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10 Years
in Print**

THE

GROUNDHOG

Mentone • Valley Head • Hammondville • Cloudland • Menlo

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by M.A.P.A.**

Volume 10, No. 12

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

December 1992

Schedule of Events

Tuesday, December 1

7:00 PM MAPA Meeting
Christmas Dinner at Kountry Chef,
Mike and Tena Cryer,
Christmas Music

Friday, December 4

3:00 - 4:00 PM Parade
Beginning at Post Office, down Hwy 117 to
the Hitching Post
4:00 - 4:45 PM
Santa and the Children's Party
at Town Hall
5:00 PM Lighting of Mentone
by Mayor Max Cash

(Community tree at corner lot of Mentone Inn and decorations on power poles on Hwy 117 from White Elephant to Post Office); Seasonal prayer by Rev. Oscar Hussel of St. Joseph's on the Mountain Episcopal Church; Christmas Carols by Valley Head Baptist Church Children's Choir

5:00 - 9:00 PM Mentone Shops Open

Saturday, December 5

10:00 AM - 9:00 PM Mentone Shops Open
5:00 - 9:00 PM
Benefit for

Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Department

Saturday, December 12

12:00 Noon Valley Head Christmas Parade
Santa at fire hall after the Parade

Monday, December 14

8:00 - 10:00 AM Holiday Open House
Postmaster Benny Goss
Mentone Post Office

Friday, December 25

CHRISTMAS

Thursday, December 31

NEW YEARS EVE

Christmas

By Judith Lollik-Andersen

Christmas is coming to Mentone! Everyone is busy planning activities, decorating, cooking, singing, and getting ready for the celebration.

Christmas in America has its own unique traditions—Christmas dinner with roast turkey, stuffing, and cranberry sauce; electric lights strung on houses and streets; Santa Claus with his red suit and jolly laugh. We also celebrate in ways that reflect our immigrant ancestors with traditions transplanted here from many countries, each having taken root and thriving.

The early Dutch colonists brought their Christmas customs of a gift bearing St. Nicholas, stockings filled with treats, and a spirit of family closeness that is so much a part of Christmas today. The Scandinavians who settled Delaware in 1638 came with legends of gift giving elves, as well as the custom of hanging a wreath of fir or pine boughs on the door as a sign of welcome and a symbol of good luck. From the German immigrants, we gained the custom of decorating and lighting a fir tree; and from English settlers, the yule log and Christmas fire. In early times, as long as the yule log burned, no one was expected to work.

My fondest memories of childhood center around Christmas and especially the activities before Christmas. The house was filled with the smells of Christmas baking as mom, aunts, and cousins crowded the kitchen. Dad's workshop was "off limits"—so were the closets and attic. Days were filled with family and friends, decorating home and tree, and making gifts (working furiously to finish and trying to keep them secret at the same time). And there was music! Carols hummed, carols sung, bells rung, pianos and organs played.

Our hearts were warm and our spirits soaring.

In our household, the weeks of preparations culminated on Christmas Eve when we finally donned the Christmas clothes that had been hanging in our closets in quiet anticipation. In Scandinavian families, the Christmas Eve Service is the official opening of Christmas. After church, the Christmas fires were lit and neighbors and friends visited each other—bearing small gifts of food.

Christmas Dinner was late on the evening of Christmas Eve. The family was gathered and my brother, as the eldest child, read the story of Jesus' birth and my father lead the family in a prayer of thanksgiving. Then, he would carve the magnificent turkey.

When our stomachs were stuffed and our heads began to nod, we children would hang our stockings from the mantel, put out a plate of cookies and glass of milk for Santa, and struggle up the stairs to bed.



Christmas morning came early. We would sneak down the stairs to check on our stockings. We were allowed to fetch our stockings, but not to touch anything else. We would scurry back to our beds, supposedly quietly—but not really. Carefully we would open the treasures of our stockings. Lifesavers, apples, pencils, tiny toys, all filled us with joy.

Soon my father would call us to join him and mom in their room. We would rush to show them our treasures.

Of course, the hardest thing on Christmas morning was eating breakfast before we all gathered around the Christmas tree. THEN, we would start opening the presents. Only one present at a time was unwrapped and the whole family was focused on that one present. It took all morning, although there really weren't that many packages. I remember my father seemed to take forever with his packages. Each ribbon and bow was carefully untied, each piece of tape meticulously removed from the paper, each wrapping paper carefully folded to be used next year—all before he would even open the box!

I miss those Christmases. We have tried to keep many of the traditions alive in our family, but, the activities of our times too often rush us through the season and Christmas comes and goes before our hearts have had time to prepare and our plans and thoughts time to materialize.

Christmas here on the mountain is a special time. It is a time for family. It is a time for friends. It is a time for neighbors. Take time this Christmas to appreciate the season. Make this a Christmas to remember.

May the Joy and Hope of Christmas fill your hearts through the season and well into the new year.

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The Editor's Column

By
JUDITH
LOLLIK-ANDERSEN

Christmas is a time of giving. And who do we think of when we think of Christmas--SANTA. Santa comes in many forms and ways. We would like to publish stories about the many Santas in Mentone and the surrounding areas. If you know of someone or some group that has exemplified the spirit of giving at Christmas time this year or in years past, please write and tell us.

Speaking of writing...All of us love to get mail. It is especially nice when the letters are ones of praise and interest. We at the GROUNDHOG were pleased to receive the following:

(In response to our October Issue)

Dear Judith,

While in Mentone last weekend, attending our regular annual gathering of the Holleman family at DeSoto Park Lodge, I got a copy of THE GROUNDHOG, and read your most interesting article about "Valley Head--Then and Now." It certainly brought back many memories of my growing up there. In your article you mentioned that Valley Head "...for a short time...even had its own newspaper."

