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11 Years  
in Print

THE

# GROUNDHOG

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Since 1982  
by M.A.P.A.

Volume 11, No. 12

"Neighborly News from the Heart of Lookout Mountain"

December, 1993

## Schedule of Events

Saturday, December 4; 11:00 a.m.  
Valley Head Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 4; 6:00 p.m.  
Christmas Cantata  
Community Choir  
Fountains, Ft. Payne

Sunday, December 5, 6:00 p.m.  
Christmas Cantata  
Community Choir  
Mentone United Methodist Church

Tuesday, December 7  
3:00 p.m. - MAPA Parade  
4:00 p.m. - Christmas Party for Children  
Dark (4:30 - 5:00 p.m.) lighting of  
Community Christmas tree  
7:00 p.m. MAPA Christmas Supper

Wednesday, December 8, 7 p.m.  
Christmas Cantata  
Community Choir  
Valley Head Baptist Church

Saturday, December 25  
Christmas

Saturday, January 1, 1994  
New Year's Day



## PEACE. JOY. HARMONY.

Here's hoping your season is  
noteworthy! Thank you for  
your continued support.

Mentone Area Preservation Association



The November MAPA meeting--a community picnic--was held in Mentone at the Dude Ranch of MAPA president, Jack Jones. MAPA's community picnic seemed to be a success, and everyone who attended had a great time. MAPA would like to take this opportunity to thank all who served on this committee. Dessie Newberry and Dot Crow served on the food committee and provided several delicious items. Those who served on the barbecue stations--Jim Schmidt on pork, Shelton Whittle on beef, Gary Jones on chicken, and Dan Duckworth on the Cowboy kitchen game did a fantastic job. Thanks to all who supported the event and worked to make the community picnic a success.

MAPA's next meeting will be the Annual Christmas Party and will be at Dessie's Kountry Chef on December 7, at 7:00 p.m. The tickets are \$9.00 per person, which includes dinner, door prizes, gratuity, and entertainment. The executive board met on November 18 and planned the events for December.

The Christmas lights are up in Mentone, and Bud Simmons has located a community Christmas tree which will be in place by Tuesday, December 7th. There will be a parade at 3:00 (right after school gets out), starting at Moon Lake School. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause will ride in the parade, the

North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Department truck will be in the parade, and it will proceed from Moon Lake School to the town hall, where a Santa Claus children's party is scheduled. The North DeKalb Ministerial Association will be handing out Christmas stockings to each child who attends the party. Refreshments will be served.

The Community Christmas tree will be placed on the corner lot of the Mentone Inn at the blinking light in Mentone and will be lit at dark (approximately 4:30 or 5:00 p.m.) December 7.

Everyone is invited to attend the lighting of the Christmas tree. This is MAPA's way of saying, "Happy Holidays, Mentone!"



Mentone Postmaster,  
Benny Goss,  
has asked The Groundhog  
to relay this message  
to you, the readers:

"MAIL EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS,  
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# Letters to the Editor

76 Shady Lane  
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October 11, 1993

Dear Editor:

My husband and I made our first trip to Mentone at the height of the rhododendron bloom in May 1992, while camping at DeSoto State Park. It didn't take us long to choose the site for a fall camping trip, and we have just returned home from another trip to the park, the canyon, the falls, and Mentone. Our drive up and down the winding, tree-studded road brought us again into your enchanting village for a meal, a stroll through several shops, and a stop at the Superette for supplies. The people we met there seemed as beautiful and full of life as the area which they call home—Jesse [Crow] and his helper [Nellie Croley] at Something Special (I think that was its name), who made us feel at home and showed us the Busy Corner Antique Clock Shop; the friendly waitresses who served us delicious food at the Log Cabin Restaurant; and the exciting Dr. Pat Seymour who introduced us to Brutus and THE GROUNDHOG. We'll enjoy these memories for months to come, at least until we can return and feel again the Spirit of your mountain which has become for us Holy because of you.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Masters



John Corey (left) and Bill Berry (center) view a map of Little River Canyon National Preserve. Shown with them is Park Planner Don Forester, who spoke to the newly-formed Mentone Educational Resources Foundation (MERF). The purpose of MERF is to enrich the learning and living of the community by identifying needs and coordinating resources. The Foundation was officially established as a not-for-profit organization on September 16, 1993, after months of meeting and discussing the needs and resources of our area. They are now applying for tax exempt status with plans to apply for grant monies that would enable more opportunity for the children and adults of our community. Members of the Board of Directors of MERF are Bill Berry, Don Brock, Jean Corey, Sue Henry, Marsha Hurt, Phil Hurt, and Edna Morgan.

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## 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

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Sue Schwarz, Pat Seymour

### MAPA OFFICERS

President.....Jack Jones  
Vice President.....H. L. Jenkins  
Secretary.....Marie Dillenbeck  
Treasurer.....Dessie Newberry  
Parliamentarian.....Sherman Gough  
Member-At-Large.....Dot Crow

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 22nd day of the month preceding publication.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAPA MEMBERS

Mabel Kirk.....December 1  
Bill Shaw.....December 9  
Homer L. Crow.....December 12



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## From Between the Counters

By  
BRUTUS



Now that I have reached the maturity of my second year, Pop has wisely placed a sign in the window of the Superette: "Beware of Dog." Frankly, I think it should read: "Magnificent, Incredible Dog," but as we all know, Pop is kinda jealous of my beauty. Actually, he tried to choke me to death last Sunday. He brought me over to guard him and the store while he mopped. Well, that morning I selected a Sugar Daddy for my reward. I nearly pawed the gorgeous red hair off my muzzle when my jaws stuck together. Pop spent an hour unsticking my clamped teeth. Looking back, I'm sure Pop planned the whole thing, thinking to humiliate this magnificent beast. Thank goodness the children did not witness this scene!

Thank my lucky stars for Jessica Barkley whose mother, "Pookie," brings her in to adore me every day. I really get off on adoration.

Cody Parrish and Laura Schoen are two other admirers who can sit and sit petting his wonderfulness, Moi (me)!

Eat your heart out Jerry Smith! I hear you missed sharing your Little Debbie with me. Seems like I have to walk Pop more and more lately. Old bladder's not what it used to be.

The answer to all girl dogs' dreams (ME) had a little trouble with a piece of bubble gum the other day when George Huie came to my rescue. I owe you one, big guy!

I love it when Jessica Culpepper and Jessie Pough pet me and give me sugar. Man, that's living! If this is "a dog's life," I'll take it. Certainly no more than I deserve, though.

Kowa Bunga, Dude, here comes Judy Hall's grandson, Cory, with peanut butter crackers to share. Yum! One of my favorites.

Well, enter Mr. Haas, cigarette salesman from Scottsboro. Listen, coffin nail pusher, these incredible lips were made for kissin', not puffin'. I'm told your wife is a fan of my column. Wise lady, even if she did pick you; otherwise, exquisite taste in males.

Speaking of my magnificent maleness—some rude flatlander tourist woman came in the store yesterday and ignored ME. Well, I just rolled over on my back to stretch, and she was totally awed! I admit I am magnificently endowed.

George Walker, besides being one of the best singers on the mountain, is also the wisest man. I hear he asked Dr. Pat when I'd be making a movie. Move over, sissy Lassie, and let a REAL canine steal the spotlight. I can see those lights now glistening off this magnificent sleek, supple body. Females will faint in the aisles!

Why me Lord? Pop's grabbing at himself and jerking me out to walk him. My work is never done with all that man's demands on me!

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## Mentone Grapevine

By  
PAT SEYMOUR

Everyone is thrilled and stunned that Mabel Kirk is improving so rapidly. It's incredible that she underwent triple bypass surgery only a few weeks ago at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. Mabel has a constitution and a determination beyond description. What a great lady!

Thanksgiving holidays brought with them much exciting travel for Mentonites such as Bill and Sue Schwarz. First, they motored to Tampa to be with Sue's daughter, Chris Hamilton, and family. Then, a jaunt all the way up the state of Georgia to Athens. Bill's sister, Dorothy, and her family awaited the Swartz's visit there. Dorothy is recovering from quite a serious operation. Once Bill is certain sister Dorothy is "on the mend," it's home to Mentone for Bill and Sue.

It was family, family, family for George and Hope Walker Thanksgiving week. Guess who came for dinner (and the rest of the week)? Daughter Janice, with husband Joe and daughter, Janelle, from Clearwater, Florida. Daughter Sally and dentist husband, Hank Insko, Clearwater. Daughter Joanne and husband, Charlie, and children, Greg and Heather Phillips, also of Clearwater. Barbara Turner, with her daughter Mary of Nashville, joined the group early in the week.

Friends were distressed to hear that Maureen Brewer's rental trailer was the target of an arsonist. He made not one, but two attempts to burn the structure and was successful the second time.

Ruby Daniel is much improved and is "behaving herself," per doctor's orders. Bob is squiring her to church again.

Rev. Williams, longtime member of the Mentone Wesleyan Church, is seriously ill. He has celebrated his 95th birthday.

Coley Harvey is recuperating at home after a serious illness. He is reported to be doing very well.

Max Cash's sister, Eva Helen Crabtree is also back home and recovering her health quite rapidly.

Alyce Springer is another Mentonite with Thanksgiving guests coming out her ears. Alyce's son, Rick, and wife, Jody Springer, came from Indianapolis, along with sons Clay and Ryan. Jody's parents, Bill and Shirley Rice, of Robinson, Illinois, joined the festivities. Friends Bob and Annette Breitbart, came from Chattanooga and were joined by their son, Charles and wife Sonya, of Charlotte, N.C.

Norma and Buddy Williams had son, Chad, of Atlanta, as their house guest for the holidays. Norma was given a bird "Honey" by Dalton Turner. When you telephone Norma, you can hear "Honey" chattering in the background. Dalton also gifted Betty and Joe Stephens with a talking bird, except Betty claims he won't "chat." Buddy's new nickname is Evil Kenevil, since he started zipping all around Mentone on his motorbike. Varoom!

