



HOWARD'S CHAPEL: A DREAM COME TRUE

Milford W. Howard was a man of many dreams — the Scenic Highway on Lookout Mountain from Gadsden to Chattanooga, a resort community on Little River at Alpine, a chain of schools for the mountain people and many other projects he hoped would leave a lasting benefit for the Mentone and Fort Payne area.

The Sallie Howard Memorial Chapel on County Road 165 — Alpine Road in Mentone is one of the most visible gifts left to the mountain by Col. Howard who died this month in 1937. Howard's chapel is visited by thousands of visitors to our area each year. In September, 790 visitors were recorded at the chapel from 24 states and four foreign countries. It is a popular place for weddings and many attend the regular worship services at 10 a.m. each Sunday morning.

Built as a memorial to Col. Howard's first wife the former Sallie Lankford of Fort Payne, a huge natural rock formation is the back wall of the chapel. Topped with a simple white wooden cross — the rock is probably one of the most photographed sites on Lookout Mountain. The chapel is patterned after "Wee Kirk 'O The Heather" at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Glendale, Calif., where Sallie Howard is buried. It is a reproduction of the Annie Laurie Church in Scotland.

Howard's Chapel sits atop a little hill, surrounded by pines and mountain shrubbery. A small cemetery is found behind the church with graves marked by stones from the mountain.

Col. Howard began construction of the chapel toward the end of his own life. His health was failing and mountain friends had urged him to return to California in hopes the warm climate would improve his condition. He felt compelled, however, to build the chapel before leaving the mountain.

Stained glass windows were originally hoped to be placed in the chapel and Col. Howard had found some for \$11 apiece. He was not able to raise the funds to purchase them or to install a fine Hammond Organ. He also hoped to erect a large cross above the chapel, electrically lighted to be "a beacon for miles around." Financial constraints often prevented Col. Howard from fulfilling his dreams which always proved larger than his pocketbook.

The chapel was completed with the help of the Civilian Conservation Corps and residents of the mountain. The pulpit is made of stones from Little River and the two messages are written across the beams in the ceiling. The

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CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM THIRD AND FOURTH GRADE

Many children are writing to Santa this month with a long list of all the things they'd like to get for Christmas. The third and fourth graders at Moon Lake School in Mr. Berry's class spent some time thinking about a special gift they'd like to give to someone else.



I wish I could give all Moms a gold ring but, I want my Mom to know I love her and I love my Dad and sisters.
Jason Sammons

I wish I could give a pair of steaks to my grandmother.
Josh Pullen

I wish I could give George Bush the sum to the Middle East Crisis because I think the world is going to end.
Robby Collins

I wish I could give \$1,000 to Mom and a car to Christy.
Lori Tillman

I wish I could give lots and lots of love to my Mom and Dad.
Stephanie Worthey

I wish I could give my brother Ryan a horse.
Shaun Wrigley

I wish I could give a car to my sister.
Heather Pruitt

I would like to tell President Bush that I would like to have peace in the Middle East because three of my uncles are over there.
Thomas Brendle

I wish I could give my Mom \$1,000.
Buck Strickland

I wish I could give brand new shirts and brand new pants to my Mom and my Daddy.
Tabitha Lee Brisendine



Children's Christmas Program Planned

The annual Children's Christmas Program is planned for Saturday, Dec. 15, beginning at 2 p.m. at the Mentone Town Hall. Santa Claus will arrive on the Mentone Fire Truck at 2 p.m. ready to treat all the children with Christmas Stockings. Terry Hutcherson will be on hand to lead the entertainment.

At 4 p.m., the party will move to the vacant lot beside the Mentone Inn for a music program from a community choir and a devotional. There will be a bon fire and the Christmas Tree Lights will be turned on.

The Christmas Program is sponsored by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, the North DeKalb Area Ministerial Association and several Mentone merchants.



Santa Arrives at 2 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 15

Mentone Town Hall

I wish I could give a movie camera to my great family.
Ryan Curtis Wrigley

I wish I could give all Moms a private nightclub because they could use some peace and quiet.
Casey Jones

I wish I could give \$100,000,000 to Sabrina.
Brian Wooten

I wish I could give my Mama a diamond chandelier and give my dad a motorcycle.
Candace Fuller

I wish I could give a kiss to Josh Baggett and Thomas and Mom and Dad.
Sheena Crow

I wish I could give a lot of money to my family.
Jessica Lee

I wish I could give my Mom a car.
Brandy Johnson

I wish I could give a home to the homeless.
Jonathan Browder



Fire Department News

Mentone has a new fire alarm telephone number which will ring in 10 volunteer firemen residences at the same time on a continuous ring. This system is activated by a person reporting a fire dialing the fire alarm number: 634-4545.

The person sounding the alarm should identify himself first then, give the location and directions to the fire when the first volunteer fireman answers the fire alarm call. The fire alarm will stay activated after the person reporting a fire hangs up. This will allow the Fire Department to dispatch trucks, men and equipment to the scene of the emergency.

Last month the Mentone Fire Department responded to four house fires and eight wooded and forest fires which resulted in the saving of personal property and our natural wooded lands.

The Volunteer Fire Department operates on donations and fund-raising activities to insure fire protection throughout our area. When you are called upon, it is asked that you give generously.

Readers may send any donations to: The North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection, P. O. Box 154, Mentone, Alabama 35984.

Town Council Notes

The Mentone Town Council met Monday, Dec. 3, for their regular monthly meeting at 6 p.m.

Mayor Max Cash reported that the town had spent over \$7,000 for insurance covering both Mentone and the municipal police cars. The town carries \$1 million in liability for the mayor and city council.