That really brought back a surge of memory. Very few people ever remember the short life of that paper. I am sorry that I cannot recall the name of the paper, but let me share this with you:

Grover and Myrtle Samples, from near Cleveland, Tennessee, came to Valley Head somewhere around 1922-24, and started this newspaper--they were brother and sister, both unwed, and about 30 or 35 years old at the time. They lived in a house, the property of which joined our own Hammond farm in present day Hammondville. They became very close friends of my father and mother, Blevie and Alice Hammond. In fact, Myrtle and mother were the closest of friends. I was about 8 or 10 at the time, and I even claimed Myrtle for my "sweetheart." I well recall on my 9th birthday, Myrtle fixed me a big birthday dinner, and when she called us in to the dining room to eat, I pause and looked over the table. Seeing no big birthday cake, I turned to Myrtle and said, "Is this all you've got for dinner?" Well, that brought the house down with laughter, but I said it in all seriousness!

After about five or six years, the Samples found that the town could not financially support the operation of a local newspaper, so they packed up and moved back to Cleveland, Tennessee. During many recent decades, I have never heard a word mentioned about this newspaper, or seen anything written about it. I one time asked the late Mr. Downer, Editor of the THE DEKALB TIMES, if he knew about it, and he told me he'd never heard of it.

I would appreciate it if THE GROUNDHOG would publish a query and ask if any old timers could come up with the name of that newspaper.

Sincerely,

Ralph Hammond
Poet Laureate
State of Alabama
1991-1995

P.S. My father, Blevie Hammond, owned the 2nd T-Model Ford from the right. He, with cap on, is standing next to the pole right down under the "C" of C. Y. Culbertson sign in the big center picture.

(High Praises)

Dear Judith,

Having just completed a thorough and enjoyable reading of the the November GROUNDHOG, I am compelled to give adequate praise to you and your staff for the excellent manner in which you are fulfilling the original purposes of the publication.

Originally we began with a simple MAPA newsletter, legal-sized mimeograph sheets. MAPA read of a publication which was undertaken by an Episcopal church in New England town much too small to support the usual weekly newspaper. After much discussion, it was decided to have a newspaper and I became its first proud editor for three years.

Thus, I have every reason to be critical of its present execution. Any compliment from me is well deserved.

My personal goals in the broad sense were to combine a MAPA newsletter with the equivalent of a monthly small-town newspaper-magazine. I have no objection to the regional coverage--especially Valley Head and Hammondville.

Your editing is thorough; your advertizing seems to be holding well; you are capturing Appalachian flavor; it is readable and effective.

Please pass along these views to Dr. Pat Seymour and the others who are contributing so well in so many ways.

Cordially,

Charles White McGehee

THE GROUNDHOG

Published monthly by the Mentone Area Preservation Association, M.A.P.A. was first conceived on Groundhog Day, 1982, and organized April 6, 1982, for the purpose of preserving and protecting the heritage, natural environment, and other unique qualities of life in the Mentone Area, and is chartered as a non-profit organization by the State of Alabama.

P. O. Box 50

Mentone, AL 35984

THE GROUNDHOG STAFF

Editor.....Judith Lollik-Andersen
Assistant Editor.....Evelyn Graves
Contributing Editors.....Ruby Brock,
Linda Brown, Eloise Brown, Bernise Crow,
Evelyn Graves, Doug Hoyt, Bill Schwarz, Sue Schwarz

MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Pat Seymour
Vice President.....Sherman Gough
Vice President.....Wanda Simmons
Secretary.....Marie Dillenbeck
Treasurer.....Dessie Newberry
Parliamentarian.....Homer Crow
Member-At-Large.....Bruce Bon Fleur

In case of errors in advertisements, The Groundhog assumes liability only for the actual space that is incorrect in the advertisement.

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

The deadline for all material for The Groundhog is the 15th day of the month preceding publication.

The Lookout Restaurant

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M.A.P.A.— President's Column

By
PAT SEYMOUR



Christmas has a way of calling up that childlike spirit in everyone. They say "Christmas is for children"—but that is: children of all ages. For buried deep inside all of us is the child we used to be.

Christmas, Christmas everywhere! In Mentone, brilliant lights twinkle along the streets; cheery greetings are called out to friends; drivers, caught up on the spirit of the season, wave from vehicles; frosty "breath wreaths" surround each shouted greeting; bright packages peek from pickups--and back seats-- yes, it's Christmas time in Mentone! And Christmas means "giving". For above all else, Christmas is a time to give.

What gifts to give others always presents a happy problem. Well, there is one gift which is always perfect--a gift which always fits, is always needed, always suitable, and one which one never has too much of-- that gift of oneself. Emerson, an American writer, once penned, "The only true gift is a part of thyself."

Such a gift for Christmas could be an afternoon at a nursing home, taking food or clothes to a less fortunate family, time spent playing with or reading to a child.

Other ways to give of oneself might include a letter or a card expressing the joy and happiness others bring in our lives. Sometimes, just a phone call is gift enough. Anything from our workshop or kitchens that we spent time and effort creating--however simple it might be--is treasured; and, perhaps, the most cherished personal gift of all is to share our presence--to hug each other and share the love of God.

He, whose birthday we celebrate, set the example. Without money or worldly power, He gave all He had: understanding, kindness, forgiveness, and, in the end, the greatest gift of all--Himself.

So, as we ponder what presents to give this Christmas, maybe we should consider also a lasting and personal gift, a gift only we can give--ourselves!



Gwen Hamilton, of Huntsville, Alabama, is captivated by the Christmas story Pat Seymour is telling her. Gwen is the 2-year-old granddaughter of Sue and Bill Schwarz of Mentone.

Mentone Area Preservation Association

The November 3rd MAPA meeting was held at the Kountry Chef, with President Pat Seymour presiding and Rev. C. Dennis Mays, permanent chaplain, opening the meeting with prayer. Approximately 45 people were in attendance.

Besides the Colorfest reports and a report by Rick Chapman, Goals Committee Chairman, the meeting featured plans for the Christmas Program for the Children. "Bud" Simmons was appointed Chairman of the program by the president. On the first weekend in December there will be a parade, followed by a party at the Town Hall for the children with Santa. At 5:00 PM the Community Christmas tree (at the corner lot of the Mentone Inn) will be lit as well as the lights turned on the decorations in downtown Mentone. The Mentone Shops will be open Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5, from 5:00 to 9:00 PM.