Frances Rosario called Norma recently from Miami and asked to be remembered to all. She misses Mentone badly and sends her love. Also, the temperature is 72 degrees in Miami, and Frances hates the heat!

Unless you have heard Vickie Schrader Wilson sing, you've missed a treat. She is a member of Rev. Marlon Williamson's congregation. Speaking of Marlon's church, two young men, Billy Graham (you read it right!) and Ken Hicks have accepted the call to train for the ministry.

Jo and George Beaube were among those with a houseful of their kin for the holidays. Daughter Cheryl Hines and her family came from Tuscaloosa: Dennis, her husband, and Jessica and Melissa, their children. Another daughter, Janice Moore of Gadsden, joined the festivities along with husband, Terry, and children, Adam and Rachael.

Ferne Fitzgerald, the cat lady of Mentone, reports that her "boarder" cat, Mandy, has resumed his breakfast visits after being absent for days. You have to understand, Ferne, so much turkey, so little time! He's probably been hitting on every house in the parkway.

Amelia Kirk enjoyed a holiday visit from her daughter, Cindy Foxworth of Dallas, and Cindy's infant son, Holden. Amelia's son, Larry Brooks, along with his new wife and infant son, will be in Mentone for Christmas. The good times are rolling for the Kirks—mother Amelia and grandmother Mabel.

Lula Blalock has just celebrated her 74th birthday in style. Sister Lou Reed of Chattanooga surprised Lula with a trip to Danville, Virginia, to see their Aunt Ann Fike. Friend, Patty Ford, of Seville, Tennessee, spent Lula's birthday with her this past Monday and brought a delicious cake.

Sisters Ann Stokes and Myrtle Johnson, are so relieved that their nephew, Dennis Fortner of Gadsden, is recovering nicely at home after serious surgery.

Katherine Jones and daughter, Evelyn Graves, entertained husband and father, Herman, during Thanksgiving. Herman is a resident of a nursing home in Chattanooga.

Sherman Gough's many friends are relieved to know that his recent heart problems were successfully treated in Gadsden. Sherman is back home recuperating under the watchful eye of wife, Mickey.

Jean and John Corey will host the "M.A.C. faculty" at a dinner in their lovely home on December 7. Thank you, Jean and John, for all you do for Mentone. And you can't think of the Coreys and not remember the Hurts, Phil and Marsha. Talk about "dynamic duo couples!"

Gladys and Bill Crane, Winston Salem--Mentone had her family as visitors over the holidays. Will and Gina came from Marietta, Georgia, with children, Allison and Shannon. Gladys is sister to Ann Wright.

Have you noticed the plants placed by the Rhododendron Garden Club in the triangle at the Superette? Bark will go down this coming Thursday.

Bill and Jimmy Wright's mother, Eloise Burnette, is doing quite well after undergoing recent cataract surgery. One eye is still to be done.

Ilene Green had her family to dinner on Thanksgiving. This included Karen and Russell Wright and children, Kelley and Paige. Dad Sam Street, Sulphur Springs, joined the group for a delicious meal.

Ann and Bill Wright had a house full for Thanksgiving dinner. Daughter Susan came with husband, Sammy, and children, Garrett and Emily. Sons, Russell and David Wright, joined the feast, along with David's daughters, Meloney and Haley, all of Lafayette. Other kin visiting were Bradley, Amanda, and Alayna.

The Mentone United Methodist Church women will provide refreshments December 4 at the Fountains for the Cantata singers and the residents.

Al and Mae Hunt hosted a fabulous Halloween party in late October. Twenty-six children were invited. Those attending were: Vickie Blackburn and children, Wil and Alex; Donna Jackson and children, Logan, Heather, and Brandy; Virginia Ballinger, and children, Allen and Nina; Merle and Jerry Stokes; Lisa Scott and son Justin; Cathy Cushion and daughter, Amanda, and grandparents, Jim and Shirley Cameron; Kristy and Melburn Bates, and children, Brittony and Kara; Shannon Kean, and children, Loren and Dillon; T.C. and Trisha Blansit, and daughter, Samantha; Glenda Ingram with children, Shelly, Cory, Newly, Julie, and Katrina; Angela Hunt; and Kristy Ferguson. The decorations were out of this world, both inside and outside, the Hunt home. Mae and Al, it was a great party! Everyone enjoyed themselves.

For the coming New Year: I do not wish you riches nor the glow of greatness, but that wherever you go some weary heart will gladden at your smile, or some shadowed life know sunshine for a while. And so your path will be a track of light like angels' footsteps passing through the night. Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year to you and yours!

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**NOTICE OF SALE**

IN RE THE ESTATE OF JAMES B. WHITEHEAD, DECEASED

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF DEKALB COUNTY, ALABAMA

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, as Administrator of the Estate of James B. Whitehead, deceased, will sell at the home of James B. Whitehead in Mentone, Alabama, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. on December 10, 11, and 12, 1993, at a public sale, for cash, the following described personal property:

Antique walnut step-back cupboard  
Antique walnut table  
Antique bedroom suite  
Antique oak chest  
Blanket Chest  
Trunks  
Pie safe  
Sewing machine  
Hand-hooked rugs  
Old Handwork items  
Cut glass  
American Pattern Fostoria  
China  
Old pewter cruett set  
Silverplate tea service  
Silverplate serving pieces  
Pottery  
Antique jewelry  
Man's gold pocket watch  
Antique copper tea kettle  
Antique rocking chairs  
Lamps  
Sofa  
Stack bookcase with bevelled glass doors  
Washer, dryer & refrigerator  
VCR  
Large number of books, including sets of Shakespeare and Charles Dickens  
World War I items including a Hate Belt  
World War II items  
Confederate money  
Old foreign coins  
Large number of records and tapes  
Tools  
Generator  
Miscellaneous kitchen glassware and utensils  
Miscellaneous household goods  
C.B. Whitehead, as Administrator of the Estate of James B. Whitehead, deceased

**"JOY" SENIOR CLUB**

By Anne Climer

The JOY Senior Club of Moon Lake Baptist Church will meet at the church December 21, at 11:00 a.m. for a short business meeting in the Fellowship Hall. Then, we'll go by bus to Camp Ponderosa for the Christmas Party. Please bring a covered dish. Bring to the party a gift from home you'd like to get rid of.

The JOY Senior Club was recently formed, and it is for everyone in the community in the age group: 55-and-up. The Club meets every third Tuesday for a covered dish luncheon at 11:00 a.m.

Trips were discussed. The first trip—if it isn't raining—will be to Boaz on Tuesday, December 7. The bus leaves at 9:00 a.m. from the church. If it is raining, the trip will be to the Hamilton Mall in Chattanooga.

Anyone interested in attending or joining, may call either of the following:

Eran Martin at 634-4230 or  
Anne Climer at 634-4187.



## A Friendly— Valley View

By  
ELOISE BROWN

The Sunshine Club met October 28, at the home of Anna Daniels. Present were Vernitice Young, Sue Cooper, Gladys Cobble, Carmel Gifford, Lillie Bowden, Karen Freeman, Leona Chadwick, Ruth Pickett, Jewell Palmer, Evelyn Clark, and Eloise Brown. On November 18, since Gladys Stott was unable to come to us, we went to her house. Those present were Gladys, Geraldine Hawkins, Lillie Bowden, Karen Freeman, Billie Harper, Evelyn Clark, Jewell Palmer, Leona Chadwick, Carmel Gifford, Bess Bauerle, Vernitice Young, Gladys Cobble, and Eloise Brown. I gave the devotional and a poem. The Nominating Committee composed of Gladys Cobble, Billie Harper, and Bess Bauerle, gave the following report: President - Gladys Cobble, Vice President - Lillie Bowden, Secretary-Treasurer - Ruth Pickett, Telephone Chairman - Evelyn Clark, Devotional Chairman - Bess Bauerle, Gift Chairman - Anna Daniel; Crafts - Billie Harper and Leona Chadwick. Our Christmas party will be 11:30 a.m., December 16, at Billie Harper's.

The U.M.W. of the Valley Head Methodist Church met October 26 at the home of Laura Margaret Allison. Laura Margaret led the pledge service, assisted by several members. Others present were Vesta Hawkins, Velma Hammond, Frances Longshore, Gladola Holliman, Mary Louise Holleman, Adelaide Biddle, Elizabeth Coleman, and Eloise Brown. It was announced that there would be a breakfast at the church on November 7, followed by the charge conference.



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The prayer group of Valley Head Baptist Church went to The Fountains recently for a devotional service. They invited relatives of the occupants and had a covered dish dinner.

Dot and Bill Blackburn and Martha and Hoot Gibson had as their guests during the holidays: Jane and Mark Gibson and children, Mathew and Jordan of Dallas, TX, and Linda Blackburn and Betty Lewis from Jacksonville, FL.

Billie Harper and Bobbie Broyles went to Fort Walton Beach, FL, and visited Billie's daughter, Rebecca Barrier, and husband, Bealer and children, Jessica and Bo. They enjoyed the antique shops there.

Venna Livingston visited her sister, Madge Sparks at Fort Oglethorpe and Venna's daughter, Marilyn Mercer and children, and Blanche and Bill Fuller of Madison, AL, spent Sunday with me and Emily and Barry Brown.

Oline Roberts spent two weeks with her daughter, Martha Killian and husband Gerald in Aiken, S.C. They were joined by son (and grandson) Andrew and spent a weekend in Hyland, NC, where the scenery was wonderful! Andrew will graduate from Clemson College, December 16, and Oline plans to attend.

Lillie and Herschel Bowden went to Fort Valley, GA, to help Dorothy and Rufus Bowden celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

Thomas Larmore's son Tommy and grandson, Thomas, from Linden, NJ, visited him recently.

Robert and Gail Hawkins were recent guests of Robert's parents, Geraldine and Howard Hawkins.

I attended the funeral of my cousin, Kathleen Dantzler Rowe in Chattanooga, November 15. She was a lovely lady.

We lost a wonderful person when Ruby Sully passed away in October. She was aptly named Ruby, for she was a brilliant gem of great quality. She and her husband Henry were faithful and dedicated members of the Valley Head Eastern Star and did so much for the chapter and the lodge hall. They will always live in our memories as long as memory lives.