It was reported that no claims have been filed against the town.

"This was the lowest rate our agent could get us," the mayor said adding that there are few insurance carriers who write policies for this type of insurance.

The Mentone policeman Johnny Ferguson has moved to Mentone and can be reached at this local number 634-4757.

Three new members were named to the Volunteer Fire Department Board, Leonard Shigley, Buddy Williams and Hershell Pruitt.



Our Town

With Linda Brown

(Editor's Note: We are happy to welcome Linda Brown back as a regular contributor to The Groundhog. "Our Town" is always a popular addition to the paper and we're glad to be reading Linda's column again.)

This is such a nice time of the year to be in Mentone! The leaves have turned to all of their beautiful colors and fallen to the ground to replenish the nutrients in the soil. Now we can enjoy the structure of the trees, they have such interesting sizes and shapes. Now we can see the forest for the trees.

The people of Mentone have such a quiet way of doing things that sometimes no one knows it is happening except the ones doing it. Case in point, many of the area churches provided meals for shut-ins and "golden citizens" during the Thanksgiving season. These meals and, especially the attention, are enjoyed so much by the recipients. Sometimes the best gift you can give is time; time to listen, share and love.

Another case in point, the Desoto Rescue Squad has increased its membership to 28 this year. Several members have completed training in rappelling (that's climbing straight up and down a rock with only a rope for support). Some members recently completed a first-responder course. This equips them with basic first-aid skills and qualifies them to respond to many emergencies. The squad has purchased new equipment and has plans to do some work on some of the older vehicles and to expand the building to house the extra equipment. As with everything else this all costs money. If you would like to make a donation you may send it to: Jesse Crabtree, P. O. Box 303, Mentone AL 35984.

The fire department is also doing a great job. They respond to all fires in the area and are always ready to roll. They have a new phone number to call now, 205/634-4545. This is a very expensive operation and they can always use donations for operating expenses. Their mailing address is: North Lookout Mountain Fire Protection District, P. O. Box 154, Mentone AL 35984.

We are now starting to prepare for the Christmas season. As we get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday, let us remember the reason for the season. Take time to care and love. Take time to enjoy the decorations and all the celebrations. Recently I read an article suggesting that everyone celebrate this Christmas as if it were their first. Sheds a new light on the meaning doesn't it?

Charles McGehee is home after a brief visit to the hospital and is doing well. We all hope to see him up and about again soon.

Amelia Kirk is visiting her children and friends in Sacramento, Calif.

We all feel the pain and disappointment of the families who have someone in the military service this season. So many from our area have left recently for Saudi Arabia. Let us remember them and their families until the crisis is over and they are safely home. No matter if you think we should be over there or not, armies are made up of individuals and each has a special need. Let every light used to celebrate this year be a prayer for peace. My wish to everyone is a happy and peaceful holiday season.



MENTONE'S CUB SCOUTS: Meeting at Moon Lake Baptist Church each Monday night at 6 o'clock. On the back row, from left, are Trevor Strickland, Brian Blalock, Curt Miller, Jonathan Tate. Middle row: Buck Strickland, Thomas Brendle, Garrett Collins, Grant Meadows. Front row are Josh Baggett, Ken Miller, Jonathan Rutledge, Colby Meadows. The leaders are Larry Gray, Eleanor Tate and Bill Rutledge. Any boy second grade or older may join the troop.

Modern Conveniences And Inconveniences

by Emily Smith

Do you ever stop to think about how different your life is thanks to all the modern conveniences we've come to rely on in recent years?

Just recently we were driving through Birmingham and stopped for gas. We didn't even have to go in to pay our bill, we just put a credit card into the gas pump and got a receipt for the amount. What a time saver! And we weren't tempted to load up on chips, candy bars, and soft drinks inside the gas station. Of course, they don't call where we stopped a gas station but, a convenience store. How convenient!

We did go inside, someone always needs to go inside . . . This was such an upscale convenience store, they sell bottled mineral water right by the soft drinks. It makes you wonder if this trend could change the face of the trucking industry. Would a bottle of mineral water make a trucker less tense than all that caffeine in coffee and soft drinks? If it did, would that keep them from blowing you off the road when they pass you?

While we are on the subject of the road and gas . . . how about the Government's uncanny sense of timing in adding a five cent per gallon tax on the already rising price of gasoline? They had to start working on the legislation a couple of year's ago to have it go into effect now. It's amazing how the wheels of the Federal Government turn.

Some modern conveniences have become necessities like, the telephone. We all depend on our telephones. Now that the voters have approved the emergency 911 system for DeKalb County, the telephone will be even more helpful when we need to alert the police, sheriff, or fire department.

The continuing telephone inconvenience for those of us who live in Mentone and Valley Head is having to call long distance to the County Courthouse, the hospital, or to conduct any other business in Fort Payne, only a few miles away. This will be complicated in January when we have to add the area code to our Fort Payne calls. Instead of dialing an eight digit number, we'll have to dial an 11 digit number. The telephone company tells us that we don't have to wait until January to do this but, we can go ahead and dial all the numbers right now.

It would certainly ease our frustration if some of those calls did not cost us more than our monthly rate. An 800 number that is toll-free would make a big difference. Some businesses in Fort Payne that draw customers from our area have already done this.

The bottom line is that as technology continues to improve our lives, we will have to continue to adjust and change to meet the future. It helps to have a youthful attitude or a young person to explain all the new gizmos and buttons to us.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(We received this letter from Bernise and Homer Crow's travel agent in Chattanooga and wanted to share it with you).

