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Volume 23, No. 8

"Neighborly "News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

August 2005

CORNER DRUGSTORE THRIVES ON SERVICE



Don Morgan at Morgan Drugs

Photo taken from The Groundhog archives

*Adapted from an article written by Mike Marshall
The Huntsville Times Staff Writer, July 10, 2005*

Small-town landmark keeps devoted following in age of giant chains

Valley Head - Here is a corner drugstore, independent and strong, free from the threat of corporate takeover. Morgan Drugs is located on the corner of Winston Street and Commerce Avenue in downtown Valley Head, small-town Appalachia, near the sock mill and Masonic Lodge.

A Norfolk-Southern locomotive out of Chattanooga rumbles past around 2 p.m. daily.

Beyond the railroad tracks, cows owned by the druggist, Donald Ray Morgan, roam next to Winston Place Bed and Breakfast, a former plantation house built in the 1840s. Morgan grew up in Valley Head.

Morgan, 62, is known to walk these fields when business is slow, checking on his Herefords. A drugstore employee summons him when a customer arrives.

"How many pharmacies you know where you got to holler for the pharmacist?" Morgan asks.

Morgan is known to his customers and friends by his nickname "Scrooge". His brother gave him the title.

Independents losing ground

Here are the facts on the decline of the corner drugstore, once an American institution:

About 1500 independent pharmacies closed per

year in the early part of the 1990s. The decline slowed to about 450 annually by the end of the decade. By 2001, 44 percent of American pharmacies--about 25,000 - were independent.

Independent pharmacies consistently outscore their competitors in consumer satisfaction, according to a survey by Wilson Health Information, LLC.

Customers of independents are more likely to return and recommend their pharmacy to friends, according to the survey.

The demise of the corner drugstore also has been chronicled in "Death of the Corner Drug Store," a 2000 documentary by Milwaukee filmmaker Brooke Maroldi. He made the film in response to the surge in large chains consuming or closing down smaller independent drugstores.

"The sad thing is," says Dianne Varneadoe, "kids today don't realize what they're missing."

On a morning in late June, Varneadoe and her neighbor, J.P. Morrow, 83, had driven to Morgan Drugs from Cloudland, GA, just across the Alabama/Georgia line. Morrow has been coming to Morgan Drugs since the 1930s, when the store was known as Coleman Drugs.

Varneadoe is a recent convert. She had been using pharmacies at Wal-Mart and another chain in Summerville, GA, about 10 miles east of Cloudland. Dissatisfied by the stuffiness of chains (horses' patoots," she says) Varneadoe decided to try Morgan Drugs. "At those places, you're just a number", she says. "Here, they know who you are. There you have to wait. Here, you don't wait, and you visit."

Honoring Tradition

Here's the new football coach in town, ready to visit after a morning of cutting hay in the fields. Heath Kirby walks into Morgan Drugs two days after becoming head coach at Valley Head High School. Because Kirby is a native of Valley Head, a village of about 611 in eastern DeKalb County, he knows much of the history of Morgan Drugs.

The building, built around 1914, was originally a bank. (The vault is still in a storage room near one of the front counters.)

On Thanksgiving Day, 1935, L.M. Coleman, rode over from Bremen, GA, the first owner of the store. He came to examine the building, which was for sale. Much of the citizens of Valley Head were in Fort Payne that day for the annual football game between Valley Head and Fort Payne high schools. As Coleman entered the building, a drugstore since the '20s, he saw only an elderly couple huddled by a heater.

Coleman bought the business, and the store was known as Coleman Drugs until 1973, when Morgan, a drugstore employee since 1964, bought it. Coleman stayed on as a pharmacist until his retirement in 1985. "I couldn't tell a difference in our relationship," Morgan says.

Among Morgan's mementos is a Christmas card from a longtime customer ("Wish you were here," the customer wrote from prison); and a newspaper clipping telling of Valley Head's state football championship in 1984. Kirby's brother, John was the quarterback of that team. His father, Jimmy, was the head coach. Photographs of the Kirbys are lined along a window sill at Morgan Drugs, along with photos of other notable teams at Valley Head High.

In late June, the DeKalb County Board of Education approved Heath Kirby, the former head coach at Pisgah in Jackson County, as the new Valley Head coach. Two days later, he's cutting hay on Morgan's farm in Mentone, on the western rim of Lookout Mountain.

"We're going to give him a hard time no matter what," "Scrooge" says. Come the fall, Morgan will be among the rail birds at the Valley Head football stadium just south of the drugstore. Scrooge is a former fullback at Valley Head High, Class of '61, "I expect no less, Kirby tells Morgan.

Continued to Page 18

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

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MAPA

There are no minutes from the last meeting as it was the annual picnic, which due to the rainy weather, was held at the fellowship hall of the Church of God of Prophecy.

The next meeting is Tuesday,
August 2, at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**MENTONE PLANNING
AND ZONING COMMISSION
MEETINGS FOR 2005**

JULY 21

OCTOBER 25

**ALL MEETINGS ARE AT 5PM
IN THE TOWN HALL
MEETING ROOM.**

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.

Visitors are always welcome at the **Valley Head United Methodist Church**. Please join us each Sunday morning for a traditional worship service at our new time: 9AM. Help us welcome our new pastor, Jimmy Hall, and his wife, Ruth.

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: 9:30-10:45 AM, Worship Service 11:00-12:15. Pastor - Wilbur Atwood; Lay Pastors - James Hartley and Ryan Bunnell.

The **Harmony Grove Baptist Church** located on County Road 239 invites you to attend Sunday School at 10AM and worship at 11AM. Sunday evening service is at 5PM. Thursday evening service is at 5:30PM. Pastor Rick Jones invites everyone to attend.

Harmony Grove Singing on July 2 at 10AM. Free hot-dogs and drinks. Several groups will be singing. For more information, call 634-4690.

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, an Wednesday night prayer meeting at 6:30PM.

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** Worship 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.

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 and 11AM, 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* Worship-11AM. Wednesday evening service-6:30PM with Bible study and Teen class. Nursery provided for all services. Senior Pastor Rev. Rick Haworth and Youth Pastor Ryan Haworth welcome all. Aug. 21, 6:30PM All Church Fellowship at Family Life Center. Aug. 31, 6:30PM, Back to School Bash (6th-12th grade).

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 Randall Beagles 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.

Moon Lake 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. 635-2002.

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

Dial-A-Devotional 634-0103

is provided daily by Evelyn Graves as an extended ministry of the Moon Lake Baptist Church. Feel free to call any time of the day or night.

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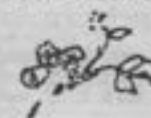
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Disciple, A Christian Youth Band will be in concert at the Harvest Center Church Friday Night, August 5, 2005, at 8:00 PM. The public is invited.

Disciple's new self-titled album was the highest selling Christian album in America last week, according to the national record charts. Their latest song, "The Wait Is Over," is the number one requested song on Christian Rock radio for the fifth week in a row. Their new album is now on the shelves of all record stores in the United States, and other providers of music, including Wal-Mart.

This is a rare opportunity to experience this upcoming group live and in person. Disciple's live music and lighting will ignite your senses, catch your attention, and draw the youth into a time of ministry.

The Harvest Center Church is located at 7824 Alabama Highway 68, between Collinsville and Crossville, Alabama--Just off I-59. There is plenty of parking and seating capacity.

Tickets are on sale now for \$10, or \$12 at the door. For tickets, contact Gary and Sonya Bouldin, PO Box 919, Crossville, AL 35962, or call the church office at 1-256-524-2050.

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UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FOR MENTONE

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By Gail Chambers

Over a year ago, the campaign began to raise enough funds to purchase new Christmas decorations for the Town of Mentone. Forty decorations were purchased along with the electrical materials needed to ready the poles for the decorations. Light displays were also purchased and placed in Mason Town Park for the first time ever.