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## Beauty Tips

By  
CHARLYNE O'REAR

A nice long bubble bath with candle light--don't rush, start early--will help put you in a pleasant mood for any party.

### MAKEUP

Play up your eyes for evening glamour by lining inside lower lids with navy or violet pencil.

Maximize your eyes by adding 4 individual fake lashes (the single-hair type) to the outer corner of each eye with surgical glue and tweezers. Or, add a whole strip of lashes after trimming them to fit your eyes.

Red lip color is a must with the holiday fashions. Be sure to use a red-toned lip pencil first to outline and fill in lips. Then cover the pencil with a red lip color. Regain a little of that lost summer glow with a peach or pink pressed powder.

Don't forget your nails. Match your nail color to lip color or buff your nails to a beautiful high gloss. Make sure all nails are the same length and not too long.

### HAIR

If you usually wear it up, let it down. If you usually wear it down, put it up. Add impact to your holiday dress by changing your regular hairstyle.

If your hair is short, you can slick it back or curl it with hot rollers and then crush it (don't brush it) with your fingers.

### FASHION

Black and red are the colors of the season! Choose sheer black hosiery for evening.

Fabric Shoes (Peau de soie) are preferable for evening. Please, Please, Please don't carry your daytime bag to holiday parties--it will spoil your whole look! Buy one inexpensive, black satin evening bag, and it will virtually last through years of holiday parties. Or, have your "beau" or friend carry your lipstick in his pocket.

Hats are popping up every where. If you choose to wear one, make sure it's appropriate for evening. Evening hats don't have brims!



Kathryn Ann "Katie" Gray, of Mentone, daughter of Steve Gray and Sandra Gray, was honored with a birthday dinner on her sixth birthday, November 18, at Dessie's Kountry Chef. Those attending the party were: her parents; her grandparents, Junior and Mary Jane Gray and Jimmy and Evelyn Graves; her great grandmother, Kathryn Jones; her brother, Allen Gray; and her friends, Marsha Hurt, Peter Hurt, Stuart Hurt, and her "bestest" friend, Sarah Hurt.

Don't wear your daytime coat at night! Wear a cape or shawl or have your significant other drive you to the front door and let you out!

Use your ingenuity to cut costs and look great! For instance, you could buy a gold lace bathrobe with a white satin collar and cuffs, and wear it over a white strapless summer dress you already own to create a fabulous new look! Sometimes, just changing a belt (from fabric to 'lame' or animal print) and adding some Christmas jewelry can perk up a simple black dress or a wonderful red suit. This is the time of the year when you can go to your closet and do the daring "put-togethers" you'd not try at any other time. So, go for it--I bet you'll look smashing!

Don't get carried away with earrings. Remember! Balance: bold necklace = small earrings. Bold earrings = no or one very uncluttered necklace or pin.

Try and keep it simple. Nothing that's too tight or so loose you won't miss it if it slips off.

If you're watching your weight--have a meal before you go, and count your fat intake then, not at the party. When you arrive, you will not be hungry and fall into the "I'm starved, I could eat like a bear" mode. Drink lots of liquids, water with lemon, tea, diet drinks--these will keep you full, and you'll only have room to nibble.

Have a great holiday and remember why we are celebrating. It's Christ's birthday. If you will remember Him and keep Him in your heart, all these other minor things will just fall into place.

Merry Christmas. This is my favorite Christmas thought: "Wise Men Still Seek Him."



**PAGE 5**  
Joshua Stephen Rogers of Mentone will be six on December 23. Proud parents are Darryl and Sandra Rogers. Grandparents are Myrtis Brown of Valley Head, Joe Brown of Mentone, Gary Gideon of Waverly, IL, and Frank and Lorene Rogers of Cloudland, GA. Great Grandparent, Gertrude Rogers of Cloudland, GA.



John Caleb Payton is the six-month-old son of Johnny and Tracy Payton, Cloudland, GA. John is the brother of Lyndsey and Jordan Little. Grandparents are: Bruce and Carolyn Crain of Menlo, and Billy and Joyce Payton of Trion. Great grandparents are: Bert and Billy Crain of Menlo; Flora Jennings of Summerville; and Lillie Suits of Summerville.

## WISHING YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

Happy Holidays  
Marilyn's Head Shed

Merry Christmas from  
all of us at  
Tiger's Inn

Season's Greetings  
C'Lene's

Season's Greetings  
Chrysalis

Season's Greetings  
The Citizens Bank

Merry Christmas  
Cooper-Lee Appliance  
& TV

Merry Christmas  
Hulgan's Texaco

Happy Holidays  
The Humble House

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Holiday Season  
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prosperous New Year  
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## 27 THINGS TO PRAISE GOD FOR

By "Dr. Pat"

Those who telephone when you're sick.  
Those who remember to say, "Thank you!"  
Romance based on friendship.

Handpainted Christmas tree ornaments.

Fathers who talk to their children.

Husbands who tell their wives that they  
couldn't get along without them.

Finding a promise in the Bible that you feel  
is just for you.

A second chance.

An unexpected compliment.

The aroma of baking apples.

Having a change of heart.

Children to hug.

A friend who says, "You're special in my  
life."

The power of prayer.

Those who love pets.

Plaster castings of a child's hand.

Sufficient firewood for winter.

Children who memorize Bible verses.

News that a loved one is safe and well.

The lacy pattern of naked trees against a  
wintry sky.

Those who telephone the elderly just to  
talk.

Men who are gentle with children, women,  
and animals.

Store clerks that make you feel like you are  
their most important customer.

Polite, well-behaved children.

A home with "good cooking" smells.

Wagging tails and purring bodies reflecting  
unconditional love when you come home  
after a terrible day.

God's peace that passes all understanding.

Members of the North Lookout Mountain Volunteer Fire Department training on their new equipment--the jaws of life. The Ider Rescue Squad location was the site for the training received by Milton Chambers, Sanford and Juanita Hartline, and Gail Crider of the DeSoto Rescue Squad. Pictured above are: #1 -- Juanita Sanford, #2 --Milton Chambers, Gail Crider, Sanford Hartline, with Juanita Hartline; #3 - Milton Chambers at car; #4 - jaws of life equipment; and #5 -car used in training with Ider Rescue Squad truck in background. More training is scheduled and the dates will be announced.

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# The Country Journal

By  
BERNISE CROW

Summer has gone and autumn is in its last few weeks before the fierce winds of winter envelop us in its clutches. It is good for us summer merchants and gardeners to review the accomplishments of the past few months and have some quiet moments to think about spring activities.

Our autumn leaves have been the brightest and lasted for the longest time ever, it seems. We had some rain just when the colors began showing, and it probably gave a little new life to those that had not begun to turn. This is one time of the year that living in the valley would have its advantage: one could look up and behold all the glory of the lively colors on the mountainside.

We are happy to have our daughter, Doreen, and her husband, Jerry Waters, living with us for a while. We have not had her near us in a long time, and this is a real pleasure. Jerry and his friends from Baton Rouge, David Brantley and F.O. Denham, have bought Ancro Specialties from Tom Anderson and Homer, and Jerry will be managing the business. It's a whole new adventure for Tom, Homer, and Jerry. Maybe, Tom and Homer can relax a little more and be able to travel as much as possible.

Doreen is helping me with my antiques shop, and that is a boost to my morale. We have cleaned and moved things around to give us more floor space. Don Castleberry is helping us with this project.

Mabel Kirk has returned home and is improving daily after having four heart by-passes at Memorial Hospital in Chattanooga. It's good to have her back with us. Lydia Speed and daughter, Pat, were here last week to visit Mabel. Lydia is living in Huntsville now, but was formerly a neighbor of Mabel.

Eleanor Sudderth called me while I was in Chattanooga last week to tell me she had a copy of an article about Mentone written for a paper in Memphis. She mailed it to me. Eleanor and Bob spent a week at Nippersink in September, as they usually do. They sold their cabin here on the brow to Charles and Faye Roe a few years ago.

Shurlee Froehler has returned from a much-needed vacation in California, where she visited her niece in Los Angeles and some life-long friends at San Diego.

Cousin Andy Lea and wife, Iva, visited us this week. It's always good to see them and hear the latest of Andy's humorous thoughts. He said, "It always bothers me that we drive on a parkway, and we park on a driveway."

Jim Lyday is recuperating nicely, following surgery at Riverview Hospital in Gadsden. He remained in the hospital ten days before returning home to lie around for a few more days. We still have his book "First Off The Mountain" at the Hitching Post. He is giving a donation to Valley Head and Moon Lake Schools from the sale of the books.

Jim and Lynette McCary have returned to Birmingham for the winter, and we miss them. They work long hours at St. Joseph's Episcopal Church keeping things in order. Both of them spent a great deal of time on the long flower beds along the rock wall at the edge of the lawn and were rewarded with

some of the most beautiful mums I have ever seen. Many "thank-yous" to them for their labor of love. Lynette is also organist for church services and arranges flowers for the altar from her own flower garden. In between all her other activities, she finds time to paint. I purchased one of her paintings she had done of an arrangement of flowers in various shades of pink. It is truly beautiful.

Jim and Gail Gaylord will be leaving soon for a time in Florida. We are a changing community. The Nancarrowes are back from northern Michigan, and they stay here until May when they return to Michigan.