Dear Editor:

You will never know how much I appreciated The Groundhog paper and reading the article that Bernise wrote. Everyone in the office read it. It was such a good article I felt like I went on the trip with them.

I would like to subscribe to your paper — don't want to miss an issue!

I'll try to send them on a trip next year!

Sincerely,

Inez O'Rear
AAA Travel Agency
Chattanooga, Tennessee

Valley View

By Eloise M. Brown



The Sunshine Club met at the home of Gladys Cobble on Nov. 29, for a business meeting. Karen Freeman was co-hostess. Others present were Billie Harper, Addie Hall, Evelyn Clark, Geraldine Hawkins, Gladys Stott, Tillie Schlicher and Eloise Brown. It was announced that we should make Christmas ornaments for the tree at the courthouse. Our Christmas party will be Dec. 14 at 11:30 a.m. at Billie Harper's home. A Nominating Committee composed of Evelyn Clark, Addie Hall and Billie Harper was appointed.

Gladys Stott and Gladys Cobble and other family members gathered at Becky and Jesse B. Stott's for Thanksgiving dinner.

Venna Livingston visited her sister, Zula Waddell and niece, Marcie Norwood, at Guin, Ala., recently.

Addie Hall spent Thanksgiving with her daughter, Mary Porter, and her son, Thomas Hall, and their families in Chattanooga and they dined at The Loft.

Mae Card suffered two broken ribs in a fall at her home. We wish for her a quick recovery.

Lila Schlicher spent the weekend with her brother, Howard Finster, and family at Pennville, Ga.

Janie Longshore, Gladola and E. T. Holleman, Mary Louise, Ted and John Holleman, Becky, Billo, Abby and Amy Holleman and Mary Frances Tate had Thanksgiving dinner with Betty, Jimmy, Michelle and James Adams in Gadsden.

Velma Hammonds has returned home from Montclair Hospital where she had heart surgery. She is recovering nicely. Vesta Hawkins spent the time with Nancy Hawkins in Birmingham to be with Velma.

Melinda and Jeff Adkins enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner at his brother, Frankie Adkins' home in Dutton, Ala. There were about 15 present and they turned it into a surprise birthday for his brother and his wife. Jeff reported that his nephew "clobbered" him at Nintendo.

Geraldine, Howard and, Lester Hawkins visited their sisters, Hazel Johnston and Elbert in Rossville and Stella Brewer in Chattanooga recently.

Ed Ringer had as his Sunday guests, his brother Robert and his wife, Mertice, and Josephine Story of Marianna, Ala., and Robert McReynolds of Lake City, Fla. They attended Valley Head Methodist Church and had lunch at Tiger Inn.

John and Jean Jones had dinner in their new home. They had as their guest, John's aunt, Kerner Wright of Chattanooga. Jean and John later visited Jean's parents, Lorene and Clyde Holcomb at Hackleburg, Ala.

Laura Margaret Allison accompanied by her daughter, Ansley McGinnis, flew to Houston, Texas to visit her other daughter, Peachie, and her husband, David Cearley, then she and Ansley spent Thanksgiving with Irma and Thomas Allison in Arden, N. C. They attended the Lutheran Church where Tommy played in a band he had organized. He was a member of the Auburn Alumni Band at Homecoming.

Brownie Tuttle had as recent guests, her step-grandchildren, Tanya and Jeremy Sweeney and their friend, Brian Tyrrell of Houston, Texas.

Essie and Morris Longshore of Anniston, Ala., were dinner guests of Janie and Frances Longshore. Laura Davenport Schneider of Chattanooga was also a recent guest of Janie's.

I had as house guests during Thanksgiving, my daughter Eldonna of Pasadena, Md., and her daughter, Laurie Dell and her husband, Andy, and her other two daughters, Robin Darby and Robin's husband, Ray, and two little daughters, Sharon Elise and Kirsten of Sylvania, Ohio. Thanksgiving Day, all of the family were here (except Emily Brown, who was sick) — 24 in all. We had a good day and so much to be thankful for. They returned home on Saturday and went by Chattanooga to visit Thelma J. Brown.

Many area churches came together at Valley Head Methodist Church for a Thanksgiving service. A full house enjoyed a very meaningful program and a time of refreshment and good fellowship.

We lost one of our most loved and respected men when death took P. W. Roberts. He gave 36 years of dedicated, patient, love and devotion to Valley Head High School where he was the agriculture teacher. He will always be remembered affectionately by the many persons he touched.



The Lookout

"Atop Lookout Mountain"
CLOUDLAND, GEORGIA
(404) 862-2515

Christmas Wishes From

The Mentone Area
Preservation Association

Sherman & Mickey
Dessie Newberry Laugh

Lynn & Ruth Bathurst
Ed & Garry Disney

Harrell Jenkins
Betty Chapman

Frances & Angelo
Rosario

Homer & Bernice Crow

Bob & Barbara Mancarrow
Donna Lynn (Castellano)
(and baby)

From The Pastor's Study

(The Pastor's Study will be a regular feature of The Groundhog. Each month a different pastor from our area will write a devotional column for us. The North DeKalb Ministerial Association is coordinating our writers).