The president introduced the program speaker, Bill Patterson. As ombudsman for the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, he spoke about the basic needs of the fire department. It was decided that MAPA would assist in the acquiring of new equipment. Dot Crow was appointed to chair the committee for MAPA. As one method of on-going support for the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, there will be a collection drive requesting \$25.00 per year from all Mentone area residents.

After the program, refreshments were served by MAPA members. The next meeting will be a Christmas Dinner at Dessie's Kountry Chef on Tuesday, December 1, 1992, at 7:00 PM. Tena and Mike Cryer will entertain with Christmas Carols and George Walker will lead group singing.

About

Our Town

By
LINDA BROWN



Can you believe that the holiday season is already upon us? It will be Christmas before we can even think about it. I always feel bad that Thanksgiving gets left out of our celebrations. The stores don't even decorate for Thanksgiving; they skip from Halloween to Christmas. We may still have family dinners, but, much of the time, that's even canceled due to lack of time. I only hope that everyone took time to realize how much we have to be thankful for. We may not always be pleased with the way our government works or the elections go, but, we should remember that at least we are free to choose. Recently, a man told me of being in a Sunday School class where this question was asked, "For what are you most thankful?" His reply surprised everyone. He stated that he was always surprised when he went to his closet and had a choice of what to wear. He grew up on a farm on Sand Mountain in Depression Days in a rather large family and had a very limited wardrobe. Let's remember what we have and not complain about what we things we don't have.

The main need in Mentone right now seems to be that we all support the fire department and rescue squad. The rescue squad has been put in the position of running a First Responder truck because of the cut-backs by the ambulance service. We all need to support them in this effort, especially with our donations. It is very expensive to maintain and keep the truck ready for service. Just the insurance alone was staggering. You may mail a donation to them at this address:

DeSoto Rescue Squad
P.O. Box 213
Mentone, AL 35984.

I'm not as knowledgeable about the fire department, but, I understand they could use some new members, as well as donations to help with their many expenses. Of course, their calls will increase with the cold weather. Speaking of cold weather, if you get in a tight for food, heat, or other necessity this winter, call the rescue squad (634-4171 Jesse Crabtree) or fire department (634-4545), we really care about our neighbors.

This will be the last issue of *The Groundhog* before Christmas. Therefore, I want to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and safe holiday season. I know it is impossible not to get caught up in all the hype created by the media, but just remember the reason we celebrate Christmas and take time out to enjoy your family and friends. Consider going to the church of your choice at least once in December. Even if you haven't been in many years, the building really won't fall in on you; and the people will be glad you are there.

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Special Notice to All Craftsmen: PAGE 3

Linda Brown, Director of the Mentone Crafts Festival, after consultation with Pat Seymour, President of MAPA, has agreed that MAPA will assume the responsibility of providing a crafts event for the Mentone area. Mrs. Brown has turned over the mailing list to allow for a smooth transition. This will enable the visiting craftsmen to continue to make the summer festival a success. MAPA has designated the event "Crafts on the Brow", with the date set for the first weekend after the 4th of July each year.

Mentone Town Council Meeting

At the November 2 meeting, after a discussion concerning the cut back in ambulance services to Mentone, the council voted to write the Chairman of the Hospital Board and the Director of the DeKalb Ambulance Service requesting that they reconsider the board's decision to cut back services to Mentone. The council cited the number of elderly residents as its reason for requesting a reconsideration.

Certificates of Zoning Compliance were issued in November to:
Bobby and Linda Brown for a new garage.
Charles and Jean McGehee for a new carport.

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Valley Head Woman's Club

By MAURINE DONAHUE

In November, the Valley Head Woman's Club met at Pine Haven, home of Mrs. H. R. Blackburn with Mrs. Blackburn, Mrs. O. B. Campbell, Mrs. Jack Cooper, and Mrs. Olin Lyons as hostesses.

Mr. Jack Wood, new pastor of Valley Head Baptist Church, came by and was introduced to club members.

Mrs. Alex Hamilton, president, presided and led the club in reading the Collect. She gave a personal tribute to Brownie Tuttle telling of the fun times they had together.

Mrs. Van Cooper gave the devotional and asked members to use their imagination to paint a picture in their minds as she read the scripture: Revelation 21, describing the new Jerusalem and Genesis 1, God's creation of the earth. The beauty we have around us goes further than meets the eye giving us strength, peace and comfort.

"A Better World Through the Beauty of Art" was the subject of the program. Our own artists, Dot Blackburn and Sue Hamilton, gave the program and exhibited some of their paintings.

Mrs. Blackburn said art is a mystery, a search for knowledge, and anyone with an urge to paint is an artist. She first had classes from Clayton Whittle of Fort Payne. Later, she studied with Sue Hamilton and learned from her how to see and feel. She showed her early works starting with charcoal drawings, then pastels and finally her real love, oils. She exhibited her paintings of "DeSoto Falls", "Still Life" and "The Commissary" at Rising Fawn. In progress was a painting of her homeplace.

Having grown up at Rickwood Field in

Birmingham and learning baseball from Babe Ruth and his contemporaries, Mrs. Hamilton aspired to be a baseball player until she found out she was a girl.

In grammar school she discovered art and it became her life's passion. At Ensley High School, Caroline Dick, art teacher, became the major influence on her life. Miss Dick helped her get a scholarship to Birmingham-Southern and later an art scholarship at the University of Georgia where Lamar Dodd was head of the art department. Mrs. Hamilton graduated and taught there. Later, she taught art in the Birmingham schools. Retiring from that, she came to Mentone and held classes in her home. Finally, she devoted herself entirely to painting and opened a shop, "The Owl's Roost". She exhibited and sold her paintings at arts and crafts shows throughout the country.

Mrs. Hamilton emphasizes creativity in art and paints in acrylics. She showed "Snow in Wills Valley", "October", many small paintings, and the folk art painting of her grandparents' farm showing the house, spring, spring house, barn, smokehouse, fruit trees, pasture, and all 12 children.

Mrs. Herbert Stanley described the Christmas tree which the club decorated and entered in the Trees of Hope—Festival of Trees contest at the Terrapin Hills Country Club for the benefit of the Alabama Sheriff's Boys and Girls Ranches and the DeKalb County Children's Advocacy Center.