GOOD NEWS! The campaign is not over yet. The Christmas Decorations Committee is hoping to add to the display of lights and make it even more enjoyable for everyone from year after year. More decorations are needed for our town. A number of poles were not used because there were simply not enough decorations.

The committee received the news that the cost of the 5' Forked Fancy Snowflake decoration has been reduced to \$299.00 each this year.

If you did not get a chance to purchase one of the decorations last year, you can still get involved. Please think about purchasing one or more of the decorations for the upcoming Christmas season. I know that it's hard to think of Christmas at this time of year, but we have to get our orders in early so the factory will have time to build them. Or perhaps you would like to make a donation that would be applied toward purchasing the decorations or toward the effort of acquiring more light displays for Mason Town Park. The committee's goal is to have a children's

section and luminaries in the park, also. We would also like to erect a Gazebo in the Park at some time in the near future. The committee would like to continue to celebrate the community's generosity and determination by continuing to give our town a bright new look for many holiday seasons to come; but we can't accomplish this goal without your generous donations.

The plaques have been hung in the Town Hall meeting room. The plaques have been inscribed with the names of persons who purchased decorations and also the names of persons who donated money. If you have a chance, go by the Town Hall and see them. There is room for more names to be added.

It being the first year, the snowflake decorations were left up through the month of January because they are not only for the Christmas season, but can also be used to celebrate the winter months, as well. They were a welcome sight shining brightly on a cold and foggy winter night. We would like to share a letter with you that one of our committee members received in reference to the Christmas decorations.

To: Brenda Goss, Mentone Christmas Decorations Committee,

"I would like to apply a check to start the 2005 Christmas decorations. I enjoyed seeing the beautiful lights. They helped bring out a true feeling of Christmas. Thank you for a job well done." (This note was written by Mr. Harold Broyles of Mentone.) Thank you, Mr. Broyles.

The Mentone Decorations Committee welcomes any comments or suggestions that you may have. Please send donations or correspondence to:

Mentone Christmas Decorations Committee
PO Box 13
Mentone, AL 35984

Again, thank you for your generous donations and continued interest in our town.

Mentone Christmas Decorations Committee:

Gail Chambers - 634-4507
Joan Byrum - 634-4686
Kristen Emory - 634-4686
Brenda Goss - 634-4561



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The
Country
Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

On a warm, beautiful day, February 10th of 1952, a beautiful baby was born in what was the new DeKalb Hospital in Fort Payne. Homer and I were happy to have a daughter, since we had two sons, Barry and Coy. Life seemed good, and nearly perfect. I remember Dr. Cantrell, who delivered her, saying "What a beautiful day for a baby to be born!" The word beautiful seemed to follow Joyce LaVonne Crow Cooper all the days of her life. She was always bright and cheerful, loving, generous, patient, artistic, and a joy to all who knew her. She was a perfectionist, which is a trait Homer and I do not know from whom she inherited it—certainly not from me.

We moved to Chattanooga when Joyce was three years old, and she grew up in a loving neighborhood with many friends for playmates. She finished high school at Chattanooga High, after which she attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. During her college years, she went to Puerto Rico to visit her brother, Barry, who was in the Navy and stationed there, and wound up meeting her future husband, Gregg, who was one of Barry's close friends in the Navy. They were married in Chattanooga when Joyce was 19, later moving to Columbia, South Carolina, where several years later, their son, Lee, was born, who has been the joy of their lives. Joyce worked for a large accounting firm in Columbia for several years.

Two years ago, Joyce was diagnosed with liver cancer, and thus began the longest and most difficult battle of her life. She received chemotherapy treatments for a year in Birmingham while living with Homer and me, and then decided to return to Columbia to continue treatment. When her doctor in Columbia informed her this past May that she had two months left to live, she chose to live her last days back here with us, where she knew she would be surrounded by her family. She returned to Mentone July 2, and passed away in our home July 14th.

Our hearts are heavy, and grief seems stifling—but our strength lies in prayer. Joyce suffered and struggled during her illness, but there were good times, too, when she felt well and strong, and would continue pursuing her love of doing things for others. She was creative and artistic, and enjoyed experimenting with new cooking recipes. Prior to her illness, she worked with Doreen at The Package Store in Fort Payne, where she designed and created unique and imaginative gift baskets and candy bouquets. She and Doreen often worked as a tag team, dreaming up new designs for gift items and laughing often at the results. We liked to drop in the store sometimes, just to see her latest creations.

Joyce had lots of hobbies, and loved playing piano for hours at a time, often while alone. She told Doreen that she frequently played piano in the

evenings at their home in Columbia, at Lee's request, until Lee fell asleep.

We will miss her sweet smile and the many things she did for us, but we will also treasure wonderful memories of the humorous little pranks she played on her father, husband, and son. She always had a healthy, optimistic attitude, no matter how dark the future seemed. Losing Joyce has created a vacancy in our family that will never be filled, but we are comforted to know that she is no longer suffering or struggling, and is at peace.

The family would like to thank all of you who have written or called after Joyce's death, and we are grateful to everyone who helped us these past several days by sending food or just running errands for us. We will always be appreciative of your love and support.

From Doreen: Some of you may have wondered why Mom did not have a Country Journal article in last month's issue of *The Groundhog*. She has been experiencing ill health as a result of radiation treatments she received more than a year ago. There is no trace of cancer, but she is facing colon surgery to remove damaged tissue within the next few weeks. Your prayers will be appreciated for a successful surgery and a quick recovery.

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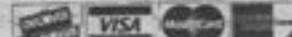
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LIBS FROM THE LIBRARY

by Linda Brown

The volunteers who work in the Moon Lake Community Library have started to notice an increase in the number of patrons who visit the library during the hours that it is open. This is what we have worked for and we are thrilled that this is happening. The last time I worked, a teenaged girl came in just as soon as we opened the doors and checked out three books. About thirty minutes before closing time she came back and checked one of the books back in and checked out another one in its place. She had gone home and read the entire book and needed the maximum number she could keep to read until the next time the library was open. Maybe the day will come when we can be open at least a few hours every day. This will require a part-time librarian and right now we do not have the funds for this. We have been told that we might be eligible for some grants to pay a salary for one, but we have to have a librarian before we can apply for the grants. Another case of "can't get a job without experience and can't get experience without a job", what can we do?

Many things are happening with the library in the next few months. The first event will be the Book Sale on Friday, August 5 and Saturday, August 6 from 8:00 a.m. until about 4:00 p.m. Of course, this is the weekend of the Longest Yard Sale. We have an abundance of wonderful books! Many people have brought us boxes and boxes of great books. No hardback book will be priced over \$5.00 and most of them will be well under this amount. Paperbacks will be 50 cents each or 3 for \$1.00. Where could you get a better bargain than that? We will have our books displayed under the porch of the library. The library will not be open for check-outs and check-ins on Saturday. As always, if you have a book due that day and are charged a fine, let us know and we will remove it.

The next item that I need to remind you of is that it is time to renew your status as a FRIEND of the Moon Lake Community Library. If you are not a FRIEND, this is a good time to become one. The month of August has been set as the time to renew. We are so grateful for these special people and are trying to do more to show our appreciation to them. You can become a FRIEND by sending a donation of \$20.00 or more to the address at the end of this article, giving it to any board member or coming by the library and leaving it with the volunteer on duty. If you do not already have the cute book bag that goes with being a FRIEND, come by the library and pick one up. They not only advertise our wonderful library but also let anyone who sees your bag know that this library is in Mentone, Alabama.

Another item on our agenda; we are now starting the sale of the Birthday Calendars. Once again, we will sell them for \$5.00 each. We have a new format that we will be offering to our advertisers this year. They can have the option of having their ad done in two colors or more. This will make a more attractive calendar and also make their ad more visible when anyone looks at the calendar. After much discussion regarding the picture on the front of the calendar, the members of the board of directors decided to put a picture of the library there again. This calendar belongs exclusively to the library and the company will not let any other organization in this area have the same offer.