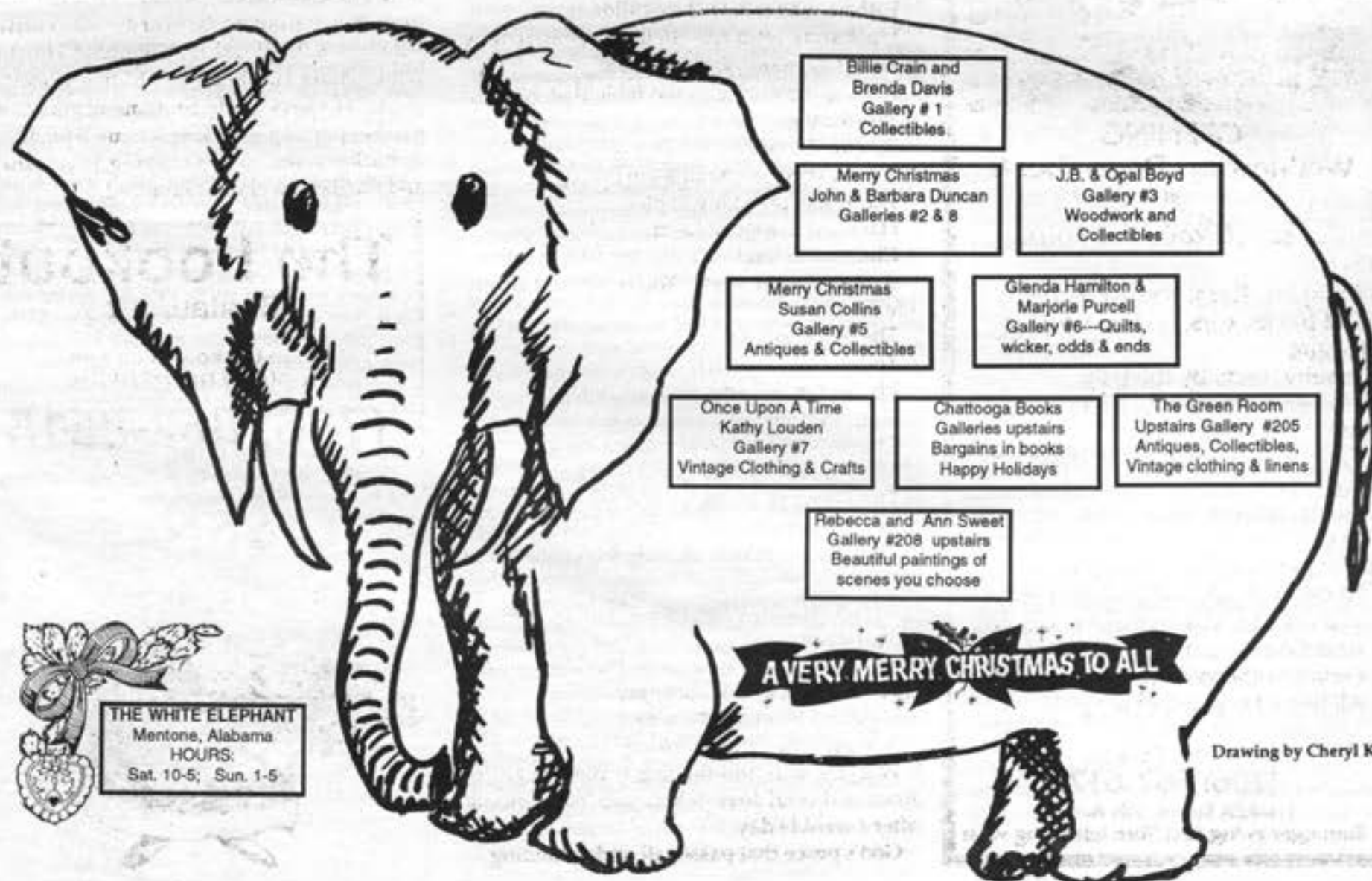
Amelia Kirk has put the Mentone Inn to rest for the winter months and will be spending some time with her mother, Mabel.

The Mentone Heritage Foundation is alive, and we are still meeting and planning and negotiating for a permanent place to have a public meeting room, tourist information center, museum, and possibly a restaurant.

Vernon Gray is making progress with his historic video of the Mentone area. We can hardly wait to see the results of the finished product. This is something we have wanted for a long time--an oral history of Mentone.

Thanksgiving has passed and Christmas plans are on the way. I am singing with the community chorus, which puts me in the right mood for the blessed season. We will be singing at the Fountains on Saturday, December 4, at 6 p.m.; at the Mentone United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 5, at 6 p.m.; and at Valley Head Baptist Church, Wednesday, December 8, at 7 p.m.

May all your holidays be filled with love, warmth, and laughter, and may your new year be a blessed one.



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Drawing by Cheryl King

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Brenda Davis  
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Collectibles

Merry Christmas  
John & Barbara Duncan  
Galleries #2 & 8

J.B. & Opal Boyd  
Gallery #3  
Woodwork and  
Collectibles

Merry Christmas  
Susan Collins  
Gallery #5  
Antiques & Collectibles

Glenda Hamilton &  
Marjorie Purcell  
Gallery #6--Quilts,  
wicker, odds & ends

Once Upon A Time  
Kathy Loudon  
Gallery #7  
Vintage Clothing & Crafts

Chattooga Books  
Galleries upstairs  
Bargains in books  
Happy Holidays

The Green Room  
Upstairs Gallery #205  
Antiques, Collectibles,  
Vintage clothing & linens

Rebecca and Ann Sweet  
Gallery #208 upstairs  
Beautiful paintings of  
scenes you choose

# UNCLE PLUM'S CHRISTMAS VISIT

By Ernest H. Smith of Mentone

Over a period of 12 years or more of genealogical research, I was able to document 15 generations of my Smith Family, together with some of the related families. This was made possible, in large part, with the wonderful help of cousins living in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Maryland. They were able to ferret out earlier Smith genealogies on file in various libraries in the East. The family histories had been written to preserve and pass on to future generations their historical heritage. Much of the information centered around vital statistics, Mayflower ancestry, Revolutionary Veterans, experiences in the Colonial period, the revolution, and the early years of the republic. Thanks to some of the earlier Smiths, we now have a fairly complete history of our Smiths' first 50 years in America.

While all the foregoing is very interesting, it does seem to pale when compared to the colorful character of my great grandfather's brother, **Joseph Plum Smith**.

The name Plum, or Plumb, was the maiden name of Joseph's maternal grandmother, Sarah Plum Beecher. Some of the Plums, or Plumbs, were Connecticut coach makers.

Joseph Plum Smith, **Uncle Plum**, was born 27 October, 1821, in Sandisfield, Berkshire County, Massachusetts. He grew up in Smyrna, Chenango County, N.Y., where the family had moved in 1826. To me, his photograph bears a striking resemblance to old King Edward the VII of England.

Uncle Plum served in the War with Mexico (1846-1848). After the war, he received some medical training and became a doctor. He married and settled down to practice in Clayville, N.Y. Many years later, after his wife had died, and having no children to fill his empty life, he gave up his normal pursuits and joined a cult of spiritualists. In 1890, just before Christmas, he decided to visit his brothers in Alabama. Lawrence Smith lived in what is now the Mentone area, and Melvin Smith lived on Sand Mountain near Ider. Shortly after his arrival, Uncle Plum proposed to hold a seance. The first one was held at the Lawrence Smith home, and the second one took place at the home of Melvin Smith.

In my recent questioning of some of the older generation, much of the information given was turned around, assigned to the wrong side of the family, and/or, in some cases, turned out to make no sense at all. This is not uncommon in traditional information. The one thing they all had straight were the particulars of Uncle Plum's 1890 Christmas visit. Such was the impression he had made, now more than a hundred years in the past.

About 20 years ago, it was my privilege and pleasure to visit the late Mr. Wayne Hamric at Ider. Wayne was 92 at that time and passed away a short time later. He was Uncle Plum's great nephew and the only relative I met who had actually seen Uncle Plum. He had been present at the Ider seance. Much of the information in my sketch, describing the seance, is based on his memories. Uncle Plum made a lasting impression on Wayne.

Another tribute to Uncle Plum's notoriety was the interesting reaction among relatives to copies of old photographs I scattered among them. In most cases, there was little interest in these pictures, save one, the picture of Uncle Plum. He was no stranger after they were given the identification, and he was still a matter of curiosity. I had to get more copies from the studio to go around.

This story was also circulating many years ago. Supposedly, all during Uncle Plum's visit, the cows held their milk, the dogs howled both day and night, and the chickens refused to sit their normal roost. Needless to say I filed this under what my Grandfather Smith would have politely called, "runaway telling."



Photo was provided by Ernest H. Smith of Joseph Plum Smith, "Uncle Plum." A notation on the bottom of the photo reads "Younge [Studio] over Glen's, Utica, N. Y."

Now, after piecing together a few bits of information, I am able to present some of the highlights of the seance. It all began after darkness in a dimly lighted room. Uncle Plum was seated at a table all decked out with special effects to attract the spirits. His hat was thought to best resemble a tambourine with tiny bells and rattles all around. His robe was said to have had a sheen or glow. These descriptions were based on what some relatives had heard from stories long in the telling. The total effect of Uncle Plum's get-up must have brought to mind some Martian King about to hold his court. The spectators would all be grouped at one side of the room near the door. The position near the door might have been on purpose, just in case things should get out of hand. The first sign of the supernatural would be the unearthly knocking by some unseen hand. Then, some of the furniture would begin a ghostly dance, sometimes at a tilt defying gravity. About this time, the weird tambourine-looking hat would be floating free, whirling first clockwise and then counter clockwise. The tiny bells and rattles would be in the grip of a spastic fit, which must have sounded something like a short-circuited doorbell. All the while, Uncle Plum would be hunkered down in a deep trance. Apparently, as the medium, he was searching out the right wave length to the spirit world. No one remembers which departed spirits he hoped to plug in. Suddenly, with scarcely a movement on his lips, would come a steady flowing of voices, both male and female. Some spirits were obviously in heavenly bliss, while others were in the throes of extreme anguish somewhere in the underworld. By all accounts, the spirit world was a mighty busy place. Over all this commotion, the flickering candle cast a fright in tortured light and shadows. Surely, all this must have been unnerving, even to the bravest spectator. As the seance wound down, the knocking ceased. The voices would begin to fade, and the furniture would settle down to an occasional wrenching jerk. Uncle Plum's hat would now be planted firmly on his head, and the tiny bells and rattles would finally be at rest. The candle would now be burning at a steady glow, with now and then a quiver. Uncle Plum would slowly regain his earthly faculties, completely wrung out. No doubt, had this performance in ventriloquy been witnessed by the late Edgar Bergen, he would have had cause to acknowledge his betters and toss his dummy on a trash heap.