Guests were Mrs. Martha Gibson, Mrs. Lorraine Hansard of Rising Fawn, Georgia, and Mrs. Hugh Sanderson of Lamar, Mississippi.

Thanksgiving came early for the club as members enjoyed the mountains of goodies served by the hostesses.

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The River Watch

By
BILL SCHWARZ

Water, Water Everywhere and Ain't That Grand

Sitting here on the porch and watching the river is my very favorite early morning thing to do. Little River is truly an event in life if you really look, listen and feel it. All of your senses can participate in the wonders of water. Listen to the awe inspiring roar of Desoto Falls a few hours after a really big rain storm; feel the ground shake from the impact of water hitting rocks and more water. Another day, listen and it's a soft background murmur, a white noise that is soothing and relaxing, wiping clean the slate of worry, stress and care. On a warm summer evening, the hum of the falls can put you right to sleep.

All life on earth depends upon water. There is nothing in the animal or vegetable kingdoms that does not need water, from the smallest bacteria to the largest whale and tallest tree. Some use more than others, but ultimately all need it, all absolutely must have it. Even viruses, which are not "alive" in the sense that animals and plants are alive, need water; for they reproduce and carry on their function in the water-laden cells of humans and animals.

Water is the most plentiful compound on earth (covering 70% of earth's surface) and is made up of two elements which are gases, hydrogen and oxygen. Hydrogen is the lightest of all elements and oxygen is the other material upon which life depends (water and oxygen). These two elements are joined together in the ratio of two hydrogens to one oxygen and the chemist represents this compound as H_2O (H for hydrogen and O for oxygen).

As a chemical compound, water really is an oddity. It has no business being a liquid over the temperature range 32° to 212° F. Other molecules of the same size are gases over that temperature range.

Ice, now there is a great form of water. What a wonderful sound, the clink of ice cubes in a glass of tea. Watch the ice cubes float at the surface cooling the tea and you on a hot summer afternoon. Ice is another odd characteristic of water, its solid form floats in its

liquid form. Water is the only compound which expands when it freezes. Ever notice that ice cubes are peaked on their upper surface? That's because when the water was cooling down from room temperature, it first started to shrink but when it reached 39° F it stopped shrinking and started to expand as it was cooled further. When it finally froze at 32° F it had expanded so that it occupied 10% more space than it did at room temperature (it had gone from a density of 0.997 at room temperature to 1.000 at 39° F to 0.90 at freezing). So, that is why ice floats, it is not as "heavy" as water. This behavior of water is absolutely unique and boy are the fish glad. As a matter-of-fact, there wouldn't be any fish in the cold regions of the world if water behaved other than the way it does. If water continued to shrink as it cooled then ice would sink to the bottom of the lake and the body of water would freeze from the bottom up and kill all aquatic life as we know it.

Water covers 70% of the earth's surface and nourishes all life. Of all this wonderful stuff only about 1% is available as fresh water; 97% is saltwater ocean and about 2% is tied up in ice, snow and glaciers. That 1% is all we billions of humans have for all of our needs. We better take care of what we have and there is no better place to start than with our Little River. It is unique in the state of Alabama and is necessary to our life on top of Lookout Mountain.

These are not nearly all of water's wonderful, but odd properties. Maybe another time we can discuss more of them. In the meantime, MERRY CHRISTMAS to all. Thanks for your time and be sure to look out for our water.



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Valley Head Jr. High Basketball 1992-93

Nov. 2-Ruhama	G,8B	Home
Nov. 5-Plainview	G,8B,9B	Away
Nov. 10-Collinsville	G,8B,9B	Home
-Pisgah	9G	
Nov. 12-Geraldine	G,8B,9B	Home
Nov. 19-Henegar	G, 8B	Home
Nov. 23-Ruhama	G,8B	Away
Dec. 3-Fort Payne	G,8B,9B	Away
Dec. 7-Geraldine	G,8B,9B	Away
Dec. 10-Sylvania	8B,G,9B	Home
Dec. 14-Sylvania	8B,G,B Away	
Jan. 4-Plainview	G,8B,9B	Home
Jan. 7-Henegar	8B only	Away
Jan. 11-Fort Payne	G,8B,9B	Home

All games start at 4:55

Valley Head Basketball 1992-93

Nov. 20 - Ider	5:00	B, VG, VB	Home
Nov. 24-Gaylesville	5:00	B, VG, VB	Away
Thanksgiving Tournament at Section (Girls) Nov. 21, 25, 27 & 28			
Dec. 1-Fyffe	5:00	B, VG, VB	Home
Dec. 4-Skyline	5:30	B, VG, VB	Home
Dec. 8-Woodville	5:00	B, VG, VB	Away
Dec. 11-Sand Rock	5:00	B, VG, VB	Away
Dec. 15-Painted Rock Valley	5:30	VG, VB	Home
Dec. 18-Cedar Bluff	5:00	B, VG, VB	Home
Christmas Tournament at Spring Garden Date-TBA (Girls)			
Jan. 5-Collinsville	5:00	9B, VG, VB	Home
Jan. 7-Ranburn	6:00	JR, VG	Home
Jan. 8-Plainview	5:00	B, VB	Away
Jan. 12-Sylvania	5:30	B, VG, VB	Home
Jan. 15-Gaylesville	5:00	B, VG, VB	Home
Jan. 16-Fort Payne	4:00	B, VG, VB	Away
Jan. 19-Collinsville	5:00	B, VG, VB	Away
Jan. 21-Ranburn	6:00	JR, VG	Away
Jan. 22-Ider	5:00	B, VG, VB	Away
Jan. 25-29 County Tournament			
Feb. 2-Sand Rock	5:00	B, VG, VB	Home
Feb. 5-Fyffe	5:00	B, VG, VB	Away
Feb. 9-Cedar Bluff	5:00	B, VG, VB	Away
Feb. 12-Plainview	5:00	B, VB	Home
Feb. 13-Sylvania	5:00	B, VG, VB	Away

AREA TOURNAMENT



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The Recipe Corner

By
SUE SCHWARZ

The wonderful Christmas season is upon us with all of its joy and rush to get everything done. I wish you all of the very best blessings this season has to offer as we remember the true meaning of the Christmas Celebration.