By The Rev. Curtis Bridges
Moon Lake Baptist Church

Dear Diary,

Let's see... I got the skate board Jake wanted; the blouse Louise saw and the Ninja turtle commando set Cy told Santa about. Now just three more trips to Boaz, four to Wal-Mart, two to Hamilton Place and one to Rome and I will be finished with all my Christmas shopping. Glad I got an early start this year. Beginning right after Thanksgiving sure does take the rush out of preparing. Great! I forgot all about my Sunday School Class. It doesn't have to be fancy. Just something as simple as a Christmas tree ornament would convey the idea, "I love you." The problem is I saw no ornaments in Huntsville any of them would like. Wait a minute. I remember a store in Chattanooga that

specializes in Christmas ornaments. There ought to be sometime in my calendar when I can make a quick trip. Thursday's out. That's the day I do the Christmas party for Sarah's class. Let's see. Friday, Saturday and Monday are play practice. Tuesday, I am to help the ladies auxiliary serve lunch for meals on wheels. Wednesday is Boaz day. Next Thursday is the day I help decorate the Church for Christmas. Well, according to my calendar, Dec. 28 is the earliest I can run to the ornament store. A lot of good they'll do me then!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas — another jolly season. Where has the wonder and simple joy of Christmas gone? "Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you: He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11).

Funny, I forgot all about the simplicity of His birth. In fact, I never thought about giving Him a gift this Christmas. What could I give: a \$100 donation to the church? a bag of food for the needy? gifts for the nursing home? or maybe some money for missions? No, all of that is trivial compared to the gift He gave: His life for my sins.

Now I know the gift He wants. He wants me to love Him with all my heart and all my soul and all my mind. (Matthew 22:37). Then and only then He has become my Lord. He won't accept any gift less than this.

Signed — "One who claims Jesus as Lord!"

MAPA's Christmas Dinner Party

December 4



MAPA MEMBERS enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Mentone Springs Hotel for their Christmas Party.



HOMER CROW, MAPA PRESIDENT announces the winner of the door prize, Lin Bathurst.



Proper cleaning and caring for the venison once it has been killed and then proper cooking the different cuts will yield a much better product. We have you an excellent pamphlet here at the DeKalb County Extension Office called "Field Dressing and Processing Deer In Alabama." Detailed instructions with pictures plus lots of good recipes are in the pamphlet. Come by the office for your copy. It will make a good gift for the deer hunter in your family. You can ask for the pamphlet by the name above or use the Circular ANR-381 when inquiring for your copy.

Mountain Almanac

By Curtis O'Daniel
DeKalb County Agent

THE WHITE MAN'S FLY

When white settlers brought honey bees to North America, the Indians regarded them as a creature of ill omen and called them "the white man's fly." Today, the "white man's fly" pollinates more than 90 different cultivated crops here in the states and these crops generate over \$30 billion annually. Thus, the lowly honey bee is extremely important to the nation's economy not to mention the honey they provide. Honey has a long history and is even mentioned in the Bible in several places. Citizens of Greece and Rome could even use honey often referred to as "the heavenly food" to pay taxes.

Americans consume approximately 285 million pounds of honey every year and that's a lot of honey to be produced from 3.2 million colonies of bees that must fly 55,000 miles to produce a pound of honey. In other words, an average worker bee will make 1/12 teaspoon of honey in his lifetime.

Beekeepers around the nation would like to remind you that there are some good guidelines and practices that can be followed when applying pesticides, etc., so as not to destroy so many of our bee friends. Contact your County Agent's Office for additional information on applying pesticides that are less harmful for bees.

You can also get additional information on bees and beekeeping from: The American Beekeeping Federation, Box 1038, Jesup, GA 31545-1038.

We are at a pleasant time of the year if you happen to be the kind of person who likes cool or even cold weather. However, we are also in the season of the year when you will notice higher home heating bills. Lots of folks have resorted to using alternative heating fuels to heat their homes so as to reduce the old heating bill. Some of these alternative heating fuels like wood and kerosene used in space heaters, heaters and fireplaces, etc., will set the stage for home fire hazards if you do not apply some basic "Winter Fire Safety Precautions."

I am not saying supplementary heating sources are not acceptable because they are and I know lots of homes use them but at the same time, look at the news articles to see what caused the home to burn. Practice some safety precautions!

Make certain your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon build-up and make sure the heater has an emergency shut-off valve in case the heater is overturned. Never use a fuel-burning heater without proper ventilation. Remember, burning kerosene produces deadly fumes. Use the type of fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer.

Store kerosene in an approved metal container and store in a well-ventilated area outside the home. A milk jug of kerosene sitting beside the heater and/or fireplace is asking for trouble! Never fill the heater while it is hot and don't overfill the unit. Take the heater outside to fill it!

Keep your children away from space heaters especially when they are wearing nightgowns or other loose clothing. It is not recommended that heaters be operated while you are sleeping and I know this is a tough one because many families fill the heaters so they can run all night. However, this is the time they set most homes on fire.

WOODSTOVES AND FIREPLACES

These two alternative heating sources are very popular here in our area. Safety is the word for these two also. First, make sure the stove and/or fireplace is installed properly. Make sure you purchase a good, high-quality stove and be sure the man who builds your fireplace knows what he is doing. Have your chimney inspected and cleaned annually. I fall real short on that one. Never, never use flammable liquids to start a fire.

Have a good approved screen to place in front of the fireplace while the fireplace is being used. Sparks popping out of fireplaces are very dangerous! Burn your stove and fireplace hot a couple times a day to reduce creosote buildup. Using dried, seasoned wood versus green wood will also help reduce creosote buildup. Putting the fire out before going to bed is also recommended but very few folks will do this one. You might think about letting the fire burn down some before going to bed. The fact is that you will lose more heat after the fire goes out in a fireplace than you will gain while the fire is burning. A fireplace is the most inefficient heating source you can have. A good fireplace is probably no more than 15 percent efficient as to the amount of wood you burn. The wood burning stoves and/or inserts are much more efficient.