If you are not familiar with the calendar, it has the birthdays, anniversaries and times of meetings for organizations printed on each day of the month. You can get the birthdays of those persons who are in your immediate household printed for the price of the calendar and all others for a nominal charge. You can list a birthday in memory of someone and also list anniversaries. These make great gifts and they will be in your hands in plenty of time to use them for Christmas gifts. If you have someone who habitually forgets your birthday, list your birthday and give them a calendar. A form is in this month's issue of *The Groundhog* for you to mail back or if you have been buying from a member, they will be contacting you soon.

You may give a book or a donation to the library in honor or in memory of someone. The treasurer will send them or the family a notice of this gift. What better way to let a book lover know that you are thinking of them or to let a family know that you appreciated the life of someone. You may buy the book and then donate it or tell our committee what book you would like to have purchased and they will do it. Think of all the possibilities, a new baby, an anniversary, a birthday, a promotion, retirement, a wedding, good grades and many more. The list is endless.

Students of Moon Lake Elementary School: Watch for the new program that we are going to put into place for you. I'm not sure of all of the details, but basically every time your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends or strangers you tell about the program, use the library and mention your grade, your class will get a point. Twice during the year, the points will be added up and the class with the most will be given a pizza party! All details will be sent home to your parents at the beginning of school. Tell them to watch for this letter and to tell everyone to vote for your class!

To become a FRIEND or to become a volunteer in the library, you may write to us at this address:

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A Book Review

by Linda Brown

Long Ago and Far Away

by John Baty

John Baty lives in Mentone and has lived here most of his life. John has had a very interesting life and tells about some of his experiences in this book. These experiences are accounts of the many things that happen in everyday life when one lived in rural America some fifty years ago. Such things as timber cutting, saw milling, farming, hunting and caring for farm animals are among the many stories that John relates.

John's sense of humor becomes apparent in the first story when he tells of a rag rabbit that took on a special importance as it brought back a long forgotten memory of another rag rabbit.

John then relates several events that happened when he attended high school. Now John doesn't tell the reader that this was Valley Head High School, but I know that it was. John and I were in the same class at said school. Just from the stories I have heard of things that happened there, John could write another book and still have some left over.

John gives an account of the many things necessary for survival on a country farm. Remember there was no running water, ice, electricity or indoor plumbing. Some of the stories are funny, some are heartbreaking and some may seem cruel until you consider that this was the way life was and had to be.

I hope that those of you who are newly come to this area will read this book to better understand the people of the mountain. Many of John's kinsfolk still live in Mentone as well as those of many other families who came to the mountain and "dug in" and stayed. Mainly, it is because of them that Mentone is what it is today.

I hope that those of you who have your roots on Lookout Mountain will read John's book to remind yourself of where you came from and how fortunate you are to have this great heritage.

This is just a small sampling of the wit and humor displayed in this wonderful book. "A fellow said once that he was working in the woods and saw a large black snake thrashing about in quite a desperate manner. On closer inspection, he discovered that a rattlesnake had the black's tail in its mouth trying to eat it. In it's flailing about, the black snake was biting at any and everything. Shortly, the black snake bit the tail of the rattler and held on. The man said that he kept on with his work for a while and checked again to see what had happened with the snakes. To his surprise, he found that they had swallowed each other."

This book and others by John Baty and other local writers are in the Moon Lake Community Library on the shelves just behind the white rocking chair. Check it out!

BOOKS FOR BAGHDAD COLLECTED MORE THAN 11,000 TEXTBOOKS FOR BAGHDAD UNIVERSITY

By Dave Howell, JSU News Bureau

With more than 110,000 U.S. troops serving in the Middle East, helping bring freedom to and stability to Iraq, many other Americans here at home have wondered what they can do to assist in the effort. Jacksonville State University's own Dr. Safaa Al-Hamdani, an Iraqi-born American citizen and alumnus of Baghdad University, found one way to do just that.

In 2004, Dr. Hamdani established the Books for Baghdad project, an international effort whose purpose was to help support the education system in Iraq by collecting and donating at least 5,000 textbooks. Since the war, the entire nation has suffered a critical shortage of academic resources and books for its students. Iraqi university libraries were severely depleted and outdated due to two decades of sanctions, regime rule, active conflict, and looting.

Not only did the book drive reach its goal, but it well exceeded this number with a total collection of more than 11,000 textbooks which were shipped donated to Baghdad University in April. The book drive emphasized math and science books, but they also received many books in English, History and Social Sciences. In addition, the project donated school supplies and teaching materials. Dr. Hamdani hopes the effort will help Baghdad University get back on its feet after decades of decline.

"The government of Saddam did not spend money on education or they did not spend enough," Hamdani said. "Iraq was under sanction by the United Nations for 13 years; and, in addition to that, many wars took place in Iraq. This caused devastation to the education in Iraq."

Hamdani's home town in Iraq is located in what is now referred to as "the Green Zone." When Hamdani came back to the states after the conclusion of the "Grand War," he saw many libraries being burned down through the looting and chaos.

"I decided to do something for this," he said. With the help of my colleagues and the students here at JSU and with the generosity of a lot of faculty and many universities across the United States and Canada, we succeeded in accomplishing our goal.

The idea to donate textbooks started when Hamdani was in Jordan in 2001-2002 as a Fulbright Scholar. He had the opportunity to meet several faculty members from Baghdad University. They exchanged information and Hamdani found out that most of the textbooks they have are 30 to 40 years old. He took about four boxes of textbooks with him and said the teachers were "very thrilled and happy to receive them."

"Every text book has a tremendous value, especially if you don't have the specific textbook. So the library of Baghdad University right now is rich with many, many topics. They are very, very appreciative of our effort here at Jacksonville State University in supporting the education in Iraq," Hamdani said.

Hamdani believes that during this tumultuous time in Iraq's rebuilding efforts, the students of Baghdad University will now have reason to remain optimistic. Now that the project is no longer collecting textbooks or monetary donations, the question remains, where do they go from here?

Hamdani said he is currently trying to find out if the Iraqi embassy or any other organization could help them ship the books before collecting more. In addition to the idea to raise more textbooks, he thinks it is equally as important to help the university by establishing a student and faculty exchange program.

The faculty in Baghdad University are really anxious to come to the U.S. and get exposed to the system. They want to be trained and they want to be participating in the rebuilding of Iraq, he said. "They want to find out more about the United States."

Once the security situation stabilizes in the country, Hamdani hopes to establish a scholarship program to encourage Iraqi students to study abroad. "I would like to thank all the people who participated in this project," Hamdani said.

"We will take it one step at a time; and, hopefully in the future, we will accomplish all of our goals."

If you would like to help or would like further information, contact Al Harris, Director/JSU News Bureau & Pub. Office, 203-B Bibb Graves Hall, 700 Pelham Rd., N., Jacksonville, AL 36265; or call 256-782-5468.

JIMMY MCCARY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Six persons from the Mentone/Valley Head area have been awarded scholarships from the Jimmy McCary Scholarship Fund. This fund was established at St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church in 1988 and has awarded many scholarships to local students during the last 16 years. The purpose of the scholarships is to assist Mentone area high school graduates continue their education at a school of their choice.

This year's recipients are Matthew Battles, Nicole Cash, Ben Corey, Emmy Corey, Amanda Johnson, Stephanie Kruskamp, Kayla Smith and Stephanie Watkins.

Your prayers are solicited for these young people and their families.

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CECIL BATY TURNS 77!