Cranberry Nut Pudding

Marvin Beckman

- 1 1/4 C. fresh cranberries
- 1/4 C. packed brown sugar
- 1/4 C. chopped walnuts
- 1 egg
- 1/2 C. granulated sugar
- 1/2 C. all-purpose flour
- 1/3 C. butter, melted
- Vanilla ice cream



Spread cranberries in a buttered 9-inch pie plate. Sprinkle with brown sugar and nuts. Beat eggs until thick. Slowly add granulated sugar, beating until well blended. Add flour and butter; beat well. Pour over cranberries. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes. Cut in wedges. Serve warm with ice cream. Serves 6.

Chocolate Nut Toffee

Huntsville Heritage Cookbook

- 1 C. chopped pecans or walnuts
- 1/2 C. butter (margarine will not work)
- 3/4 C. brown sugar
- 1 small package chocolate chips

Spread nuts in bottom of well greased 6x10 inch pan. Boil butter and sugar 7 minutes, stirring constantly (after mixture comes to a boil, keep it boiling gently on moderate heat). Pour immediately over nuts; let stand a few minutes. Spread chocolate chips on top. Cover with bread board to keep in heat. When chocolate has softened, spread evenly. Refrigerate. When cool, break into pieces. Makes 12-15 pieces.

Quick Coffee Cake

Catherine Covington Eason

- 1 egg beaten
- 1/2 C. granulated sugar
- 1/2 C. milk
- 2 T. cooking oil
- 1 C. all-purpose flour
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. salt



Topping

- 2 T. melted butter
- 1/3 C. firmly-packed brown sugar
- 1 rounded T. all-purpose flour
- 1 t. cinnamon
- 1/2 C. broken pecans

Combine egg, sugar, milk and shortening. Add flour, baking powder, and salt, mixing well. Pour into greased 8-inch square baking pan, sprinkle with topping. Bake at 375° for 20-25 minutes.



The Country Journal

By
BERNISE CROW

Part II

We saw many neat, beautiful farm houses and nice barns, many of which were attached to houses. The barns were shingled with wood on roofs and sides. This is different to our barns here in the south. We learned that milk is \$6.00 a gallon. Gasoline in Canada is \$2.50 a gallon, and cigarettes are \$60.00 a carton.

The little town of Mancton, New Brunswick, had 6 feet of snow in one day last year! It was near here that we saw the natural phenomenon of magnetic hill. Our driver, Paul, said water flowed uphill.

We boarded the Borden Ferry at Cape Tormentine and crossed over to Prince Edward Island. We stopped and walked on the beautiful pinkish sand at Cavendish Beach. In fact we stopped all along for brief sessions to walk a little and stretch our legs. Following this we toured a beautiful garden at Malpeque - a pure pleasure. There were lovely tuberous begonias, roses, dahlias as large as platters, snapdragons, and many other varieties specially grown. And we toured the home of authoress Lucy Maud Montgomery, who wrote Anne of Green Gables and who was born here. This was a treat. We got a video tape of the movie, which we have enjoyed since returning. This night we spent at Prince Edward Hotel in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Day 4: We had wake-up call at 6:30, enjoyed a good breakfast and toured Province House, which is like our state government building. We were given a guided tour of the second floor where the present government officials now meet. The beginning government of Canada held its first meeting in this building. It has been refurbished like it would have been in 1864. We then drove to Wood Island through beautiful farm land. We saw many trees of shiny red apples, and tobacco farms. We departed the island aboard the Caribou Ferry. It took two hours to cross Northumberland Strait to Nova Scotia. We had lunch on the ferry, which was a large one. I thought all ferries were open flat-bottomed structures to get cars across rivers. This looked like a small cruise ship.

We checked in at Delta Barrington Hotel, rested about an hour and went to dinner at Clipper Cay, compliments of Clark Tours. The restaurant was a very nice one, overlooking the bay. The moon was almost full and reflected softly on the water - a romantic evening.

There is a population of 307,000 in Nova Scotia, 8,000 of which are Indians. We saw lovely things made by the Mic Mac tribe.

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Day 5: Wake-up call at 7:00 this morning. That extra half hour was welcome. We left the hotel at 9:00 for a visit to the Halifax Citadel. (Our hotel was in Halifax). This is the second largest fort in the world, and the guide told us it was built to protect them from an expected attack from the United States. It took 28 years to build it, and it was obsolete by the time it was finished. We continued on to the scenic south shore and Peggy's Cove. This was a most fascinating place. The whole point is solid granite, and only small fishing cottages, in beautiful colors of red, blue, yellow, green, and white, are there. There is a very good restaurant, called Sou Wester, where we had lunch. The picturesque lighthouse is outfitted with a post office, where we bought post cards and stamps, wrote notes, and mailed them there. It is a photographer and artist's paradise. We spent time there so everyone could make as many pictures as they wanted. There was a good gift shop in the building with the restaurant, where we enjoyed shopping. What a fabulous day. We stayed at Manor Inn in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia that night.