You must wonder by now if Uncle Plum was serious in his so-called dealings with the spirit world or just a prankster. Apparently, only Uncle Plum knew. My guess is that, aside from what he may or may not have believed, he was having a wonderful time scaring the daylight out of some of his spectators. He was undoubtedly a master showman.

There is reason to believe that Uncle Plum's departure was none too soon. Some of the Smiths and others were certain that he was possessed and no doubt hoped to never see the likes of him again.

His brother, Lawrence, carried him by hack to Valley Head to catch his train. After his arrival home, he wrote that he was robbed on the trip back. He had lost one thousand dollars to someone on the train. The particulars of the robbery are not known. Perhaps, he held a seance enroute home and was outwitted to his own chagrin.

Apart from Uncle Plum's seances, he was an endless storyteller. He could hold his audience spellbound, bringing them to tears, then to laughter, and back, again, to tears. An emotional roller coaster ride that must have been physically draining to all. Perhaps, he had the gift of his mother's cousins, Henry Ward Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

The following is an excerpt from Munson's history of Smyrna, N.Y., entitled "Early Years in Smyrna," from a copy found in the Syracuse Public Library: (In those days when every store was a club room where stories were related by LeGrand Jaynes, Denison Kelsey, "Ben" Holley, and Plumb Smith and others whose identity escapes me now. Great rovers those fellows were, and all of them could draw the long bow\*. Plumb Smith had been in the Mexican War, and he could tell a story which would put to blush the tales of Gulliver or Robinson Crusoe.)

The last word the Alabama relatives received from Uncle Plum was disturbing. His health had failed. He had given all his worldly possessions to the poor and had gone into an old soldier's home somewhere in New York State. Given the brief sketch we have of his talents, it is not unreasonable to suggest that he might have been a God-send to entertain his old fellow warriors in that place.

While there was much criticism of some of Uncle Plum's wizardry, there must have been a great deal of affection for him. Both of his brothers living in Alabama named a son for him.

It has never been my purpose to exploit my relatives or subject their memory to ridicule. In the case of Uncle Plum, I have made a slight exception. There are many reasons to believe that he would have been absolutely delighted with this brief review of his life.

Should anything bordering on the super-natural occur at your house this Christmas, it just might be Uncle Plum up to some of his old tricks. **MERRY CHRISTMAS, UNCLE PLUM!**

\*A feat requiring great strength.





Helen Longshore directing the choir



Elizabeth Ellis serving dessert

## 1993 M.A.C.

By Marsha Hurt

There is no way to imagine the amounts of energy and love exerted toward community children on Tuesday afternoons at M.A.C. (MoonLake Afterschool Club). Each week, over 60 children spent Tuesday afternoons at Moon Lake Baptist Church, as adults from community churches taught, played, sang, tutored, and ate supper with them.

A lot of work was involved in making M.A.C. happen each week, and a lot of people contributed their gifts to make sure it happened. Over 40 adults gave their afternoons and themselves to be a part of the M.A.C. program. As one group of adults fed the children snacks and played games with them, another group was preparing for Assembly where the children would hear stories and sing songs. Once Assembly time was over, the children moved to their individual classrooms where other adults were waiting to teach them Bible lessons and help them with crafts. And all the while the Bible lesson time was going on, another group was warming up getting ready for play practice. After the children had practiced songs for the Christmas play, they moved into rooms where tutors awaited them, ready to help with homework and any other school needs the children had.

The afternoon concluded each week with supper. Men from throughout the community hosted tables to feed children suppers prepared by another group of adults who cooked, set tables, and served dinners that children couldn't get enough of.

The M.A.C. program is a cooperative effort of the churches in the Mentone area. Anyone who has experienced M.A.C. will agree that those afternoons seemed to bring the best out in our community. Anyone interested in being involved in M.A.C. should contact the Mentone-Valley Head Ministerial Association or Jean Corey. The program will resume in the spring of 1994.



Norma Baker with children at play time



L.A. Smith, one of table dads, serving seconds



Karen Wright &amp; Rhonda Wright doing a clogging skit



Rev. David Lett conducting Bible Study



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L to R: Queen Cassie Hooks and Runner-up Amberly Denham



Moon Lake Harvest Festival's 1993 King and Queen Contestants  
L to R (back row): Ashley McSpadden, Stephanie Plemmons, Clark Crow, Rachel Bryan, Cassie Hooks, Amberly Denham. Front row: C. W. Holcomb, Coley Webb, Brandy Browder, Joshua Rogers.



L to R: King Joshua Rogers and Runner-up Coley Webb



L to R: Coley Webb, runner-up; Joshua Rogers, King; Amberly Denham, runner up; Cassie Hooks, Queen

## 1993 MOON LAKE SCHOOL HARVEST FESTIVAL REPORT

By Marsha Hurt

Cassie Hooks and Joshua Rogers were crowned queen and king of the 1993 Moon Lake School Harvest Festival on Saturday night, November 6. Weeks of turkey dinners, turkey shoots, "chance" sellings, bake sales, and other special projects for fundraising came to a conclusion as individuals and classes turned in their monies and totals were tabulated. The grand total for this year's festival was \$8,141.58. Queen Cassie Hooks contributed \$1,298.29, and King Joshua Rogers contributed \$916.26 toward that total. Runners up were Amberly Denham who raised \$1,284.90; and Coley Webb, who raised \$610.53.

The Kindergartners, under the leadership of their teacher, Mrs. Phyllis Sarratt, won first place for the most money raised by a class. They contributed \$1,686.86. The runner-up class was 4-5 grades, with a total of \$1,533.62.

The event, which is sponsored by the school's PTA, is Moon Lake's annual fundraiser. The PTA expresses its appreciation to the entire community for offering its support of the school through contributions, help, and support of the Harvest Festival. There are several projects the PTA hopes to accomplish in the future in order to make Moon Lake School an even better place for our children to be educated.



L to R: Patty Bryan, Joyce Blankenship, and Tracy Platt were the cooks for the PTA dinner at the Harvest Festival. They raised money serving a red beans and rice dinner during the festival.

Thank you to all the area merchants who helped or donated anything and to all those who came out and supported turkey shoots, bake sales, dinner sales, and any fundraising event during the 1993 Harvest Festival.

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Wrap— to mention a few. Drop in and Shop.  
OPEN HOUSE — December 23 and 24



# The Church News

By  
EVELYN GRAVES



Reverend Bill Jennings will be away from the Moon Lake Baptist Church for the month of December. Mike Young will fill the pulpit in his absence. Special Christmas music will be rendered by the choir during the worship services throughout the Christmas season. The Couples Sunday School class will be having their class party at The Lookout on Friday evening, December 3, at 6:30 p.m. The Middle Adults will be having their party on Saturday night, December 4, at 6 p.m., followed by fellowship at the home of Jim and Dallyne Jones. On December 8, the church will be having a Family Christmas Dinner and will bring gifts for the needy. The Youth will be caroling during the week before Christmas and distributing fruit baskets to the elderly and shut-ins.

The Christmas play at the Mentone Wesleyan Church will be on December 12, at 6 p.m. Fred Johnson will be directing the Children's Choir. Fred is the son of James and Betty Johnson, and he resides at Rainsville.

A program will be presented by the choir of the Valley Head United Methodist Church on December 19 at their worship service. There will be a Christmas tree and gifts will be exchanged. Plans for an increased visitation program are underway.

The Mentone Church of God is presently selling homemade Christmas candy for \$3.50 a pound as a money-making project for the church.

St. Joseph's On-the-Mountain Episcopal Church is celebrating a season of advent, with special emphasis on Old Testament prophetic passages. The church people will gather to decorate the church on December 11. The Adult Study group is taking a look at the Nicene Creed. There will be a Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. with communion. On the last Sunday, December 26, there will be a special service for Christmas, with communion. The new rector, Robert Childers, will preach at that service. The Childers family will be moving to the mountain on December 17.

The Community Choir will present a Christmas cantata at The Fountains on Saturday, December 4, at 6 p.m. The next scheduled presentation is Sunday, December 5, at 6 p.m., at the Mentone United Methodist Church. On Wednesday, December 8, at 7 p.m., the cantata will be presented at the Valley Head Baptist Church. The name of the cantata is "The Glory of the Lord." The Children's cantata will be presented at the Valley Head Baptist Church on December 19, at 6 p.m. The church is participating in the store at Mountain Manor Nursing Home on December 7, at 9 a.m. Items will be taken to the nursing home and placed in the store there where patients will be given toy money and allowed to buy the items.

The Mentone Church of God of Prophecy will present a Christmas play on Sunday night, December 19, at 6:30 p.m. The "Care" ministry will be distributing food within the community each Friday in December. A special Christmas service will be held on Sunday morning, December 19, at 10 a.m.

The Winston Memorial Presbyterian Church invites you to attend the worship services at 9 a.m. each Sunday morning.

The Mentone United Methodist Church is having communion on Christmas eve, December 24, from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Rev. David Lett welcomes all denominations to participate in the communion service. Come as you are.

The Youth of Union Hill Baptist Church will be presenting a Christmas play, "Holiday Hoedown" on December 17 and 18 at 6 p.m., each night, at the Alpine Camp gymnasium. The Youth will be having a dinner at the church on Friday, December 3, from 6 to 8 p.m., with a choice of spaghetti or lasagne. The plates will be \$3.00 each. Everyone is invited.

The Mentone Revival Center will have a Christmas play on December 18 at 6:30 p.m. Youth Day will be on December 11 at 12 noon. Reverend Marlon Williamson will be evangelizing on December 8 at New Bethel Church of God near Ider, Alabama. On December 1, Rev. Williamson was at New Victory Tabernacle near Dogtown.

## NORTH DEKALB MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

The North DeKalb Ministerial Association will be preparing 100 Christmas stockings for children in the community to be distributed at the Christmas Party to be held at the Mentone Town Hall on Tuesday, December 7, at 4:00 p.m. The Association is also seeking to coordinate a program on a regular basis to help people who need food.