Cecil Baty celebrated his 77th Birthday on Saturday, July 16, with his birthday cake made especially for him by Larry Gray of Cakes by Larry at Mentone. The celebration took place at the home of Marilyn Blanton Campbell

On Saturday night, July 16, Marilyn Blanton Campbell hosted a birthday supper for Mr. Cecil Baty at her home, Denouement, in the Baty Community. Guests enjoying the occasion included Mr. Baty's sons, Billy and Edward, Debbie Baty (Billy's wife), Jennifer Davis, and Jane Galloway.

Mr. Baty's son, Rickey, had been invited, but he went to a gathering of motorcycle enthusiasts in Kentucky, thus missing the occasion of his father's birthday. Mr. Baty's sister, Mrs. Margie Coots, was also invited, but she was unable to attend due to ill health. Friend and neighbor, Mrs. Nancy Lusk was invited as well, but Miss Nancy was in California for her family reunion. Mrs. Veronica Baty (Edward's wife and Mr. Baty's daughter-in-law) had super serious back surgery on July 5, and, at first, she was in the hospital, and then she spent some time in a rehabilitation facility arriving home on Friday afternoon, July 15, only to need even more rest and care there; so, naturally, she was unable to attend the birthday celebration.

When Mr. Baty and Jane Galloway arrived at Marilyn's house, they were carrying a bouquet of hydrangea blossoms (in a variety of colors, all of which had come from Jane's one plant--seriously, there were blue, pink, purple, and white flowers) and some wild Phlox. Mr. Baty had added a lemon lily and some lilies in shades of deep orange and maroon as they passed by his flower bed on the way over. The whole group was casually dressed in a cool and comfortable fashion.

Each year, Marilyn tries to do a different color theme so that the occasion of Mr. Baty's birthday can be made even more special. This year, she checked with Mr. Baty ahead of time, and he was not in the least put off with the idea of his birthday's being done in pink. Of course, pink is Marilyn's favorite color, so there was no question about the fact that the table was going to be especially pretty.

The tablecloth was handmade by Marilyn in a heavy fabric in a shade of palest pink, with tiny little stitches that are each and every one the same size and being exactly the same distance apart. The pristine white



L/R: Edward Baty, Billy Baty, Cecil Baty, Jane Galloway, Debbie Baty, and Jennifer Davis at Cecil Baty's 77th birthday party

lace tablecloth overlay was catalogue ordered and quite reminiscent of the Quaker lace tablecloths that Mamie Eisenhower used in the White House back in the 1950s. The napkins matched the tablecloth and were rectangular in shape, had been folded to look like a miniature vase, and tied with a length of palest pink ribbon. Each one had a particularly beautiful artificial pink rose in the middle of it. It is Mr. Baty's yearly custom to take home some of the artificial flowers--along with the grape juice bottle--as a reminder of his birthday supper.

This year, Mr. Baty's birthday cake was even more special than usual. Larry Gray of Cakes by Larry at Mentone made Mr. Baty's birthday cake. He made a sheet cake and carved out the design he wanted. The cake was yellow inside with white icing, and the number 77 along with "Happy Birthday Cecil" done in bright blue frosting.

The flower arrangements on the table were done with roses in three shades of palest pink and baby's breath. Debbie Baty and Jennifer Davis did the flower arrangements, and Marilyn was most grateful.

The meal started with homemade chicken noodle soup. Fresh vegetables made up the salad course.

The main meal consisted of beef potroast, gravy, white rice, homemade cream style corn, okra casserole, squash dressing, green lima beans, purple cabbage slaw, cranberry sauce, sliced tomatoes, Vidalia onions, homemade rolls, cornbread muffins, strawberry jelly and pats of margarine that were supposed to look like miniature pineapples--the symbol of hospital-

ity in the Old South. Welch's Sparkling Grape Juice and Schwepps Ginger Ale were also served.

Among Mr. Baty's birthday gifts were many things a man would expect to receive, such as articles of clothing, tools, books, videos, recreational equipment, etc. Mr. Baty always wears a hat and one can usually tell by his hat how dressed up he is. With that in mind, Marilyn gave him two hats for his birthday. On one of them, she embroidered "My Hat," and the other was inscribed "My Sunday Hat." Even if it was Saturday night, Mr. Baty left wearing his Sunday hat.

Mr. Baty proclaimed, "I enjoyed it more this year than I did last year because I felt better."

Every year it seems like Mr. Baty's birthday means more to him and he enjoys it more. Furthermore, he is not about to forget that the ladies at The Groundhog promised him several years ago that he could be on the front page when he turned 90.

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KEEP UP THE FIGHT - AGAINST CANCER!

Congratulations! August 4, Marilyn Blanton Campbell will celebrate five years cancer free, and she wishes to thank everybody for the prayers and emotional support that have sustained her through her battle to the victory that she is now celebrating. "Early detection is the main weapon we have in the fight against any kind of cancer, so please make use of it," has always been Marilyn's comment on cancer every since hers was detected in a mammogram. Doctors and the American Cancer Society agree with her.

Every since she came down with breast cancer in 2000, Marilyn has been a one-woman crusade to get the world checked up for breast cancer, and she has very often made a pest of herself in the time of it, but she does not apologize for her diligence. There are people who accept procrastination as a way of life, and those people keep putting off being checked for whatever reason. Those are the people that Marilyn is trying to reach with her message.

Very often, people feel like they can put off family members (when somebody suggests a check-up for cancer) with a snappy "Don't tell me what to do!" However, when a perfect stranger suggests the same check-up, that same person thinks, "Well, maybe I should," and that is a lot closer than that particular person has ever been before to getting checked out.

Another point that needs to be made is that those people, who have been checked for cancer, need to make sure they encourage others to go and get checked and encourage those to encourage yet others and even others to be checked. Like a rock tossed into a pond, we have no idea where our influence will end, if the word we spread is passed on and on by the people to whom we speak.

Word of mouth's spreading the message about getting oneself checked is important in the fight against any kind of cancer. Being checked for cancer is something most people never even think about purely because cancer is one of those dreadful things that is supposed to happen to other people. Cancer can, will, and does happen to all sorts of people.

On the subject of breast cancer in particular, there is a definite hesitancy about being checked, and that should very definitely be discussed openly. The number of men who leave wives who have breast cancer is absolutely disgraceful. Many women know that if they are diagnosed with breast cancer, not only will they have to contend with all the physical and emotional trauma of the surgery and all the follow-up that entails, but they will also have to cope with the collapse of their marriages. Therefore, they elect to die purely because it is so much easier. Let's face it. When most men say "in sickness and in health," they mean her looking after him and most certainly NOT him looking after her. That "It's your problem. You handle it!" attitude is absolutely disgraceful. Cancer is not simply an individual ailment, cancer happens to entire families.

There are people in the world who think of serious illness--and particularly cancer--as God's way of getting even with people who did bad things in their youth. Cancer is a terrible disease, and there is no telling how many kinds of it. Cancer attacks anybody and everybody without respect to age, sex, ethnicity, position in the world, etc. We know for a fact that statement is true because it was cancer that killed John Wayne. Early detection is now and has always been the mightiest weapon we have in our medical arsenal to fight cancer.

Please see to it that you and yours are among the people who go regularly for check-ups, mammograms, etc. More and more research is being done, and larger numbers of people in today's world are either surviving or "living with cancer" for extended periods of time as opposed to "dying with cancer."

Regardless of who you happen to be, please remember this--when someone you know is diagnosed with cancer, your prayers and emotional support are invaluable. You do not have to spend money in order to offer prayers and emotional support. Dr. Damon Brantley of Huntsville told Marilyn at the time of her surgery that the emotional support she had from family and friends would make a big difference in her recovery. So many people simply do not know what to do or say, so they do or say nothing. Words are not required. A hug or a pat on the hand goes a long way when somebody is having a bad day in the battle against cancer. Church people agree that it is possible to feel it when somebody is sincerely praying for you; so, if you are not the hugging kind of person, you can go home, close the door, and pray for people who need it.