Last but not least, make sure you have good smoke detectors throughout the home. This is a "biggie" and some of the insurance companies will give you a reduction on the old premium if you let them know you have installed good smoke detectors. Check them to see if the batteries are good and to make sure they are working.

VENISON A NUTRITIOUS PRODUCT

Dr. Benjy Mikel, Extension Food Scientist at Auburn University says the nutritional advantages of venison and beef are very similar but there is a big difference in the fat content. Mikel says the protein, minerals and vitamins found in deer meat and beef are much the same. However, venison contains a much higher lean to fat ratio and the public concern about the link between high-fat foods and heart disease has prompted some people to use venison as a low-fat meat substitute.

SEE THE SUNSET — From your screened back porch you will see one of Mentone's most beautiful views. This two story, 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home has a living room, dining room, kitchen and a great room with wood floors and a stone fireplace. It is located on 4 acres within Mentone city limits. (\$125,000)

DREAM HOUSE — In Ft. Payne (Terrapin Hills Golf Estates) Too much to describe! MUST SEE (\$175,000).

ONE OF MENTONE'S MOST UNIQUE COTTAGES — This 2 bedroom 1 1/2 bath cottage has a combination kitchen, great room, 3 nice extras — screened porch, garage and fenced yard. Located within walking distance to Mentone's shops on 4 beautiful wooded lots. REDUCED TO (\$69,000) or 2 lots and cottage (\$54,000).

BEAUTIFUL WOODED BUILDING SITES — With access to Little River, located near DeSoto State Park (\$9,500-\$18,500).

85 BEAUTIFUL ACRES ON LITTLE RIVER — This outstanding piece of property has 1/4 acre river front. Great building sites (\$95,000).

NEW LISTING — 10 Acres with beautiful building sites (20,000).

9.1 ACRES — Partially cleared (\$14,900).

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WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT in Howard's Chapel.



BRONZE PLAQUE marking Col. Howard's final resting place.

(continued from Cover)

The marker has an engraving of Howard's Chapel on it and the birth and death dates of Sallie Howard.

Howard's Chapel is self-supporting although it is considered a mission.

"This church is a good place to start or restart your ministry," Mrs. Speed says. Several young ministers have come to the chapel to begin their preaching careers.

"The young people would bring their young friends to church with them. We've always had lots of young people here and it is wonderful to see these fine, precious teenagers and young adults in church," Mrs. Speed reports.

The Rev. Bob Thacker of Fort Payne who recently resigned from the pulpit at Howard's Chapel, loves to sing.

"We became the 'Singing Chapel,'" said Mrs. Speed. The congregation usually spent 30 minutes singing each Sunday and "sings" were often held for the community.

Thacker, reports Mrs. Speed, is a former state trooper and he and DeSoto Park Manager Talmadge Butler, also a regular member of the congregation, set up a trap to catch a man who was stealing money from the chapel offering basket.

"We never had any more problems like that," she said. During Thacker's tenure, the popularity of Howard's Chapel as a location for weddings really started. On the church bulletin board is a sign-up sheet for weddings. It always carries several names.

Presently, the Rev. Fred Higgins is serving as pastor at the chapel. Other ministers who have served at Howard's Chapel are Rice Marshall and Jeff Fuller.

Howard's Chapel is a favorite of area visitors on Sunday morning and each week everyone in the congregation introduces themselves. The congregation is very supportive and according to Mrs. Speed, any work that needs to be done is taken care of by volunteers.

"Ed Bukley rewired the church recently, Tim Haney is working on a problem with the fan. If work needs to be done people are willing to help," she says.

Mrs. Speed reports that they often find flowers have been left at the church and "all kinds of things, but we never have any vandalism."



THE ENTRY OF HOWARD'S CHAPEL proclaims, "This door, like God, is always open."

word's from one of the last letters Sallie wrote her husband, "God Has Always Been As Good To Me As I Would Let Him Be" and Col. Howard's own one word message "Immortality." Col. Howard had developed his own philosophy of religion and metaphysics that included a theory of immortality.

At the dedication of the Chapel, June 27, 1937, Col. Howard, a noted public speaker, delivered the memorial address on "Immortality" and it is reported, talked on that same subject each Sunday during July and August that year.

Col. Howard did return to California in 1937 and died there on Dec. 28, 1937. According to his request, he was cremated so that his ashes could be placed inside the giant rock of the chapel on Lookout Mountain. His second wife, Lady Vivian brought back the ashes of her former husband and on July 25, 1938, the pastor of Fort Payne Baptist Church, the Rev. Brady Justice, officiated at the memorial service.

A bronze plaque was placed over the site with this inscription "Milford W. Howard — Dec. 18, 1862-Dec. 18, 1937 — I Shall Dwell In The House of the Lord Forever."

Howard's Chapel is presently under the supervision of the Baptist Church's Home Missions Board. This came about in 1975 when Col. Howard's grandson and heir Col. C. M. Howard, Ret. of Columbus, Georgia, deeded the chapel to the DeKalb Baptist Association. Since that time, the chapel has been staffed by Baptist ministers.

One of the most active members of the congregation at Howard's Chapel is Lydia Speed who moved to Mentone in 1972. She remembers that prior to her move to the area, the chapel had fallen into a state of disrepair until Bob Meeler a preacher from Summerville, Ga., came.

Under Meeler's supervision much of the needed repair work, a new roof and painting was accomplished along with the help of several mountain residents including B. C. Wester and Mr. Renfro.