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## JOSEPH MURRAY BLALOCK BRANCH

By Evelyn Graves

Joseph Murray Blalock, the seventh son of James Madison Blalock and Elizabeth Lucinda Cathey, was born January 27, 1854, in Canton (Haywood County), North Carolina. He was called "The old Uncle Joe Blalock" by nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

To Joseph and Elizabeth were born eight children: Cecil Richard, April 25, 1883; Daisy, April 11, 1886; John Willis, December 31, 1887; James Burl, March 26, 1890; Violet Nancy, September 27, 1892; Joseph Alfred, June 4, 1895; William Nelson (Nell), September 8, 1898; and Wilbur Russell, January 20, 1900.

Joseph was a rock mason and built chimneys all over the area. He and his family made and played all types of musical instruments. He wrote a lot of old fiddle tunes that are still played. Some of them have even been recorded. Joseph was living at Trion, Georgia, on a rock job, when the furnaces at Battelle were started. He was asked to come to Battelle to work in the project and did go when the project was nearing completion. He left Trion and moved to the old Blalock homeplace where he was reared. Joseph walked all the way from Head River to Battelle to work in the project. When he left Trion, he wrote a tune he called, "Farewell Trion." The family always felt that he was happy to leave Trion and come back home; however, music critics say the tune has very sad overtones. Some of Joseph's other tunes were: "The Lost Indian," "Blalock Medley," "Rabbit in the Grass," and "Run Coon." There were more tunes that he played, but it is not known whether he composed them or not. In the 1920s, a man from the Canton, North Carolina, area, who had been acquainted with the Blalocks when they lived there, came through the Appalachian Chain and gathered the old tunes to preserve them. "The Lost Indian" was one of the tunes. He copyrighted it, and the tune became famous on "The Grand Ole Opry" in the 1940s; and, today, it is a square dance tune. (There is a story behind "The Lost Indian," which will be told in a book being written by Floyd Crow, great-nephew who provides the information for the Blalock history.) It is said that Joseph won first place at all the fiddler's conventions that he attended, and he bought a farm with the money from his music. He would become so engrossed in his music as he fiddled that he would slide his chair with his feet as he played. The nieces and nephews would position Joseph's chair in a certain place when he came to "make music" with their father, and they would guess where Joseph would be when he finished playing.

In addition to being a master fiddler, he was also an excellent rock mason. His services were much in demand in this area. Many of the houses in Menlo, Georgia, bear the mark of his fine masonry.

Joseph settled on a farm south of Highway 117, where his descendants now live. His brother, Henry Tillman, had an adjoining farm until 1908, when he moved to Waureka, Oklahoma. This left only Joseph here with his children and his nephews (David's sons). He died there on the farm, on June 13, 1931, and is buried by his father, James Madison Blalock, at Bankhead Cemetery in Mentone. His wife, Elizabeth, died February 13, 1942, and is buried beside him. Her grave remains unmarked.



## Cloudland Volunteer Rescue Squad

The newly-formed Cloudland Volunteer Rescue Squad held their first annual Turkey-Ham Shoot on Saturday, November 12th. Barbeque sandwiches, chips, cokes, and cake were sold. The barbeque was donated by Stateline Country Store. Tickets were sold for a \$500 cash prize. Dennis Brown was the lucky winner and Taylor Adams, Captain handing money to Dennis. (See Photo #1 [drawing] and #2.) The shoot was a great success with 41 rounds being fired. (See Photo #3a and #3b.) The Rescue Squad would like to thank everyone for their support. A total of \$1,900 was raised. Another shoot will be held Saturday, December 11th, at High Georgia Motor Co. Many thanks to Ross Hegwood for his help.



## MENLO DOINGS

By Joanne Christian

Frank and Ethel Welch have returned from a delightful trip to California where they visited their children and grandchildren.

Lillian and Buster Chamblee have recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary at the family beach house at Myrtle Beach, S.C. A celebration was given by Ralph Jr. and Martha; David and Julie; Danny and Jeanie and grandchildren, Danny Jr., Betsy, Lillie, and Helen. Lillian and Buster went to Greenville, S.C., and spent Thanksgiving with all of the above children and grandchildren present. Congratulations!

Joanne Christian continues to improve at home after serious knee replacement surgery.

Elaine and Greg Maxwell have purchased Fisher's Supermarket in Summerville, and now own a supermarket, video stores, and the Menlo Cafe.

The Cloudland Volunteer Rescue Squad reminds everyone of the Ham and Turkey shoot scheduled for Saturday, December 11, at Ross Hegwood's High Georgia Motor Company, located across from the Cloudland Trade Center. Money raised will be applied to new emergency equipment.

Kim Ballard from Menlo has been selected out of many applicants as the Case Worker Senior for the PEACH (Positive Employment and Community Help) program in Chattooga County. The program is to assist parents in seeking employment and/or educational opportunities.

Maggie Rich is the first place winner representing the first grade division county-wide during American Education Week. She is in Mrs. Houston's room at Menlo School. Zachery Bradford is the first place winner in the third grade division county-wide. He is in Mrs. Luther's room at Menlo School. Maggie and Zachery each received a trophy and certificates from the American Legion Ladies' Auxiliary and Mohawk Industries (in Lyerly).

If you haven't visited Tim Hegwood's new facility on Highway 48, you need to drop by to see his gorgeous building. Tim says, "People don't need to feel they have to be looking to buy. Just come see us, and let me, Pam, Frances, George, or Donny, show you around."

Alpine Community Church in Menlo is sponsoring a hobo supper on Friday, December 3, from 4:30-8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. They will be serving pinto beans, cornbread, slaw, tea, and sweets. The plates are \$2.50 without dessert and \$4.00 with dessert. On Saturday, December 4, they will have a Christmas bazaar from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the church. The Christmas play is Sunday evening, December 19. Their annual live nativity scene at the church will be from Tuesday, December 21, through Saturday, December 25, from 7 to 9 p.m.

## 1844 Roll Call Chattooga County, Georgia (Alpine area)

Submitted by Ernest H. Smith, Mentone  
From the school day book of Lawrence A. Smith, 1844: Teacher—Lawrence A. Smith—Subscription \$6.00

### ROLL CALL

|                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| John Coon       | Edward Satterfield |
| Arma Harper     | William Lankin     |
| George Conway   | Clark Strange      |
| Willy E. Wood   | James Lawrence     |
| Thomas Lawrence | Peter Conrad       |
| Moses Finley    | Littleton Baker    |
| Monroe Lawrence | William Bullard    |
| Echara Harper   | Nathan Gilreath    |
| John Little     | John Powers        |
| William Tapp    | Marlin Lawrence    |
| Thomas Morgan   | John Lyada         |
| Charles Cook    |                    |

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**SMALL ACREAGE TO BUILD ON** - 5 to 20 acre tracts in Mentone starting at \$13,500 - 4 to 5 acre tracts in Hammondville starting at \$6,500 - Call today for more information.

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**CLOUDLAND** - Rustic 2-story country home on approximately 3 acres of brow property. This special house has living room with fireplace (gas logs), kitchen, dining room, living room with fireplace (gas logs), kitchen, dining room, sunroom, bedroom, bath and stairs. Large bedroom with fireplace (gas logs), den/bonus room, and a beautifully landscaped yard make this a must to see. Reduced to \$122,000 and shown by appointment only.

**CLOUDLAND/WALKER COUNTY** - A three-story home with four bedrooms, deck, overlooking Mt. ... Farms, sunroom, partial basement, utility room, central air conditioning. As is a bargain. Reduced to \$115,000. Appointment only.

**CLOUDLAND** - Located on the lower brow at Cloudland this large 3-story brick home features eat-in kitchen, butler's pantry, dining room, living room with fireplace insert, Florida room, den/study, bedroom and bath downstairs. Second story has 2 bedrooms, sun porch, living room/bonus room and 2 baths. Three-car garage, outbuildings, and fruit trees all on 2+ acres with 264' of brow frontage. Shown by appointment and priced at \$205,000. Reduced to \$199,000.

**CLOUDLAND** - Lovely mountain get-away describes this secluded 2 bedroom, 2 bath, home on approximately 5.8 acres with approximately 390' brow frontage. This wood and mountain rock home also offers a great room with cathedral ceiling, sleeping loft, large utility room, stone hearth, central heat/air and stone patio. A bargain at \$130,000. Call today for your appointment.

**CLOUDLAND - ELM STREET** - This older remodeled home has 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, hardwood floors, fireplace in living room, gas heat, carpet and some appliances. Only \$40,000.

**CLOUDLAND** - 250 acres with beautiful hardwoods, small pond and creek. Great for your own private hideaway or hunting preserve. REDUCED TO \$500 PER ACRE.

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**PRIME LAKE LAHAUSAGE LOT** (East Fork of Little River) 187 ft. of lake frontage good for building. Level to gently sloping. Good access to water. \$26,000.

**THE ONE AND ONLY CANYON VIEW FOREST**. Autumn is almost upon us and the Little River Canyon is at its most spectacular. Available are 5 acre tracts overlooking this colorful site, priced from \$25,000 to \$40,000. Many to choose from, some with waterfalls, and creeks. Private access behind locked gates. (restricted), shown by appointment only.

**BROW OVERLOOK FOR SALE** - Panoramic view from this 5 acres above Fort Payne. Located on Citadel Rock Rd. Would make a lovely homesite or restaurant spot. \$20,000.

**EAST BROW, GEORGIA**, a Get Away Mountain Home, beautifully decorated with 6 acres and 400 ft. of brow frontage. Security System, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, large cathedral beam great room, loft, and kitchen fully equipped. Ceiling to floor window overlooking a rock patio with a view to the Blue Ridge Mountains. Priced \$130,000 firm. Co-broke with Cloudland Realty.

**LOG AND CEDAR HOME ON BROW** 2 bedroom, 2 bath with cathedral ceilings and sun room with County Kitchen and sm. ... acres of land and 200 feet of brow frontage. Located in the city limits of Mentone. \$85,000.

**LARGE ROCK FORMATIONS** and this mountain home. Two bedroom, 2 full baths, hardwood floors, CH&A. Located off Lookout Mountain Parkway in Mentone. City Water. \$53,000.