We have all heard that laughter is the best medicine. If you know somebody who is down with cancer, tell that person something funny. A good laugh never hurt anybody, and talking about one's insides is not particularly uplifting to the person who is doing the fighting. He/she already knows all the ins and outs of the battle, and thinking about something else for a little while is a big help. Do NOT treat the patient like a victim or an invalid. If the person you are visiting is better, that is the first thing he is going to tell you when you walk into the room. Otherwise, do not ask probing questions and talk about insides. The person who is sick has already discussed the subject of insides to the point of being totally exhausted with it. Talking about things that are going on in the world outside the sickroom tends to make the patient feel more like he has not totally lost contact with the community.

When you want to go see somebody who is down, and you do not want to go empty handed but you cannot think of what to take, one of the nicest things you can possibly take that person is a package of chewing gum--yes, the little one you can put in your pocket--any flavor. Often, high-powered medication starts the sinuses draining, and the only thing on earth that tastes any worse than sinus drainage is the drainage from an abscessed tooth. Ick! Gum is a godsend--it helps the mouth taste better.

In general, people in our modern world are living longer, and that alone increases our chances of getting cancer. In another day and time, people died of other things before cancer could get them. Please understand that this is not an attempt to be maudlin or anything of the sort. It is simply an attempt to tell you that--

1. Early detection is still our first line of defense against cancer.
2. Everybody should be checked for cancer, because nobody is exempt from it.
3. There is always something in the way of emotional support that you can do to help those who are battling cancer.

Yes, there are lots of people who, for one reason or another, lose their battle with cancer and early detection could have helped many of them. If you know somebody who has lost a family member to cancer, you already know the worth of a hug, a pat on the hand, or a sincere prayer for that person. When we ask God to be with people--regardless of the battle they are waging--we are helping whether we realize it or not.

Again, we congratulate Marilyn Blanton Campbell on her milestone of being five years cancer free. Best wishes for the future as well.

The American Cancer Society puts out a list of warning signs for cancer. Please familiarize yourself with those and keep in mind the importance of early detection purely because there are so many kinds of cancer that have no warning signs whatever.

SKETCHES

By Don David.

The area and the images in and around Mentone inspired a series of pen and ink sketches to be done by Artist/Architect Don David. He and his wife Madelon have purchased a home on South Cool Street and plan to divide their time between their home in Mentone and Destin, Florida.

"There are so many interesting things to draw in Mentone," David said. He has completed two sketches so far. One is of the Mentone Springs Hotel and the other is of the Mentone Wedding Chapel. Future subjects include Cragmere Manna Restaurant, the Little River Hardware, the John Graham House, St. Joseph's on the Mountain, the Mentone Inn, the Rock Church (Howard's Chapel), and others. The owner of each of the places he sketches will be given a copy.

David's art spans over forty years, beginning while studying under Professor Brinson at Auburn University. Through the years, he has attended many workshops and clinics perfecting his sketching style. He has sketched extensively while traveling through the U.S. and Europe and while sailing in the Caribbean and Bahamas. His work has been published and was selected to tour with the Southern Artist TRaveling exhibit sponsored by Vincent Price.

Locally, his work will be on display at the Local Gentry Art Gallery. You may find him with his art at some of the festivals or set up down town.

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FIELD SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION: THE PUBLIC CAN HELP

By Sherry Kughn, JSU News Bureau

The blueprints for the Little River Canyon Field School are almost completed and its advisory board will begin thinking about construction funds. Board members recently examined the blueprints for a rustic stone and wood facility that will also house offices for the National Park Service.

Those who have worked to develop this facility--including several JSU faculty and staff members, officials with the National Park Service and the DeKalb County Tourism Association, and many community leaders--are pleased that the project has come this far.

The facility will attract tourists, students and others who want to know more about the rich fauna and flora of Little River Canyon area and life at the foot of the Appalachian Mountains. The facility will also provide a showcase for musicians, artists, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Pete Conroy, director of the Environmental Policy and Information Center and the JSU Field Schools, hopes the public will help by getting involved. "While JSU has been fortunate in having Congress appropriate funds for construction," he said, "we have many needs that will require additional assistance through private means."

Conroy displayed an artist rendition of the building front which features the rustic materials with a front patio pond feature and bog typical to the area. The front lobby has 20-foot ceilings and a double-sided fireplace. Inside the lobby will be a welcome center and restrooms. Visitors will follow a route through the building that takes them into an auditorium with a video describing the field school, the prehistory, history, and natural history of the area. From there visitors will tour an exhibit hall and an education shop. Classrooms are on one side of the facility and offices on the other.

"To connect our visitors to the environment, the facility will have a large terrace, with a nice view out

back. It'll be a starting point for hiking trails and the trails that lead to our outdoor classrooms," said Dr. Kelly Gregg, a JSU professor of geography and member of the advisory board. "We're going to bring K-12 groups there and establish learning stations," said Renee Morrison, coordinator of JSU field schools and a member of the advisory board. "Outside the building will be a native American rock shelter, a site for archeology and anthropology students, and a water quality site where students will compare water samples and discuss water cycles."

In addition, there will be an outdoor classroom station with native live animals and a station where students can learn about rocks and soil. Those affiliated with the project almost glow when they speak of the future. One of those is Dr. Frank Romano, head of the biology department at JSU.

"I'm looking forward to teaching classes at the JSU Little River facility," he said. "Maybe we'll do week-long classes on aquatic entomology and ecology. We'll study and then go to the creek, which will literally be in our back yard. Our classrooms will be indoors and out, definitely a great living laboratory," he said.

Conroy believes the Little River Canyon project will be unique in supporting the interest of both a university and a national park. He said, "While the National Park Service is JSU's primary partner, we have developed dozens of important relationships that make the construction of this facility possible. This project is all about partnerships."

Conroy said everyone involved had dreamed about the field school for years and are eager to build. "I guess all good things are worth waiting for, but we're all tired of that, and now we are just ready to get started."

Those interested in donating funds for the field school should contact Pete Conroy at 256-782-8010. For more information, log onto <http://epic.jsu.edu>.

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	0
Vehicle Accident	5
False Alarm	0
Natural Disaster	1
911/ Medical	1

The Lookout Mountain community in and around Mentone has been generous in the recent request for donations. These funds will be used to support the Volunteer Fire Firefighters by covering the expenses necessary to maintain the equipment and fire hall.

Your donation will be appreciated whether it is \$1.00 or \$100.00. The entire community benefits from having these Volunteer Firefighters located in Mentone. With your support we can keep them supplied with all their operational expenses.

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

NORTH LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 154
MENTONE AL 35984

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Rhododendron Garden Club News
By Linda Brown, Secretary

The Rhododendron Garden Club met on July 12, 2005 at the MERF Community House. President, Gethryn Giles, called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Dorothy Cyr gave the devotional and prayed the blessing. President Giles led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and in the unison reading of, A Gardener's Prayer, the official collect of the club.

Mary Ellen Fielder, Ann Chesnut and Sue Ann Jones served refreshments to twenty-three members and four visitors, Barbara Nelson, Jane Kerby, Nancy Krenkel and Julia Quarles. The patriotic colors of red, white and blue were used to commemorate Independence Day.

Sue Schwarz introduced the speaker for the day, Harriett Lillich. Harriett is a member of the club and serves as chairperson of the Ways and Means Committee. She presented a program entitled, Gardens Supported by the Garden Club of Alabama, Inc. Recently, Harriett visited the Garden of Memory in Auburn and the Helen Keller Fragrance Garden in Talladega. She attempted to visit Dowling Garden in Talladega, but was unable to find the garden or anyone who knew where it was. The other two gardens were in need of attention as they were both in disarray. Pictures were used as visual aids to help the members realize the state of the gardens.

