deck overlooks beautiful rock formations with a fabulous brow view. The property also features a detached double garage with storage and an additional bedroom with bath upstairs. \$449,000. (PLS #12933)



(12) Lovely 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with lots of room to expand. Features include an oversized living room with fireplace and dining area, spacious kitchen including a large island workspace with a vegetable sink and eating area, sunroom with fireplace, large bedrooms, wood flooring throughout, lots of storage, screened porch with rock floor, front and side covered porches, back deck. Enjoy the 250' of waterfront on West Fork of Little River. Must see to appreciate. \$450,000 (PLS #12965)



(13) Main house is built around a pre-civil war hand-hewn log structure with a stone wood burning fireplace, exposed beams and pine floors. Master bedroom is on the main floor with private sleeping porch overlooking a large mountain stone water pond with waterfall. Also included are two separate self-contained guest quarters. All connected by stone patios, walkways and decks. Abundantly landscaped with rhododendrons, bulbs, hamlocks, 2 additional water ponds, and much more. \$199,900 (PLS #13474)



(14) NOW under construction. This cedar-sided home features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, open kitchen/dining/living combination, gas log fireplace, central heat & air, large front porch and more. Contract now to customize to your liking. \$158,500 (PLS #12909)



(15) PEACEFUL SURROUNDINGS - This 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home sits on 6 acres and borders Brush Creek. \$74,500. (PLS #12686)



(16) NEW HOME--This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home features a large living/dining area with 9' ceilings, Cathedral ceiling in the master bedroom with ceramic tile, and a 2-car garage connected with a breezeway onto the back porch. The full front porch overlooks a 1.154 wooded lot and is located in Mentone. \$149,000 (PLS #12777)



(17) RETREAT TO LAUREL CREEK! You can be the proud owner of this new construction with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen/dining combo, living room with feature window and fireplace. Exterior to be reverse board and batten. \$124,000. (PLS #12892)



(18) CABIN IN MENTONE - you will love coming home to this adorable cabin now being built near DeSoto State Park. Cabin features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, pine floors throughout, and rock fireplace. 8'x40' porches on front and back with Yellow Pine exterior and metal roof. \$149,900.



(19) WHAT A FIND, a 2 bedroom 2 bath log cabin with wood burning fireplace on the north brow of Mentone. Located on the bottom level of a 280' brow lot with a rock cliff behind and a fabulous view in front, this cabin offers ultimate privacy. Second bedroom and bath underneath the house with access from outside. Add the wood floors, rock walkways and rocking chair porch and you have what it takes to make a stress free getaway. Call today for your private showing at only \$250,000. (PLS #13482)



(20) NEW CONSTRUCTION ON THE NORTH BROW IN MENTONE. This new home features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, gas burning fireplace, front porch, back deck and more with approx. 1000 square feet of living space. Make your appointment to wake up to this magnificent view on a daily basis. \$295,000. (PLS #13110)

OTHER LISTINGS

(20) On a clear day you can see forever! The view is unmatched, the rock formations are incredible, the house you should build on this lot would bring you home to the place you've always dreamed of living. 1.82 wooded acres on the brow in Mentone. \$126,000 (PLS #13294)

(21) If you have picked your house plans, but have no place to build... call about this 4 acre parcel that has just been listed on County Road 627 in Mentone. \$29,900.

(22) GENTLY ROLLING, WOODED VACANT LAND IN VALLEY HEAD. Perfect for development. Extensive paved road frontage. 62 acres listed at \$3,000 per acre.

(23) 4.3+/- acres on DeSoto Parkway. Only \$44,900.

(24) BUILD YOUR WEEKEND GET-AWAY on this 1.17+/- acres filled with spectacular rock formations behind city hall in Mentone. \$14,500.

(25) LAND AND LAKE... 60+/- acres with a 5+/- acre lake and Brush Creek runs through it. The lake was stocked with Bass and Bream 2 years ago and is approximately 35' deep. \$480,000. Price reduced to \$169,900.

(26) 3.68+/- acres on the Brow near DeSoto State Park. \$49,900. Reduced \$54,900.

(27) OPPORTUNITY AWAITS - 16 acres on Hwy 117, East of Mentone. 3 mobile homes and 2 one-bedroom apartments and room to grow. Outside the city limits - no restrictions. \$158,900.