Continued next month

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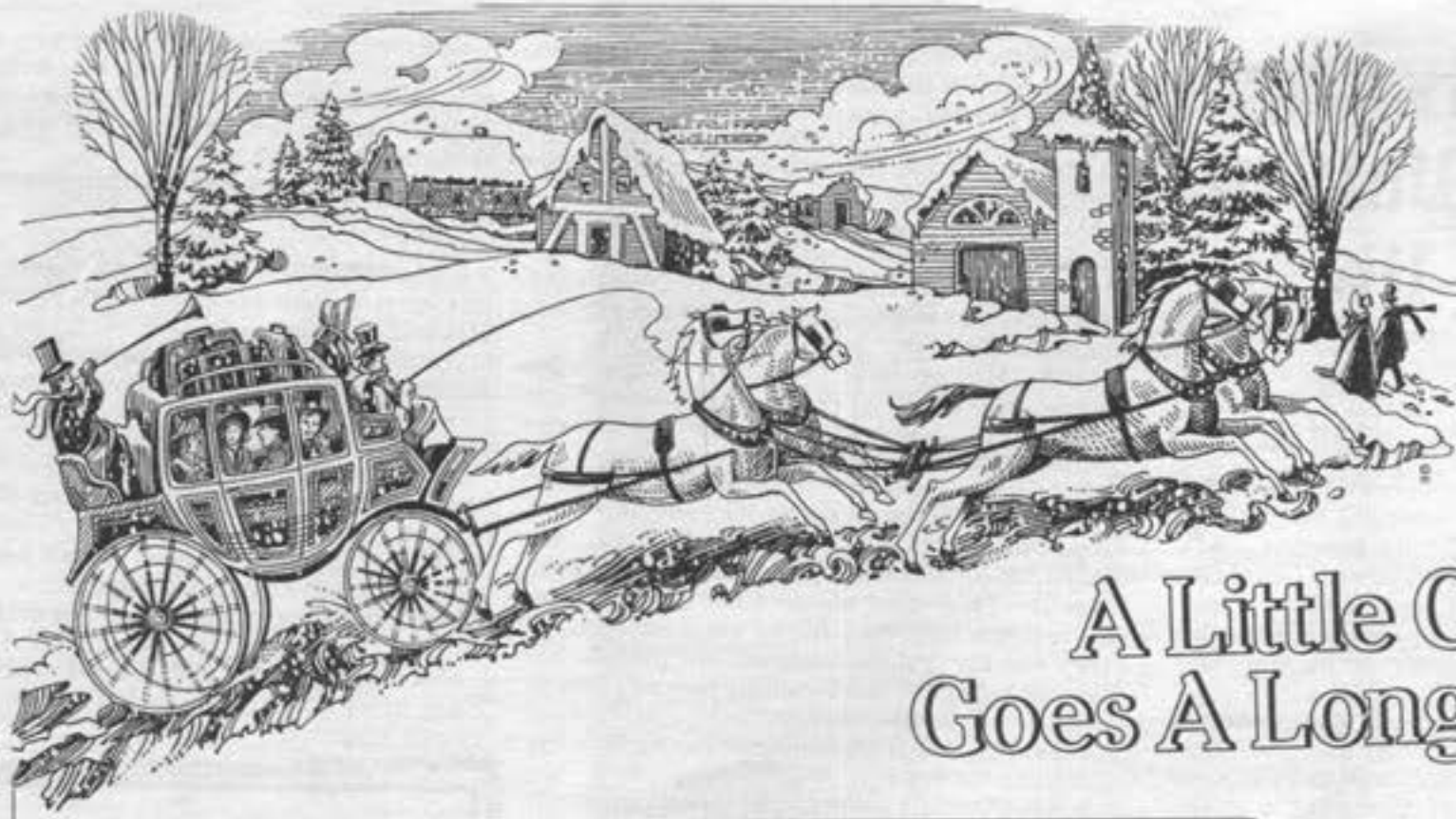
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A Friendly Valley View

By
ELOISE BROWN

The Sunshine Club met October 22, at the home of Evelyn Clark. Present were Sue Cooper, Bess Bauerle, Vernitice Young, Lillie Bowden, Addie Hall, Opal Tatum, Jewell Palmer, Geraldine Hawkins, Ilean Lowry, Carmel Gifford, Eloise Brown, and Betty Slatton, who gave an interesting talk on Hospice (a care system for the terminally ill and their families).

John Burleson, of Montgomery, was a recent guest of Gladys and E. T. Holleman.

Gladys Stott and Sue and Foyt Cooper went with a bus load of forty-five people to the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum for a train ride. They enjoyed seeing how the train was operated and the engine turned around on the turntable. They went thru Missionary Ridge in a tunnel that was built in 1858.

Ruth and Bert Pickett, and their son Joe Pickett and his wife Lillian, Billy Pickett, Priscilla and Willard Monroe, and Gladys Stott went to the concert of The Command Band of the Air Force Reserve at the Rainsville Civic Center November 12.

The Valley Head UMW met at the home of Mary Louise Holleman, Tuesday, October 27th, with ten members present. Mary Louise gave the last chapter of the Bible study and Laura Margaret Allison, assisted by others, led the Pledge Service.

Maureen Hammond, Adelaide Biddle, and Venna Livingston, enjoyed the play, "Oliver", at the William Beck Art Center at N.E. College. Maureen's son-in-law, Dr. Staley Colvert, played the role of "Stikes".

Linda, Mickey, Steve, and Mike Cobble from Chattanooga, Jesse B., Becky, Nicole, Jenny, and Casey Stott, came together at Gladys Cobble's home to celebrate her son Mickey's birthday.

Mary Crow and Marjorie Gray went to Detroit, Michigan, recently, to attend the reunion of the 21st. Ordinance Company of which Mary's late husband, Austin, was a member during World War II. They also went to the Henry Ford Museum, which they found very interesting. They saw the first car made and the presidential cars, including the one President Kennedy was in when he was assassinated.

Gladys Cobble is recovering at her home after gall stone surgery.

Jarvis ("Dottie") Gifford is in serious condition at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga, after surgery.

Venna Livingston, her daughter Sue Mosly, Sue's husband, Sam, and children, Suzanne and Ben, have returned from a trip to San Antonio, Texas. They went to the Alamo and saw the historical movie, went down two hundred eleven feet into Natural Bridge Caverns and went up seven hundred fifty feet, in an outside glass elevator, to the top of the Tower of the Americas. They also took a boat ride on the San Antonio river;

found the Institute of Texas Culture very interesting, including the origin of "two bits, four bits, six bits, a dollar". They learned that because the Spanish money was so heavy and worth more, they cut it into bits.

Geneva Smith has returned home after a few days in Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga for tests.

Bobby Hawkins, of Brewton, Alabama, spent a day or two with his parents, Geraldine and Howard Hawkins.

The Valley Head Masonic members entertained their wives and friends with a supper recently.

Sincere sympathy to the family of Venice Clark. She was a lovely Christian lady.

I have been "shut in" over two weeks. So many things have happened that I wanted to attend. Why does everything happen when I am sick? I appreciate so much my good friends and neighbors who are so kind and thoughtful.

The Valley Head Christmas parade is December 12th at 12 o'clock. Remember 12-12! Yes, Christmas is just around the corner. This one has come more rapidly than any ever came before. Happy Holidays!