Meeler who grew up when school attendance was not compulsory, was not educated. In an interview with Mary Jo Logan of the Summerville newspaper before his death he said that despite the fact he couldn't read or write, he felt "called of God to preach."

His wife, Nellie, would read his Sunday School lesson to him and started teaching him to read. With the few words he learned, he started studying the Bible. "God gave me understanding," he said, and in about three weeks' time he was reading the Bible. He preached for nearly 25 years after that.

When the Baptist Association assumed control of Howard's Chapel, they sent the Rev. Milton Pope who was head of the Home Mission's Board to the pulpit.

"Milton Pope loved that church," says Speed. "He preached every Sunday until retirement."

It was Pope who discovered on a trip to California that no marker had been placed at the gravesite of Sallie Howard. He began to inquire about putting a marker there but was not successful in his attempt to do so. A later Howard Chapel Minister, Bob Thacker, did accomplish the placing of a marker that was paid for by the Howard Chapel congregation and Sallie Howard's family in the Fort Payne area.

Dreaming Of A White Christmas

by Emily Smith

Growing up in Jackson, Miss., snow was a rare occurrence. I don't remember ever having a White Christmas like we had last year in Mentone. Usually if it snowed it waited until February so you could have a White Valentine's or a White George Washington's Birthday but, never a White Christmas.

Snow was such an unusual event that even the strong prediction of snow by Bob Neblett, the weatherman on TV could bring school closings. We always loved that. Even if it didn't snow, we could sleep late, play around the house all day and drive our mother crazy because she was stuck at home, too.

When snow did fall, we all bundled up in every thing warm we could find, borrowed our mother's rubber kitchen gloves, put our feet in plastic bags and then put on our dad's heavy boots (they always fit over the three pair of heavy socks) grabbed a few cookie sheets and headed for the nearest hill for makeshift sledding.

Everyone always asked for sleds for Christmas but, very few people would get them. When it only snows once every other year, you don't use a sled too often. They did keep them in stock at the Indian Cycle Store on North State Street, just in case.

The big treat would come later in the day when my father felt the roads were clear enough for driving. A normal event in our neighborhood that accompanied snow was a power outage. The Power and Light Company said it was because the squirrels chewed on the lines. With no power, we didn't have heat. The squirrels didn't chew on the power lines at my grandmother's house so we would head there for the afternoon. Daddy would pull out the tire chains and all eight of us would load into the car, listening to the chains make that funny "whumpa-whumpa" noise on the wet streets.

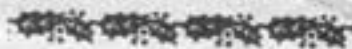
All my cousins would be at my grandmother's — a gang of about 12 kids. Our favorite entertainment was sledding down the hill in front of her house in a copper candy boiler. It is shaped like a shallow big bowl. It would turn and spin the whole way down the hill.

When we all got too cold and wet, we'd come inside and warm up by the fire — drinking hot chocolate with marshmallows. We played Scrabble or Monopoly, and cracked open pecans to eat along with oranges and apples. My grandmother always kept those small bottles of Coca-Cola at her house, we never had them at home and she kept a supply of Milky Ways, Snickers and great cookies.

We'd get into the copper candy boiler (my grandmother is a good sport, but she really didn't like us to use her antiques as sleds) and spin each other around in it on the carpet in front of the fire until we were too dizzy to walk in a straight line.

By the time the evening news came on, we were all ready to go home again, listening to the "whumpa-whumpa" of the tire chains, we'd drift off to sleep in the car, dreaming that it might snow again that same year.

We have the copper candy boiler at our house now, just in case it snows for Christmas in Mentone this year.



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Country Cooking

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BUCKEYES

(Reece's Peanut Butter Cups)

- 1½ pounds powdered sugar
- 2 sticks margarine
- 2 cups peanut butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla

Mix all ingredients, then chill for handling. Melt in double boiler one (12-ounce) package chocolate chips and ¼ square paraffin. Roll chilled mixture in balls and dip in chocolate. Place on waxed paper to cool and harden.

JAPANESE FRUIT PIE

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup pecans — chopped
- 1 cup yellow raisins
- 1½ sticks melted margarine
- 2 cups sugar
- ½ teaspoon white vinegar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 pastry shells

Beat eggs and then add other ingredients and mix well. Pour into unbaked pie shells. Bake at 300 degrees F. for 50-55 minutes.

FRUITCAKE COOKIES

- 1½ cups self-rising flour
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon allspice
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup milk
- 1 cup chopped candied cherries
- 1 cup chopped dates
- 1 cup (3 slices) chopped candied pineapple
- ½ cup raisins
- 3 cups chopped nuts

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease two large baking sheets; set aside. Combine flour, baking soda and allspice in bowl; set aside. Cream brown sugar and butter with electric mixer in mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Add eggs; blend well. Alternately beat in flour mixture and milk, blending well after each addition, and scrape bowl with rubber spatula. Add fruit and nuts; blend well. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto prepared baking sheets. Bake 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden brown. Transfer to wire racks to cool.

PEANUT BLOSSOMS

- 1¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup shortening
- ½ cup peanut butter
- 2 tablespoons milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 egg
- sugar

About 48 milk chocolate candy kisses.

Heat oven to 375 degrees F. Lightly spoon flour into measuring cup; level off. In large bowl, combine flour, ½ cup sugar, brown sugar, baking soda, salt, shortening, peanut butter, milk, vanilla and egg. Beat at low speed of mixer until stiff dough forms. Shape into 1-inch balls; roll in sugar. Place two inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake at 375 degrees F. for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown. Immediately top each cookie with a candy kiss, pressing down firmly so cookie cracks around edge. Four dozen cookies.

PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES

- ½ cup sugar
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- ½ cup peanut butter
- 1 egg
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla
- 1¼ cups sifted self-rising flour

Pre-heat oven to 350 degrees F. Cream sugars, butter and peanut butter with electric mixer in mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla; blend well. Gradually beat in flour until thoroughly blended. Shape dough in 1-inch balls. Place on ungreased baking sheets. Use fork dipped in flour to flatten tops of balls in crisscross pattern. Bake 12 minutes, or until golden brown. Transfer to wire racks to cool.

COCONUT CANDY

- 1¾ pounds powdered sugar
 - 14-ounce package coconut
 - ¼-pound butter (one stick)
 - 1 can Eagle Brand Milk
- Mix all ingredients and chill.
Melt in double boiler the following:
1 12-ounce package chocolate chips
¼ square paraffin
Roll chilled mixture in balls and dip in chocolate. Allow to cool and harden.



Jesse Crabtree, Captain of DeSoto Rescue Squad, presenting \$1,000.00 to Ed Ringer of Valley Head, Ala. Mr. Ringer held the winning ticket in a fund-raising event sponsored by the squad. The DeSoto Rescue Squad wishes to thank everyone who participated and to encourage you to call them if they can be of assistance at any time. Phone 205/634-4171.



Camp DeSoto wishes you a Merry Christmas.



May God's peace be yours this Christmas season and throughout the coming year.

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Country Journal

By Bernise Crow

We met the man who played the part of Caiaphas, the high priest in the play. We bought a plate in a shop, and the salesgirl told us her boss owned the shop, and played the part of Caiaphas. We got his autograph, and made a snapshot of him. What a wonderful privilege to see this play. The performers are all from the village. The play is given as a thanksgiving to God for sparing them during the plague that swept Europe in the 14th century. They made a vow to God that if He would spare their village, they would produce a play about his life, death, and resurrection from that time forward as long as time endured. Their prayers were answered, and the play has been performed. At first, they did it every year, and now for some it is offered every 10 years.

We left Oberamgau at 6 p.m. and continued on to Salzburg, Austria, stopping for dinner at a quaint little restaurant with beautiful murals on the outside of the building. The view was wonderful as we drove at twilight time. The driver put a tape in the player — beautiful Mozart music. Tom Crankshaw from Savannah, Ga., furnished the tape. Of course most of us took a nap before we reached our hotel at 10:30 p.m.

Monday, Aug. 20: What a fabulous city this is! Mozart's home was here, and still is in good condition; the huge fortress castle still stands on a hill overlooking the city; Heilbrunn University, and Salzka Cathedral are here. We had a guided tour of the city by a native, and enjoyed that. Chocolates and coffee are famous in Austria — I like both. They make strong coffee and serve it with hot milk or rich cream. Many buildings are here from the 13th century. The Sound of Music was filmed here, or most of it. Some of it was contrived scenery made in Hollywood. One could almost imagine they heard strains of Edelweiss floating on the cool breezes. We took a picture of the Von Trapp house as we were leaving.

Maria Theresa ruled Austria from 1740-1780, and was a good ruler. She was only 18 when she came to the throne, and had 16 children, one of which was Marie Antoinette. Marie Antoinette, of course, was beheaded in Paris during the revolution. The Hapsburgs were the last great rulers in Austria.

We continued on to Vienna in the afternoon, which is the capitol on Austria. This is another beautiful, old city

— full of history. It is mind boggling to take it all in. The Vienna school of medicine is very famous. We had a surgeon in our group — of course he knew about this fact. (On the way to Vienna, we passed a beautiful lake, called "Moon Lake"). We toured the city, and went to dinner where beautiful music was played.

We were impressed with the cleanliness of all the areas — even in crowded cities. People can be made to keep garbage off public property. There were not even any weeds growing in the farms!

We stayed at a Ramada Inn in Vienna — very nice. We had a pink marble bathroom — I loved. The food was very good.

Tuesday, Aug. 21: We arose early again for a tour of the Schaubrunn Castle — home of Franz Josef. This is not one of the oldest castles, but is very impressive because of the art work inside — some of which is lovely needlework done by the royal family. It was completed in 1697, after 70 years of work. There were very interesting heaters in every room — tall Swedish looking enameled ones, which were fired from the outside — no openings into the room.

Franz Josef ruled the country for 68 years. He died in 1916. Much tragedy followed him during his reign, but he never let it alter his ability to rule. His brother was Maximilian, who was assassinated in Mexico.

This night we had a most delicious dinner in the inn, and went to a wonderful concert in an old palace. We heard Mozart, Strauss, and some delightful polka music. This was the highlight of the Vienna tour.

Wednesday, Aug. 22: Had lunch in a pretty setting on Lake Mondsee, near Salzburg, Austria. (We are backtracking for a while, in order to go to Innsbruck). The nice thing is that we can see the other side of the road on the way back. Hitler's bunker is still on top of the mountain over Salzburg, and a restaurant has been put in the restored building the Americans bombed when Hitler died. There is a cable lift to take one to it. We are surrounded by the Alps, and oh how beautiful they are!

We stopped for tea at a little place called Eilmow. Little huts for storing hay for the cows are scattered all along in the clean, green meadows. Eileen, our guide, said the town has a festival in September to celebrate the cows coming down from the mountain, where they spend the summer. The lead cow wears a large bell, and all the others follow her. They place a lei of flowers around the neck of the lead cow, and the children run down the streets with the cows, strewing flowers as they go. There were weather vanes on the houses, with bells attached to them. She said the bells are rung to warn neighbors when a winter storm was moving in. We reached Innsbruck about 1 p.m., and after checking in our hotel, went on a tour of the crystal factory. Some of the most beautiful crystal in the world is made here. It was a magnificent sight. We were all given a little stick pin as a souvenir.