The business meeting resumed with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting by Linda Brown, secretary, and the presentation of the treasurer's report by Sue Ann Jones.

Committee reports were called for by President Giles and the following reports were given by the chairs of their respective committee.

Martha Wood, Horticulture, exhibited three specimen of wild shrubs that are now blooming white. They are: Button Bush, Smooth Leaf Hydrangea and Elderberry. Look for them along the roadsides and the banks of the river.

Dorothy Cyr, Conservation, urged everyone to continue to carry used printer cartridges to the Mentone Town Hall. These can be recycled and the money used for scholarships by The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc.

Gethryn Giles, for Margaret Baker, Special Projects, stated that the club will consider applying for some of the awards as outlined in Hortensia magazine.

President Giles appointed a committee to plan the visit of Jason Powell in August 2006. Jason owns Petals from the Past, a nursery that features the plants our grandmothers grew in their gardens. We will supply everyone with more information as it becomes available.

Jan Wilkinson commented that she had often heard and read of the rewards that planting an all white garden will bring. It seems that white flowers are supposed to glow in partial darkness. Recently, she experienced this firsthand as she watched the darker shades of flowers fade at dusk, but the white ones continued to be visible for a much longer time.

President Giles presented the book, Handbook for Flower Shows, complete with updates, to Jan Wilkinson, chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Moon Lake Community Library for placement in the library.

Sue Schwarz made a motion to write a letter containing the information gathered by Harriett Lillich on her visit to the different gardens supported by The Garden Club of Alabama, Inc to the State President and send copies to the State Chairperson of each garden. Motion seconded and carried.

It has become the custom of the club to bring any plants that they have rooted or have an over abundance of to the meetings. These are then auctioned off and the money raised is deposited in the treasury for use on the many projects of the club. This month we hit the jackpot as one member brought daylily plants that bloom early and smell wonderful. Another said that her husband insisted that it was time to clean out the greenhouse, so she brought lots of rooted cuttings. These were auctioned by Gethryn and a fair amount of money was added to our treasury.

Mary Ellen Fielder won the drawing for the door prize and the meeting was declared adjourned.

The next regular meeting of the club will be August 9th at the MERF Community House 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.



Blowing out the candles for the 11th Birthday are owners, Mary Alice Stout, Ellen Spangler, and cake cutter, Menlo Postmaster Joanne Christian.

A GRAND Celebration for MOUNTAIN MAMAS

By Ellen Spangler

Mountain Mamas Crafts and Rock Shop celebrated its 11th birthday on Saturday, July 9th. Joanne Christian, Menlo Postmaster, began the celebration by cutting the cake, saying how honored she was to be a part of celebrating the success of so many women artists.

In spite of hurricane Dennis pushing into Alabama, nearly 70 folks came to celebrate with the "Mamas." Most were from DeKalb County, AL, and Chattooga County, GA. The "Mamas" supplied lots of cake, both chocolate and carrot, as well as iced apple spice tea for everyone. There were door prize drawings on the hour with a total of 14 prizes awarded. The grand prize was a \$20 gift certificate to Mountain Mamas Shop. It was won by Helen Allen, Cloudland, GA., a regular shopper at Mountain Mamas.

Three potters from Carrollton, GA., demonstrated their techniques during the afternoon. Melanie Drew, the leaf-bowl potter, Angela Goff, whose work is inspired by Harry Potter and Dr. Seuss, and Kate McAninch, who has just this year added her unique pottery to the Mountain Mamas' shelves.

Mountain Mamas began 11 years ago when 8 craftswomen got together to create a place for all women artists in the area to sell their arts and crafts. There are now over 60 women artists who have their work on consignment in the shop. Each spring there are new artists added, and new items come in each month. The shop is overflowing with lovely, creative, and sometimes humorous fine arts and crafts. This is not a shop full of imports from Asia or Mexico, but full of items beautifully crafted by local and regional craftswomen.

Mountain Mamas is located in Cloudland, GA, on Lookout Mountain, on GA Hwy 48, just 1/2 mile East of the GA/AL state line where AL Hwy 117 ends. The Shop is opened each Saturday and Sunday, noon to 6pm (GA time), from March through December 4th.

See us at www.mountainmamas.com.



Artist, Andrea Brandon, demonstrating her painting for Wayne Gautreau.





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(1) Mentone cottage with storage! Easy cottage on 40 wooded acres near DeSoto State Park. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, wood burning fireplace, enclosed ceiling, 2 storage buildings. \$249,900 (PLS #13724)



(2) A Rare Find - Established summer home with 1 bedroom, 1 bath, 3 living areas (2 w/ mountain stone fireplace) and access to a large deck overlooking the valley. Situated on 2 acres with NW on the West Drive. \$749,000 (PLS #13837)



(3) Almost new cabin on the brow near DeSoto State Park! 2 bedrooms (1 up & 1 down), 2 baths, open living room w/ rock fireplace, sunroom, unique wood ceiling, back deck and so much more! \$269,500 (PLS #12973)



(4) Keweenaw Pines Campground - 8 self-contained cabins, office building that could be converted into living quarters, numerous RV and camp sites all on (1) - included acres adjoining DeSoto State Park. \$795,000 (PLS #10906)



(5) Less than 1 mile from downtown Mentone and sitting on over 1 1/2 acres, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, open porch on front and sunroom on the back, 2-car carport w/ workshop, and a 20 x 24 building. \$89,900 (PLS #13801)



(6) Crestline - 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, fireplace, sunroom, wood floors & walls, front and back porches and lots on 1 1/2 acres. \$96,500 (PLS #13844)



(7) NEW on Brush Creek! 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, vinyl siding, metal roof, laminate and ceramic flooring, 140' screened porch, deck and so much more on 1 1/2 acres. \$129,900 (PLS #13267)



(8) Seclusion just off DeSoto Parkway - 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, beautiful Mountain Stone fireplace, central heat & air, wonderful rock formations and much more situated on 1.9 acres in Mentone. \$149,900 (PLS #17848)



(9) Colonial Brow Home - 4 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths with open kitchen & great room w/ fireplace, sun porch, formal dining room, antique Heart pine floors, a detached double garage with an additional bedroom and bath. \$449,000 (PLS #12973)



(10) River access - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with room to expand, built in 1927 and includes an oversized living room w/ fireplace, sunroom, large bedrooms and 250' of waterfront on West Fork of Little River. \$450,000 (PLS #12967)



(11) Must See! Pre-civil war, hand-hewn log structure with a stone wood burning fireplace, exposed beams and pine floors. 2 separate self-contained guest quarters all connected by stone patios, walkways & decks. Abundant landscaping. \$199,500 (PLS #13474)



(12) Brow Property - with the words of the valley, 3 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, stacked rock - wood burning fireplace. \$299,900 (PLS #13844)



(13) NEW! This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home features a large living/dining area with w/ ceilings, ceramic tile, 2-car garage, connected by a breezeway. Full front porch that overlooks a 1 1/2 acre wooded lot. \$149,900 (PLS #12777)



(14) Brow Property - Designed for leisure with a commanding view, this cabin offers easy clean-up with all wood floors, walls & ceilings, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, gas fireplace and private deck with hot tub. \$249,000 (PLS #13843)



(15) NEW & Furnished - Adorable new cabin featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, pine floors throughout and a rock fireplace. 8 x 40' porches on front and back with Yellow Pine exterior and a metal roof. \$149,900 (PLS #12847)



(16) North Brow - New construction featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, gas burning fireplace, front porch, back deck and more with approximately 1000 sq. ft. of living space. \$295,500 (PLS #13100)



(17) Pottersburg rail-depot location - 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, living/dining and den with wood burning fireplace and great media room. 3 levels of decking with fabulous mountain and valley views. \$492,000 (PLS #13801)