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Church News

by EVELYN GRAVES

The Valley Head United Methodist helped with the Community Thanksgiving dinner taken out to the shut-ins and needy. This was a project of the Ministerial Association. The Church hosted the Fifth Sunday Community Service held on November 29th. All Valley Head churches attended this service. A memorial service was held on November 8 for W. O. Davenport, Jr. who passed away in Florida. A number of out-of-town family members attended the service. Following the service, everyone went to Mr. and Mrs. Ted Holleman's home for refreshments and a time of fellowship.

On November 1, the Moon Lake Baptist Church honored Mrs. Kathryn Jones who retired from twenty-five years of service as secretary-treasurer of the Educational Trust Fund. She was presented a plaque and a lovely orchid corsage by Reverend Curtis Bridges in the Sunday morning worship service. Following the service, a dinner was served in the fellowship hall which was beautifully decorated with an autumn motive, by Mrs. Patricia Huie and Mrs. Dallyne Jones. Dr. Bill Berry, master of ceremonies, narrated the program, beginning with Mrs. Jones' childhood, her coming to Mentone as a bride, her years of teaching at Moon Lake School, her service to the Lord through her church, and her loving, compassionate ministry to her husband during his years of disability. Her brother, Jim Ellis, spoke of an incident from their childhood; Leland Cox gave a beautiful talk about his respect for her as a teacher, as a person, and about her relationship with the Jones family members. Eddie Kirby talked about his admiration for her as a teacher and as a fellow Christian. Mrs. Clara Cash spoke of her as her "best friend". Evelyn Graves, her daughter, gave a talk from a daughter's viewpoint. Mrs. Jones was presented with a beautiful scrapbook of letters from various friends, students, church members, and family. The scrapbook was inscribed by Marsh Hurt with Mrs. Jones' favorite verses of scripture and her favorite hymn.

During Advent, the Sunday morning sermons at St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church will be based on Isaiah passages about the coming of Jesus Christ. Bible Study the first three Wednesdays of December will be dealing with the genealogy of Jesus, focusing on the pre-birth and post-birth passages in Luke and Matthew. On Christmas Eve, there will be a Communion Service at 11 AM and a Candlelight Family Service at 6:30 PM.

The UMW of the Mentone United Methodist Church prepared lunch and delivered it to the shut-ins on November 19. The church was preparing for their Centennial Celebration when this paper went to press.

The calendar of the Lee's Chapel Baptist Church includes a Children's Christmas Program on December 6 at 6:30 PM, an Adult Cantata on December 13 at 11:00 AM, and an annual Christmas dinner on Sunday, December 20, at 6:30 PM. A special Christmas project entitled, "Project Lithuania" is under way. This involves sending medical supplies to Lithuania. The church is also distributing food to needy families in the Valley Head area during the month of December.

Reverend and Mrs. Randy Addison of the Wesleyan Church at Mentone attended a 3-day ministers' institute in Jackson, Mississippi, in November. The Homecoming service was quite enjoyable, with 103 in attendance. Plans for a Christmas program are now being made for the second Sunday in December.

On December 13, the Church of God of Prophecy will have a special guest minister, Rev. Curtis Flippo, who is in charge of prison ministries in the state of Alabama for the Church of God of Prophecy denomination. On Sunday, December 20, the local church will be serving dinners at the church at noon; and the public is invited.

On Sunday, December 20, at 5:30 PM, the children will be presenting the Christmas program at the Mentone Church of God. The Ladies Ministries will be having a Christmas banquet on December 11 at DeSoto State Park Restaurant, revealing their secret pals and selecting new secret pals for 1993.

The Valley Head Baptist Church is still working on the sanctuary and continues to meet at the Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church. The youth and children are each doing a Christmas play. The children's play will be on the 13th of December and the youth play is on the 20th of December. A Thanksgiving dinner for the residents of The Fountains was prepared on Saturday, November 21.

Morning worship services at Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church are held at 9 o'clock every Sunday morning. Everyone is invited to join in worship at that time.



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Here Am I - Send Me

By EVELYN GRAVES

These were the words of the prophet Isaiah as he answered the call of God to go and tell His people... God has not ceased to call, and men have not ceased to answer when they are willing to go. Reverend Curtis Bridges, pastor of the Moon Lake Baptist Church, heard this call fifteen years ago. He was anxious to go as he felt the call to serve God in a foreign land. God was not ready for him to go until he had prepared him for the task which lay ahead. After fifteen years, Curtis has received his command from God to go to Mongolia to tell the people of a largely Russian-dominated country about God's love for them.

Rev. Bridges will be working under Cooperative Services International, which is the aid agency of the Foreign Mission Board. He will be stationed in the capital city of Mongolia with only three other people from the United States. Rev. Bridges will be leaving Mentone shortly after December 20, his last day at Moon Lake Baptist Church. He will be in Orientation for New Foreign Missionaries from January 20 thru March 6, 1993, at the Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Virginia. On March 22, Rev. Bridges will be leaving for Mongolia with two footlockers, two check-in bags, and one carry-on bag. He will be carrying with him all medicines, including prescriptions, that he may need because they will not be available to him there. All mail sent to him will go to Hong Kong and from there it will be carried into Mongolia. Two to three months will pass before the mail is delivered. After completing a year of language study in Mongolia's capital city, Rev. Bridges will travel into an isolated area where he will seek to reach the large portion of nomadic Mongolians.

Reverend Bridges feels that Moon Lake Baptist Church has a definite part in his going. He stated in a letter to the church, "God has prepared me through you for this phase of my life. I would not be adequately prepared for Mongolia if I had not pastored this church. You have taught me through your love, generosity, and kindness. You have allowed me to develop my gifts and abilities as well as discover new abilities I never knew existed. So many of you have encouraged me...forgiven me...loved me for who I am... and encouraged me to be my best in Christ... Of all men and women, I am most blessed for having lived in Mentone. Pray for me as I open a new chapter to my life."



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Rhododendron Garden Club

The Rhododendron Garden Club met at Dessie's Kountry Chef on November 10. Hostesses for the meeting were Dessie Newberry, Beverly Hoyt, and Virginia Bosworth.