Thursday, Aug. 23: We stayed at Hotel Alpenpark, and had a very nice room complete with a writing desk, French

chairs, and a sofa. We slept well and were ready to go this morning. We mailed stacks of cards at the desk, using our beautiful Austrian stamps. We went in another lovely old church called Wilton. There were lovely paintings by Gunther. We rode through more unbelievably pretty country, with mountains on all sides. We were fascinated at the long tunnels for trains to go through the Alps. Trains are still the main form of transportation all over Europe. One tunnel we passed through was three miles long.

I forgot to mention that Innsbruck is a very famous ski resort, and the winter olympics was held there two years ago, I think. We passed many other ski areas. The story of Heidi was written in this area. We saw a large hydro-electric plant that our guide said was built with funds given by the Marshall aid plan follow four years of occupation of Austria after World War II. The day was just perfect — cool enough for a jacket, and very clear. We crossed the Roseann Valley and were told that the Duke of Windsor stayed here when he first abdicated the throne in England. Snow barriers were built here to help prevent snow avalanches. Small blue wildflowers grew along the road. Gentians, and white ones called Edelweiss. The people here think Noah's ark settled on one of the highest peaks.

We crossed the border from Austria into Lichsteinstein — the smallest country in the world. It covers an area of 61 miles, and has its ruling monarch in a castle overlooking the town. There are no taxes here and no crimes. Sounds like utopia doesn't it? They are producers of fine wines, and their principal income is from the sale of postage stamps. The castle dates back to the 13th century, and is owned by the ruling prince who has the finest art collection in the world. They speak a strong German dialect here.

From Lichsteinstein, we entered Switzerland. Many writers have extolled the beauty of this country — Listz, Roussou, and others. Here are made famous watches and clocks. There are no natural resources. They make their own wine, good shoes, and are famous for wonderful chocolates, beautiful embroidery, and knives. Fruit is good here — apples, pears and cherries.

We arrived at Lucerne early in the afternoon, checked into the Union Hotel, and had some free time to explore the city on our own. It is a charming city, located on Lake Zurich. A covered bridge crosses over the lake into the city and has planters filled with bright red flowers down the entire length of the bridge. We couldn't wait to walk across it. Inside the bridge, there are oil paintings on each of the rafters overhead, at about 4 ft. intervals.

Friday, Aug. 24: We arose at 6 a.m. and dressed in our jeans to go on an exciting trip to the top of a very steep peak of the Alps, called Pilatus — named for Pontus Pilate. I dreaded the thought of riding in a gondola up the steep slope, but it was not frightening at all. It was very pretty all the way up. We passed herders tending to the cattle on slopes so steep I don't see how they stood on their feet. There were small chalets along the way, so someone lived there. About 1/2 of the way to the peak, we switched to a cable car for the final ascent. What a wonderful sight! The peak is 7,000 ft. high. There is a hotel there, and several other buildings. They would have had to get the building materials there by cable car. The peaks we could see in the distance had snow on them. We walked through caves with window views of the sights below. Then we hiked up a little higher to take pictures. There was a couple from Florida that I thought would not take this optional trip, but they did. Mr. Miller is 92, and his wife is 90! They made the trip better than we, I believe — beautiful people.

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A View From the Brow

Tree Farming For The Holidays

By Joy Rungee

Many of us recall the childhood excitement of trotting through snow-crusted fields on cool December mornings, in search of the world's greatest Christmas tree. Dad led the way, while we took off, racing several yards ahead to claim the tree that would be the center of the family celebration.

According to Christmas tree farmer, John Rungee of Sulphur Springs, Ala., there are many choose and cut Christmas tree farms where this tradition endures even today.

A trip to a choose and cut Christmas tree farm is a great family outing. In addition to fresh air and fragrant trees, some tree farms are offering the special attraction of hay rides this holiday season, designed to make your Christmas tree selection a photogenic experience your family won't forget.

Most farms offer hundreds or even thousands of trees in a variety of sizes and shapes. Once you've made your selection, you won't have to worry about the saw — usually the farm owner will provide that. Also, the farmer may mechanically shake your tree as well as baling it to make it easier to transport in your car. Some farmers even offer "retail lot" trees already cut for those who want to be SURE they get a fresh tree but do not want to walk the farm and choose it before cutting.

The most popular Christmas tree in this area is the Christmas tree hybrid of the Virginia Pine (or Southern Fir as it is sometimes described). Like all Christmas trees, the Virginia pine requires many years of close attention before it's ready to decorate a family's home. From the time the tree is first planted in the ground to the day it's taken home by the customer, a plantation grown Christmas tree is sheared, pruned, and protected from pests and diseases so that one day it can stand as the center of the holiday celebration.

"It's such a joy to see a happy family and the excitement of the children as they help to pick out their family's Christmas tree." The choose and cut farms in this area open at Thanksgiving and close about Dec. 20. (For more information call 205/635-6510).

Introducing Contel's New Man

In Mentone and Valley Head

Ken Daffron, a nine-year veteran with Contel, has been appointed service supervisor for the Valley Head and Mentone telephone exchanges.

He will work out of Contel's Trussville office but spend much time with customers in this area. Installer-repairman Jack Johnston and switchman Jeff Willoughby will report to him.

Effective November 12, Daffron can be reached by Mentone and Valley Head customers, toll-free, at 655-3321.



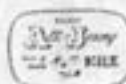
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