(18) Less than 2 years old and on 6.6 acres, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, cherry floors, stacked rock - wood burning fireplace, private deck off master bedroom, 2-car garage with storage and 1170 sq. ft. of unfinished space upstairs. \$169,500 (PLS #13771)



(19) Valley Head - Don't miss your chance to see this recently updated brick rancher in Valley Head offering 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, sunroom and so much more. \$134,500 (PLS #13771)



(20) Retreat to Laurel Creek! New construction with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, kitchen/dining combo, living room with feature window and fireplace. \$124,000 (PLS #12943)



(21) Almost complete! This new cedar-sided home sits on 3.3 +/- acres and features 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, open kitchen/dining/living combination, gas log fireplace, central heat & air, large front porch and much. \$114,500 (PLS #12909)



(22) Valley Head - 3 bedrooms, 1 bath cottage with living room, formal dining, kitchen, sunroom, screened front porch, CH&A, detached garage/storage and all on a corner lot. \$74,900 (PLS #13171)



(23) Valley Head - 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, glassed-in front porch, formal dining, KND & 1 bedroom, 1 bath guest home, 3 mobile terraces for entertaining or just relaxing. \$94,900 (PLS #13723)



(24) Valley Head - 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, beautiful sunroom, wood paneling, decorative fish pond, security system and storage building. \$105,000 (PLS #13888)



(25) JUST REDUCED! Rustic Cabin with 3 bedrooms and a loft, living and dining room with cathedral ceiling, kitchen with ceramic countertop, utility room in a wooded area. \$75,000 (PLS #13847)

- (26) 4 acre parcel on County Road 627. \$28,000 (PLS #13269)
- (27) LAND & LAKE **SOLD-SOLD-SOLD** Lake and Brush Creek runs through it, the lake was stocked with Bass and Bream approx. 5 years ago and is approximately 35' deep. \$169,900 (PLS #11041)
- (28) Mentone - 3 wooded acres with a proposed building site already cleared. \$37,000 (PLS #11954)
- (29) Mountain River Estates - Phase I & II - building lots available, some with river frontage. Restricted subdivision. Lots start at \$27,300. Call for more information.
- (30) 1.56 acres on the brow near DeSoto State Park. \$37,500 (PLS #10133)
- (31) 4.23 acres on Hwy. 117 just outside the Mentone City Limits. Property can be used as residential or commercial. \$19,900 (PLS #13271)
- (32) Beautiful BROW lot on DeSoto Parkway .65 acres with beautiful rock formations and gorgeous sunsets. \$95,500 (PLS #13627)
- (33) JUST LISTED... 11 acres in downtown Mentone. Can be purchased as a whole or split in lots. \$115,000 (PLS #13658)
- (34) Hammondville - Building lots starting at \$5,000/lot. Call for more information.
- (35) Beautiful brow **SOLD-SOLD-SOLD** \$5,000 (PLS #13638)
- (36) 1.82 acres or **SOLD-SOLD-SOLD** \$9,000 (PLS #13394)

For other land/lot listings, please call our office at 256-845-6000

Century Plant Blooms

from The Courier Journal, Crescent City, Florida,
July 6, 2005, Volume 61, No. 6 issue
By Bette Van Trump, Staff Writer
Submitted by Mayfred "Granny" Whatley

Mayfred "Granny" Whatley of Pomona Park, FL, has been a very popular lady of late. She has a blooming century plant in her front yard. The century plant grows very well in Florida, as it needs sandy soils and does best in full sun.

The century plant's botanical name is *Agave americana*. It is widely known in the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts, at higher elevations from south-eastern California, to western Texas and south to northern Mexico. It prospers in dry, rocky desert slopes. The plant provided Native Americans with a source of soap, food, fiber, medicine and weapons.

The century plant has many characteristics, such as rounded masses of stiff, sword-shaped leaves, from four to six feet long and as many inches wide at the base, always armed with long, sharp terminal thorns. These must be clipped off as soon as each new leaf is fully grown.

After many years, indefinite in number, but only a fraction of a century, this unique native plant grows a lofty flower-topped spike, 15-25 feet high resembling a gigantic candelabrum that lives for several months. The yellow flowers growing on the stalk are comprised of six petals, and bloom from June through

August. The flowers grow in clusters and face upward at the end of the horizontal branches, appearing only near the top of the stalk.

When its blooming period has ended, the plant will die. Suckers from the base are a common means of propagation and should not be detached until it is well rooted. Some say these roots can be transplanted, with a 98 percent survival rate.

Other material suggests the *Agave americana* can grow up to 40 feet, with much longer leaves and a larger stalk. This American century plant is sometimes grown in southern California as an ornamental plant. It is used commercially in Mexico as a source to produce the liquors, tequila, pulque, and mescal.

The most common form of century plant in cultivation is the variety, *variegata*, with the leaves twisted, that feature dark green and marginal bands of yellow. Other variations have gray-green leaves and other variegated types are also available in Florida. Sisal Agave, *A. sisalana*, from whose leaves sisal hemp is made, is also used in southern Florida landscaping. The smooth green leaves have no marginal prickles, and the flower spike has many of its flowers transformed into miniature suckers, called bulbils, by which it is easily propagated, enduring heat, drought, and salt spray. Agaves thrive also in soil of good moisture content, and will also grow in full sun or partial shade.

From the Water Works Board of The Town of Mentone

The recent projects undertaken by the Water Works Board are essentially complete. The Board would appreciate comments from the public as to the completion of those areas. If you have questions or comments, please notify the Board in writing at the address below.

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this lengthy process in upgrading and extending water lines to customers in the Mentone area.

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RECIPE CORNER

By Sue Schwarz

This month, I hope you enjoy the recipes for fruit desserts. All the berry bushes and fruits are so wonderful this time of year. These recipes are not quite as sugary and do not use as much butter as some of the wonderful cobbler and pie recipes do. Substituting Splenda for some of the sugar would further cut sugar and calories for those who must do so.

MICHIGAN FOUR SEASONS PIE

- Susan Lang

Crust:

1/2 C butter

1-1/2 C flour

1 T water

Syrup:

1 C sugar

1 T cornstarch

1 C water

1/4 C dry flavored gelatin powder

4 cups sliced fresh fruit or berries

Melt the butter in a 9-inch pie pan. Add the flour and water. Mix with a fork and press into the bottom and sides of the pan. Bake at 425° for 15 minutes. Combine sugar, cornstarch and water. Boil 1 minute or until clear. Stir the gelatin into the syrup and cool. Pour mixture over the fresh fruit which has been placed into the baked pastry shell. Variations: Use strawberry gelatin for strawberries, lemon for blueberry pie.

DEEP DISH FRESH PEACH PIE

3/4 C sugar

1/4 C flour

1 t baking powder

1/2 t salt

1 egg, beaten

1/2 t vanilla

2 T melted butter

Sliced fresh peaches, sweetened
if necessary. (About 4 cups)

Add sifted dry ingredients to egg. Blend in vanilla and butter. Arrange peaches in buttered 8-inch baking dish. Pour batter over fruit; bake 30-40 minutes in a 350° oven.

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PHOTO OF THE BAIN FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WERE PRESENT
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WAS HONORED THIS YEAR.

Front Row (L/R): Ruby Stalvey, Josh Smith.; Geneva Mills, Naomi Potts,
McKenzie Jones, Gavin Smith, Della Bain, Dolas Bain, Veronica Baty,
Robin Baty; Back Row (L/R): Jim Roberts, Phyllis Roberts, John Smith,
Ethel Manifold, Barbara Kelley, Deana Jones, Missy Wooten, Bobbie Smith,
Ricky Bain, Eddie Porter

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CORNER DRUGSTORE

(Continued from page 1)

Personal Touch

Here are the responsibilities of being the druggist at one of the last corner drugstores:

Tonight, Morgan will make a delivery to Eloise Lance, an 82-year-old woman who lives in Mentone. By his estimate, he makes deliveries to elderly customers once or twice a week. "Some just can't get here," he says. Those who do depend on him to heal them. "What are you doing getting sick, Pauline?" he asks a customer. "I guess I'm getting old and I can't get over it," she says. "Well, he says, 'its time to get over it.'"