**VALLEY VIEW FOREST** (Subdivision of Canyon View Forest) Beautiful 5 acre tracts located on the East Brow of Lookout Mountain overlooking the Georgia Mountains. 9 miles south of Fort Payne, Hwy. 35, 2,000 acres of wildlife management area is your back door. \$10,000 each. By appt. only.

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## About

## Our Town

By  
LINDA BROWN

Can you believe the Holiday Season is here already? Only yesterday, we were wishing for a break in the heat wave of the summer. Time really flies—we must be having fun. The only decorations that I've seen in Mentone so far are the street lights. They look very nice, but I am looking forward to those on the houses. (Mae, what will you do this year?) So many events will be taking place in the community this season that it will be hard to keep track of them all, but do try to attend as many as you can. The simplest program requires a lot of work by someone. I think that every organization that I belong to is eating at the December meeting. I have mixed emotions about some of the ways we celebrate the holidays, but I think I understand the reason for most of them. My conclusion is that most of what we do to celebrate this season of the year is because we love and care for each other.

I had planned to resign from the Mentone Zoning Commission at the December 16 meeting. When the Board of Adjustment met in October to consider three cases that had been brought to them for a judgment, I expected them to approve one case as it was a conditional use according to the zoning regulations. No one was present at the meeting to object, so there was no reason to deny the request. The other two certificates of compliance had been denied by the zoning commission. I thought one of these might be overturned by the Board of Adjustment, but I never expected both of them to be. When this happened, I thought, "What's the use? Why butt your head against a brick wall? Why had we spent all of those hours trying to compile a set of zoning laws that would benefit everyone? So, I was going to resign. Then, I thought about it, and I thought about it some more. I'm not going to resign. My reason is that the commission would have to replace me with someone else, and they would have a hard time finding another person who loves and cares about Mentone as much as I do.

Have you noticed the triangle at the Mentone Superette lately? It has been cleaned up and landscaped. The Rhododendron Garden Club is sponsoring the project, but I think that Bill Wright has done most of the work. Thanks, Bill, it really looks good. The signs are still an eyesore, but it seems that nothing can be done to regulate signs in Mentone. As long as I have lived in Mentone, I have heard people say, "What goes around, comes around."

My Holiday Wish for all is health, happiness, hope, joy, and love—and stay warm!

## Merry Christmas from

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Terri's Timesaver  
Ft. Payne, ALRhododendron  
Garden Club News

The November meeting of the Rhododendron Garden Club was held at the home of Betty Johnson, with Ferne Fitzgerald, Mary Crow, and Ruby Daniel assisting. The president, Ann Wright presided. She reported that Pat Seymour was ill with the flu. There were twenty members present, and two visitors: Marjorie Gray and Marie Dillenbeck's mother, Dorothy Shelden, who is visiting from Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Bernise Crow gave the devotional combining Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving themes.

Marie Dillenbeck introduced Bill Schwarz, a retired chemist from Thiokol Corporation in Huntsville, now living in Mentone. Bill is the husband of member, Sue Schwarz, and is also the River Watch columnist for *The Groundhog*. "Bird Habitats" was Mr. Schwarz's topic. He told the club members how to attract birds by furnishing them food, water, nesting sites, and good thick shrubs in which they can hide from predators. He said we should provide more feed for birds in winter, giving them suet and peanut butter to provide heat for them. For the finale, Bill played a disc of various bird calls, including several owls. Many members recognized some of the bird calls and learned the name of the bird doing the calling. Bill left numerous pamphlets for members to take home.

Following the program, the meeting returned to its regular order of business. The minutes were read and approved as corrected. The treasurer's report was given.

Committee reports were heard. Sue Schwarz gave a conservation report on recycling paper bags. She stressed buying all paper products that have been recycled.

Jean McGehee gave a horticulture report. She said it is time to plant pansies and spring bulbs, and also time to mulch all plants. Pile leaves into a compost heap. Plants, trees, and shrubs make excellent gifts.

Ann Wright said the setting out of plants at Moon Lake School was delayed until the painting of the building's exterior was completed. Bill Wright will work on the triangle and do some planting there.

Old business: memorials in Hortensia are \$20 each, and we have five to be placed in it.

Garden Therapy: Taking something to the December meeting to distribute to others in the community was discussed. Ann passed out instruction sheets for the project, "Second time around."

The Smokey Bear poster must be in by March. The club will work with students at Moon Lake School.

Penney's stores offers linens for sale with wildflower prints. Some percentage from the sale of the linens goes to the National Council of Garden Clubs. A tour of homes money-making project was discussed in which the club would charge a fee.

Ann announced that Vernon Gray was working on an historic video of Mentone and that copies of the video would be available for sale.

The next meeting will be a covered dish luncheon at 12:00 noon at the Mentone Town Hall. Fred Johnson, son of James and Betty, will provide music. Vernon Gray will present a program by showing the members the Mentone video he has prepared for the Mentone Heritage Foundation and the Mentone Area Preservation Association.



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## The Recipe Corner

By  
SUE SCHWARZ

By Guest Columnist, Dr. Pat Seymour.

Sue Schwarz (and her husband, Bill—the writer of the River Watch Column) is out of the state on holiday visits with family. She asked me to compile some recipes for her. From my days with Coach Bear Bryant, I have gathered some tasty items from the Alabama coaches and Mrs. Bryant. Most of the Bama coaches, as well as players, are avid hunters and big party folks. Below are some of my favorites. Sue will be back with us next month.

### Christmas Noodle Nibbles

By Coach Jack Rutledge

- 3 T melted butter 1/4 tsp celery salt
- 2 tsp soy sauce Dash of onion salt
- 4 drops hot pepper sauce

- 1 3-ounce can (2-1/2 cups) chow mein noodles

Combine first 3 ingredients; drizzle over noodles. Toss lightly until well coated. Sprinkle with seasonings, tossing to mix. Place in flat pan. Toast 12-15 minutes at 275 degrees until lightly browned and crispy. Makes about 2-1/2 cups.

### Sweet Potato Nut Balls

By Mary Harmon Bryant

- 1-1/2 C mashed, cooked sweet potatoes
- 1/4 C orange juice
- 2 T Sugar
- Chopped pecans
- Miniature Marshmallows

Combine potatoes, orange juice, and sugar. Blend well. Shape into 12 balls, using about 2 Tablespoons for each ball. Roll balls in pecans. Push one marshmallow into coated ball. Place on cookie sheet and heat in 350 degree oven 15-20 minutes. Serves 6.

### Stuffed Mushrooms

By Mary Harmon Bryant

- 2 T butter
- 1/2 C bread crumbs
- Garlic juice to taste
- 1 tsp fresh chopped parsley
- Salt and pepper
- 2 cans crab meat
- 1 pound large fresh mushrooms
- Grated Parmesan cheese

Melt butter, add bread crumbs and mix thoroughly. Add seasonings and crabmeat, mixing gently. Remove stems from mushrooms. Wipe caps with damp cloth. Stuff cavity with crabmeat mixture. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake 15 minutes at 325 degrees. Serve hot. Marvelous party dish or allow 4-5 caps per lady for luncheon.

### Venison Steak and Gravy

By Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant

- 1/2 to 2 pounds venison round steak,  
cut into 5 or 6 pieces
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3/4 to 1 C flour
- Vegetable or corn oil
- 3 small onions, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced finely, or pressed
- 3 cups water
- 3 beef bouillon cubes
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 T onion salt
- 1/2 T garlic salt

Tenderize meat with silver knife handle or mallet. Cut into serving pieces, salt and pepper lightly, and roll in flour. Use only as much cooking oil as it requires to cover the bottom of skillet. Brown venison steaks on both sides. Remove meat from skillet. Add chopped onion and garlic cloves to remaining oil in skillet and saute until tender. Add water to skillet, scraping sides and bottom to loosen bits of flour left from the steaks. Drop in bouillon cubes to dissolve. Add salt, onion salt, and garlic salt, and stir well. Return venison steaks to gravy, cover, and simmer slowly for 1 hour.

### Venison Roast

By Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant

- Venison Roast
- Buttermilk

- Bacon
- Salt and pepper

Marinate roast overnight in buttermilk. Remove meat from buttermilk, wipe it off. Put in a roasting pan. Season with salt and pepper and cover with several strips of bacon. Roast at 350 degrees until meat thermometer reads 140 degrees, medium rare.



## HUNTIN' & FISHIN' TIPS

Compiled by Dr. Pat

**Nylon Cord:** Carry a 10-foot piece of nylon parachute-type cord in your hunting coat. It has several uses: you can drag a deer with it, use it as a tourniquet in case of injury, or as an emergency dog lead, or construct a temporary blind for turkey hunting.

**Venison Tenderloin:** The tenderloin is the best part of a deer; but, unfortunately, it is often overlooked. These two choice pieces of meat are located on the underside of the backbone just forward of the pelvic area. They are generally about 12 inches long and 1-1/2 inches in diameter and can usually be worked free from the backbone with the fingers with a slight assist from your knife. The tenderloin should be cut in one-inch pieces and fried like steak or chops. Once you've tried it, you'll never overlook the tenderloin again!

**Turkey Plucking Tip:** Even after scalding, the primary flight feathers on a turkey wing are sometimes difficult to remove. This task is made relatively easy by using a sturdy pair of pliers, giving each feather a twist of one-quarter turn before pulling it out.

**Cold Weather Fishing:** Winter and spring fishing can be tough if hibernating fish ignore your bait. Double your chances with live bait/lure combination. Pick a bait local to the waters you're fishing and nick it two or three times in different locations. Few coldwater fishermen realize that fish rely on sound and smell, especially in cloudy waters. Add a flashy lure with slow retrieve, and fish will bite.

**Mascara Brush to the Rescue:** Discarded mascara tube-and-brush sets make excellent lubrication dispensers for the sportsman; they should never be thrown away by the ladies. Inside that empty tube is a high-quality little tapered brush good for applying various types of lubricants to those special places on guns, bows, and other sporting equipment.

Just remove the anti-smudge top from the tube and thoroughly clean the tube and brush. Then fill the tube with the kind of oil, grease, or blend you want to use.