President, Hope Walker, called the meeting to order. The devotional was given by Virginia Bosworth.

The minutes were read by secretary, Frances Rosario; and Jackie Skelton presented the treasurer's report.

President, Hope Walker, announced that the club members would be meeting at the City Hall on December 1 to prepare 18 holiday wreaths to be placed on the light poles located between the White Elephant and the Post Office on Hwy. 117. The Rhododendron Club will be preparing these wreaths in cooperation with MAPA as the club's part in decorating Mentone for the Christmas season.

Jean McGehee introduced Mrs. Mary Summerville, the speaker, who is the District II Director. The program was Autumn's Masterpieces. Other than the information about the beautiful fall flowers and colors, Mrs. Summerville provided the members with information about state-wide garden clubs. As a note of interest, of the 35 clubs in District II, Mrs. Summerville has visited 29 of them.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The December meeting will be a covered dish dinner held on December 8, at the Town Hall Meeting Room. Polly Cameron will provide the program, "Christmas music."

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LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN PARKWAY - Beautiful wooded brow lots, spectacular sunsets. 22 acres, city water. \$50,000.

FOR THE HANDYMAN - 2 BR, 1 bath, CH&A, located on Lake Lahusage Rd. \$25,000.

MILITARY ROAD ESTATES - Located in Cloudmont Ski and Golf Resort. Three acres on west fork of Little River. \$33,000.

BROW ROAD NORTH - Mentone 9.1 acres west brow (sunset view) 3 miles north of Mentone on Scenic Drive. \$25,000.

HISTORICAL DOWNTOWN MENTONE - Scenic drive, 6 beautiful wooded lots 50'x150' each. Must be sold as a whole. Large rock formations accent the land, with city water available, facing west so the sunset can be seen. \$24,000.

OLD GRIST MILL SITE ON LITTLE RIVER - 5 acre tract with 350' of water frontage. \$30,000.

3/4 ACRE LOTS ON DESOTO PARKWAY - Beautiful wooded with city water available located between DeSoto State Park and Mentone. \$10,000.

WILD RIVER COMMUNITY - Minimum size 100'x300' private road, with natural swimming pools. \$10,000.

FLAT LANDING FORD ESTATES - 3 acre river tracts on the East fork of Little River. Wooded with 200' of water frontage. Great for tubing or rafting. \$18,000.

DESOTO PARKWAY-MENTONE - Next to Cragmere Manna Restaurant. West brow frontage, lovely sunsets, city water, 21 acres. \$30,000.

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Moon Lake Tigers

By COACH PAT BRENDLE

The Moon Lake Tigers are sporting new uniforms thanks to donations from Camp DeSoto, Camp Skyline, Camp Laney, Camp Saddle Rock, Marty Griffin, Polly Cameron, Mr. Bill Blackburn, Mr. Glenn Miller, Mrs. Marilyn Wrigley, Mentone Hardware, and all those who gave at the Harvest Festival.

The youngsters on the Tigers team are working hard. The team includes:

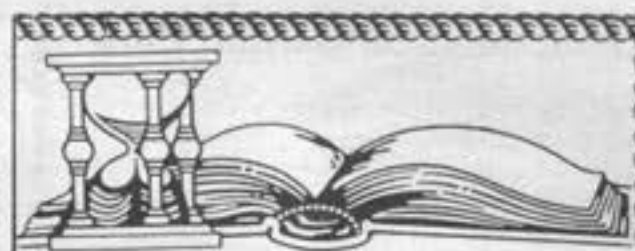
5th Graders	6th Graders
Josh Baggett	Jonathon Browder
Thomas Brendle	Garrett Collins
Jack Corley	Ken Miller
Peter Hurt	Jason Owen
Brandy Johnson	
David Johnson	
Nathan Owen	
Jason Simmons	
Buck Strickland	
Shawn Wrigley	

Everyone, parents, grandparents, and all, come out and support your Moon Lake Tigers. You will be helping the school and, most of all, you will be encouraging the kids when you are there to cheer them on.

The next game is December 5th at Valley Head. Come Cheer!



Correy Kirby, 2nd Grade, King
Kelly Owen, 2nd Grade, Queen
Miss Christie Lehman, 2nd Grade Teacher



God's Minute

By RUBY BROCK

The Spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit, who can bear? Prov. 18:14

Our mental attitude means much. Let's be sure we count our blessings. I have never known a person to grow despondent while counting his blessings. It's his counting what he doesn't have that depresses him.

Moon Lake Harvest Festival

The Moon Lake Harvest Festival was held November 7 in the Moon Lake School Gym. The festivities included games, an auction of donated items conducted by Pat Seymour, raffles, the crowning of King and Queen, and lots of good food. This year's King and Queen were Corey Kirby and Kelly Owen from Christie Lehman's 2nd grade room. The runners-up were Jeffrey Bullock from Joyce Smith's 4th and 5th grade and Alan Hawkins and Jana Goss from Dr. William Berry's 3rd and 4th grade room. A grand total of \$6800.00 was raised for the school.



LtoR Lori Tillman, 6th; Tiffany Bare and Shane Holcomb, 1st; Corey Kirby and Kelly Owen, 2nd; Jana Goss and Allen Hawkins, 3rd; and Jeffrey Poullock, 5th.



1992-1993 Student Body of Moon Lake School

The Moon Lake P.T.A. and student body would like to thank the following merchants, businesses, and organizations for their support with our Harvest Festival.

MAPA

Mentone Merchants Association
Cloudmont Golf and Ski Resort (Gary Jones)
Cloudland Trade Center
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Woodmaster's
The Wax Museum
Mitchell Oil Company
Alabama Fan Club
Jolene Templeton (Mary Kay)
Lorches
Swap Shop
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We would also like to thank the following individuals who donated \$25 or more.

Mrs. Jo Bain
Mr. and Mrs. David Bare
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bare
James and Tamara Blalock
Kathy Blalock
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Bullock
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Carrino
Mrs. Billie Cowan
Winford and Helen Crabtree
Bernise Crow

Benny and Brenda Goss
Eddie and Roberta Kirby
Mrs. Elvina Lowman
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Dr. Scott Thompson
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