(28) RETREAT, RETREAT, RETREAT - This 49-acre is partly cleared and partly wooded with a large lake and wooded stream. \$420,000. REDUCED TO \$140,000.

(29) MENTONE - If you're looking for just the right place to build your weekend get away or even a permanent residence, this property is waiting on you. Wooded, although a proposed building site has already been cleared, this property is what you have been looking for. \$37,500 (PLS #11954)

(30) Don't wait any longer **SOLD** 3.28 acres priced at \$18,400. (PLS #12291)

(31) MENTONE Brow Property--2.3 acres on the Brow of Lookout Mtn. Priced at \$200,000.

(32) MTN. RIVER ESTATES - Phase I and Phase II-building lots available starting at \$27,300. Restricted Subdivision. Waterfront available. Call for more details. (PLS #12967 & 12968)

(33) BROW Property--1.7+/- acres on County Road 166 near DeSoto State Park. \$37,500 (PLS #10133)

(34) NEWLY LISTED 4.23 acres on Hwy 117, just outside the Mentone City Limits. Property is suitable for residential or commercial, so call today for all the details. \$19,900

(35) HERE'S YOUR CHANCE... Acreage on DeSoto Parkway! 6.85 acres with no restrictions on County Road 89 near DeSoto State Park. Priced at only \$78,500.

**Alabama Department of Transportation
Project BR-0204 (512)
Bridge Replacement on Alabama Highway 117 over the
West Fork of Little River
Town of Mentone / DeKalb County**

The Alabama Department of Transportation will conduct a Public Involvement Meeting for the above project as follows:

**Tuesday, May 3rd, 2005
4:30 pm until 6:30 pm
Moon Lake Elementary School, Gymnasium
5866 E River Rd
Mentone, AL 35984**

The proposed project is the bridge replacement on Alabama Highway 117 over the west fork of Little River.

The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that any interested parties, including local governments, metropolitan, regional, state and federal agencies, and the general public have an opportunity to participate and share their views and comments throughout the various stages of the project development process. There will not be a formal presentation at the meeting, but rather an "open-house" format. Interested parties may arrive at any time during the meeting schedule. Representatives of ALDOT will be available to answer any questions relative to the project.

Written comments, which will become part of the official project record may be made at any time prior to, at, or within ten days following the meeting and may be mailed to:

**Johnny L. Harris
Division Engineer
ALDOT
PO Box 550
Guntersville, AL 35976-0550**

Any individual requiring special assistance due to a disability or sensory impairment should contact Troy Bell at the above address, by phone at 800-819-7418 ext. 234, by fax at 256-582-8922 or by E-mail at bellt@dot.state.al.us. Requests for assistance should be made no later than 5:00 pm on Tuesday, April 26, 2005.

Mentone Mayor Rob Hammond would urge the citizens of Mentone to attend this Public Involvement Meeting regarding the bridge replacement and let each opinion be counted. Please read the above notice and attend this meeting, or send your written comments to the above address.



God's Minute

By Ruby Brock

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

The disciples thinking Jesus was still in the sepulcher were talking of what had taken place when Jesus joined them and asked them what was making them so sad. When they told Him, He opened the scripture to them, and they knew Him when they saw the nail prints. He is not dead. He is alive.

Hope everyone had a Happy Easter!

**TIME
CHANGE**
The time
will change
on Sunday,
April 3.
Be
prepared
to set the
clocks
AHEAD
one hour
as Daylight
Savings
Time
begins.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Friday, April 1, April Fool's Day
- Saturday, April 2, 9AM, Environmental Cleanup Day, meet at the Town Hall and pick up your bags
- Sunday, April 3, DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME Begins, Set your Clocks **AHEAD** 1 hour
- Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 PM, MAPA meeting, Church of God of Prophecy Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 PM, DeSoto Rescue Squad, Mentone Community House
- Monday, April 11, 6PM, Town Council Meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public

- Tuesday, April 12, 12:30 PM Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone Community House
- Tuesday, April 12, American Legion meeting 6:30 p.m., American Legion Hall
- Thursday, April 28, 4PM, Waterworks Board Meeting, Mentone Waterworks Board Room in the new water complex, open to the public
- Saturday April 30 and Sunday, May 1
**RHODODENDRON FESTIVAL,
BROW PARK, MENTONE**