**Rod-and-Reel Savers:** If fishermen had a dollar for every rod and reel that was left unattended for just a minute that was pulled in or over the side, and then lost, they could buy a bass boat. A simple way to eliminate such accidents is to carry along a prepared wire leader 12 inches long with a swivel and a snap swivel at the other end. Next time the need arises to leave your rod unattended, slip one end of the leader under and around one of the reel's cross-braces and around something secure, like an oar lock, seat stanchion, or, if you're fishing off the bank, a stake driven into the ground. Lock the two ends of the leader together, snap swivel to swivel. Now, if a fish hits while you're away, it can't pull your rig in.



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7:00am - 9:00pm  
**Sunday Dinner**  
11:00am - 2:00pm  
**Closed Tuesdays**

**Hwy 117 Mentone 634-4232**

## Madaperca B&B

A RIVERSIDE RETREAT  
"Atop Lookout Mountain"

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Highway 117, Mile Marker 5  
HC 68, Box 20, Mentone, AL 35984  
Reservations (205) 634-4792



MADAPERCA

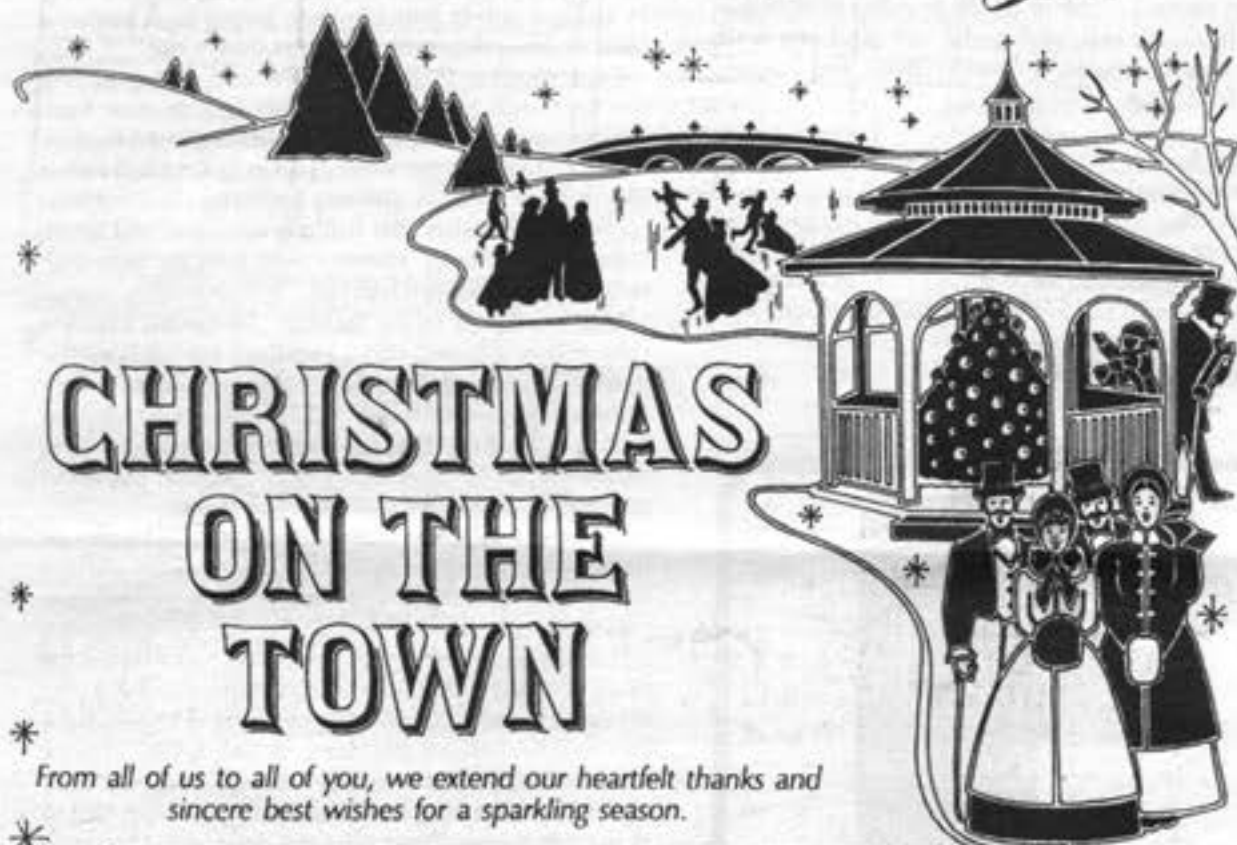
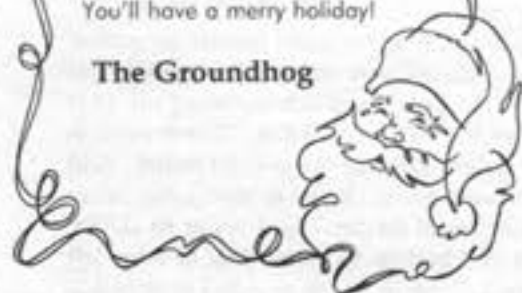


## Merry Christmas & Many Thanks!

Just In The "Nick" Of Time...

The tree is trimmed  
The presents, wrapped  
And Santa's on his way  
Now we're ho...ho...hoping  
You'll have a merry holiday!

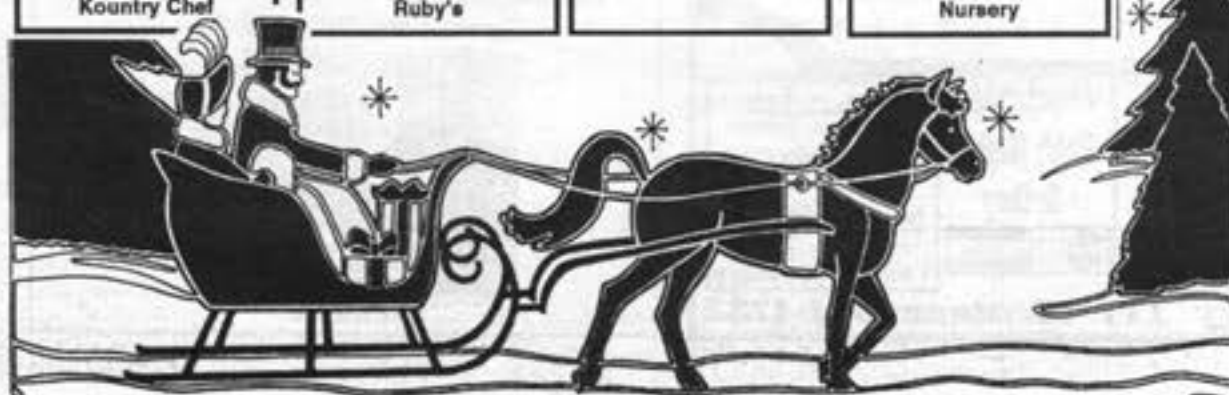
The Groundhog



From all of us to all of you, we extend our heartfelt thanks and sincere best wishes for a sparkling season.

### Holiday Greetings From Your Downtown Merchants

|                                                                         |                                                                            |                                                                                            |                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Weaver's<br>Doll Houses<br>& miniatures<br>Thurs-Sun: 11-5              | Ole Pioneer Shoppe<br>Dried Flowers & Dolls<br>634-4185<br>Sat & Sun: 11-5 | Louise's Tees<br>Hand-decorated T-shirts/<br>sweatshirts--Indian prints<br>Sat & Sun: 12-5 | Busy Corner Antique<br>Clock Shop 634-4031<br>Tues-Sat: 10-4;<br>Sun: 12:30-4 |
| Log Cabin Deli<br>634-4560<br>Tues-Thurs, Sun: 11-7<br>Fri & Sat: 11-9  | Crow's Nest Antiques<br>634-4548<br>Happy Holidays                         | The Village Boutique<br>Merry Christmas<br>205-228-6246<br>or 634-4548                     | The Gourdie Shop<br>Season's Greetings<br>Phone Orders:<br>205-586-6404       |
| Merry Christmas<br>Thank you<br>for your business.<br>Mentone Superette | Merry Christmas<br>Mentone Realty<br>205-586-6404                          | Merry Christmas<br>Nippersink                                                              | Happy Holidays<br>Country Store                                               |
| Merry Christmas<br>Dessie's<br>Kountry Chef                             | Merry Christmas<br>and Happy New Year<br>to customers of<br>Ruby's         | Merry Christmas<br>Mentone Inn                                                             | Season's Greetings<br>from<br>Lookout Mountain<br>Nursery                     |



And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

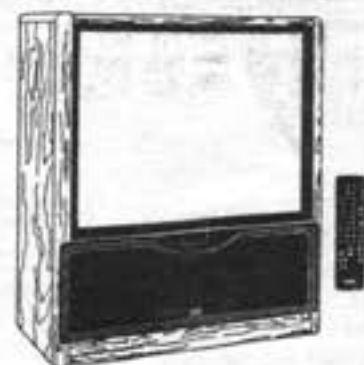
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth PEACE, good will toward men.  
Luke 2:13-14

As we enter this Christmas season, let us remember the song the angels sing. In a world where there is little peace or good will toward men, let us work to bring PEACE and GOOD WILL to men, and give honor to CHRIST, the one whose birthday we are celebrating.

Take

# RCA

Home for the Holidays



### RCA 52" Home Theatre™ Projection Stereo Monitor-Receiver

- Full Color Picture-in-Picture!
- SRS® Sound Retrieval System
- 5 Watts/Channel Stereo Amplifier
- Broadcast Stereo with dbx Noise Reduction
- Master Touch® Universal Remote (43-Button)



**RCA** Model CC54C

### RCA Full-Size VHS Camcorder

- 24x Zoom Plus™ System
- Digital Zoom to 100x
- Infrared AutoFocus
- 1 Lux Low Light Recording
- Digital Signal Processing
- 16 x 9 Recording Mode
- Flying Erase Head
- Video/Audio Dub
- 10-Watt Color Enhancement Light
- 2-Page Tiller

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