Moments later, Linda Frith drives in from Gadsden, about 35 miles south. "I want to see the person I buy my drugs from," she says. "I want to see his face, just like I want to see my doctor's face." Her need to connect with her druggist is more than a yearning from the old days. She is recovering from cancer. You've got to know who's filling those pills," she says, "and he's the only one I know who does this."

Scrooge lives on his farm in Mentone with his wife, Edna, who retired in 1999 from teaching Home Economics at Valley Head School, and their son Coley. Edna watches over the cattle during the day. She and Coley have some registered cows and have built a nice herd," Morgan said in the October 1991 article.

Also in that 1991 issue of *The Groundhog*, Scrooge said "I know my customers and their families and so do my employees. We have lots of personal contact with our customers. I feel like I am not doing them a favor to sell them medicine, they are doing me a favor to buy from me," he explained. This tradition continues today.

Employees who have also provided the friendly service the customers need are Robin Hulan, Cathy Carson, and Christine Brooks, who has recently retired.

In 1994, Cynthia and Wayne Wooten became co-owners of Morgan Drugs; however, the name of the drugstore remains Morgan Drugs. Cynthia is also a licensed pharmacist, and she and Scrooge work alternate weeks behind the counter filling prescriptions and giving helpful information to customers.

Scrooge welcomes this relief that affords him more time with his family, and his family welcomes more help from him on the cattle farm.

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Vickie Vaughn



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(1) IMMACULATE 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH with open Living, Kitchen area. Sun Room with a view of the large pond and creek. Surrounded by nature and open field with fruit orchard. All on 8 acres. \$179,900.



(2) COTTAGE IN VALLEY HEAD. All interior remodeled and freshly painted. Pine floors and antique doors. New Vinyl siding, 3 bdrm, 1 bath, Butcher Block counters and all appliances. Lots of windows in Living Room and Sunroom. C/H/A. All on 4 acres with Large Shade trees. \$93,500.



(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 1058+/- sq. ft., with another 169+/- 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) FOR SALE: 13 acres Large Garage Shop, 2 bedroom 2 bath Home, located on Hwy 117 in Mentone. Great Commercial potential. Pasture land and Wooded. Much More. \$200,000.



(6) 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.



(7) INVESTMENT PROPERTY 2 bdrm 1 bath cottage in Mentone, with One acre. Needs some cosmetic work. Sold as-is. \$44,900



(8) VICTORIAN STYLE-THREE STORY Home on the BROW, Mentone. Over 4500 sq. ft. 6 Bdrms, 4-1/2 baths. Marble Foyer entrance, 2 parlors, Dining Room, Living, Kitchen w/Breakfast Nook, tile counters, Oak Cabinets. Wrap-around Porch, 2 car garage. The list goes on and on. Screaming B&B. Situated on 1.2 acres with a wonderful Sunset View. Priced \$455,000.



(9) GREAT STARTER HOME on Lookout Mtn. 2 bdrm, 1 bath all appliances. Renovated, C/H/A, plumbing, wiring, roof, and siding. In the country, but minutes from Ft. Payne. Ready to move in. \$62,000



(10) MINI FARM IN MENTONE. Have your own horse and bring your fishing pole for the pond. Great pasture and 2-stall barn. Plus 3 Bdrm, 3 Bath Ranch style home nearly new. 2-car garage and shop. Open Living/Dining area, Kitchen with eat-in bar. Oak cabinets, all appliances. Covered front porch viewing the pasture, and Deck overlooking the pond. All this and more \$175,000.



(11) COTTAGE AND 9.25 ACRES. 1 bdrm bath. Windows all across the front. Pasture, garden area, fruit trees, large Poplars for shade. Great for relaxing in the Mentone Area. \$112,000.



(12) MOUNTAIN RIVER HOME. enjoy the tranquility of Open Area Great Room, dining, kitchen combo. Fireplace, Master bed and bath on main level. 2 loft bedrooms and bath. Large deck overlooking river. Full basement, 2 car garage attached with breezeway. and much more. 3.45 acres. \$305,900.



OTHER PROPERTIES

(13) 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.

(14) 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

(15) 3.18 ACRES ON HWY 117. Mentone. No restrictions. Wooded with city water available. \$20,000.

(16) ROCKY TOP ESTATES 2 lots for the price of one. Beautifully wooded, adjoins DeSoto park. Paved road. city water and power. Over 2 acres \$36,000.

(17) 12 acres adjoining Little River National Preserve. Wooded Canyon across the street. Paved road on two sides. A must see and only minutes from convenient Ft. Payne. Priced \$10,000 an acre. Acreage determined by survey. Between Co Rd. 255 and Hwy 176. (Canyon Park Rd)

MENTONE MINI STORAGE UNITS AVAILABLE
FOR INFO, CALL ANGELA WOOD AT 256-634-4672



**MENTONE AREA
PRESERVATION
ASSOCIATION
2005 OCTOBER
COLORFEST**

October 15 and 16

Order your Quilt Tickets Now!

Complete the form below and send in your donation (\$1.00 per ticket). Your ticket(s) will be entered in the drawing for the beautiful handmade quilt to be given away at the October Colorfest on Sunday, October 16, at 4:30 pm, at the Pavilion on the Brow.

Please enter my name in the drawing for the handmade quilt. I am ordering _____ tickets @\$1.00 donation each.

I am enclosing my check/money order in the amount of \$_____.

Name: _____

Street/PO Box: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Mail completed form with donation to:

MAPA QUILT TICKETS

Post Office Box 50

Mentone, AL 35984

**OLD FASHIONED HALLELUJAH
SINGING**

DATE:
AUGUST 13, 2005

TIME:

6:30 PM

PLACE:

HAMMONDVILLE
TOWN HALL



PROCEEDS GO TO HELP PAY MEDICAL EXPENSES
FOR

MR. SLIM EASLER

GROUPS APPEARING INCLUDE:

MASTERWORKS, FOUR CHORDS AND A CLOUD OF DUST, JERRY
ABBOTT
AND MANY MORE

ADMISSION IS FREE - DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED
HOT DOGS AND SOFT DRINKS WILL BE SERVED

COME AND SUPPORT A FRIEND

REMEMBER:

YOU CAN'T OUTGIVE GOD

 **BOOK SALE**
Aug. 5 & Aug. 6
Moon Lake Community Library

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND OTHER DATES

- Tuesday, August 2, 6:30 PM, MAPA monthly meeting, Church of God of Prophecy fellowship hall
- Tuesday, August 2, 6:30 PM, DeSoto Rescue Squad, Mentone Community House
- Monday, August 8, 6PM, Town Council Meeting, Mentone Town Hall meeting room, open to the public
- Tuesday, August 9 12:00 PM Rhododendron Garden Club, Mentone Community House
- Tuesday, August 9, American Legion meeting 6:30 p.m., American Legion Hall
- Thursday, August 11, SCHOOL BEGINS
- Saturday, August 13 - 6:30PM, Hammondville Town Hall, Old Fashioned Hallelujah Singing Benefit for Mr. Slim Easler, donations appreciated
- Thursday, August 18, Mentone Book Club, 10 AM
- Saturday, August 20 - 6:30PM, Musical Mountain Strings at Mentone Square
- Thursday, August 25, 4PM, Waterworks Board Meeting, Mentone Waterworks Board Room in the new water complex, open to the public
- Monday, September 5, LABOR DAY HOLIDAY